HOPE FOR HUMANITY

2026 YEAR IN REVIEW



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Amnesty International USA

We are not powerless. With justice and human dignity under attack across the world, members of Amnesty International turn their compassion into meaningful action that helps to break the seemingly never-ending cycle of human rights abuses.

Despite the increasingly uncertain and frightening state of the world, governments and civil society have come together to pass important laws and resolutions to tackle human rights abuses, following protests and petitions from activists and campaigners.

The past year has seen justice for human rights defenders around the world who have been subjected to baseless prosecutions and imprisonment. Meanwhile authorities in various countries are responding positively to our campaigning on police abuses, accountability for violations and the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

On behalf of people who have been oppressed, persecuted and unjustly imprisoned, we thank you for your continued support. Here are some highlights of what we achieved by standing together in solidarity throughout 2026.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

ENDING POLICE AND GOVERNMENT ABUSES



- Finnish authorities abandoned a pilot project aimed at using algorithms to detect benefit fraud and misuse, following dialogue with Amnesty International Finland on the use of artificial intelligence and human rights standards.
- Amnesty International's research and public campaigning helped bring national attention to allegations of human rights violations at Tiger Base, a police unit in Nigeria. Authorities announced the discontinuation of the Tiger Base operational identity, a new unit structure, and disciplinary actions against some officers implicated in violations.
- The Everglades Detention Facility, also known as "Alligator Alcatraz," shut down after nearly a year detaining migrants and asylum seekers in the state of Florida. *Amnesty International concluded that people arbitrarily detained in the facility were being held in inhumane and unsanitary conditions that may amount to torture and campaigned for the facility's closure.*

FREEDOM & JUSTICE FOR INDIVIDUALS



- Human rights defender Sean Binder and 23 others connected to a Search and Rescue NGO were acquitted in Greece after years on trial. *Amnesty International has been campaigning in support of Sean's case since 2018.*
- Eleven members of the Istanbul Bar Association's executive committee were acquitted, after facing charges for "spreading terrorist propaganda" and "publicly disseminating misleading information." *Amnesty International, together with human rights and legal organizations, had issued public statements and filed a friend of the court brief in support of the Bar Association's leadership.*
- Several human rights defenders who had been arbitrarily detained in Venezuela were released between January and May 2026. *Amnesty International campaigned for their release and will continue calling for the immediate release of people arbitrarily detained—including for political reasons—in Venezuela.*
- Million Beyene, an Ethiopian journalist and managing editor at Addis Standard, was released after having been abducted from the newsroom, believed to have been targeted because of his work as a journalist. *Amnesty International launched an Urgent Action on his behalf, and he was released the next day.*

"I am deeply grateful for all your support and efforts on my behalf. It truly means a lot to me."
— Million Beyene

- A Norwegian court rejected Greece's request to extradite Tommy Olsen, founder of the NGO Aegean Boat Report, who is wanted on criminal charges connected to his work documenting human rights violations against refugees and migrants at Europe's borders. *Amnesty launched an Urgent Action calling on Norway to reject his extradition.*
- In Türkiye, LGBTI+ rights activist Defne Güzel was acquitted following criminal proceedings brought against her over content shared on her LGBTI+ rights organization's website and social media accounts. *Amnesty International launched an Urgent Action on behalf of Güzel.*
- After one year in ICE detention, Leqaa Kordia was released on March 16, following sustained advocacy from Amnesty International USA and its supporters nationally and Amnesty members around the world. Leqaa, who had been in the process of securing legal residency in the U.S., was detained after peacefully protesting for the human rights of Palestinians. *Members of Amnesty International sent more than 60,000 letters to the Department of Homeland Security demanding her freedom.*

"Today we celebrate freedom. Tomorrow, we will continue to fight for justice. Not only for Leqaa, but for all unjustly detained."
— Leqaa's cousin, Hamzah Abushaban

- Adamu Oseni (aka Hussaini Oseni) was released in February after years of campaigning by Amnesty International Nigeria. Oseni had been sentenced to life imprisonment by the Ondo State High Court for possessing a phone linked to an armed robbery, despite evidence he was not involved in the crime.
- Andrea Pedro-Francisco, a 23-year-old Guatemalan asylum seeker, was released from an ICE facility in the U.S. after our movement sent more than 15,000 letters to the ICE Field Office Director. She had been detained just days before she was scheduled for surgery to remove a large ovarian cyst and was denied adequate medical care. She is now reunited with her family and able to undergo surgery.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Eight years after the murder of human rights defender Marielle Franco and her driver, Anderson Gomes, in Rio de Janeiro, those responsible for orchestrating the crimes were finally convicted. The conviction is a major step forward in the fight against political violence and impunity in Brazil.

- The European Committee of Social Rights found that Sweden had breached the European Social Charter by failing to uphold the right to healthcare without discrimination, and for systematically violating vulnerable EU migrants' access to healthcare on equal terms.
- Following Amnesty International's report on enforced disappearances in Ecuador, victims' families have started accessing truth, justice and reparations. Ecuador's highest court ordered reparations for the families of four Black children forcibly disappeared in Guayaquil. The Ministry of Defence was ordered to publicly apologize to the families, while the National Assembly agreed to reform the law on enforced disappearances to prevent these crimes.
- Following sustained campaigning from Amnesty International, a jury in Brazil convicted two men for their parts in planning and perpetrating the killing of human rights defender Mother Bernadete.
- The International Criminal Court confirmed all crimes against humanity charges against former Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte, paving the way for full trial proceedings. Later, an arrest warrant was issued for former Philippines police chief Ronald 'Bato' dela Rosa, one of Duterte's key allies during the "war on drugs."
- Syrian authorities launched an in-absentia trial of Bashar al-Assad and Maher al-Assad, as well as detained former security official Atef Najib, for crimes committed against the Syrian people.



- The trial began of the alleged attackers of two lesbian couples who were fatally assaulted in Buenos Aires in May 2024. *Amnesty International Argentina has supported the victims and their families throughout the process and welcomes the trial as a crucial step toward accountability.*
- The Brussels Court of Appeal upheld a historic judgment against the Belgian State, confirming the state's responsibility for the abduction and systematic racial segregation of Métis children under Belgian colonial rule, and the state's accountability for colonial-era crimes against humanity and the right of victims to reparation.
- Brazil's Federal Regional Court rejected both appeals filed by actor Juan Darthés against his conviction for sexual violence against actress and activist Thelma Fardin. This decision represents another significant step forward in a historic case that has become a regional symbol of the fight against impunity for gender-based violence.
- Khaled El Hishri, a senior member of the Libyan militia DACTO, also known as al-Radaa, appeared before the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for carrying out torture, unlawful killings, enforced disappearances and other crimes at the Mitiga prison in Tripoli.
- A New Mexico judge ordered Meta to pay $567 million to address harms caused to children's mental health and to make changes to Instagram and Facebook to make them safer for young users.

LAW AND POLICY PROGRESS

- The European Commission decided to allow EU member states to draw on already allocated funds for social services to support travel and access to abortion care, following the My Voice, My Choice campaign, supported by Amnesty International, which collected more than 1.2 million signatures.
- An overwhelming majority of members of parliament voted in favor of enshrining abortion rights in the Constitution in Luxembourg. *Amnesty International Luxembourg submitted a statement of support, which was referenced several times during the debates, and participated in rallies.*
- The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the escalating trafficking and exploitation of children by armed gangs in Haiti, incorporating several key recommendations submitted by Amnesty International.
- The UN General Assembly adopted a historic resolution on climate accountability that recognizes that states have legal duties to address the human rights impacts caused by the climate crisis as set forth in the International Court of Justice's 2025 Advisory Opinion.
- Luxembourg Minister of the Interior Léon Gloden withdrew a draft bill that would have regulated demonstrations in Luxembourg through inspections, permit requirements and potential penalties for organizers and participants. *Amnesty International Luxembourg campaigned for several months on the draft bill in an effort to address its shortcomings.*