



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA

Annual Report 2020





**Paul O'Brien**  
Executive Director



**Reza Fakhari**  
Board Chair

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

The fight for human rights is facing unprecedented threat and renewed opportunity. We know our Amnesty movement, through the relentless work of millions of supporters and volunteers, will meet this moment with the same commitment to human rights it has shown for 60 years.

2020 brought tragedy and hardship to so many of us. The COVID-19 pandemic caused widespread suffering and widened long-standing inequalities. The murder of George Floyd shined a harsh light on systemic racism in law enforcement and our institutions. Amid a global refugee crisis, the U.S. government dismantled the United States' refugee and asylum system all while detaining immigrant families.

Our movement rose to the challenge: together, we campaigned to put human rights at the center of the COVID-19 response; we condemned police violence while fiercely defending the right to protest; and we freed people from immigration detention. We persisted to learn that activism takes many forms — from the streets of the capitol to within our own homes.

With these crises has come a global reckoning that we need greater accountability from those in power. Much of the world isn't vaccinated against COVID-19 because a few corporations are hoarding the vaccine recipe. U.S. policies on immigration and people seeking safety are far too driven by political pandering, instead of compassion. Across our immigration and criminal justice systems, systemic racism still fuels the abuses of political and corporate leaders.

Abuse of power in the U.S. and around the globe poses devastating threats to our human rights. And this is what our work as international human rights activists is all about: building power for those who have too little and constraining it from those who have too much. We have already made great strides toward that vision in 2021, with nearly 34,500 members taking action to help us ensure that all families held in long-term ICE detention were released, top-tier media coverage of our progress report on President Biden's immigration policies in the New York Times and Washington Post, and the launch of our Heroes Campaign to end gun violence.

But we can and must do much more. As we write this, we face an escalating human rights crisis in Afghanistan and have launched a crisis response campaign with your support. This year can bring transformational change, and our movement will be at the forefront. We will harness our collective power with a fierce urgency to protect people at risk and work to dismantle racism, inequality and other systemic injustices. We are proud and deeply thankful to have you as partners in this fight.

In solidarity,



**Paul O'Brien**  
Executive Director



**Reza Fakhari**  
Board Chair

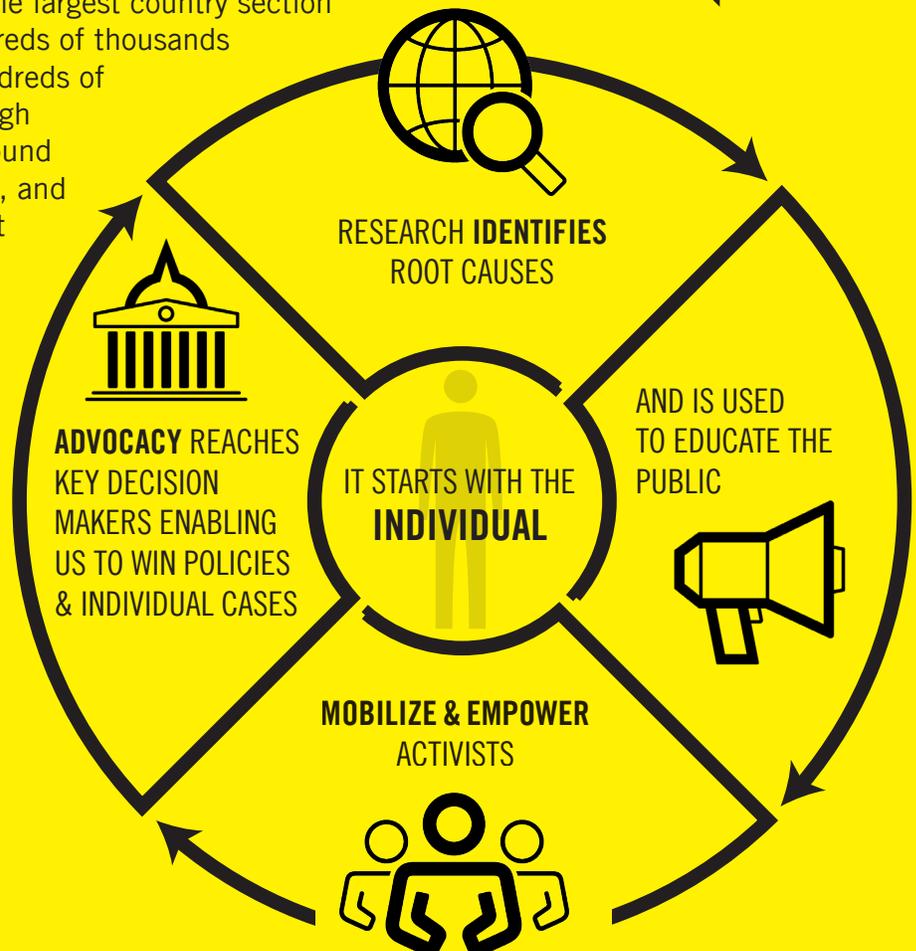
# WHAT WE DO

Amnesty International is a Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization that works to demand human rights for all – no matter who or where they are. As the world’s largest grassroots human rights organization, with 10 million members, supporters and activists spanning more than 70 countries globally, we work to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth, and dignity are denied.

Amnesty International has a uniquely effective strategy for protecting human rights that uses a three-pronged approach:

1. We conduct research to **uncover human rights abuses** and document patterns;
2. We use this **research to educate the public** and equip activists to demand change;
3. We **mobilize grassroots activists** to advocate for human rights in the U.S. and around the world.

Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) is the largest country section of Amnesty International. We have hundreds of thousands of members and activists, including hundreds of member groups in local communities, high schools, and colleges nationwide. All around the country, we educate the public, rally, and train members of all ages on how to fight for human rights in the U.S. and around the globe. We believe that the power to make change begins with each of us, and that together, we have the power to inspire and make a difference in the world.



# 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2020, in the face of a global pandemic that exposed systemic inequalities, Amnesty International USA's staff, members, and activists worked tirelessly for human rights in the U.S. and around the world. Through the power of collective action, 3,722 calls, 10,596 letters, and 36,152 petitions were made to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and contributed to the release of several asylum-seekers, including families with children. Our partners on the ground noted that Amnesty's Congressional advocacy and coalition-building was integral in achieving this progress.

***"We learned a lot from Alejandra's campaign in terms of what to do and how to work together [to free others like Kelly]. I've learned a lot through Amnesty about how to better collaborate with grassroots organizations."***

– Legal Service Provider

Our partners indicated that Amnesty's participation as an amicus party in litigation legitimized the border crisis as it elevated the issue beyond a niche group of legal service providers.

***"Amnesty echoed the same concerns as the lawyers. That human rights lens really added value."***

– Coalition Partner

Our partners mentioned Amnesty's reach and ability to mobilize thousands of people, to paint a picture of the abusive conditions in detention centers, and to humanize the abstract issue of asylum was a recipe for impact.

***"Amnesty plays a role in drafting the narrative — and other nonprofits look to Amnesty to amplify their messages. Smaller organizations rely on Amnesty's toolkits, which are strong and put to good use."***

– NGO Partner

We also contributed to human rights progress on ending gun violence by raising the issue with United Nations human rights bodies and helping to acquire five new co-sponsors to the Break the Cycle of Violence Act (H.R.4836). By applying critical pressure as part of AIUSA's 2020 Lobby Day, 1,266 Amnesty activists called their representatives about H.R.4836, and sent 98 letters to the new co-sponsors. Amnesty staff also drafted a letter to Senate Leadership with Cory Booker and Tammy Duckworth, which 21 Senators signed.

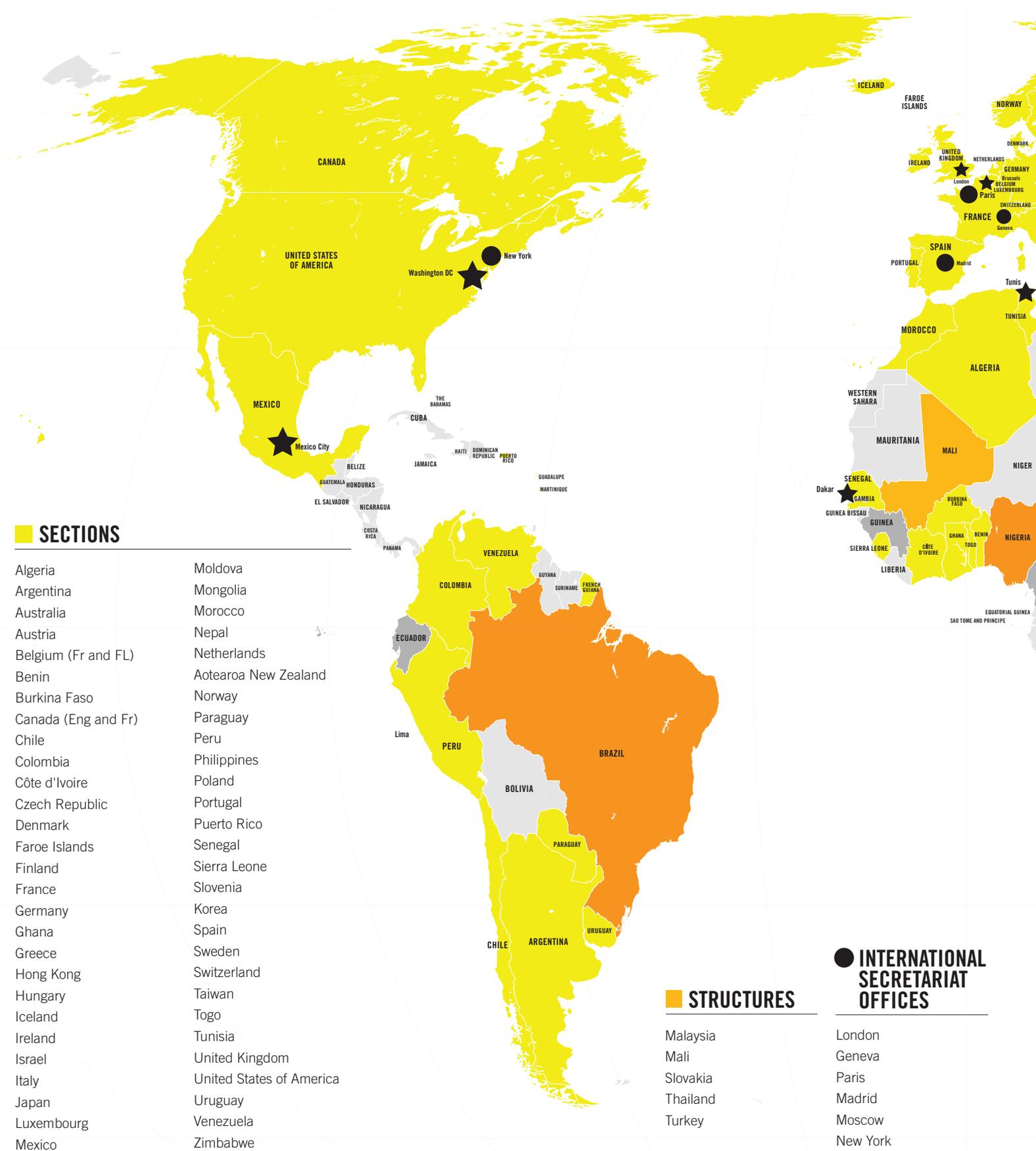
***"Amnesty was able to get 250,000 signatures for pressuring legislators... Amnesty had a such a huge impact even though they were part of our coalition for a short time."***

– Coalition Partner

→ The following pages highlight just a small piece of our other human rights victories and work that AIUSA undertook in 2020. As always, thank you to our members and supporters – none of this impact would have been possible without you.

Please note: many of the photos featured throughout this report were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# AMNESTY AROUND THE WORLD



## SECTIONS

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Algeria             | Moldova                  |
| Argentina           | Mongolia                 |
| Australia           | Morocco                  |
| Austria             | Nepal                    |
| Belgium (Fr and FL) | Netherlands              |
| Benin               | Aotearoa New Zealand     |
| Burkina Faso        | Norway                   |
| Canada (Eng and Fr) | Paraguay                 |
| Chile               | Peru                     |
| Colombia            | Philippines              |
| Côte d'Ivoire       | Poland                   |
| Czech Republic      | Portugal                 |
| Denmark             | Puerto Rico              |
| Faroe Islands       | Senegal                  |
| Finland             | Sierra Leone             |
| France              | Slovenia                 |
| Germany             | Korea                    |
| Ghana               | Spain                    |
| Greece              | Sweden                   |
| Hong Kong           | Switzerland              |
| Hungary             | Taiwan                   |
| Iceland             | Togo                     |
| Ireland             | Tunisia                  |
| Israel              | United Kingdom           |
| Italy               | United States of America |
| Japan               | Uruguay                  |
| Luxembourg          | Venezuela                |
| Mexico              | Zimbabwe                 |

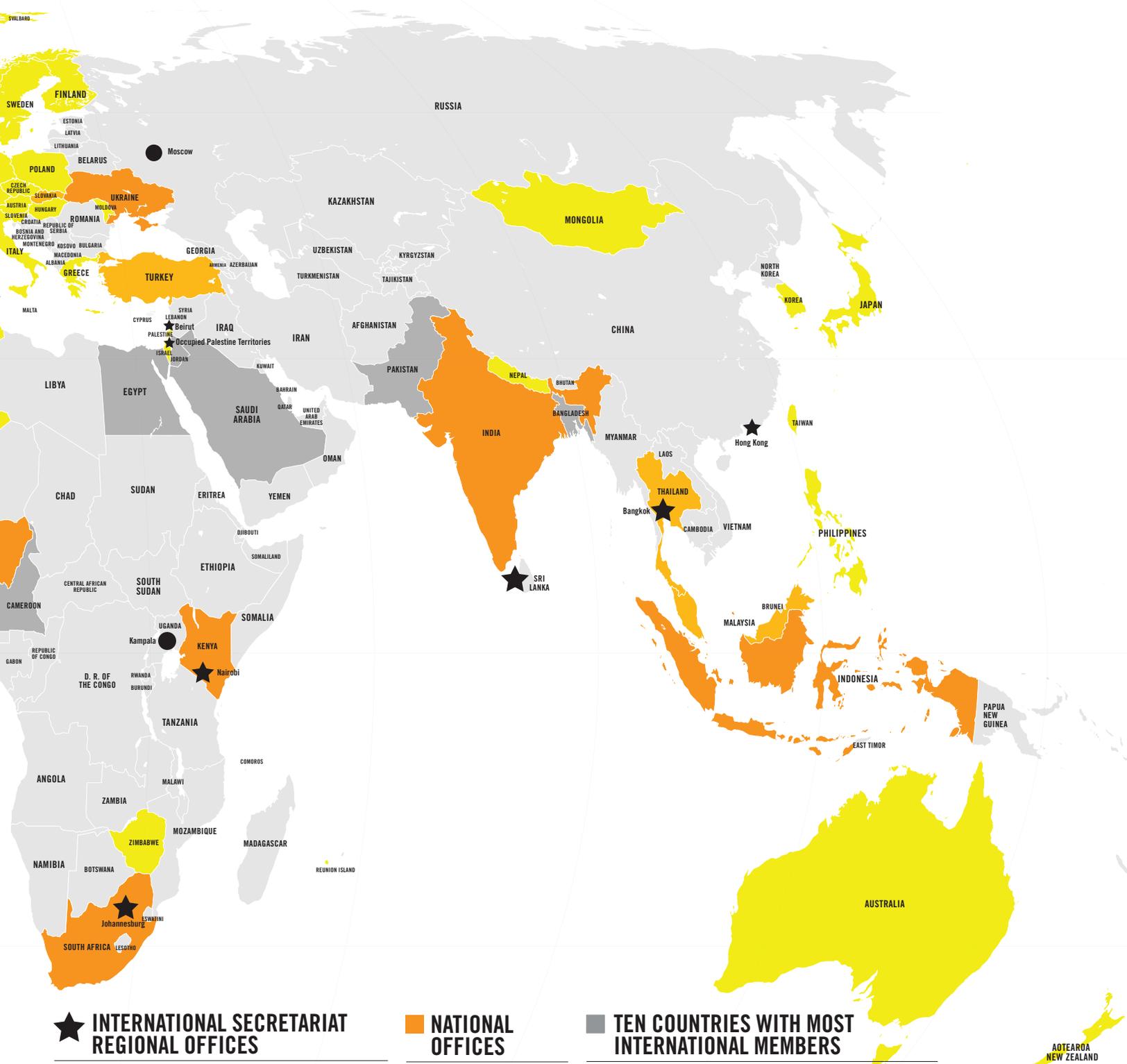
## STRUCTURES

- Malaysia
- Mali
- Slovakia
- Thailand
- Turkey

## INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OFFICES

- London
- Geneva
- Paris
- Madrid
- Moscow
- New York

Amnesty International USA's staff, members and activists are part of a global movement of nearly 10 million people across the global.



**★ INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT REGIONAL OFFICES**

- Brussels
- Colombo
- Hong Kong
- Nairobi
- Beirut
- Mexico City
- Jerusalem
- Lima
- Dakar
- Johannesburg
- Bangkok
- Tunis
- Washington DC

**■ NATIONAL OFFICES**

- Brazil
- India (operations halted)
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Ukraine (registered as an IS office for legal reasons)

**■ TEN COUNTRIES WITH MOST INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS**

- Bangladesh
- Cameroon
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Guinea
- Jordan
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Saudi Arabia



## CAMPAIGNS

Amnesty International USA's Campaigns team leads the design and implementation of the organization's top priority human rights work. The Campaigns team collaborates with rights-holders and other stakeholders to identify human rights goals and objectives, creates strategies to achieve them and chooses effective tactics to make a difference and grow the human rights movement, including through grassroots activism, public education, coalition-building, advocacy, research and strategic communications.



© AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

# FREE PEOPLE FROM ICE DETENTION

In 2020, freeing people from immigration detention continued to be one of our top priority areas of work due to the urgent risk of illness and death posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Tens of thousands of immigrants and asylum-seekers locked up by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were left behind to face these turbulent times alone, in facilities where conditions are well-documented to have substandard medical care, inadequate basic hygiene, and overcrowding.

Through research, campaigning, advocacy, and community activism, we worked nonstop to call on the U.S. government to take the necessary steps to protect the health and wellbeing of people in its custody and release them into communities in the U.S. that could keep them safe.

## FAMILY DETENTION

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE), under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), can detain families with children at three family detention centers in the U.S. — the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas, the Karnes County Residential Center in Texas, and the Berks County Family Residential Center in Pennsylvania. These facilities have the capacity to hold thousands of children and parents.

In May 2020, ICE began to present parents in family detention with an impossible and unconscionable “binary choice”: to separate from their children who would be released alone, or to stay together indefinitely in family detention — all amid a deadly pandemic.

AIUSA immediately issued a briefing, *Family Separation 2.0: “You aren’t going to separate me from my only child,”* on this coercive policy. The report was widely distributed to media reporters, Members of Congress, and litigators in the *Flores* Settlement Agreement, which governs the detention of migrant children. Alongside extensive media coverage, Congressional engagement, and thousands of grassroots actions, AIUSA’s goal of applying public pressure succeeded in influencing ICE’s decision to back down from further utilizing its “binary choice” policy. AIUSA also joined strategic litigation around ICE’s treatment of families in detention during COVID-19 and filed an amicus brief with the court overseeing *Flores* to oppose ICE’s refusal to release families during COVID-19 and instead pursue a “binary choice” policy.

Throughout the year, AIUSA called for all families to be freed together and in September, launched eye-catching billboards next to ICE field offices in Texas and Pennsylvania, as well a mobile digital billboard that circled ICE and DHS headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Starting in November, dozens of families who had been detained for months without the opportunity to request asylum were facing imminent deportation. AIUSA and a coalition led by the families’ attorneys launched a rapid response and stopped almost all of these removals.

## SPOTLIGHT: CASE ACTIONS

→ Over the course of 2020, AIUSA developed cases of individuals and families whose stories were emblematic of the hundreds of thousands unjustly detained by ICE. We launched actions calling for ICE to free Kelly, a transgender asylum-seeker from Honduras; Pastor Steven, a survivor of torture seeking asylum from Uganda; and five families seeking asylum — Paola\* and her 1-year-old infant Jose\* from Guatemala, Karla\* and her 15-year-old daughter Katherine\* from Honduras, Marilyn\* and her 11-year-old son Yuniór\* from Honduras, Juana\* and her 4-year-old daughter Norma\* from Honduras, and Ana\* and her 4-year-old child Victoria\* from Honduras.

AIUSA drove sustained grassroots advocacy and raised public visibility around these individuals and families, generating hundreds of thousands of actions that led to the release of Kelly and four families and stopped the deportation of Pastor Steven, whose case was even elevated to the attention of the acting director of ICE. Now freed, individuals like Kelly and Pastor Steven are raising their voices to call attention to the disproportionate impact of detention on trans and Black immigrants and asylum-seekers and advocating for the release of the thousands detained who should be freed, too.

These cases formed the cornerstone of AIUSA’s campaign to free people from immigration detention by bringing a human face to illustrate the human rights violations occurring behind detention walls, building our movement’s capacity to deepen its activism to advocate for change at the policy level, creating the opportunity for direct human rights impact, and demonstrating wins in an era fraught with human rights violations.

\*Names are pseudonyms to protect the identity of these individuals

# END GUN VIOLENCE

Amnesty International USA's End Gun Violence (EGV) campaign continued to elevate the human rights crisis of gun violence specifically in Black and Brown communities. In 2020, gun violence-related deaths rose to their highest point in over 20 years, despite the restrictions on movement imposed due to COVID-19.

The EGV campaign continued to lobby for the passage of the Break the Cycle of Violence Act, which would provide funding for community-based organizations doing violence prevention. During Virtual Lobby Day 2020 on June 23, over 170 AIUSA activists participated by lobbying their Members of Congress to request their support and passage of the act. As a result of the lobby day, AIUSA was able to secure five additional co-sponsors for the legislation



After the shooting of Ahmaud Arbery in February, AIUSA worked with Community Justice Action Fund to host a webinar on Stand Your Ground laws and their impact nationwide. We also created an updated EGV toolkit that included materials for activists who wanted to lobby specifically around Stand Your Ground laws in their states.

In early April, the EGV team hosted a successful media workshop on the impact of COVID-19 and its intersection with gun violence for more than a dozen reporters from various outlets, including Fast Company, NPR's Guns & America, CNN, CBS News, The Guardian, and others.

In partnership with Radio One, AIUSA hosted a series of virtual community conversations across four cities that spotlighted gun violence prevention organizations. The events uplifted the crucial work being done by community organizations and highlighted some of the challenges they face as they work to ensure funding for their programs.

In advance of the U.S. presidential election, AIUSA worked with coalition partners to create resources around the presence of firearms at polling stations. Amnesty activists around the country used these resources to implore their state officials to prohibit firearms at polling locations in order to protect the human right to participate in political processes free from discrimination and violence.



© AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## SPOTLIGHT: UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

→ AIUSA, along with partners from Community Justice Action Fund, March for Our Lives, Hadiyah's Promise and the Center for American Progress testified at events during both the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Pre-Session and the Human Rights Council Session about the challenges of gun violence in the U.S. and the lack of effort by the U.S. government to enact policy to eradicate the crisis of gun violence. These efforts contributed to numerous countries' recommendations regarding gun violence during the UPR of the U.S. in November 2020, with the U.S. agreeing to make efforts to address these issues in the future.



# CRISIS AND TACTICAL CAMPAIGNS

Amnesty International USA's crisis and tactical campaign priorities shift as the human rights landscape shifts, pivoting to address new situations as they arise and take advantage of potential avenues for changes.

## **DOMESTIC CRISIS RESPONSE CAMPAIGNS**

With regard to domestic human rights crises, we engaged in campaign work to stop the killing of Black people by police and to stop violence against Black Lives Matter protesters in the wake of the extrajudicial execution and torture of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis. Our Research team produced numerous reports throughout the campaign, including, *"The World is Watching: Mass Violations by U.S. Police of Black Lives Matter Protesters' Rights,"* *"Losing the Peace: U.S. Police Failures to Protect Protesters from Violence"* and the ground-breaking virtual monitoring map of incidents of police violence across the country.

AIUSA launched the Defend Freedom crisis campaign to prevent and stop human rights abuses related to the U.S. presidential election, including discrimination, racism, violence by police and armed groups, and threats to freedom of the press. We sent an open letter to over 40,000 U.S. officials, published it as a full-page ad in *The Washington Post*, and our youth and student activists raised awareness on social media, including through a video featuring youth activists.

## **RIGHTSNOW! CAMPAIGN**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, AIUSA launched the RightsNow! campaign in May of 2020 to demand that the U.S. government center human rights around its COVID-19 response. The onset of the pandemic spotlighted the long-standing inequalities that exist in our country — including by gender, by race and by class — were going to be exacerbated; from who performs the "essential" functions of the economy to which communities suffer the greatest loss of life.

AIUSA's RightsNow! campaign was centered around a 10-point plan for how the U.S. government should center human rights at all stages of the crisis — prevention, preparedness, containment, treatment and recovery — in order to best protect the public health and support those most at risk. The plan includes demands of the U.S. government to ensure universal healthcare, create a social safety net, protect workers' rights, free people from immigration detention, and address the related crises of the climate emergency, gun violence, and racism. Amnesty activists across the country directed over 60,000 digital actions to members of Congress and the Trump administration over the course of the campaign.

# SECURITY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

Amnesty International USA's Security with Human Rights (SWHR) program helps expose and end national security policies that violate human rights. Over the years, we've secured fair treatment for people in individual cases, helped force the government to release information about its activities, and played a key role in helping end practices that abuse human rights. In 2020, AIUSA's program used Amnesty's extensive body of original research to advocate for better policies to prevent and respond to civilians harmed by U.S. actions in overseas conflicts, as well as preventing a return to torture and sending new prisoners into detention at Guantánamo.



© AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## SPOTLIGHT: 2020 VICTORIES

- Following Amnesty's extensive and exclusive reporting on civilians killed and harmed by U.S. air strikes in Somalia, the U.S. government acknowledged additional cases of civilians killed and harmed by U.S. actions. After intensive advocacy with the Biden transition team, Members of Congress and Defense Department policy staff, we have seen a complete halt to air strikes in Somalia since President Biden took office.
- AIUSA participated in monthly roundtable meetings with the Defense Department on the impact of U.S. lethal force on civilians in conflict areas. Relying on our comprehensive research in Syria, Iraq and Somalia, we submitted recommendations to Defense Department policy staff, and to the Biden transition team, recommending specific policy improvement. We received positive responses and expect the new policy in 2021.
- Based on Amnesty's groundbreaking reporting in Somalia, AIUSA urged and succeeded in getting amendments passed in the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act that would have mandated improvements to civilian protection and response in Somalia. Although those provisions did not end up in the final bill, their passage in the House lays groundwork for passage of similar and related legislation in 2021.

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

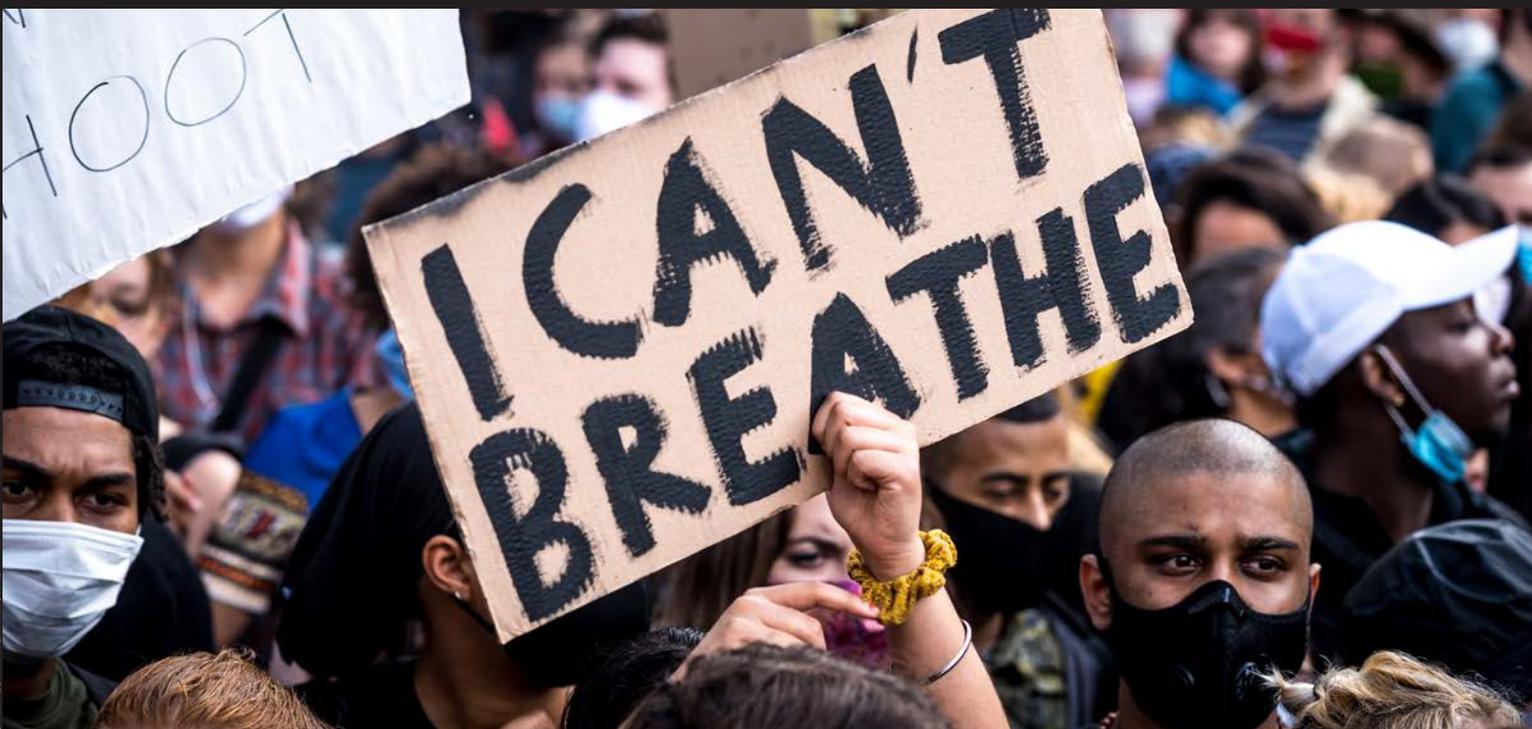
Our Criminal Justice program works to reform the U.S. criminal legal system at the state and federal levels, advocating for a system that respects and protect human rights. In 2020, this work focused primarily on working to abolish the death penalty and restricting the use of unnecessary or excessive force by law enforcement officials.

After a tumultuous legislative session shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed the California Racial Justice Act into law on October 2. The law prohibits prosecutors from seeking, or obtaining, a criminal conviction on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin by providing a defendant the opportunity to challenge alleged explicit discrimination against them. Following up on the 2019 introduction of the PEACE Act by Congressman Ro Khanna (D-CA-17) and after the murder of George Floyd and subsequent global response, the bill was reintroduced and included in the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act that passed the U.S. House of representatives on June 25. AIUSA and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) penned a coalition letter signed by over 117 organizations in support of the PEACE Act. The letter was received by the Democratic Unity Platform, which then included the portion of the PEACE Act that states that “police force must be limited to only when ‘necessary’”, into two separate administration transition documents.

---

## SPOTLIGHT: COLORADO ABOLISHES DEATH PENALTY

→ On March 23, Colorado became the 22nd state to abolish the death penalty. Along with signing the bill into law, Governor Jared Polis commuted the death sentences of all people remaining on the state’s death row. For decades, AIUSA member leaders and staff played a large role in building the foundation for this human rights win. In 2020, alongside coalition partners, AIUSA activists participated in several lobby days and wrote letters urging Governor Polis to commute the remaining death sentences in addition to signing the bill into law.





# GENDER SEXUALITY AND IDENTITY

Amnesty International envisions a world in which women, LGBTQI+ people, and Indigenous Peoples enjoy the full spectrum of their human rights, and in which all people enjoy their sexual and reproductive rights.

In 2020, our Gender, Sexuality and Identity (GSI) program continued to focus significant efforts on the rights of Indigenous women, including the disturbing numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) in North America. We lobbied for and helped secure the passage into law of Savanna's Act, a federal bill that will help address the national crisis of MMIWG. This is a critical first step by the federal government in ensuring data is collected regarding MMIWG and that federal and state police better coordinate with tribes. We continued to push for specific tribal provisions in the Violence Against Women Act and to lobby Congress and the administration on ensuring Native women have access to post-rape care.

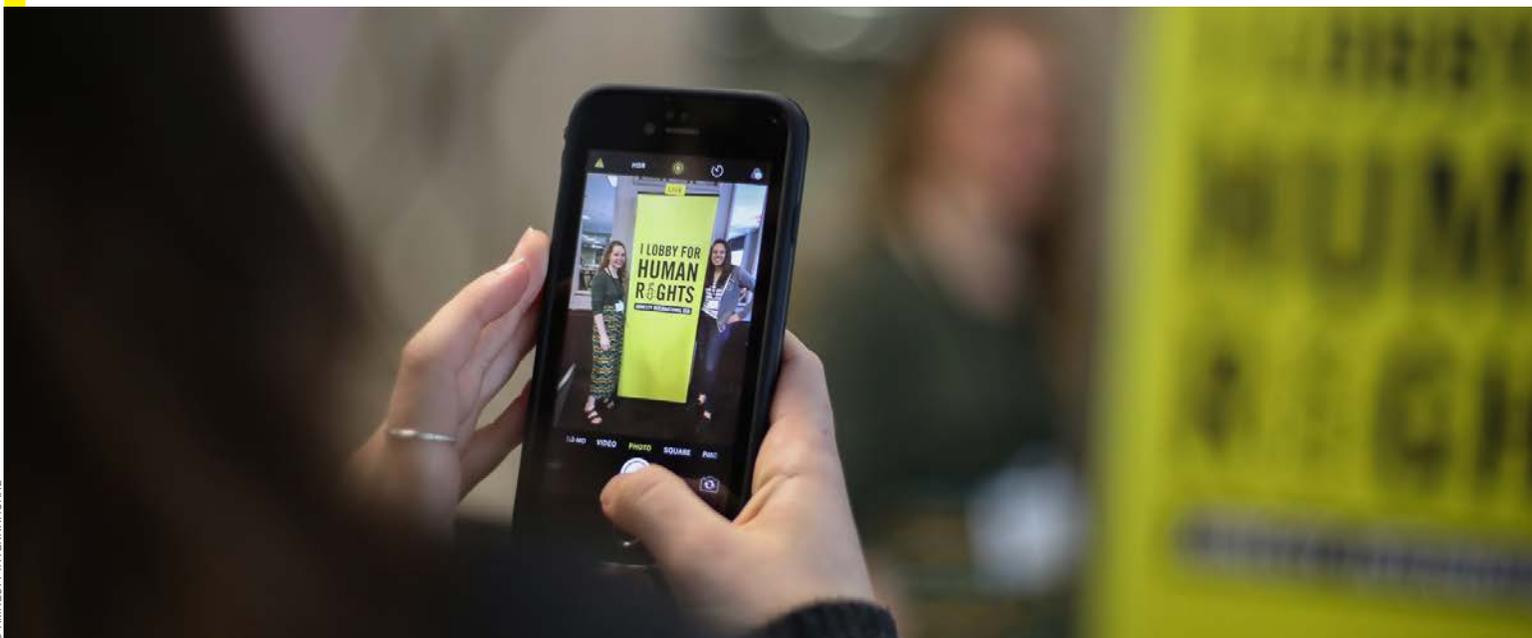
We continued to work to end gender-based violence (GBV) globally, and we helped introduce the bipartisan Safe from the Start bill in both the House and Senate, a bill that would help end GBV in emergency settings. We focused considerable efforts in working to ensure the U.S. responded to COVID-19 in foreign policy, with a particular emphasis on ending the rising rates of gender-based violence happening during

## SPOTLIGHT: WHY GENDER MATTERS

→ We continued to work to ensure gender is central to all our human rights work, understanding that people's sex and gender identity is central to how they experience their rights. We also pursued work to ensure that U.S. gender policy (policy specific to gender or sex identity) works to uplift and not attack human rights. Throughout the Trump administration, including in 2020, the U.S. government sought to use gender policy to undermine human rights, including by promoting so-called "women's rights" policies that specifically restricted sexual and reproductive rights or that erased LGBTQI+ people, particularly trans women, or by using the State Department's "Commission on Unalienable Rights" to try to redefine human rights to exclude LGBTQI+ people and sexual and reproductive rights. AIUSA helped lead the resistance to these attacks and we were able to help mitigate many harmful policies championed by the Trump administration.

# TECHNOLOGY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

Our Technology and Human Rights program works to protect our rights in an increasingly digital age, focusing on federal, state and local governments' use of surveillance technology, as well as the ways in which large technology companies such as Facebook, Google and Twitter undermine our rights to privacy and amplify discrimination. In 2020, we highlighted how the Department of Health and Human Services was building a pandemic surveillance system without sufficient privacy safeguards, and in conjunction with tech companies that had previously worked with ICE. This work helped spur Congressional action, including engagement by both the Congressional Hispanic Caucus as well as Senator Elizabeth Warren's office. We also focused on the intersection of technology and racial justice, calling for a ban on police use of facial recognition technology, which leads to greater over-policing of Black and Brown communities. In addition, we contributed two Congressional comments on the record, specifically on the EARN IT Act and the U.S. Government's artificial intelligence guidelines. We also engaged large tech companies directly, including by releasing a Twitter Scorecard to highlight Twitter's unwillingness to take action against hateful and abusive speech on their platform.



© AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## SPOTLIGHT: PALANTIR AND ICE

→ At the beginning of the pandemic, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that it was partnering with a technology company called Palantir to build a pandemic surveillance platform, to help inform the Government's response to COVID-19. In an Op-Ed published in *The Washington Post* in May, AIUSA highlighted the ties between Palantir and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), including Palantir's support for ICE's efforts to identify and deport undocumented migrants. AIUSA then worked with Congressional allies, including the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Senator Elizabeth Warren's office, to ensure that any information gathered as part of the Government's pandemic surveillance efforts would not be shared with ICE or law enforcement.

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

AIUSA's Government Relations (GR) team is dedicated to working closely with U.S. government officials by keeping them abreast of human rights issues globally and pressing them to champion human rights-centered policies. They conduct meetings and briefings, publish Op-Eds and participate in media interviews, submit policy recommendations to legislators, and push for sponsorship of and voting commitments on human rights policies.

In February of 2020, GR led other AIUSA staff in organizing a presidential candidates forum in Las Vegas, in advance of Nevada's early caucus. The event was attended by representation from nearly all Democratic candidates, livestreamed before a national audience, and covered by national media.

Throughout the whole of 2020, AIUSA's GR team published 77 policy briefs with recommendations for the Trump and Biden campaigns on a wide range of thematic, international, and domestic human rights issues. Following the November presidential election, many members of the GR team briefed the Biden transition teams on a wide range of human rights issues and two former GR team members went on to accept positions within the Biden administration.



© AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## ADVOCACY AT WORK

- Human rights issues can sometimes become highly politicized, making it difficult to secure bipartisan support for legislation that will protect those rights. However, strong advocacy from organizations like AIUSA can work to change minds on both sides of the aisle. In 2020, the GR team and AIUSA activists lobbied Congressional staff by leveraging original research documenting cases of human violations by the Chinese government: Uyghurs being arbitrarily detained in internment camps and Chinese authorities threatening relatives and Uyghurs living abroad. Our advocacy helped to secure a historical step in protecting Uyghurs in China. The Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act was passed by Congress overwhelmingly and widely supported by Republican and Democratic lawmakers. In June, President Donald Trump signed the act in law.
- Our advocacy also helped to push through House legislation such as the Libya Stabilization Act (H.R. 4644) and the No Ban Act (H.R. 1332) to reverse President's Trump's Muslim Ban and Africa Ban.

# INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

The work at the core of our Individuals at Risk (IAR) program is the seed that started a global movement. Since 1966, AIUSA has fought for the rights of prisoners of conscience around the world — people who are imprisoned solely for who they are or what they believe. AIUSA's Individuals at Risk program is made up of the Urgent Action Network, which calls upon members and activists to advocate on behalf of individuals and communities at risk of human rights violations; the Case Commitment Initiative, where groups take on cases on a longer-term basis; Write for Rights, Amnesty International's annual letter writing event which generates millions of actions worldwide each year; and extensive advocacy with the U.S. government.

In 2020, our work contributed to positive developments on 88 individual cases, the release of 61 prisoners of conscience, and had a crucial impact on 562 human rights defenders cases. Our advocacy also contributed to the passage of S. Res 142 in the full Senate, which calls for the release of Senator Leila de Lima in the Philippines. AIUSA's IAR program also penned numerous Congressional letters on human rights defenders in countries including Colombia, the Philippines, and Saudi Arabia.

## CASE SPOTLIGHTS

### **Nabeel Rajab: Bahrain**

Prominent human rights defender Nabeel Rajab was released on June 9 after almost four years of unjust detention. Nabeel had repeatedly been targeted for his human rights work and peaceful criticism over the past two decades. He was arrested on June 13 2016 in relation to comments he published on his Twitter account in March 2015 regarding the armed conflict in Yemen and when he also discussed his alleged torture while in Jaw prison. His case was the focus of an Urgent Action appeal and also part of the Case Commitment Initiative.

### **Wang Quanzhang: China**

Chinese human rights lawyer Wang Quanzhang was released April 5 after four and a half years in prison for “subverting state power.” Wang was originally detained by police on August 3 2015 as part of a mass crackdown in which nearly 250 human rights lawyers and activists were targeted by the Chinese government. His case was part of the Case Commitment Initiative.

### **Joaquin Elo Ayeto: Equatorial Guinea**

Human rights defender and political activist Joaquin Elo Ayeto in Equatorial Guinea was released from prison on February 14 2020 after almost a year following his arbitrary arrest on February 25 2019. He was tried for defamation and threats against the president of the country. His case was the focus of an Urgent Action appeal.

### **Yulia Tsvetkova: Russia**

Russian LGBTI rights activist Yulia Tsvetkova was released from house arrest on March 16 after having been placed under house arrest on November 22 2019.

She had been charged with “production and dissemination of pornography”, as well as other charges under Russia's homophobic “gay propaganda” legislation, which expressly discriminates against LGBTI people and violates their right to freedom of expression. Her case was the focus of an Urgent Action appeal and a Case Commitment Initiative.

### **Ruben Gonzalez: Venezuela**

Venezuelan prisoner of conscience and union leader Ruben Gonzalez was released September 2 after having been arbitrarily detained in November 2018 for peacefully standing up for labor rights in Venezuela. His trial was highly irregular and in August 2019 he was sentenced by a military court despite being a civilian. His case was the focus of an Urgent Action appeal and a Case Commitment Initiative.

### **Narges Mohammadi: Iran**

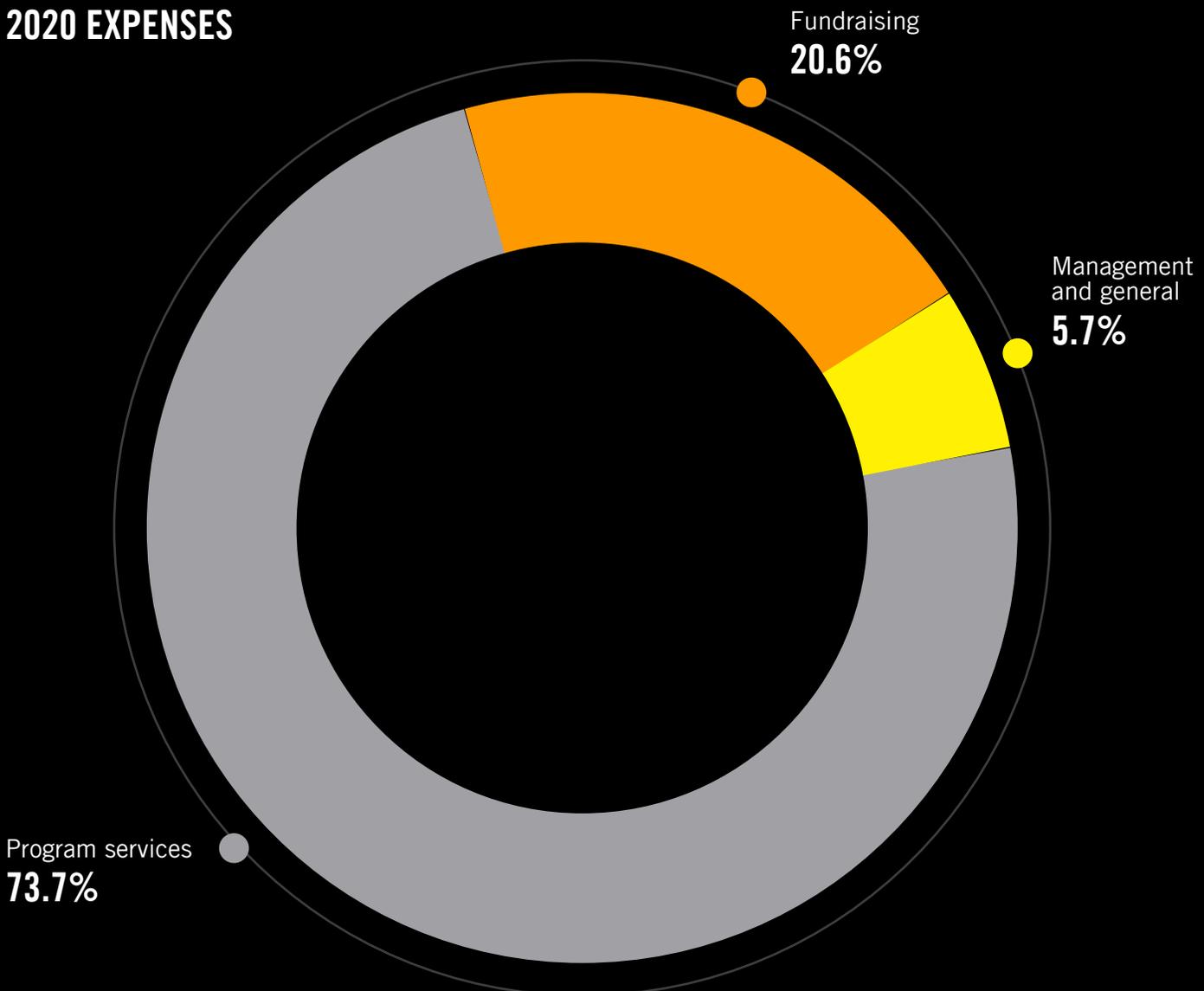
Iranian human rights defender and anti-death penalty campaigner Narges Mohammadi was released October 8 after having been in prison since May 2015. She was serving a 16 year prison sentence for the charges of ‘founding an illegal group’ for her involvement with Legam (an anti-death penalty NGO), ‘gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security’, and one additional year for ‘spreading propaganda against the system’. Her case was the focus of an Urgent Action appeal and a Case Commitment Initiative.

# FINANCIALS

Against the backdrop of the pandemic, 2020 was a strong financial year for Amnesty International USA, thanks to the generous support of our donors. Revenue increased by 4% over 2019, allowing us to continue and expand our human rights work. Over 73.7% of AIUSA's spending goes directly toward advancing our programmatic goals, including freeing prisoners of conscience, fighting discrimination, helping refugees and migrants, ending gun violence, and pushing for public policies that respect and protect the human rights of people around the world. Due to the substantial increase in donor support in the past several years we can continue to expand both programmatic and fundraising efforts.

Our balance sheet is strongest in December, which is the high point of seasonal cash holdings due to traditional year-end gift giving. The Statement of Financial Position showed an overall asset increase of \$9.4 million, with both cash holdings and investment portfolio positions strengthening. AIUSA continues to be the largest funding Section of the global Amnesty movement with our highest allocation ever — \$16.5 million — to the International Secretariat in 2020 to help advance our international work. We are grateful to all our donors, whose financial support and dedication to human rights makes our work possible.

## 2020 EXPENSES



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OF THE USA, INC.

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	12/31/20	12/31/19
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$12,524,150	\$6,377,905
Investments, at fair value	21,943,459	18,624,524
Contributions receivable	2,799,904	2,435,113
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,039,423	2,167,015
Fixed assets, net	989,306	247,138
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$39,296,242</b>	<b>\$29,851,695</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 938,097	\$ 424,720
Payroll and payroll taxes payable	893,618	696,296
International Secretariat assessment payable	4,172,084	1,554,428
Charitable gift annuity obligation	1,714,064	2,034,090
Paycheck Protection Program loan payable	2,375,000	
Deferred Rent	192,559	
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>10,285,422</b>	<b>4,709,534</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without donor restrictions	22,737,581	20,455,254
With donor restrictions	6,273,239	4,686,907
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>29,010,820</b>	<b>25,142,161</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$39,296,242</b>	<b>\$29,851,695</b>

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDING

	12/31/20	12/31/19
<b>OPERATING REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>		
Contributions, grants and bequests	\$51,295,422	\$49,481,619
International Secretariat grants and pass-through grants	182,314	68,050
Donated services	112,053	93,670
Other revenues	239,084	208,611
<b>Total operating revenue and support</b>	<b>51,828,873</b>	<b>49,851,950</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services	37,954,873	39,306,000
Management and general	2,924,496	2,290,484
Fundraising	10,633,033	9,674,683
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>51,512,402</b>	<b>51,271,167</b>
(Decrease) increase in net assets before nonoperating activities	316,471	(1,419,217)
<b>NONOPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Change in value of gift annuity obligations	117,388	50,000
Interest, dividends, realized and unrealized (losses) gains	3,434,800	3,678,519
<b>Total nonoperating activities</b>	<b>3,552,188</b>	<b>3,728,519</b>
<b>Changes in net assets</b>	<b>3,868,659</b>	<b>2,309,302</b>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE FULL SET OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

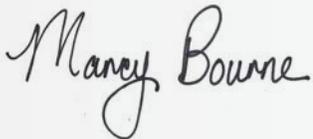
Dear Friends,

I am so proud to tell you that once again, Amnesty International USA has experienced a year of great growth and innovation because of your partnership. In 2020, this growth allowed us to advance our mission in a world facing a pandemic, systemic human rights abuses, ongoing racial injustice and unprecedented stress on our planet. We were able to provide support to our colleagues around the world as they joined us in undertaking the critical research, organizing, and advocacy necessary to advance and protect human rights across the globe.

Your generosity and unwavering commitment during this time has allowed us to pivot our work to respond and ensure that human rights be at the center of ongoing COVID-19 response; call out disparities globally and urge governments to address inequalities and discrimination heightened by the pandemic. It has given us the means to defend prisoners of conscience and human rights activists at risk all around the world, and the right to peaceful protest; to demand for the end of excessive use of force against communities of color and address gun violence in the United States as a human rights crisis. None of this would be possible without you.

Thank you for helping us grow our organization year after year, increasing our ability to promote and defend human rights around the world. We at Amnesty International are immensely proud of the work you continue to make possible.

Once again, thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcy Bourne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Marcy Bourne**  
Chief Development Officer

# A LEGACY OF ACTIVISM: HONORING THE LIFE OF MARTIN L. WEITZMAN



© FAMILY OF M. WEITZMAN

Martin Lawrence Weitzman was born in New York City. His mother died before he was one year old and his father was unable to look after him after returning from military service in WWII so he was placed in an orphanage and was not adopted until several years later. Despite these challenges, he emerged early as a brilliant scholar. He received his B.A. from Swarthmore College in 1963 and his M.S. from Stanford University in 1964. Just three years later, he earned a Ph.D. from MIT. From 1967 to 1972, he taught economics at Yale University, moving to MIT in 1972 and to Harvard in 1989, where he was professor of economics until 2018, when he became an *Emeritus* and research professor.

Weitzman was a treasure for Harvard, economists around the world, and the global intellectual community for his many unparalleled research and policy contributions as a broad-ranging economic theorist and, especially, an environmental economist. His writings were works of art as well as science.

Weitzman was married twice, first to Dorothy Earley, with whom he had a daughter, Rodica, and then to Jennifer Baverstam. He met Jennifer, a translator and musician with four also exceptionally musical children, in 2008 and they were married in 2013. He got great pleasure from the concerts Jennifer organized at their Newton home and from many happy summers spent together at the island house in Gloucester.

Thanks to his meaningful bequest, AIUSA will be able to honor his commitment to making a lasting impact in the defense of universal human rights.

Citation: Harvard Gazette <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/02/martin-l-weitzman-77/>

# DONOR PROFILE: THE LANG FAMILY

Kurt Lang (1924 — 1919) and Gladys Engel Lang (1919 — 2016) cared deeply about human rights. As a young child in Berlin, Kurt saw the Nazis and Hitler's ascent to power in Germany. He was forced to attend a Jewish school, even though his family was non-religious. His father,



a medical specialist, was no longer allowed to tend to non-Jewish patients and could not make a good living, so his family was forced to move to a smaller apartment. In 1936, he, his parents, and brother were fortunate to leave Germany and emigrate to New York. Other family members and friends were not so lucky.

Gladys's mother was also a refugee. She came to the U.S. in the early 19-aughts with her many siblings and parents who narrowly escaped the pogroms in Kiev. In 1928, when she was nine, Gladys heard a fellow classmate say that Al Smith could not become president because he was a Catholic, and she burst into tears. She could not bear the possibility of such discrimination.

During World War II, both Kurt and Gladys participated in the war effort. As a German speaker, Kurt qualified for the U.S. Army's Counter Intelligence Corps. Gladys worked for the Office of War Information in Washington, D.C. and served overseas in the Office of Strategic Services in London, Italy, and China. Kurt stayed on after the war, working on denazification for the Intelligence

Branch of the U.S. Military Government's Information Control Division. He helped root out former Nazis and was instrumental in creating a classification system for their level of involvement in the Nazi cause.

During their long and celebrated careers as sociologists, the Langs not only studied politics in the media and elections but they also joined political campaigns, and advocated for school desegregation and fair housing laws. They were profoundly concerned about repression of free speech and political persecution because of Kurt's experiences in Germany. Kurt and Gladys Engel Lang kept a close eye on human rights abuses around the world and were pleased to support all of Amnesty International's endeavors.

**For more information on making a leadership gift, please contact  
Marnie Fairchild 631-902-2514 or [mfairchild@aiusa.org](mailto:mfairchild@aiusa.org)**



**F R E E W I L L** 

# A GIFT TO PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

We all want a safe, secure, and bright future for our loved ones. One of the best ways to ensure that is by writing a will. Everyone needs a will — it's an essential legal document that allows you to make a plan, make sure your wishes are clearly known and followed, and protect the people and causes that you care about. But this task has traditionally been complicated, expensive and inaccessible. Amnesty International is excited to share a free, easy-to-use resource that allows you to write a legally valid will in under 20 minutes, at no personal cost. It's a simple way to get peace of mind and check off an important life task. And just as you'll be investing in your own future, you'll have the option to invest in the future of human rights defenders by creating an optional legacy gift.

**Write your will today and get started on protecting the things you care about at [FreeWill.com/Amnesty](https://FreeWill.com/Amnesty).**

**Questions? Please reach out to Sara Golden at [giftplanning@aiusa.org](mailto:giftplanning@aiusa.org) or by calling 212-633-4213.**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE TEAM

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Paul O'Brien**  
Executive Director

**Bob Goodfellow**  
Interim Executive Consultant

**Marcy Bourne**  
Chief Development Officer

**Ira Lefton**  
Chief Legal and Policy Officer

**Minjon Tholen**  
Chief Inclusion & Strategic  
Innovation Officer

**Tamara Draut**  
Chief Impact Officer

**Roger-Mark De Souza**  
Chief Movement Building  
Officer

**Elizabeth Schaffer**  
Interim Chief Financial Officer

## 2019-2020 BOARD LEADERSHIP

**Janet Lord**  
Board Chair

**Abdullah Chahin**  
Vice Chair

**Angie Hougas**  
Treasurer

**Barbara C. Sproul**  
Secretary

**Ş. İlgü Özler**  
Member at Large

**Ali Arab**  
Deputy Treasurer

**Rana Abdelhamid**  
Deputy Secretary

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Christine Cerna**

**Alexandra Durbak**

**Reza Fakhari**

**Hadar Harris**

**Benya Kraus**

**Phyllis Pautrat**

**Oleh Tustaniwsky**

**Diana Jones Wilson**

## 2020-2021 BOARD LEADERSHIP

**Reza Fakhari**  
Board Chair

**Alexandra Durbak**  
Vice Chair

**Matthew Kennis**  
Treasurer

**Barbara C. Sproul**  
Secretary

**Jessica Evans**  
Member at Large

**Ali Arab**  
Deputy Treasurer

**Benya Kraus**  
Deputy Secretary

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Rana Abdelhamid**

**Christina Cerna**

**Abdullah Chahin**

**James Henry**

**Angie Hougas**

**Phyllis Pautrat**

**Oleh Tustaniwsky**

**Leonard Torrealba**

# THANK YOU

We at Amnesty International USA are so grateful to the hundreds of thousands of individuals, groups, and organizations who make our work possible through their generosity. Your contributions are essential to our ability to advance human rights for people around the world. Our donors have been our allies in the fight for human rights for all for 60 years, helping us to free prisoners of conscience and speak out against human rights violations at home and abroad, creating real change through grassroots action and advocacy. Thank you so much for your ongoing support and dedication to Amnesty International's mission — we couldn't do it without you.



AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



AMNE  
INTERNATI



VOUS ÊTES  
NOTRE DERNIER  
ESPOIR



#YouthForClimate

# JOIN OUR MOVEMENT

Fight injustice and help create a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

Contact Us Phone: 1-800-Amnesty Email: [aimember@aiusa.org](mailto:aimember@aiusa.org) [www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)

 Twitter @amnestyusa

 Facebook @amnestyusa

 Instagram @amnestyusa



Human rights defenders