



This e-newsletter is a quick update for you on Amnesty International's latest work to promote and protect human rights and is sent periodically to Members of Parliament, civil servants and others contributing to the governance of New Zealand.

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LATEST NEWS

Amnesty congratulates NZ for reaffirming indigenous rights:

Amnesty International has congratulated the New Zealand Government for its long overdue endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration). Critically, the Declaration does not create new human rights, simply facilitating an improved understanding and realisation of the existing inherent human rights of Indigenous peoples. For these reasons, Amnesty International encourages the Government to unreservedly give effect to the Declaration and in so doing highlight its genuine commitment to realising the rights of Indigenous peoples. To read more, visit: <http://bit.ly/amH0PI>



Fiji joins company of rogue states:

Since the abrogation of the Fijian constitution one year ago, Amnesty International has documented increasingly oppressive practices restricting the Fijian people's everyday activities. Today, for example, police are reprimanding couples for holding hands in public, and military officers are acting as de facto spies by operating taxi services in Suva.



Fiji now finds itself in the company of other rogue states such as North Korea and Iran, who ignore pressure from the United Nations and the international community to commit to international human rights.

To read more, visit <http://bit.ly/cTdUea>

Amnesty congratulates Simon Power on New Zealand's report to the UN:

Amnesty International welcomed Justice Minister Hon Simon Power presenting New Zealand's fifth periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to the United Nations Human Rights Committee on 16 March in New York. The Justice Minister's presence before the Committee indicates that New Zealand is serious about fulfilling its domestic human rights obligations.



While Amnesty International welcomed the Ministers attendance in New York, there remains a range of outstanding domestic human rights concerns yet to be adequately addressed. To read Amnesty's submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on New Zealand's Implementation of the ICCPR please visit: <http://bit.ly/cFBH5f>

Invitation to attend Amnesty's annual meeting:

We would like to invite you to Amnesty's annual meeting on 8 May at the Addington Events Centre in Christchurch. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Regional Representative, Richard Towle, will deliver what promises to be an exciting and informative keynote address.



The theme of this year's meeting is "Development - The Human Rights Approach", in line with Amnesty's new Demand Dignity campaign, and introducing our upcoming work to ensure that human rights are at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals - the most prominent global anti-poverty initiative. To RSVP, please contact Chris Kerr, our Research & Advocacy Co-ordinator: chris.kerr@amnesty.org.nz

ASEAN human rights commission: Nothing but rhetoric?

Amnesty International is deeply disappointment at the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights' (AICHR) refusal to investigate complaints from victims, families and civil society organisations of human rights abuses in member states.



Amnesty calls upon the Commission to reverse its decision and apply its mandate. To read more, please visit: <http://bit.ly/aga0VF>

Kiribati UPR spotlights endemic discrimination and violence against women

Amnesty International has made a submission to the UN Human Rights Council ahead of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Kiribati. In particular, Amnesty raised concerns over gender discrimination, highlighting extremely high levels of violence against women and discriminatory legislation, including the absence of specific legislation related to gender-based violence.

For further information on Amnesty International's submission on Kiribati's UPR, please visit: <http://bit.ly/bpdiXn>

South Korea: serious about abolishing the death penalty?

Amnesty International is deeply disappointed by the South Korean Constitutional Court's decision to uphold the death penalty. Despite this ruling, Amnesty calls on the South Korean Government to retain the country's abolitionist position in practice and urges them to abolish this practice in law. An economic leader, South Korea should also lead by example by fully respecting every individual's right to life.



To read more on the status of the death penalty in South Korea, please visit: <http://bit.ly/9NjMzy>

TAKE ACTION

Four political activists arrested during the Togolese presidential election are still being detained. Fulbert Attisso, Guillaume Coco, Yaovi Abobi and Eric Solewassi are all members of the Citizens'

Movement for an Alternative (Mouvement Citoyen pour l'Alternance, MCA) and have been charged with "an attempt on the security of the state". They are being held in Kara prison where conditions are known to be particularly harsh.

To take action on behalf of all political prisoners in Togo, please click here: <http://bit.ly/9OJ5aF>

Coffee?

If you are interested in any of Amnesty's work outlined above, would like to discuss other human rights issues, or would simply like to grab a coffee and catch up, please drop us a line. Amnesty has staff in both Wellington and Auckland who would welcome an opportunity to meet you. To do so please contact Chris Kerr, our Research & Advocacy Co-ordinator to arrange a suitable time: chris.kerr@amnesty.org.nz

For more information about all our campaigns please visit [our website](#)

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