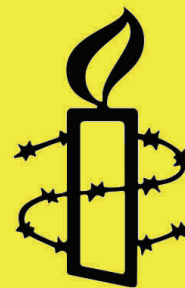


ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS NETWORK

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Aotearoa New Zealand



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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of the **Environmental Defenders Network (EDeN)** Newsletter!

EDeN will be similar to other Amnesty networks (e.g. Children's and Legal). It will provide valuable outreach opportunities to environmental, community and development organisations.

At heart it is basic Amnesty work - focussing on individuals facing ill-treatment and persecution for exercising basic freedoms - in particular,



How will EDeN work?

EDeN will work on individual appeal cases, urgent actions and long term actions. Amnesty International teams/groups and individual members are encouraged to be part of the network.

We will:

- Identify appeal cases from Amnesty International sources which have an environmental or development aspect to them. (An example might be a community leader who has opposed illegal logging and has received death threats);
- Edit the information and produce supporting materials for action and publicity. We will try to supply materials in pdf format for easy sharing and distribution.
- Distribute to participating groups/members on a regular basis;
- Build a distribution database of groups and individuals (internal and external);
- Approach, and then keep in regular contact with organisations which have an interest in environmental or development issues to develop outreach and joint actions;
- Develop a media and publicity kit (this sort of material is perfect for events/festivals/etc);
- Build profiles of major problem countries and issues;
- Try to determine if there are similar networks in other sections, and to develop links with them.

TAKE ACTION NOW

Chinese environmental activist detained for reporting on the Sichuan earthquake



Sichuan environmental activist and writer Tan Zuoren was detained by the police in Chengdu city, Sichuan province on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power” on 28 March. He is now detained at Wenjiang Detention Centre. Amnesty International believes that he is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Local sources believed that Tan Zuoren’s detention was linked to his intention to issue publicly on the first anniversary of the earthquake, a list of children who died during the earthquake on 12 May 2008, along with an independently investigated report on the collapse of many school buildings due to corruption.

Tan Zuoren is a prominent environmentalist. He previously issued a report to warn against possible health, safety and environmental hazards by the government’s PX chemical projects in Sichuan province. He has also volunteered with disaster management after the earthquake.

Take action for Tan Zuoren and read more at:

http://www.amnesty.org.nz/archived_news/environmental_activist_detained_in_china

Forced evictions in Cambodia



Tens of thousands of people living in the immediate vicinity of Boeung Kak Lake in central Phnom Penh are at risk of being forcibly evicted from their homes. When contractors began filling in Boeung Kak Lake with sand on 26 August 2008, none of the estimated 3,000 to 4,200 families living on the shores of the lake and around the area had been informed that work was about to begin. Just over a week later and after protests from residents, the filling was temporarily stopped.

If the project goes ahead, without proper plans, compensation and adequate alternative housing for those affected, it could be the beginning of the biggest forced eviction in post-war Cambodia.

Amnesty International believes this project is a violation of both human rights and international law, and that the filling of Boeung Kak Lake should immediately stop until a proper process that ensures human rights protection is in place.

Take action to ensure protection for people living around Boeung Kak Lake at:

http://asiapacific.amnesty.org/apro/APROweb.nsf/pages/appeals_cambodia_eviction

JOIN EDeN

Amnesty's Environmental Defenders Network brings like minded people together who have an interest in the environment to help defend human rights, especially those of environmental defenders.

Receive news and actions, attend, events and seminars and workshops, assist in research and other involvement with Amnesty International.

To join EDeN, you must first be a member of Amnesty International. Join Amnesty at:

<https://www.myanamnesty.org.nz/foundation.aspx>

This newsletter prepared for Amnesty International by Nick Keenleyside.
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