



LEGAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER CORRECTION:

The newsletter you have just received included a link to the **Activism Survey** which was sent to you last week. Unfortunately, this link is incorrect as the original survey link is tied to your individual email. Please ignore the link in previous the Legal Network Newsletter. If you haven't completed the survey yet please click on the link in your original invite.

If you have lost your original invite, please contact webmaster@amnesty.org.nz to request a new invite.

Thank you.

Welcome to the Legal Network Newsletter, November 2010 Edition. Amnesty International's Legal Network is a group of people who have an interest in human rights law to help defend human rights, especially those of human rights lawyers.

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Open Letter to U.S. Secretary of State and NZ's Prime Minister

Ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton's official visit to New Zealand, we wrote an open letter to Ms. Clinton and Prime Minister John Key urging them to convey Amnesty International's concern about the deteriorating human rights and security situation in Afghanistan and to provide key recommendations that would improve the security and well-being of the Afghan people. For the full open letter, click [here](#).



Aung Khaing Min speakers tour – where to from here?

As part of Amnesty International's Myanmar 'Freedom' campaign, Aung Khaing Min visited New Zealand to tell his story. From 10-20 October, Aung Khaing Min toured the four main centres, giving a first-hand account of the personal struggles the people of Myanmar face. Aung Khaing Min also met with the New Zealand Government to ask what they are doing for the people of Myanmar.



On 13 October, the New Zealand Parliament passed a motion calling on Myanmar's authorities to guarantee the three freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and to immediately and unconditionally release of all political prisoners arrested for their peaceful opposition to the Government. To read Amnesty's full press release on the Parliamentary motion, click [here](#). More action is needed for the people of Myanmar. To learn how you can take further action on the Myanmar Freedom Campaign, click [here](#).

Lexis Nexis update

Lexis Nexis is offering Legal Network members a 15% discount off the registration costs for the Rule of Law conference, held in Wellington from 18-19 November. For information on the Rule of Law conference, click [here](#). For further queries, please contact Lisa Young at lisyoun@gmail.com.

Activism Survey

It's not too late to add your comments to our Activism Survey which was sent to you all on 2 November. It will take less than 10 minutes and your feedback will ensure that we are better able to support your activism in the future. The survey is part of AI's global activism impact assessment. [Click here to take the survey](#).

Call for Human Rights Defender nominations



Nominations are now open for Amnesty's Human Rights Defender Award. Amnesty is looking to celebrate

Nominations close 5pm on Monday 15 November. [Click here to nominate someone for the Human Rights Defender Award 2010.](#)

TAKE ACTION

Iran must release hunger-striking human rights lawyer

Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh resumed a hunger strike on 31 October over her arbitrary arrest and conditions of detention. She has remained in solitary confinement in Evin Prison in Tehran since her arrest on 4 September, with only occasional contact with family members. She is a prisoner of conscience, held in connection with her work as a lawyer. Despite the risks she has spoken openly about failures in the administration of justice in Iran. For more information and to take action on behalf of Nasrin, click [here](#).



Urgent Action for Russian lawyer still at risk

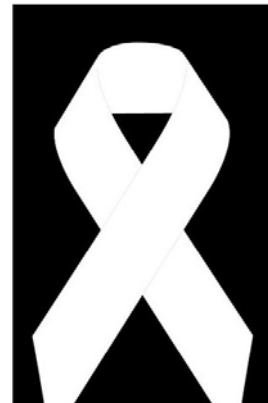
Action is needed for Sapiyat Magomedova, a lawyer from Dagestan, Russia who still faces criminal charges following her allegations that she was severely beaten by police, and may be at risk of further harassment. To learn more about this case and how you can help, click [here](#).

White Ribbon Day and 16-days of Action against Gender Violence

Amnesty International is once again participating in White Ribbon Day (25 November) which launches its 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence and runs through to Human Rights Day, 10 December.

Should you wish to distribute white ribbons (the symbol of not condoning violence against women) at work, and encourage your colleagues to take action on behalf of women at risk in the Pacific Islands and Indonesia please contact Campaigns Intern Felipe Forero campaigns.intern@amnesty.org.nz detailing how many ribbons and appeal cases you would like.

Amnesty's website will shortly be updated with an e-action on behalf of Pacific island women, so watch this space www.amnesty.org.nz for updates.



Letter Writing Marathon for Norma Cruz

Every year, as part of Amnesty's celebrations for International Human Rights Day thousands of people take action on behalf of prisoners of conscience, human rights defenders, victims of torture and other individuals at risk. Write for Rights is our global Letter Writing Marathon which last year saw more than 730,000 appeals from 50 countries signed and sent. It runs this year from 4-14 December.



At a time of year when many are sending cards or letters to loved ones and colleagues – we are asking you to send a message of solidarity to Guatemalan human rights activist Norma Cruz. Please also urge colleagues to do the same, either individually or at a letter writing event you organise in the office. Norma leads a women's rights organisation, Survivors Foundation. She and her family have received numerous death threats relating to the Foundation's provision of legal assistance to a young victim of sexual violence. For more information and to take action on behalf of Norma and others who are at risk of human rights abuses, click [here](#).

To request a hard copy Letter Writing Marathon Kit contact Campaigns Intern, Felipe Forero at campaigns.intern@amnesty.org.nz.

Please send through the numbers of appeals you have sent as soon after your event as possible to campaigns.intern@amnesty.org.nz to allow us to accurately add New Zealand's total to the global figure.

Want to get more involved?

The Legal Network is looking for a few motivated law students or lecturers to be the network liaison for their respective law schools. Our goal is to have one representative from each of the law schools in New Zealand. If you are interested please contact Lisa Young at lisyoung@gmail.com.