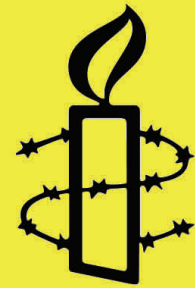


LEGAL NETWORK

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Aotearoa New Zealand



Welcome to Amnesty International's *new* monthly Legal Network e-newsletter...

This e-newsletter will inform you of upcoming events, latest human rights news (relating to the legal world), actions to take on behalf of lawyers and other interesting facts and features.

Before you begin reading this edition, please take two minutes to complete our legal network survey. This survey will help us to get to know more about you and what you want to get out of this network. Everyone completing the survey will go into the draw to win prizes. Surely that's an incentive. [Click here to start the survey.](#)



NEWS

USA: Urgent need for transparency on Bagram detentions, 6 March 2009



In a US case which is considering the question of whether detainees held by the USA in Bagram air base in Afghanistan may challenge the lawfulness of their detention, the Judge has ordered the US administration to provide him with updated information on the Bagram detainees.

Amnesty International urges the US administration to inject some much needed transparency into the detention regime operated at the Bagram Theater Internment Facility (BTIF), and believes the documents provided must be public to ensure full transparency. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

(Image: Bagram air base, Afghanistan, in 2002 © APGraphicsBank)

OUR LATEST WORK

Gaza crisis



AIANZ's advocacy and campaigning team have had a busy start to 2009. We have lobbied the government to speak out on the Gaza crisis, and to call for a full investigation into war crimes by the United Nations.

[TAKE ACTION](#) and [read our latest letter to Murray McCully \(Minister of Foreign Affairs\) and media release on the Gaza crisis.](#)

(Image: White phosphorus used by Israeli military forces over Gaza, January 2009. © Iyad El Baba/UNICEF-oPt)

Gaza reports

A useful briefing on the applicable law, investigations and accountability in the Gaza crisis can be accessed [here](#).

Guantanamo report



Read Amnesty International's latest report on Guantanamo Bay [here](#). The report examines the US administration's move to drop the label of 'enemy combatant' but retain the law of war framework for Guantanamo Bay detainees.

(Image: Amnesty activists protest against the illegal detention centre at Guantanamo Bay. © AI)

Amnesty International's Annual Death Penalty Report



Released on 24 March 2009, Amnesty International's annual death penalty report details how China remains the top executioner in the world. In New Zealand this is of particular concern given our increasing links with China. Earlier in the year AIANZ raised concerns with the NZ government over the Chinese court's handing out of death sentences in the SanLu melamine cases. [Click here to read the report](#).

(Image: Protest against the death penalty at the Amnesty International Council Meeting, 2007. © AI)

New Zealand's Universal Periodic Review (UPR)



On 7th May 2009 New Zealand's human rights record will be examined under the new UPR process in the Human Rights Council (Geneva). Amnesty International has made submissions directly to the Human Rights Council and to the New Zealand government on their report – and attended consultations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Click here to see our submissions and read more about this process](#). The review can be watched live [here](#). To read more about AIANZ's advocacy work click [here](#).

(Image: National flags of the members states outside the United Nations Secretariat building, New York. © UN Photo/Andrea Brizzi)

THE LEGAL NETWORK STEERING GROUP

Currently Amnesty International has 6 steering group members who are actively involved in the Legal Network on a regular basis. They are: Cat Fleming, Lisa Young, Inge Frenghley, Troy Pilkington, Alex Lennox-Marwick and Sheryl Robinson. Many of the members have studied law and have variety of experience from working in The Hague to working with Tibetan refugees in Dharamsala.

If you would be interested in getting more involved with Amnesty, here are a few options:

- **Time** - If you would like to offer your time to Amnesty – whether it is a couple of hours a month, or a day - and have a specialised area that could be useful please contact us.
- **Events** – If you would like to help us organise events – suggest speakers, etc. then please contact us.
- **Funding applications** - Currently, we are looking for a volunteer who has experience with funding applications, a detailed eye and some spare time (can work from home or at our offices). If you are interested please email Rebecca Emery on Rebecca.Emery@amnesty.org.nz

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



Amnesty International is now accepting internships applications for Intake 2 of 2009.

Amnesty New Zealand has run a successful internship programme for many years. Interns play an integral role in the running of Amnesty International. If you are interested or know family or friends who would be interested [click here more for more info](#).

(Image: Amnesty NZ's interns, 2008)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Just Law: Minds Wide Open

Amnesty International's advocacy assistant Olivia Rope will be speaking about working at AI and studying human rights law. The conference is designed to explore the question of how law, the legal profession, and conceptions of social justice fit together. It is designed to present different perspectives on legal practice for young practitioners and law graduates. AI will have a table set up to recruit new legal network and AI members as well as inform participants about our work.

Date: Saturday 18th April

Location: Jubilee Hall in Parnell, Auckland

Website: www.mindswideopen.co.nz

Treaty of Waitangi Workshop (6 Hours)

Recently staff from Amnesty International attended a 12 hour Treaty course – we enjoyed it so much we decided to hold our own Treaty Freebie at our offices. The course provides you with a basic introduction to the Treaty of Waitangi – a chance to gain an understanding of the Treaty and of issues relating to it that affect us all in Aotearoa / New Zealand today. The tutor is a treaty expert from the Treaty Resource Centre.

When: Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th April from 9am to 12pm

Where: Amnesty International offices – 68 Grafton Road, Auckland

Places are limited so register by contacting olivia.rope@amnesty.org.nz.

The Legal Network Events

The steering group is currently working on legal network events (at this stage planning to be in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch). If you have any ideas for venues and/or speakers please contact Mela Masser at advocacy.intern1@amnesty.org.nz

Internal Speakers Programme

As part of our internal speakers programme we have the Human Rights Commission coming to give a talk about the Commissions' role in the wider human rights community.

When: Wednesday 1st April at 1pm

Where: Amnesty International offices – 68 Grafton Road Auckland

Please contact olivia.rope@amnesty.org.nz if you would like to come.

For all of our other events please visit www.amnesty.org.nz/contribute/ainzevents

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting is on 2nd and 3rd May in Auckland. You are all invited to come. [To see the programme and register click here](#).

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SUBMISSIONS

AIANZ will be making submissions on the Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill. If you would like to assist in research and drafting this submission please contact advocacy assistant, olivia.rope@amnesty.org.nz

TAKE ACTION



Amine Sidhoum is one of the few lawyers in Algeria prepared to represent people whose human rights have been violated by the state. He was sentenced on 13 April 2008 to six months' imprisonment, suspended, for "bringing the judiciary into disrepute." As a lawyer, even a suspended prison sentence has a huge impact on his ability to work.'

Amnesty International believes the case against Amine Sidhoum to be politically motivated and that it is intended to prevent him from continuing to carry out his professional activities as a lawyer concerned with the protection of human rights. Amnesty International considers this case to be part of a wider pattern of official harassment of human rights defenders in Algeria.

[To find out more and take action, please click here.](#)

JOIN THE LEGAL NETWORK

...and put your legal training and experience to work for human rights.

Amnesty International's Legal Network brings like minded people together who have an interest in human rights law to help defend human rights, especially those of human rights lawyers.

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

To join the Legal Network, you must first be a member of Amnesty International - [click here to join](#).