

NAMCAR (North America and the Caribbean)
Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, English Speaking Caribbean, Haiti, USA

Although not NAMCAR, posting an online action for Ukraine “Stop the aggression and protect civilians in Ukraine”

Some great news on Guantanamo: **Sufyan Barhoumi**, who was detained for 20 years by the US government without charge or trial, was finally repatriated to Algeria last week to be reunited with his family.

The **Amnesty Death Penalty Report** for the year 2021 is now out.

Fareeha and Lise

There is currently no coordinator for Cuba but there is an Urgent Action on page 6.

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** Some of the actions are genuinely ongoing so there is some repetition in the Newsletter. But please keep writing. It also provides a background for new Amnesty Members.*

CANADA

Amnesty International Report 2020/21: The State of the World's Human Rights - [Canada](#)

Prince Charles and Camilla Visit Canada, Confronting Legacy of the Crown (article from the New York Times dated 19 May 2022). Here's the [link](#). Prince Charles acknowledged the "suffering" of the Indigenous community in a visit to the Northwest Territories on the last day of his three-day tour of the country ([article](#) from Reuters). Some members of the indigenous community are calling on the British royal family to formally acknowledge the harm colonization did to First Nations people. It was under the guise of the crown and Canada's federal government that some 150,000 indigenous children were forcibly removed from their families and enrolled in a Christian-run network of residential schools between 1831 and 1996.... That policy, described by some as a form of cultural genocide, and survivors' accounts of harsh, paramilitary-like conditions have been under the microscope since the discovery in 2021 of the remains of more than 200 children buried in unmarked areas on the grounds of one such school in B.C.

In April, Pope Francis issued the [first ever direct papal apology](#) to Indigenous people for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the residential schools. He plans to visit Canada in July to offer the same apology face-to-face.

Violations of the rights of Indigenous Peoples (Ongoing Action)

Years of campaigning led by Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people resulted in government finally calling an inquiry to investigate the scope and scale of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit persons, and to identify solutions to end the violence. In June 2019, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls issued its final report, including 231 Calls for Justice. **The federal government committed to creating a National Action Plan by June 2020** to transform the Calls for Justice into concrete actions, but has delayed creation of the plan, and a timeline and process to create it remains unknown.

Please find a link to a report issued by Amnesty Canada last March and entitled ("[No More Stolen Sisters](#)" Campaign Guide). It does focus mainly on actions in Canada but makes very interesting reading and will inspire you to take the action below.

For more information on further actions being taken by the Government of Canada to address violence against Indigenous women and girls, please visit their website: <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1590523702000/1590523850562>.

ACTION REQUEST

Please keep sending an e-mail to Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett, calling on her to create a National Action Plan to end violence against First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women, girls, and two-spirit persons (aadnc.minister.aandc@canada.ca). **We have recently received more responses from our letters.**

Remains of 215 indigenous children on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School (Ongoing Action)



Last year I wrote about the terrible news of the discovery of the remains of 215 indigenous children on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia on 27 May 2021. How shocking!

Remains have now also been found on the ground of the former Brandon Indian Residential School in Manitoba and it is expected that remains could be confirmed at additional sites across Canada.

Residential schools were part of a colonial policy to eradicate Indigenous cultures, languages and communities. While the last school closed in 1996, intergenerational trauma, ongoing harms and discriminatory practices continue.

The Canadian government must take responsibility for ending human rights abuses against Indigenous peoples.

Thank you once again for sharing your concerns and for writing to the Prime Minister.

ACTION REQUEST (Ongoing)

Please follow this [link](#) and **continue to ask Prime Minister Trudeau** to:

- * Investigate and prosecute those responsible for the deaths of Indigenous children at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School and other former residential and day schools;
- * Where requested by affected communities, fully fund examinations of burial grounds at other former residential and day schools and ensure that Indigenous peoples control access to sites according to their own laws and customs;
- * Continue urging the Catholic Church to release all records and photos related to residential schools, and again seek an apology and reparations for survivors and their families;
- * Implement the calls in the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada's Spirit Bear Plan, including stopping litigation of First Nations children;
- * Fully fund mental health and other services to support Indigenous peoples in dealing with traumas caused by colonial policies and practices, in accordance with their wishes; and
- * Implement the 94 calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Share our action on your Social Media

And here's another [link](#) to an Amnesty blog which will give you more details of the whole situation. And yet another [link](#) to a Guardian audio news dated 9 July 2021 about the indigenous children who died in Canada residential schools.

Communities plan to search for more Indigenous children's remains in Canada.

Immigration detention in Canada

June 20th is World Refugee Day, a day to honour and celebrate refugees from around the world. This World Refugee Day, take action to end immigration detention in Canada.



Canada incarcerates thousands of people on immigration-related grounds every year, including people who are fleeing persecution, those seeking employment and a better life, and people who have lived in Canada since childhood. Immigration detainees are held for non-criminal purposes but endure some of the most restrictive conditions of confinement in the country, including maximum security jails and solitary confinement, with no set release date.

Amnesty Canada (English) has teamed up with Human Right Watch to issue a scathing [report](#) about immigration detention in Canada. They have launched a campaign on immigration detention in Canada.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION if you have not so before

It's time for **Canada** to truly welcome people seeking safety or a better life: [Take action](#) and sign in your name.

Protect Our Rights! Stop Bankrolling Fossil Fuels

Fires, scorching temperatures, floods and droughts are a wake-up call. We're facing a global human rights emergency of unprecedented proportions, linked to the triple threat of climate change, ecosystem breakdown and political inaction.

The science is indisputable. Burning fossil fuels accounts for more than 70 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and is the primary cause of climate change. The ripple effects endanger the right to life, to water, food, housing, health, and an adequate standard of living. The list goes on and on. The survival of entire peoples is at risk.

Send a message to the Canadian government and Export Development Canada calling for a rapid phase-out of fossil fuels.

Please **TAKE ACTION** – just a click away.

Canada: Land defenders + fossil fuel divestment + Energy Transition

Amnesty International is extremely concerned about the violation of Indigenous peoples' rights and the arrests of peaceful land defenders on Wet'suwet'en territory. For the third time in three years, the RCMP have arrested land defenders protecting the territory from an unwanted gas pipeline.

1. Hundreds of people sent [messages of solidarity](#) to Wet'suwet'en land defenders in British Columbia this past February and sent nearly 11,000 letters to Canadian officials calling for the end to the militarization and criminalization of the territory. **People can still take action [here](#).**

2. On February 10th Amnesty supported and co-signed a [submission](#) by the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs to the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on the Militarization of Indigenous lands. Together with the Francophone Branch, we sent updates to three UN Special Rapporteurs (Environment, Indigenous Peoples, and HRDs) on the militarization of Wet'suwet'en lands over the last three years of resistance to the Coastal Gaslink pipeline.

3. We are supporting actions calling on RBC to divest from Coastal Gaslink and all fossil fuels in Canada and overseas. We sent a letter to CEO Dave McKay in March asking for a meeting regarding these two points. We're waiting for a reply! However, celebrities in the US have launched a [major campaign](#) No More Dirty Banks, and are calling on City National Bank, which is wholly owned by RBC, to divest from CGL. |

CUBA

Let's start with the good news: **Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara** will be featured in the Write for Right (W4R) 2022 campaign. It always gives a big boost to the campaigns.

Release Imprisoned Artists



Charges Violate Freedom of Expression, Association

URGENT ACTION

The trials of Manuel Otero Alcántara and Maykel Castillo Pérez, prisoners of conscience, are set to start on 30 May and 31 May, respectively, in Cuba. Otero Alcántara and Castillo Pérez have been in pre-trial detention for nearly a year, after being detained for criticizing the Cuban government. A prosecutor has requested that they be sentenced to seven and ten years in prison. We urge Cuban authorities to grant access to international organizations to monitor the trials and to immediately and unconditionally release these prisoners of conscience. **TAKE ACTION** by 22 July 2022: Here the [link](#).

Mon, 16 May 2022

U.S. revises Cuba policy, eases restrictions on remittances, travel

WASHINGTON, May 16 (Reuters) - The United States on Monday 16th announced a series of steps to revise its policy toward Cuba, including easing some Trump-era restrictions on family remittances and travel to the island and sharply increasing the processing of U.S. visas for Cubans.

The measures, which were rolled out after a lengthy U.S. government review, mark the most significant changes in the U.S. approach to Havana since President Joe Biden took office in January 2021. <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/u-rolls-revised-cuba-policy-215448028.html>

CPJ condemns Cuba's new penal code as a threat to independent media

May 16, 2022 1:25 PM EDT

In response to [news reports](#) that on Sunday, May 15, the Cuban National Assembly passed an amendment to the penal code that could severely damage independent journalism, the Committee to Protect Journalists issued the following statement expressing alarm:

"We are alarmed by the passage of Cuba's new penal code, which further criminalizes the work of independent journalists on the island by banning foreign funding and puts their existence and sustainability at dire risk," said Ana Cristina Núñez, CPJ's Latin American and the Caribbean senior researcher. "With the new penal code, Cuban authorities continue to build an intricate and perverse legal regime of censorship and deal a devastating blow to independent journalists and outlets."

The amendment, originally proposed on January 20 by Cuba's Supreme Tribunal, prohibits Cuban citizens from receiving foreign funds and could be used to silence independent journalists and outlets who rely on this type of funding to operate, as CPJ [documented](#). The new code will take effect within 90 days, according to the same media reports.

<https://cpj.org/2022/05/cpj-condemns-cubas-new-penal-code-as-a-threat-to-independent-media/>

CARIBBEAN STATES (EXCLUDING CUBA)

Dominican Republic, English Speaking Caribbean, Haiti

Dominican Republic

End Total Abortion Ban: [Article](#) from Human Rights Watch dated 22 April 2022. Lawmakers Should Enact Proposed Criminal Code Reform.

Haiti

Cramped ship carrying more than 800 Haitians lands in Cuba. Here's the [link](#) to the Guardian article dated 25 May 2022. The group includes children and pregnant women as exodus from crisis-hit Haiti grows

Puerto Rico

An [Urgent Action](#) was issued on 18 April 2022 to protect access to abortion. It regards Bill #693 recently published in Puerto Rico. This bill seeks to prohibit abortions after 22 weeks, or when a doctor determines that the fetus is viable, with the only exception being if the pregnant person's life is in danger. According to international law, any restrictions on access to abortion must be human rights compliant. The deadline for this Urgent Action was 24 May 2022. Thank you to all those who took action.

USA

Amnesty International Report 2020/21: The State of the World's Human Rights: USA

Death Penalty

The Amnesty Death Penalty Report for the year 2021 is now out (pages 16-19 for the US). This report covers the judicial use of the death penalty for the period January to December 2021. Amnesty International reports only on executions, death sentences and other aspects of the use of the death penalty, such as commutations and exonerations, where there is reasonable confirmation. In many countries governments do not publish information on their use of the death penalty.

- The new US administration established a temporary moratorium on federal executions in July, after a further three such executions were carried out during the last week of the outgoing administration.
- Virginia became the 23rd abolitionist state in the USA; Ohio rescheduled or halted all set executions, for the third consecutive year.
- The rest of the Americas region remained execution-free for the 13th consecutive year.

One piece of good news and one piece of very bad news:

An Urgent Action was issued for **Melissa Lucio** who was scheduled to be executed in Texas on 27 April 2022. I am so happy to let you know that Melissa Lucio was granted a stay of her execution. Thank you so much to all those who took action on her behalf.

Arizona conducts its first execution since 2014

Another Urgent Action was issued on behalf of **Clarence Dixon**. He, a 66-year-old Native American man, was executed on 11 May 2022. This was Arizona's first execution in nearly eight years. Clarence

Dixon was sentenced to death in 2008 for a murder committed in 1978. He had a long history of mental disability, including multiple diagnoses of paranoid schizophrenia. A state court rejected the claim that he was mentally incompetent for execution and the federal courts upheld this ruling emphasizing the deferential standard for federal review of state court decisions. Executive clemency was not forthcoming.



Mirror.co.uk

Defending Abortion Rights

As you know **the right to abortion is under severe threat in the United States**. Recent abortion bans enacted at the state level have challenged legal protections of abortion access in the USA, and the US Supreme Court has heard direct challenges to federal protections to abortion (Roe v. Wade). The Court will rule in June 2022 on the fate of abortion rights in the United States. We anticipate a negative ruling that will effectively gut legal protections at the federal level, leaving the right to abortion up to individual states.

This is a grim sign that the United States is retrogressing in its obligation to protect pregnant people's rights. Amnesty International remains fervent in its calls on the government to protect the right to abortion. Anything less is a failure to uphold human rights, including the rights to life, health, bodily autonomy, and dignity.

The right to access safe abortion is a human right for all people who can get pregnant. In the United States, abortion bans and restricting the right to safe abortion disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and minority women and girls; LGBTQ+ people; and lower-income people. The right to access safe abortion is a gender, racial, and economic justice issue, and the loss of abortion rights is part of an anti-rights campaign that targets other sexual and reproductive rights, LGBTI rights (especially trans rights), rights of racial minorities, and women's rights broadly in the USA.

AI USA: Amnesty International **launched a petition** non-US activists could sign. Although the deadline for the petition was the end of March, you can still take part.

Some very bad news from the **US** today: [Supreme Court has voted to overturn abortion rights, draft opinion shows](#)

AIUS issued a statement on 3 May 2022: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/press-releases/supreme-court-decision-to-overturn-abortion-rights-is-an-egregious-violation-of-human-rights/>

Guantánamo Detention Centre

Guantanamo Bay detainee allowed to be repatriated to Algeria after 20 years

Some great news on Guantanamo: **Sufyan Barhoumi**, who was detained for 20 years by the US government without charge or trial, was finally repatriated to Algeria last week to be reunited with his family.



Copyright Barhoumi family

Barhoumi was cleared to leave during the Obama administration, but his transfer stalled when President Trump took office. In January, Amnesty co-sponsored a virtual rally to close Guantanamo after 20 years of its use for unlawful imprisonment, and featured a video shared by Barhoumi's family, pleading with President Biden for his release. Check out this [3-minute version of the event here](#), including clips of Barhoumi's family members.

And then there are still 37 detainees left.

[And take our online action to Biden urging him to transfer more detainees and close Guantanamo once and for all!](#)

Immigration

Freeing People from immigration detention

The US continues to violate indigenous and human rights at the Southern border. See Amnesty [Press Release](#) issued on 17th December 2021. Biden Administration continues to fail asylum-seekers ([AI Press Release](#)).

ACTION REQUEST **continuing**

Online action – Just follow the link: **immigration action** which works outside of the US. **Tweet** @POTUS and @JoeBiden to free people from immigration detention including all families.

Write to raise the issue with the US ambassador in London:

Philip T Reeker, Chargé d’Affaires, U.S. Embassy London, 33 Nine Elms Lane, London SW11 7US.

Immigration: Biden administration end Title 42

The Biden administration finally announced [an end to Title 42 expulsions](#) on May 23rd. Over one million people were subject to danger under Title 42, either sent to Mexico where they were subject to violent attacks or deported back to the danger and persecution they fled from in their home

countries. This is a huge victory for asylum-seekers and their allies – particularly Black, Brown and Indigenous communities affected by this egregious policy who have been lifting their voices in unison to protest it, as well as advocates like you who've joined these chorus of calls. Thank you for your activism to end this policy, and we call on you to keep taking action demanding the Biden Administration to:

- [END ALL DEPORTATIONS OF HAITIANS](#), who were disparately impacted by Title 42
- [GRANT TPS FOR CAMEROONIAN IMMIGRANTS](#)

MORE GOOD NEWS! A federal court just ruled that Kelly (*we had an action for her in 2020*), an asylum-seeker AIUSA helped free from detention, should have been granted asylum based on a record of “extensive evidence of widespread violence against transgender individuals in Honduras.” This applies across the Tenth Circuit and can [positively impact the cases](#) of other trans asylum-seekers from Honduras! **Many thanks to those who worked on the case of Kelly (Gonzalez Aguilar) – our work to liberate her from immigration detention and then our support through the relief fund ensured that she made it this far.**

Julian Assange

TAKE ACTION

Please protect the right to freedom of expression and urge the US authorities to drop charges against **Julian Assange** that stem solely from his publishing activities with Wikileaks. Please follow this link and sign the [petition](#).

Press Release issued in December 2021: Responding to the High Court's decision to accept the US's appeal against the decision not to extradite Julian Assange Amnesty International's Europe Director Nils Muižnieks said:

“This is a travesty of justice. By allowing this appeal, the High Court has chosen to accept the deeply flawed diplomatic assurances given by the US that Assange would not be held in solitary confinement in a maximum security prison. The fact that the US has reserved the right to change its mind at any time means that these assurances are not worth the paper they are written on.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/12/us-uk-travesty-of-justice-as-extradition-appeal-fails-to-recognise-that-it-would-be-unsafe-for-julian-assange-to-be-sent-to-the-us/>

TAKE ACTION: If you want to write to **Julian Assange** to show your solidarity, here is the address: Prisoner #A9379AY, HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, London SE28 0EB. He married Stella Moris recently. Amnesty has been campaigning on his behalf but no action at the moment.

Leonard Peltier

Here is a very interesting [article](#) in The New York Times dated 26 February 2022 regarding **Leonard Peltier**, entitled **Supporters Seek Clemency for Native American Activist Convicted in Killings.**

Native American activist Leonard Peltier has been imprisoned in the USA for over 44 years, some of which was spent in solitary confinement, serving two life sentences for murder despite concerns over the fairness of his trial. He has always maintained his innocence. He is 76 years old and suffers from a number of chronic health ailments, including one that is potentially fatal. Leonard Peltier will not be eligible for parole again until 2024. His lawyers have submitted a new petition for clemency. President Biden must grant Leonard Peltier clemency on humanitarian grounds and as a matter of justice.

A new Urgent Action was issued to ask for clemency for Leonard Peltier. The action ran until 14 December 2021.

But please keep **sending Leonard Peltier a solidarity letter:** Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Coleman 1, US Penitentiary, PO Box 1033, Coleman, FL 33521, USA