



STOP TORTURE ONE STEP AT A TIME Global Day of Action 26th June



Organise a sponsored walk...



... take part in our Mexican Piñata themed action (and maybe win a prize!)

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We hope you will feel inspired to take action on all of our campaigns but remind you that all actions are optional.

This mailing is also available to download at

www.amnesty.org.uk/youth

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Stop Torture One Step at a Time: Global Day of Action 26th June



June 26th is the United Nations Day of Action in Support of Victims of Torture. To mark this day Amnesty all over the world is organising sponsored runs or walks to raise money and take action to 'Stop Torture One Step at a Time'. We are asking our youth groups to get involved with this year's day of action by organising Stop Torture sponsored walks or runs of their own (step 1) ending with a Mexican themed campaign stunt (step 2). To join in with the global day of action ideally your events would take place on June 26th but anytime that week or the summer term is fine if that's better for you. We are also inviting youth groups to enter a competition for this activity (see page 3 for details).

Step 1 – Organise a sponsored walk/run

There are all sorts of forms your sponsored walk/run could take. Here are just a few ideas:

Sponsored Run: pick a route either in school or nearby and then ask friends, family and your teachers to sponsor you. You could ask people to sponsor you for each kilometre you run or you could run a set distance that is challenging for you. If you pick a circular route you could have people sponsor you per lap.

Sponsored Walk: if running isn't your thing then you could organise a sponsored walk instead. Try talking to them about the Stop Torture campaign and other important work Amnesty does when asking for sponsorship and they'll be sure to give generously.

Assault Course: if you don't have the space in your school to set up a run or a walk then you could use PE equipment and whatever else you have to hand to set up an assault course. People could pledge to donate £1 or more for each lap of the course you complete in a set time.

Sports Day: if your school has a Sports Day and it falls around the time of the day of action you could combine your run or walk with it and get the whole school involved.

Summer Fayre: holding a sponsored walk or run on the day of your school's summer fayre would be a great way to get people from the wider community involved. Not only will this help raise more money but it will also mean you can get even more people to take action on the campaign (see Step 2).

Action Relay: you could do a run in teams of five, each representing one of the five target countries in the campaign (Mexico, Uzbekistan, Philippines, Nigeria, Morocco). Runners would have to wait until the previous person reaches them with an action card (see step 2) and only start running when they've signed it.

It doesn't matter what your run or walk looks like. It can be big or small; it can be just a walk or something more adventurous; it can involve the whole school or just your group. What matters is that you do what you can to take part in this day of action to stand up to torture and to raise money for Amnesty.

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Step 2 – End your walk with a Mexican-themed Piñata campaign action!



We would love for youth groups to end their event with a campaign action for the Stop Torture campaign. Mexico is one of our target countries and we recently delivered a petition signed by over 14,000 people to the Mexican embassy on the occasion of the Mexican President's visit to the UK. As a 'hook' we hid the petition inside a giant Mexican piñata and smashed it out with large stick. There's a short video clip to give you a taster of how it went (scroll down the page): www.amnesty.org.uk/claudia

We'd love youth groups to adapt this idea for their own events.

What is a Piñata and how do you make one?

Commonly associated with Mexico, a piñata is a highly decorated container made of papier-mâché, pottery, or cloth. It is decorated and filled with small toys or sweets and then broken apart with a stick as part of a celebration. Have a look online for some examples. There are plenty of videos and guides to making a piñata. Here are just a couple:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Pi%C3%B1ata>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44JYARhkFe8>

Ideas for using your piñata

Please feel free to let your imaginations run wild with this idea but here are just a few suggestions:

- Create an eye-catching photo with the piñata and all the people who took part in your sponsored event. You could send this to your local press (we can help you with this).
- Fill your piñata not only with sweets but with Stop Torture stickers (see resources section). Only when people have taken action (signed an action card, letter or petition – see below) can they have a go at smashing the piñata to get a sticker.
- Fill the piñata with action cards. Once the piñata has been smashed get people to sign them.
- Use a 'Don't turn a blind eye to torture' sticker to make a blindfold (see resources)
- Or another suggested slogan: **Smash out Torture!**

ENTER OUR COMPETITION!

We know how creative our youth groups can be and we would like to see your piñatas and how you used them. So, send us photos of your piñata (and your events) and the best ones will win a prize.

Deadline for entries: End of summer term

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Campaign actions to use:

There are a couple of suitable actions you could use for the stunt:

1) Take action for Claudia Medina Tamariz

Claudia was tortured by marines in 2012 and forced to sign a statement she wasn't allowed to read. We received good news in February that all charges against her have now been dropped. However, no-one has ever been held to account for Claudia's torture so we are still campaigning for her allegations of torture to be investigated. There are action cards available for Claudia's case (see Resources section). For full details on Claudia's case go to:

www.amnesty.org.uk/claudia

2) Demand justice for victims of torture in Mexico

We are also currently targeting the Mexican authorities after a recently published United Nations (UN) report on torture in Mexico. Amnesty International has researched the widespread occurrence of torture and other ill-treatment in Mexico, by police and military. Cases of torture in Mexico increased by 600% between 2003 and 2013. Our research shows that official forensic* doctors often fail to adequately and promptly examine detainees who say they have been tortured. Medical examinations, when carried out, can take months and even years to take place, when most physical marks of torture will have healed. The absence of physical evidence of torture in the medical examination means that it is often assumed that no torture took place.

In March the United Nations published a report recommending that the way these medical examinations are carried out be drastically improved in Mexico. We are backing up these calls by writing to the authorities urging them to carry out the UN's recommendations. We've attached an example letter which you could print out and get people to sign at your event. For more information on torture in Mexico go to: www.amnesty.org.uk/mexico

* Scientific techniques or tests used in connection with the detection of a crime.

Resources

Sponsorship form for your events:

<http://tinyurl.com/pu8svlv>

Stop Torture Campaigning materials:

Please call our mailing house on 01788 545553 and quote the following codes:

- Stop Torture Campaign Pack: STOPT01
- Claudia Medina Action Card: STOPT03
- Stop Torture Stickers Sheet (15 stickers per sheet): STOPT13
- Stop Torture Poster (A2): STOPT14
- Stop Torture A5 Leaflet: STOPT15
- Stop Torture Placard: STOPT16
- Stop Torture 'Don't turn a blind eye to torture' sticker STOPT18

Stop Torture website: www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/stop-torture

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Arely Gómez González
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Procuraduría General de la República
Av. Paseo de la Reforma 211-213
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Mexico D.F., MEXICO

Dear Attorney General

Amnesty International has documented the widespread occurrence of torture and other ill-treatment in Mexico, by police and soldiers.

On 10 March 2015 the United Nations published a report on torture in Mexico. The report recommends that the way medical forensic examinations of torture victims are carried out be greatly improved as a first step towards combatting torture in the country.

Therefore I urge you to carry out the UN's recommendations to ensure that medical examinations are carried out promptly, thoroughly and meet the UN international standard for investigating allegations of torture.

Yours sincerely,