

Insats, English summary, #9 october 2020

Calendar:

10 October	International day against the death penalty
15 November	Day of the Imprisoned Writers - campaign for Gui Minhai
13-15 November	National Student gathering
10 December	International Human Rights Day

From the Secretary General: The pandemic has affected our economy

Covid-19 has had a great impact on our lives - as well as our work within Amnesty. During the past months, we have seen loads of creative examples of how we have managed to continue our important work for human rights, from activists as well personnel. Due to this creativity, we have managed to continue our operation as an organisation .

Unfortunately, covid-19 has still taken a toll on Amnesty Sweden, and we are regretful to inform you that Amnesty no longer has a long-term sustainable economy. In the past few years, we have managed to operate due to two larger individual donations. Thanks to these donations, we have been able to conduct not only our day-to-day operations, but have also been able to develop new parts of our organisation. However, this money is running out, and we cannot continue to use the organisation's savings. The plan that was in place to increase revenues and gradually adjust costs has been strongly affected by covid-19.

Much of the money that Amnesty Sweden is taking in goes to the international operations, which is an important part of the functioning of Amnesty as a whole. We had a plan for a fundraising campaign for spring 2021, that we will be unable to go through with due to covid-19. This means that we will have to reduce costs faster than we had planned. We are currently reviewing all operating costs in order to balance out the finances, which may mean reductions in staff. As is understandable, this situation causes a lot of concern and frustration at the secretariat, and in the name of transparency, I want you to be aware of this. I will see to it that you are informed about the development of the situation.

Anna Lindenfors
Secretary General

Campaign: We need to keep on fighting for Gui Minhai!

We need to continue pressuring China for the Swedish-Chinese publisher [Gui Minhai](#) to be freed. Therefore, we are planning a campaign for Gui this autumn. On October 17, it has been five years since Minhai was abducted by the Chinese government for the first time. This date will be the start of our campaign. In February, Gui was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment and is in need of our help.

During October and November, we will join forces and take to the streets to collect signatures and raise attention for Gui Minhai. We also encourage working with the campaign at home, through social media and writing to local press.

The campaign will end on November 15, which is the *Day of the Imprisoned Writers*.

Is your group interested in taking part in the campaign? Sign up at aktivism.amnesty.se/gui. Send me an email if you have any questions?

Beatrice Schönning
Campaign Leader IAR
beatrice.schonning@amnesty.se

Urgent action: FREE OPPOSITION LEADER MARYIA KALESNIKAVA

Belarusian authorities abducted opposition leader Maryia Kalesnikava on 7 September. After she resisted expulsion from Belarus she was detained and, on 16 September, charged with “undermining national security”. The authorities are rushing her prosecution to make it a precedent and serve as a warning to all peaceful protesters, for whom she has become a symbol of resistance, dignity and courage.

Maryia Kalesnikava is a prisoner of conscience and must be released immediately and unconditionally.

You can find instructions for how to get active through letter writing and emailing on aktivism.amnesty.se/aktioner. Once you have acted, email me!

Beatrice Schönning
Campaign Leader IAR
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Campaign: Also human (också människa)

Fall 2020

During the corona pandemic we see marginalised groups being even more vulnerable, without access to healthcare or proper shelter their situations have gotten dramatically worse. Therefore, it is more important than ever that we stand up for those who need us the most. Our campaign Also human (Också människa) continues by fighting for the right to healthcare and shelter.

Healthcare

The right to healthcare is a central issue for vulnerable EU-citizens seeing as the majority lack european health insurance and are not accounted for under the same healthcare protection as asylum seekers or undocumented persons.

How you can get engaged - We are now resuming the work of *Healthcare for all* that we started last spring. You can get engaged by creating local opinion with a focus on collecting signatures for the petition *Healthcare for all*. We also encourage local lobbying as a form of advocacy work. More information will be sent out when you sign up for the campaign & which can be done here: aktivism.amnesty.se/eumedborgare).

Homelessness

This past spring, we encouraged activists to do field research where they collected information about the situations of shelters for homeless people. This work will continue throughout the autumn and forward.

How you can get engaged - We encourage those who want to get engaged to get in touch with local organizations who work with homelessness to investigate what needs there are on a local level. We also encourage writing articles for local press, and meeting up with regional politicians.

Sign up here: aktivism.amnesty.se/eumedborgare.

For more information about the campaign and what your group can do, contact Marianne Gyllenpistol (marianne.gyllenpistol@amnesty.se).

Take part in movie-screening: Only the devil lived without hope

Amnesty has previously worked Iskandar Khudayberganov who was imprisoned and sentenced to death in Uzbekistan for obscure grounds in 2002. He is still imprisoned and his sister Dilya has been continuously fighting for his release while living in exile here in Sweden.

A documentary has been made about Dilya's fight for her brother and for human rights in Uzbekistan. The documentary is called *Only the Devil Lives Without Hope*, and is a thriller about love, betrayal, spies, assassins and about the hope that concurs all. Despite brutal consequences, Dilya has continued to challenge the dictatorship in Uzbekistan for all these years in order to free her brother. When she eventually was forced to leave the country, she realised that the regime, responsible for abducting her brother, was closer than she had ever imagined.

Take part in the screening!

The documentary will be shown by the association Doc Lounge in a number of cities around Sweden during November, and Amnesty is welcome to join and be part of the screenings!

The screenings will take place in: Växjö, Lund, Malmö, Helsingborg, Kristianstad and Stockholm. If your city is not on the list, contact me if you want to host a screening!

Want to join?! Contact me:

Karolina Pontén

Activism coordinator

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Upcoming campaign: Write for Rights

Write for freedom and the right to peaceful protesting!

It is once again time for the world's largest human rights campaign Write for Rights. This year, we are campaigning from the **beginning of November to mid December**. The focus for this year's Write for Rights campaign will be the right to peaceful protest and we are writing for the journalists and demonstrators whose human rights have been violated during the peaceful protests all around the world throughout the past few years.

You will shortly be able to find more thorough information on [aktivistportalen](#) and in the next issue of *Insats*, but you can already now sign up for the campaign at aktivism.amnesty.se/skrivforfrihet.

Sanna Blomgren
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Campaign Leader Northeast

Save the date - National Student Gathering

The Student Council is happy to announce that this year's student gathering is planned for this November (13th-15th) in Stockholm. It will be a place for students to share their experiences with activism and learn more about Amnesty and human rights. And of course, to have fun!

Invitations and more information will soon be available.

What? National student gathering
Where? Stockholm
When? 13th-15th of November

Greetings from the Student Council

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