

Insats, English Summary, #3 April 2022

Calendar

- 11 APRIL - Meeting about the section's future organization
- 13 APRIL - Amnesty A English
- 18 APRIL - Last day to send in nominations for the activist awards
- 20 APRIL - Dialogue with the national board about proposition to new strategy
- 25 APRIL - Dialogue about sexual violence, climate justice and Sami rights
- 26 APRIL - Training session regarding media and social media
- 27 APRIL - Amnesty B
- 2 MAY - Dialogue about the right to housing, social justice and safety
- 2 MAY - Last day to sign up to the Annual General Meeting
- 3 MAY - Start of the election campaign
- 9-15 MAY - Annual General Meeting
- 17 MAY - Amnesty A

We continue to act to protect civilians in Ukraine

On February 24, Russia's invasion in Ukraine began. Over the past month, Russian forces have repeatedly violated international law and the laws of war through systematic and indiscriminate attacks that have killed and injured civilians, and destroyed homes, hospitals, schools and other civilian infrastructure.

What does Amnesty do?

We are investigating, documenting and reporting Russia's human rights violations. Another part of our work in Ukraine takes place through Amnesty's Crisis Evidence Lab, which, among other things, verifies photos and films that can be evidence of war crimes. The documentation can be communicated to the outside world but also used as evidence in future legal proceedings. For updated information, see [amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/03/latest-news-on-russias-war-on-ukraine/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/03/latest-news-on-russias-war-on-ukraine/).

A Global day of Action was organized on 24 March, one month after the invasion began. Amnesty activists around the world highlighted human rights violations in various ways. In Sweden, Amnesty groups have collected signatures, participated in demonstrations, initiated collaborations with other organizations, and visited schools to inform about the situation.

Act for the protection of civilians!

We need to continue the work to protect civilians. Therefore, our digital campaign, which is addressed to the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation, continues with the demand that Russia immediately must cease its acts of war, protect the civilian population and end violations of international law.

Spread the digital action as well as information about the human rights violations that are taking place. To get updates on new opportunities to act and upcoming campaign material, register here: aktivism.amnesty.se/delta-i-en-aktion/ukraina/.

Julia Karlsson / julia.karlsson@amnesty.se

Indigenous rights are violated in Sweden, take part in the work ahead

On 22 March, the news came that the government was giving green light to Beowulf Mining's application for a processing concession for an iron ore mine in Gállok, something that Amnesty deeply criticizes. The decision comes despite the fact that the Sami villages concerned, the Sami Parliament, UN experts, UNESCO, Amnesty, the County Administrative Board, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the National Heritage Board and many others said no. This is not a mineral critical to the green transition. Experts estimate that the iron ore is of mediocre quality and that the mining operations may provide jobs for a limited time - while the effects on the environment and Sami culture risk becoming permanent.

- Sweden has an indigenous people and indigenous law is internationally binding. It includes, among other things, that indigenous peoples have the right to free and informed prior consent (FPIC) in matters of great importance to them. A mine in Gállok, on completely central ground for the reindeer herding industry, is one such issue. Affected Sami villages have clearly said no, with the support of both environmental and rights experts at national and international level. That the government still chooses to give green light is astonishing, and can not be seen as anything other than a confirmation that indigenous law weighs very, very easily when politics is done in Sweden, says Johanna Westeson, lawyer and expert on discrimination issues at Amnesty Sweden.

What do we do now?

Amnesty Sweden's work for climate justice is under construction and at present our main focus is how the climate crisis (and measures taken to tackle it) affect the indigenous Sami people. Climate justice means, among other things, that the rights of indigenous peoples are protected when the climate changes and when societies have to change. Green transition without regard for indigenous peoples is not fair and not sustainable, and here we as a human rights organization have an important role to play.

Climate and human rights are closely linked, and therefore we who know human rights must also follow and engage in climate issues.

Do you want to act for climate justice and that indigenous rights are respected in Sweden and the world? Here's how to proceed:

- Join our election campaign
- Sign up for our climate justice mail list for updated information on what Amnesty is up to, upcoming actions, demonstrations and opportunities to learn more. Sign up [here](#).
- Follow Amnesty Sápmi on social media to stay updated on issues related to international law and Sápmi.

- Put on your Amnesty vest and take part in climate demonstrations. For instance, Fridays For Future organize recurring demonstrations in many places in Sweden.

Questions? Contact me!

Karin Danelius / karin.danelius@amnesty.se

Election campaign

This autumn, it is time for the national election and the future seems worrying and uncertain for many people. For Amnesty, our task during the election is the same as always: to fight for human rights for all, now and in the future. But this year, it is perhaps a little extra important that we fight. Sweden, and thus our politicians, have promised to stand behind human rights. To respect and guarantee them for everyone who lives here. Despite this, many people in Sweden do not have a safe place to live. People are exposed to racism and discrimination because of who they are. Sexual violence is widespread and survivors are rarely rehabilitated. Indigenous peoples' rights are not taken seriously and the climate crisis is affecting the Sami way of life. Politicians have promised to stand behind our human rights and we must ensure that they keep their promises. Human rights are not something you choose, or opt-out of, when it suits you. It applies to everyone, always.

We want to show solutions, faith in the future and hope. Ahead of this year's election campaign, we have selected four issues that we focus extra on: *justice and care for survivors of sexual violence, Sami rights and climate justice, social justice and social security & the right to housing*. We see a great risk that these issues will be forgotten in the debate.

No choice

Human rights are not a choice but a promise. Every time politicians put rights against rights, groups against groups and people against people, they break their promise. We should not be forced to choose between our rights. It is time for us to remind our politicians of what they promised.

How you can take part

- Participate in our social media campaign
- Hearings with politicians in polling booths
- Write articles in local media
- Be creative with our action poster

SEMINARS

Seminar 1

At the first seminar, we will be discussing *justice and care for survivors of sexual assault & Sami rights and climate justice* together with our advisors Johanna Westeson and Katarina Bergehed.

When? 25 April, 18:00-20:00

What? Digital seminar

How? Register aktivism.amnesty.se/forms/samtal-om-valplattformen-samtal-1/

Seminar 2

At the second seminar, we will be discussing *social justice and social security & the right to housing* together with Nicolas Lunabba from the organization Hela Malmö, and Tove Samzelius, a professor at Malmö University.

When? 2 May, 18:00-20:00

What? Digital seminar

How? Register: aktivism.amnesty.se/forms/samtal-om-valplattformen-samtal-2/

Media training

Communications manager Joanna Backman and journalist Nina Hjelmgren from Amnesty Sápmi will teach you more about how to communicate your messages in an effective and engaging way.

When? 26 April, 18:00-20:00

What? Digital seminar

How? Registration can be found at:

aktivism.amnesty.se/forms/intresseanmalan-mediutbildning/

Marianne Gyllenpistol / marianne.gyllenpistol@amnesty.se

8 March - What a campaign!

It has now been almost a month since one of the year's biggest campaigns: The International Women's Day. This year through a global campaign led by Amnesty USA, we aimed to put pressure on American politicians to defend the right to abortion and the right of people to self-determination over their own bodies, in all US states.

Together we have collected a total of 26,801 signatures in Sweden! At an Amnesty Talks on April 19 we will be visited by Amnesty USA who will tell us more about the continuation of the fight for the right to abortion. Keep an eye on Amnesty Sweden's Facebook page after the event!

In order to collect which issues groups worked on during 8 March, we have produced an evaluation for all groups that have acted. Do not forget to fill in the evaluation no matter what you worked with during 8 March! You can find the evaluation here:

<https://forms.gle/o8XmnzJ5CfCa2tko7>

Now we continue the work!

If you and your group are interested in continuing to work with sexual and reproductive rights, you can now register your interest. During spring, we will work against forced pregnancies among girls in Paraguay and for the Ministry of Education to lift the ban on sex

education in schools. Sign up for upcoming materials and updates here:
aktivism.amnesty.se/forms/anmalan-paraguay/.

Julia Karlsson / julia.karsson@amnesty.se , Ida Larsson / ida.larsson@amnesty.se

Good news in 2022:

Write for Rights has made a difference for Bernardo, Magai and Raif

Bernardo Caal Xól

On 24 March, 2022, Guatemalan human rights defender Bernardo Caal Xól was finally released after more than four years in prison. During Write for Rights 2021, we campaigned with Bernardo and demanded his acquittal.

Magai Matiop Ngong

On 22 March, 2022, Magai Matiop Ngong from South Sudan was released. Magai Matiop Ngong was a 15 year old high school student when he was sentenced to death by hanging on 14 November 2017, after being convicted of murder which he claims was an accident. We campaigned with Magai during Write for Rights 2019.

Raif Badawi

On 11 March, 2022, Saudi activist Raif Badawi was released after serving 10 years in prison. Raif was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1 000 lashes. His "crime" was to start a website to discuss politics and social issues in Saudi Arabia. We campaigned with Raif during Write for Rights 2016.

Fartun Andersson Ramnemo / fartun.andersson-ramnemo@amnesty.se

Do you want to be part of developing the world's largest human rights campaign?

Apply to the reference group for this year's Write for Rights campaign!

In this year's work with Write For Rights, we will test new methods in the design of the campaign concept. We will appoint a reference group consisting of four organized activists with different profiles who work with the campaign team at the secretariat to create this year's campaign.

Apply to the reference group now!

Profiles that we search for to the reference group:

- Youth activist in a local youth group
- Youth representative from the Youth council or Student council
- Organized activist with several years of experience of the campaign
- Organized activist active in sparsely populated areas

Do you like to hold meetings and lead volunteer groups to achieve a common goal?

Apply for the role of convener of the reference group linked to Write For Rights 2022!

Commitment

- Read the material and documentation linked to the campaign
- Participate in the four mandatory planning meetings during the campaign period
- Take on tasks / assignments during the work process linked to the campaign concept **from April until the end of February**

The proposal for a start-up meeting for the reference group is already this spring!

When: Sunday, 8 April

Time: 13.00 - no later than 16.00

How: Digitally

Apply to the reference group here:

aktivism.amnesty.se/forms/ansokan-sammankallande-for-referensgrupp/

Fartun Andersson Ramnemo / fartun.andersson-ramnemo@amnesty.se

Secretary General's corner

- As a 19-year-old, I moved to London to volunteer at a social welfare organization. This experience has come to shape me and my professional life.
- In London, I am engaging for the first time in the work of political advocacy, against social exclusion. Our first campaign goes unnoticed - because we lack the inherent power of being many who act together.
- People I work with point out the importance of being listened to and not being met with prejudice. And that redress and reparation is an important factor for those who have their own experience of injustice.
- I am now the new Secretary General of Amnesty Sweden. At Amnesty Sweden, we often say that "We are the change that we want to see in society". To succeed in this, we need courage and perseverance, as well as respect and sensitivity for those whose voices and perspectives otherwise risk being lost. In addition, we need to understand that sometimes we are the ones who stand in the way of the change that is required.
- Most important of all: Together we make an unstoppable movement! In a world marked by political and social polarization, an escalating climate crisis, growing inequality and where human rights are repeatedly undermined and attacked, Amnesty International is needed more than ever!
- I feel an immense joy and humility in the face of the trust I have received to shoulder this important task. I also look forward to the continued cooperation with all committed activists and members.

Sweden did not advance to the World Cup, but migrant workers are still suffering

As many of you probably saw, the Swedish national team missed the chance to participate in this year's upcoming world championship in football. Of course, this does not mean that we in any way stop focusing on the issue globally, the human rights violations continue at the time of writing and we will continue to have to demand that Qatar implement the reforms they have adopted.

The focus right now, however, will be to start planning what the campaign will look like when we approach the World Cup, with the goal of being able to present a plan for the campaign at the beginning of this autumn!

With that said, there will continue to be campaigns in the future for us to act on, especially the closer to the kick-off for the playoffs that we get. But the extent and what form it will take, the future will show.

Daniel Lundh / daniel.lundh@amnesty.se

Sign up for the Annual General Meeting!

You have not missed signing up for the Annual General Meeting, have you? The most important event of the year kicks off on 9 May. Amnesty Sweden's Annual General Meeting 2022 takes place digitally and is your chance to be involved and make decisions about Amnesty's direction forward and how we together can make a difference for human rights.

More information, programs and registration can be found at amnesty.se/om-amnesty/amnesty-international-sverige/amnesty-organisation/amnesty-sverige-arsmote/. Sign up now!

Christoffer Wisberg / christoffer.wisberg@amnesty.se

Finally, the Nordic Youth Conference is back with a physical conference!

NYC is for you between the ages of 16 and 24 who want to participate in a week of activism and human rights. Every year, about 50 activists from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the Faroe Islands gather for an educational and fun week with workshops, lectures, exchange of experiences and inspiring meetings.

This year, the theme of the conference is Israel's apartheid against Palestinians in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This year's conference begins on June 27 and runs until July 1.

Registration and more information about the conference can be found at [amnesty.se/utbildningar-och-moten/ungdomstraffar/nordic-youth-conference-2022/](https://www.amnesty.se/utbildningar-och-moten/ungdomstraffar/nordic-youth-conference-2022/). Do you have any questions? Do not hesitate to contact me!

Christoffer Wisberg / christoffer.wisberg@amnesty.se

Do not forget to nominate for the activist awards!

It is still possible to submit nominations for the 2021 activist awards! Who does your group want to win prizes for last year's activity, last year's most creative campaign idea or last year's fiery soul? All information about the prize categories and how you write a nomination can be found in the Mars edition of Insats. **Be sure to send in your nomination to julia.karlsson@amnesty.se no later than 18 April.**

Julia Karlsson / julia.karlsson@amnesty.se

Amnesty A

Our introductory training Amnesty A is primarily for new activists within Amnesty, or for those who just want to know more about Amnesty International Sweden and how to get involved. Amnesty A is the first part of our introductory training series Amnesty A & B and focuses on the basics of Amnesty as an organization and what you can do as an activist.

Does your group have new members who have not yet completed the training? Or do you know someone who you think would be interested in becoming an activist? Tell them to sign up!

- Date: April 13
- Time: 18.00 - 20.00
- Place: Zoom
- Language: English
- Sign up [here](#)

- Date: September 7
- Time: 18.00 - 20.00
- Place: Zoom
- Language: English
- Sign up [here](#)

Questions? Contact me!

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