

## **Insats, English Summary #5 May 2021**

### **Calendar:**

17 MAY: Amnesty B & C  
18 MAY: Pride  
24 MAY: Information Meeting - Time for Change  
28 MAY: Amnesty turns 60 years!  
4-7 JULY: Nordic Youth Conference

## **Latest News on Ahmadreza Djalali**

Swedish-Iranian academic Ahmadreza Djalali was finally moved out of isolation, after more than 20 weeks in solitary confinement. Without our efforts, he would probably still be there. The situation evolves rapidly. Please email me if you'd like to get updates on Ahmadreza and how you can take action.

Beatrice Schönning / Campaign Leader IAR / [beatrice.schonning@amnesty.se](mailto:beatrice.schonning@amnesty.se)

## **Join Campaign for Dawit Isaak!**

On september 23rd, Swedish-Eritrean journalist and author Dawit Isaak has been held without a trial for 20(!) years. Activists have planned a national campaign to highlight his case this fall and put pressure on both Swedish and Eritrean authorities. For more information, visit:

<https://aktivism.amnesty.se/dawit-isaak-20-ar-i-fangelse/>

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## **PRIDE 2021: NEW TRANSGENDER LEGISLATION NOW!**

Everyone has the right to decide their gender identity. For some people, their assigned gender isn't consistent with the gender they identify with. This is called gender dysphoria and can cause psychological suffering and affect people in their everyday life. Sweden has the first and therefore also the oldest legal gender recognition act. The law is in great need of an update. In our opinion it should be divided into two legal acts; one that regulates legal gender and one that regulates the process of undergoing surgery or other gender reassignment care. A person could want to change their legal gender without undergoing surgery- and therefore, the processes need to be separated.

The Swedish government presented a proposal in 2018, which was withdrawn for readjustment after criticism. Now, years later, we are still waiting for a new proposal to be

made. This, together with the growing transphobia we are witnessing throughout society are reasons to take up the fight and work for trans rights!

During pride 2021 we will focus on this matter. **On the 18th of May, during 18-20, we will organize a digital informative meeting** where you will get more information about the campaign together with instructions on how you and your group can act.

**Interested?** Sign up [here!](#) / **Questions?** Contact Makda Tesfamichael / Regional Campaign Leader / [makda.tesfamichael@amnesty.se](mailto:makda.tesfamichael@amnesty.se)

## **Time for Change - THE WORK FOR RAPE SURVIVORS CONTINUES**

Violence against women and girls is a widespread and urgent problem. Recent statistics presented by Brottsförebyggande rådet, shows that 6 190 cases of rape were reported in the year 2020. 95 % of the victims were women and girls.

Along with the launching of Amnesty's report [Time for Change: Justice for survivors of rape in the Nordic countries](#), in the spring of 2019, we introduced a campaign and advocacy work in Sweden. The aim was to put pressure on the Swedish police authorities to make sure that they improve the quality of their systematic work regarding rape investigations. Close to 19 000 people signed the petition which resulted in 350 newly hired investigators with expertise in sexual offenses.

The next step in our work against rape in Sweden is to ensure that healthcare facilities in all regions always offer long-term and safe healthcare to all victims; regardless of gender, age, gender identity, or geographical location.

We will start our campaigning in the fall of 2021. The aim is to ensure that local political parties include and prioritize the issue of access to long-term healthcare for rape survivors in the election of 2022. We will arrange an information meeting in May and another one at the beginning of next semester for interested groups and activists. The advocacy work will then be introduced after this summer . We need as many activists as possible, every one of you is important!

The first information meeting will be on **May 24th on Zoom**. If you or your group are interested, please sign up [HERE](#) and we will return to you with more information.

Any questions? Please contact, campaigner Makda Tesfamichael / [makda.tesfamichael@amnesty.se](mailto:makda.tesfamichael@amnesty.se)

**Participate in Amnesty's investigative work - become a Decoder!**

Facial recognition software identifies individuals by their face, among millions of images in a database. It has been used 22,000 times in New York City, since 2017.

Facial recognition technology can amplify racially discriminatory policing and threatens the right to protest. The technology is developed through scraping millions of images from social media profiles without permission.

Help us research facial recognition! Help us tag CCTV cameras that enable facial recognition to work across New York City. More information is available here:

<https://decoders.amnesty.org/projects/decode-surveillance>

Beatrice Schönning / Campaign Leader IAR / [beatrice.schonning@amnesty.se](mailto:beatrice.schonning@amnesty.se)

## **Aleksej Navalnyj**

The Russian opposition politician Aleksej Navalnyj has suspended his hunger strike on April 23 after being examined by civilian doctors on two occasions. The same week, thousands of protesters were arrested in Russia demanding peaceful release.

Amnesty is closely monitoring the worrying developments in Russia. We are concerned about Aleksej's health and continue to demand his immediate release. If you want to get regular information on how you can act for Aleksej, email me and I will sign you up on the mailing list!

Beatrice Schönning / Campaign Leader IAR / [beatrice.schonning@amnesty.se](mailto:beatrice.schonning@amnesty.se)

## **Nordic Youth Conference 2021**

In a world where the word "lockdown" has become a part of our daily vocabulary and mass protests are going on all over the world, it's not strange for a person to both feel eager and wanting to be a part of the change and at the same time not knowing how. Our "usual" ways of protesting and doing activism have really been put to the test this past year and finding outlets for activism has not been the easiest.

We ask ourselves;

How can we be activists while sitting at home?!

How can we do it in a time where all of us are dealing with zoom fatigue and other syndromes we didn't even know existed?

And how can we be activists while taking care of ourselves in an unpredictable world?

Well... At this year's Nordic Youth Conference, we will be focusing on **Creative and Resilient activism!**

You will get the tools to become the most creative activist while also staying resilient and having a good time! You will learn how to campaign online in a fun and engaging way. And you will hear from inspirational speakers and experts, who will share their stories and

knowledge on how to make positive change. Lastly, you will receive tactics to prevent burnout and promote wellbeing and resilience.

The Nordic Youth Conference will bring together 50 Youth activists from Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands in a 4-day digital event where you get the opportunity to become a strong activist and build an amazing and long-lasting network of friends and co-activists across the Nordic countries. You will connect with each other and yourself and bring back the tools and knowledge to the rest of the movement to build an even stronger Amnesty.

Do you see yourself being a part of this?

Email [sara.bessa@amnesty.se](mailto:sara.bessa@amnesty.se) to get the application form and fill it out no later than the 16th of May

**Practicalities:**

The conference takes place online from the 4th-7th of July

The days will run around 3-4 hours in the afternoon/early evening

Applicants must be 16-24 year of age

The participation fee is 150 kr.

The working language of the conference is English

10 participants will be chosen based on the applications

Amnesty emphasizes diversity and equity in its work. We wish to have applications from people representing different genders, languages, cultural, and other minority groups

Sara Bessa / Youth Activism Coordinator / [sara.bessa@amnesty.se](mailto:sara.bessa@amnesty.se)

## **The design group - a design agency for activists**

**Producing material for your Amnesty group can feel overwhelming and it can be difficult to know how to use colors, fonts, logos, and images. But do not despair, the design group is here to help with just that!**

We are activists who all work every day with graphic design, digital design, and product design. We have good knowledge about Amnesty's graphic profile and function as our own small design agency for all of Amnesty's groups!

We can help you with: posters, covers, publications, exhibition material, illustrations, infographics or perhaps moving material in the form of simpler/smaller animations or cut already filmed material.

You can contact us via our form on [aktivistportalen](https://aktivistportalen.amnesty.se) or send an email to [formgivningsgruppen@amnesty.se](mailto:formgivningsgruppen@amnesty.se). The more information you have, the easier it will be for us to create your request!

Feel free to share any content with us as soon as possible, as it in many cases affects the design. Alternatively, give an indication of how much content is included.

We look forward to hearing from you, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!

**Be sure to contact us well in advance! We all do this on a non-profit basis and often have several projects underway at the same time. The better forward planning you have in regards to a project, the more groups we can help!**

Kind regards, Cissi, Fanny and Janet / [formgivningsgruppen@amnesty.se](mailto:formgivningsgruppen@amnesty.se)

## **The Secretary General informs**

- The *Amnesty International Report 2020/21: The State of the World's Human Rights* was published on April 7th. The annual report includes 149 countries and analyzes the global development for human rights during 2020.
- This year Amnesty's focus has been especially on the effects of covid-19. The global pandemic has exposed fundamental and far-reaching inequalities in and between countries. The report describes how the most marginalized have been hit the hardest.
- When the pandemic first broke out, many countries immediately closed their borders leaving hundreds of thousands stranded without the possibility of seeking shelter. In e.g. Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia and Slovakia romani people and refugees were put in forced quarantine under discriminatory forms. In several countries in eastern Europe HBTQ+ people were the subject of hate and threats from religious and political leaders. In Sweden local authorities continued to evict and displace people despite the ongoing pandemic. And in Israel Palestinians on the West Bank and on the Gaza strip were not given access to vaccines, despite the protests of the rest of the world. The report also highlights a significant increase in gender based violence and domestic violence.
- Amnesty also shows how political leaders have used the crisis to undermine and attack human rights, for example by restricting the freedom of speech, using unwarranted violence and arbitrary arrests.
- The launch of the annual report gave us an opportunity to introduce our new international Secretary General, Agnès Callamard. Agnès Callamard has worked as a UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and has also been the head of the Global Freedom of Expression Project at Columbia University. She worked at the international secretariat from 1995-2001. She is the second woman to occupy the post in the 60 year history of Amnesty.
- If you're interested in reading the full report it can be found on our website under the headline 'Aktuellt'.