

## 2011 SAW A WORLDWIDE PATTERN OF PROTEST.

DESPITE RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN AT LEAST

91 COUNTRIES, PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER TOOK TO THE STREETS, THE AIRWAVES AND THE INTERNET

TO DEMAND

MANY GOVERNMENTS
RESPONDED WITH VIOLENCE.

PEOPLE WERE TORTURED AND

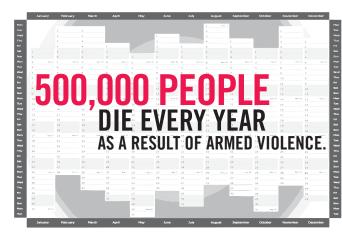
OTHERWISE ILL-TREATED

101 COUNTRIES

IN MANY CASES FOR TAKING PART IN ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS.



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS ARMED OPPRESSIVE STATES, RATHER THAN ESTABLISHING JUSTICE AND SECURITY.



## MILLIONS MORE ARE

INJURED, BRUTALLY REPRESSED, RAPED OR FORCED TO FLEE FROM THEIR HOMES

BECAUSE OF ARMED CONFLICT, ARMED VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS USING CONVENTIONAL ARMS.

WHEN WE BEGAN CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY IN 1977,

ONLY 16 COUNTRIES

HAD ABOLISHED CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN LAW FOR ALL CRIMES. TODAY 141 COUNTRIES ARE ABOLITIONIST IN LAW OR PRACTICE.



Amnesty International Report 2012 gives a summary of the state of human rights in 155 countries and territories worldwide.

Throughout the former Soviet Union, human rights defenders and journalists were frequently harassed, intimidated and beaten. In Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, government critics faced unfair trials and harassment.

> Minority groups including migrants, Roma people and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people faced widespread discrimination.

At least 1,500 refugees and migrants, including

pregnant women and children, drowned trying to enter Europe by sea. The EU turned back

deported many Tunisian arrivals, and countries

boats, rather than preventing deaths. Italy

including France and the UK refused to

resettle Libyan migrants.

Anti-government protests in Azerbaijan and Belarus were met with violence or outlawed altogether, and organizers were imprisoned. Protesters faced violence in Russia.

forces and military in the region continued to use

**Human rights defenders** and **journalists** across Latin America and the Caribbean faced violence, threats and even death.

**Indigenous Peoples** across the region struggled to have their rights recognized, including land rights. Corporate interests frequently took precedence over Indigenous land rights.

> Migrants passing through Mexico continued to be theatened, raped and killed.

Gender-based violence and violations of the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls remained serious concerns.

**Anti-government protesters** took to the streets across Africa. Security forces responded with violence, including shooting at demonstrators with live ammunition. In most cases, those responsible for the violence were not held to

account.

Armed conflicts and violence caused untold suffering and countless deaths in Côte d'Ivoire, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. Few perpetrators were held to account.

> Journalists, human rights defenders and political opponents carried out their work under threat of harassment, arbitrary arrest, detention, violence and even murder.

Freedom of expression was restricted as states silenced poets, journalists, bloggers and critics. Internet use was curtailed and new restrictions were sought on social media in India. Thousands of dissenters were held in North Korean **prison camps**. Internet use was curtailed; Thailand imposed lengthy **sentences** for critics of the royal family.

**Religious and ethnic minorities** frequently faced discrimination. In Pakistan, two politicians were assassinated for challenging the use of blasphemy laws. The Ahmadiyya community were discriminated against in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and elsewhere.

**Torture and other ill-treatment** was reported in a number of countries, including China and North Korea.

> Migrant workers faced exploitation by recruiters who exposed them to

In Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, thousands of political prisoners were released and freedom of expression was expanded. However, abuses seen under the previous regimes continued, including torture, excessive use of force against demonstrators and restrictions on free speech.

Across the region, long-standing **discrimination** against women, minorities and migrants, remained prevalent. **Executions**, which occurred chiefly in Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, increased.

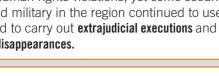
Popular uprisings brought down long-standing regimes.

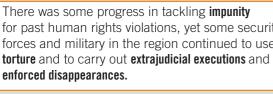
Protesters and dissidents were met with violence

and repression. Little attempt was made to bring

AMERICA

for past human rights violations, yet some security









perpetrators to justice.







## THE DEADLY GLOBAL ARMS TRADE

IN JULY 2012. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WILL CALL FOR A STRONG ARMS TRADE TREATY TO PREVENT WEAPONS BEING TRANSFERRED TO COUNTRIES WHERE THEY ARE LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. WAR CRIMES OR POVERTY.

HERE'S WHY:



AT LEAST 55 ARMED GROUPS AND **GOVERNMENT FORCES USE CHILDREN AS SOLDIERS** OR AUXILIARY TROOPS ACCORDING TO THE UN.



## THE DEATH PENALTY

IN 2011 WE MADE PROGRESS ON ENDING THE DEATH PENALTY — **BUT THERE IS STILL MORE WORK TO DO:** 









WERE STILL BEING CARRIED OUT IN IRAN. NORTH KOREA, SAUDI ARABIA AND

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 3 million supporters, members and activists in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

Index: POL 10/003/2012 English

May 2012

Amnesty International International Secretariat Peter Benenson House 1 Easton Street London WC1X 0DW United Kingdom

amnesty.org