



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** IN AT LEAST **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 REPPRESSED, 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.

Statistics in this document are not exhaustive and refer to countries where Amnesty International documented specific human rights violations during 2011. All graphics are for illustrative purposes only.

TURN OVER FOR A SUMMARY OF OUR KEY CONCERNS IN EACH REGION AND FOR MORE FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE DEATH PENALTY AND GLOBAL ARMS TRADE.

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE.



REGIONAL TRENDS IN 2011

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

THE AMERICAS

There was some progress in tackling **impunity** for past human rights violations, yet some security forces and military in the region continued to use **torture** and to carry out **extrajudicial executions** and **enforced disappearances**.

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 threatened, raped and killed.

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

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

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**.

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

At least 1,500 **refugees** and **migrants**, including pregnant women and children, drowned trying to enter Europe by sea. The EU turned back boats, rather than preventing deaths. Italy deported many Tunisian arrivals, and countries including France and the UK refused to resettle Libyan migrants.

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

AFRICA

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.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Popular uprisings brought down long-standing regimes. Protesters and dissidents were met with violence and repression. Little attempt was made to bring perpetrators to justice.

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.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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 human trafficking and forced labour.



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 **60%** OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DOCUMENTED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAVE INVOLVED SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS.



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



ONLY **35 COUNTRIES** PUBLISH NATIONAL REPORTS ON TRANSFERS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS.

THE DEATH PENALTY

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



21 OF THE WORLD'S **198 COUNTRIES** CARRIED OUT EXECUTIONS – DOWN BY MORE THAN A THIRD FROM A DECADE AGO.



CHINA EXECUTED THOUSANDS OF ITS CITIZENS – IT DID NOT MAKE PUBLIC THE TOTAL NUMBER.



AT LEAST **18,750 PEOPLE** WERE UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH AT THE END OF 2011.



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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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