



AI Group 48 Portland, Oregon

December 2025 Newsletter



Hong Kong: Government must investigate and allow freedom of expression following deadly fire

Responding to the arrest of a Hong Kong student who launched a petition demanding government accountability following a deadly fire in the city's Tai Po district, Luk Chi-man, the Executive Director of Amnesty International Hong Kong Overseas, said:

"We extend our deepest condolences to the families of residents, workers, and firefighters who tragically lost their lives in the fire, and we wish a swift recovery for all those injured.

"Now is the time for the Hong Kong authorities to transparently investigate the causes of the devastating fire in Tai Po, rather than silencing those who ask legitimate questions.

"Even as we mourn, we cannot ignore the need to bring justice to the affected families as well as to prevent as much as possible the reoccurrence of similar tragedies. We urge the Hong Kong authorities to establish the full facts of last week's tragedy through a thorough, independent, impartial and open investigation, and to publicly clarify the cause of the fire, hold relevant persons accountable and release all findings without delay.

"As part of this comprehensive investigation, the government must fully and transparently assess whether any individual or government official demonstrated regulatory negligence or failures that contributed to the tragedy. It is essential that a thorough report reviewing any systemic and policy failures connected to this incident is produced.

"It is both a right and a duty for people in Hong Kong to demand this kind of accountability; but rather than recognize this, the Hong Kong authorities have instead chosen to silence those who raise their concerns and demands.

"Freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly are human rights protected under international and Hong Kong law. The Hong Kong authorities must end the misuse of broadly defined 'national security' laws to target anyone – including those who engage in community-led support efforts or seek to disclose or report information in the public interest.

"A healthy society should not have only one voice. The authorities must ensure that all investigative and disaster relief efforts are conducted

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Our annual **Write For Rights** event has been scheduled on Thursday, December 11th from 4:30 to 6:30 at Bold Coffee and Books, 1755 SW Jefferson Street. We will have cases and sample letters prepared. Please bring pens, paper and international stamps for your actions. Of course we will provide these supplies should you choose not to bring them.

The main thing is to come to our biggest and most successful action of the year.

I hope to see you there.

--Marty Fromer

in a transparent and participatory manner. The initiatives of grassroots volunteers should be supported, and the views and needs of Hong Kong people must be fully taken into account.”

Background: The Wang Fuk Court fire in the Tai Po district of Hong Kong broke out on 26 November and has claimed at least 146 lives.

On November 29th, an individual who launched a petition demanding accountability was arrested by

national security authorities on suspicion of “sedition”, according to local media reports. The university student, who had urged the government to respond to “four demands” in the aftermath of the fire, was reportedly released on bail on December 1st.

Local media reported that another two people were arrested on 30 November on “sedition” charges in relation to the fire.

Shipwrecked or Not, All These Bombings are Murder

Press Release Dec 2nd, 2025 -- Responding to the December 4th U.S. air strike in the Eastern Pacific, which killed four people bringing the death toll to at least 87 people in 22 bombings, Amnesty International USA’s Director for Security and Human Raights, Daphne Eviatar, said:

“Despite the obvious illegality of these military operations, the U.S. killing spree continues. This outrageous disregard for the rule of law must end.

“We are glad to see increased criticism of the U.S. military’s actions following recent revelations about the September 2nd bombing, in which after conducting an initial air strike against a boat, the U.S. military then allegedly bombed helpless survivors clinging to the wreckage.

“However, all the strikes so far have been illegal under both domestic and international law. All of them constitute murder because none of the victims, whether or not they were smuggling illegal narcotics, posed an imminent threat to life. Congress must take action now to stop the U.S. military from murdering more people in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific.

“Intercepting purported drug boats is a law enforcement operation, subject to policing standards derived from international human rights law, which holds that all people have the rights to life and a fair trial and only allows states to use lethal force when an imminent threat to life exists and less extreme means, like capture, are insufficient.

“A state intentionally killing someone outside those circumstances is committing an extrajudicial execution, a form of murder, no matter what crime the person is alleged to have committed.”

Russia: Supreme Court’s Ominous “Terrorist” Designation of Navalny’s Foundation Threatens Sweeping Reprisals

Responding to the Russian Supreme Court’s closed-door decision to designate the Anti-Corruption Foundation (ACF/FBK), founded by colleagues of the late prisoner of conscience Aleksei Navalny, a “terrorist organization,” Marie Struthers, Amnesty International’s Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, said:

“The Kremlin’s long campaign against the late opposition leader Aleksei Navalny and his supporters has reached a stunning peak. By branding FBK a ‘terrorist organization’ in arbitrary court proceedings behind closed doors, the authorities are not only smearing and trying to erase Navalny’s legacy but they are also exposing tens of thousands of Russian citizens who have been associated with him over the past 15 years to the potential risk of prosecution. Posting a photograph of Navalny has already proven enough to trigger severe personal consequences. Now it will guarantee arrest and imprisonment.”

“The Russian authorities must stop weaponizing ‘anti-terrorism’ legislation to silence critics, they must reverse the ban on FBK, end the persecution of people allegedly linked to it and ensure an independent international investigation into Aleksei Navalny’s torture and other ill-treatment — and death — in custody.”

FBK, founded by prominent opposition figure Aleksei Navalny in 2011, became well-known for its investigations of corruption in the Russian government and mobilizing popular support for its anti-graft campaigns. The Russian authorities banned the association in 2021 for being an “extremist organization,” and its alleged members and donors have faced unjust prosecutions.

Urgent Action: Indonesia **Activists Face Criminal Charges for Peaceful Protests**

Eight activists – Delpedro Marhaen Rismansyah, Muzaffar Salim, Khariq Anhar, Syahdan Husein, Wawan Hermawan, Saiful Amin, Shelfin Bima Prakosa, and Muhammad ‘Paul’ Fakhurrozi – have been arbitrarily arrested and charged with criminal offenses solely for protesting or using social media in support of recent protests. Their cases are part of a broader violent crackdown by the Indonesian Police on nationwide demonstrations that began on August 25, 2025.

Delpedro Marhaen Rismansyah, Muzaffar Salim, Khariq Anhar, Syahdan Husein, Wawan Hermawan, Saiful Amin, Shelfin Bima Prakosa, and Muhammad ‘Paul’ Fakhurrozi are Indonesian activists. They have been engaged in student movements, civil society advocacy, as well as grassroots initiatives promoting government accountability.

From August 25 to September 1, 2025, Indonesia witnessed one of the largest waves of protests in the post-Reform era. Protests erupted in Jakarta and at least 15 other provinces, sparked by public anger over economic hardship and state budget policies perceived as neglecting the people. Amnesty International found that security forces used unlawful force, arbitrary arrests, and intimidation against peaceful protesters.

The eight activists were arrested separately as part of a broader crackdown on protests by the police, which many described as the largest scale of repression in decades. The activists were accused of “inciting violence” during the recent protests. Authorities charged them under several articles, including Article 160 of the Criminal Code on incitement to violence and Article 28(3) and Article 45A(3) of the Electronic Information and Transactions Law on hate speech. According to the Advocacy Team for Democracy (TAUD), many of these arrests were carried out without legal basis or official warrants. Police also seized books, documents, and electronic devices belonging to activists and civil society organizations, marking a

pattern of expanding criminalization.

Delpedro, Muzaffar, Khariq, Syahdan, and Wawan are currently detained at the Jakarta Metropolitan Police Office. Saiful and Shelfin remain in custody of the Kediri City Police in East Java Province, while Paul is detained at the East Java Police Office. They are among 959 individuals who had been arbitrarily arrested and formally charged in relation to the recent protests.

Their cases illustrate the escalating trend of repression in recent years. Amnesty International has highlighted the government’s continued use of vague provisions in the Criminal Code and ITE Law to silence critics instead of safeguarding the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

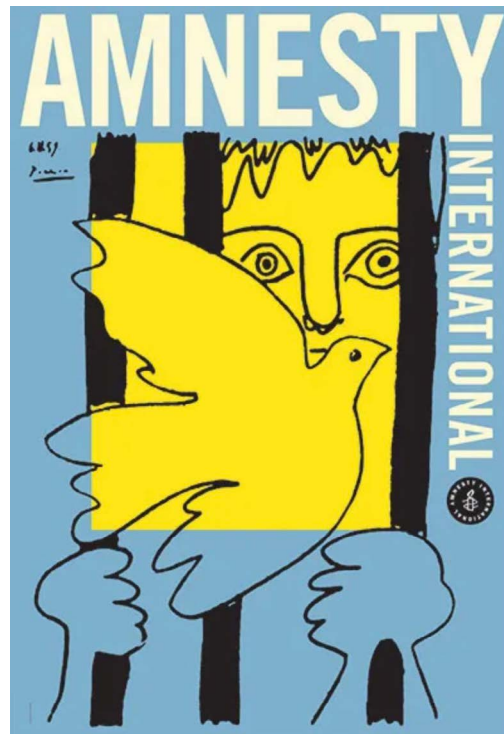
During a series of protests that started from August 25 to September 1, 2025, Amnesty International Indonesia recorded that more than 4,000 people had been arbitrarily arrested. Furthermore, more than 560 people were subjected to intimidation and physical violence, including being beaten and wounded by rubber bullets, while more than 300 people were injured or affected by the unnecessary and excessive

use of tear gas and water cannons. At least 11 people have died since the protests started, including university students, public employees, and a motorcycle taxi driver who was killed after an armored police vehicle in Jakarta run over him. As of October 6, only the death of the motorcycle taxi driver in Jakarta was being investigated by the police.

Sample Letter

Dear Mr. Listyo Sigit Prabowo,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the ongoing criminal prosecution of Delpedro Marhaen Rismansyah, Muzaffar Salim, Khariq Anhar, Syahdan Husein, Wawan Hermawan, Saiful Amin, Shelfin Bima Prakosa, and Muhammad ‘Paul’ Fakhurrozi, who are facing six to 12 years’ imprisonment for simply expressing their opinions and posting on social



media in support of the recent nationwide protests in Indonesia. All remain in custody of the police.

It is distressing to learn that they are among 959 people who have been arbitrarily arrested, detained, and subsequently charged with multiple offenses amid police crackdown on protests in several cities. Amnesty International found that the violent crackdown on protesters included unlawful use of force, such as physical violence and the disproportionate use of less lethal weapons, such as water cannon, tear gas and rubber bullets – that left nearly a thousand people wounded.

I respectfully remind you that isolated incidents of violence by some protesters do not deprive others of their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Therefore, I urge you to immediately release and drop the charges against Delpedro, Muzaffar, Khariq, Syahdan, Wawan, Saiful, Shelfin, Paul and others who were arbitrarily arrested and detained solely for protesting or supporting the protests. I urge you to end the criminalization against activists and other people who express dissent and ensure that everyone can exercise their rights to assemble peacefully.

Yours sincerely,

TAKE ACTION:

Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.

Click [here](#) to report your action(s) on UA 97.25. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

General Listyo Sigit Prabowo

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Please take action as soon as possible until
December 28th, 2025



Trump Administration Exploits National Guard Shooting to Push Militarization and Anti-Immigrant Agenda

Press Release December 2nd -- In response to the Trump administration sending more National Guard troops to Washington, DC and halting asylum applications after the tragic shooting of two National Guard soldiers in the city last week, Amy Fischer, Amnesty International USA's Director for Refugee and Migrant Rights, said the following:

"The shooting of two National Guard soldiers in D.C. was horrific, and we unequivocally condemn this violence.

"As we've said before, putting the military on our streets does not make our communities safer. The Trump administration shouldn't have sent the National Guard to Washington, D.C. in the first place.

"A tragedy like this should never be used as justification to punish, criminalize, and target entire groups. The Trump administration has used this attack as fodder to justify even more racist, exclusionary immigration policies. It is unequivocally wrong to deny Afghans who are fleeing persecution in their home country the protection they need, and halting asylum protections for all asylum applicants or limiting travel from certain counties will have devastating impacts on thousands of people who have been waiting for years for their chance of finally finding safety.

"The Trump Administration's exploitation of a tragedy to advance anti-immigrant policies and even more militarization in our cities, rather than focusing on human rights or genuine community safety, will only cause more harm and human rights violations down the road."

Russia: Authorities Step Up Criminal Reprisals Against Anti-War Yabloko Party

Press Release December 5th, 2025 -- Reacting to the Kremlin's latest abuse of the criminal justice system to target Yabloko, the last remaining officially registered political party in Russia that has been openly calling for an end to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Marie Struthers, Amnesty International's Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, said:

"In preparation for the September 2026 parliamentary election, Russian authorities are steadily dismantling what remains of peaceful political opposition. It is clear they want to purge the political landscape of any groups which are not under the Kremlin's control and do not share its agenda, including its ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

"The pressure on Yabloko's leadership is relentless. Deputy Chair Lev Shlosberg, convicted under the "foreign agents" law, faces a new criminal case opened today. Another Deputy Chair, Maksim Kruglov, was arrested in October, and party leader Nikolai Rybakov farcically convicted for "extremism." These reprisals are a deliberate effort to silence the last organized political force in Russia that consistently calls for peace and speaks out against human rights violations.

"Criminalizing calls for a ceasefire and prosecuting individuals for peacefully expressing views on Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine are blatant attacks on freedom of expression. The Russian authorities must immediately and unconditionally overturn these convictions and drop all the baseless charges against the Yabloko leadership, as well as release all those detained solely for their anti-war views, and repeal war censorship legislation that criminalizes dissent."

On November 5, 2025, Lev Shlosberg was sentenced to 420 hours of community service for "violation of foreign agent's duties." The authorities claimed that he had not marked five videos posted on social media with the "foreign agent" disclaimer. The second criminal case against him – under the "discreditation

of Armed Forces" charge – is ongoing.

On December 5, 2025, authorities opened a third criminal case against Lev Shlosberg for "spreading false information about the Armed Forces" over a repost from February 2022. It happened just days before he was due to be released from six months of house arrest that could no longer be legally extended, under a previous "discreditation" case. A day earlier, in two separate cases, St Petersburg courts fined party Chair Nikolai Rybakov RUB 1,500 (USD 19.5) and senior politician, Boris Vishnevsky, RUB 15,000 (USD 195). Rybakov was fined for "sharing extremist symbols" – namely, a photograph of the late opposition

figure Aleksei Navalny which Rybakov posted on the day of Navalny's death. Vishnevsky was fined for allegedly "cooperating with an undesirable organization" in an interview with the elections-monitoring group Golos, which authorities claim is linked to the banned European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations.

These fines serve as pretexts for further reprisals: Rybakov's "extremism" case already bars him from running in the September 2026 parliamentary election, while the case against Vishnevsky paves the way for subsequent criminal prosecution if he is accused of "cooperation with an undesirable organization" again.

On October 2, 2025, Yabloko's Deputy Chair Maksim Kruglov was arrested and placed in pre-trial detention over two 2022 Telegram posts referring to UN estimates of civilian casualties in Ukraine and the killings of civilians in Bucha.

At least five other Yabloko party regional leaders and members have been prosecuted. Around 50 administrative cases have been initiated against Yabloko members across Russia's regions. Eleven Yabloko members, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Dmitry Muratov and veteran human rights defender Svetlana Gannushkina, have been designated "foreign agents."



New Findings Reveal Human Rights Violations at Florida's "Alligator Alcatraz" and Krome Detention Centers

Press Release December 4th -- Amnesty International today released a new report documenting cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment at two immigration detention centers in Florida: The Everglades Detention Facility ("Alligator Alcatraz") and the Krome North Service Processing Center (Krome).

The report, [Torture and enforced disappearances in the Sunshine State: Human rights violations at "Alligator Alcatraz" and Krome in Florida](#), reveals human rights violations that, in some cases amount to torture, occurring at Krome and "Alligator Alcatraz" within an increasingly hostile anti-immigrant climate in Florida under Governor Ron DeSantis, whose administration has intensified criminalization and mass detention of migrants and people seeking safety. Findings were gathered during a September 2025 research mission.

"These findings confirm a deliberate system built to punish, dehumanize, and hide the suffering of people in detention," said Ana Piquer, Amnesty International's Regional Director for the Americas. "Immigration enforcement cannot operate outside the rule of law or exempt itself from human rights standards. What we are seeing in Florida should alarm the entire region."

The research concluded that people arbitrarily detained in "Alligator Alcatraz" are living in inhuman and unsanitary conditions including overflowing toilets with fecal matter seeping into where people are sleeping, limited access to showers, exposure to insects without protective measures, lights on 24 hours a day, poor quality food and water, and lack of privacy – including cameras above the toilets.

People interviewed shared that access to medical care is inconsistent, inadequate, or denied all together, placing individuals at serious risk of physical and mental harm. People reported being always shackled when they were outside their cage. Other treatment those detained have endured amounts to torture, including being put in the "box", described as a 2x2 foot cage-like structure people are put in as punishment – sometimes for hours at a time exposed to the elements with hardly any water – with their hands and feet attached to restraints on the ground.

"Alligator Alcatraz" operates outside federal oversight, without the basic tracking systems used in ICE facilities. The absence of registration or tracking mechanisms for those detained at Alligator Alcatraz

facilitates incommunicado detention and constitutes enforced disappearances when the whereabouts of a person being detained there is denied to their family, and they are not allowed to contact their lawyer.

"These despicable and nauseating conditions at Alligator Alcatraz reflect a pattern of deliberate neglect designed to dehumanize and punish those detained there," said Amy Fischer, Director of Refugee and Migrant Rights with Amnesty International USA. "This is unreal – where's the oversight?"

At ICE's Krome Detention Center, operated by a private for-profit company, the research confirmed that despite having medical facilities on site, detained individuals reported serious medical negligence including failure to provide treatments and medical assessments. People detained at Krome confirmed previous reports of human rights violations. For example, there were reports of overcrowding, prolonged and arbitrary solitary confinement, lack of adequate medical care, overflowing toilets, lack of access to showers, constant illumination, and broken air conditioning.

People shared stories of violence and ill-treatment from guards. Amnesty International staffers witnessed a guard violently slam a metal flap of a door to a solitary confinement room against a man's injured hand. Other people reported being hit and punched by guards. People also reported difficulty in accessing counsel, and not knowing how long they will be detained nor what will come next for them.

"Krome's extreme overcrowding, medical neglect, and reports of humiliating and degrading treatment paint a picture of harrowing human right violations," said Fischer.

In February 2025, Florida passed extreme and discriminatory immigration laws that are putting immigrant communities at grave risk. The expansion of 287(g) agreements that deputize local law enforcement to act as immigration officials and detain people for immigration purposes have led to wrongful arrests, racial profiling, and widespread fear that prevents families from accessing schools, hospitals, and other essential services.

Florida has become a testing ground for abusive immigration enforcement policies, closely aligned with the Trump administration's anti-immigrant and racist agenda. Under Governor Ron DeSantis, the state has intensified the criminalization of migration

and relied on sweeping emergency powers to rapidly scale up mass detention. Since January 2025, Florida has increased the number of people in immigrant detention by more than 50 percent. Between June and August 2025 alone, the state issued 34 no-bid contracts totaling more than \$360 million for “Alligator Alcatraz”, with annual operating costs projected at \$450 million — all while cutting billions from essential health, food security, emergency response, and housing programs.

“The choice to prioritize punishment, dehumanization and cruelty over public welfare is as shortsighted as it is appalling,” said Fischer.

Immigration detention in the United States has a long record of abuses. President Trump has increased its use by nearly 70 percent since before his second term began, while conditions in detention have sharply deteriorated. Of the at least 24 people who have died in ICE custody since October 2024, six deaths occurred in Florida facilities, including four at Krome.

Amnesty International is calling on both the government of Florida and the U.S. government to address systemic human rights violations within immigration detention facilities. The organization urges Florida officials to close Alligator Alcatraz and to prohibit the use of any state-run immigration detention. The state must end the misuse of emergency powers, halt all no-bid procurement, and redirect detention funding toward essential health care, housing, and disaster-relief programs. The recommendations also include banning

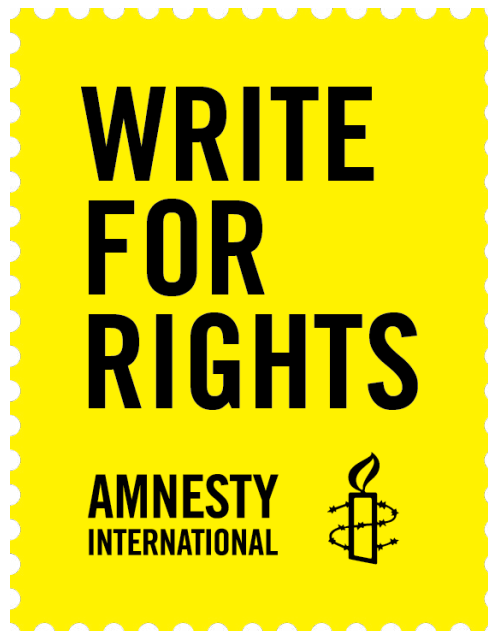
shackling, solitary confinement, and punitive outdoor confinement; ensuring confidential access to legal counsel and interpretation services; conducting transparent and independent investigations into torture and medical neglect; and establishing meaningful, independent oversight for all detention facilities.

At the federal level, the U.S. government must end its cruel mass immigration detention machine, stop the criminalization of migration, and bar the use of

state-owned facilities for federal immigration custody. The U.S. government must ensure thorough investigations into all deaths, allegations of torture in custody and other abuses, and comply with international human rights standards. Also, the federal government must undertake a comprehensive review of ICE contracts with state and private actors to ensure human rights compliance, the restoration of protections for “sensitive locations” such as schools, hospitals, and churches, and increased federal funding to support universal legal representation and interpretation services in immigration

proceedings.

“The conditions we documented at Alligator Alcatraz and Krome are not isolated – instead they represent a deliberate system of cruelty designed to punish people seeking to build a new life in the U.S.,” said Fischer. “We must stop detaining our immigrant community members and people seeking safety and instead work toward humane, rights-respecting migration policies.”



Group Coordinators

Marty Fromer and Terrie Rodello

Newsletter -- Daniel Webb

OR Area Coordinator -- Marty Fromer

Indonesia actions -- Max White

China / Uyghur actions -- Marty Fromer

Central Africa/ Oregon State Death

Penalty Abolition-- Terrie Rodello

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