



AI Group 48 Portland, Oregon January 2026 Newsletter

Stop the Crackdown: Tell Congress: Pass the Protecting Our Protesters Act

Peaceful protest is under attack nationwide. Students, workers, and community members are being punished, surveilled, and brutalized simply for speaking out. This is about silencing dissent — not protecting safety.

With students heading back to campus and protests on the rise, Amnesty International and Human Rights First are teaming up to take action:

A new bill called Protecting Our Protesters Act of 2025 (H.R. 3651) makes clear that using excessive force against protesters is a federal crime. It protects everyone — students, immigrants, workers, and families — who boldly rise up and speak out.

ACT NOW: Ask your Representative to support H.R. 3651 and defend the right to protest free from fear and retaliation.

Click [here](#) to take action.



Group 48 members gathered at Bold Coffee and Books on December 11th, writing 72 letters as part of Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign, joining activists in over two hundred countries and territories.

Urgent Action: China Journalist Convicted on Baseless Charges, Denied Visits

NAME AND PRONOUN: Zhang Zhan (She/her - Zhang is her surname, Zhan is her given name)

Chinese journalist Zhang Zhan was sentenced to another four years in prison on September 19, 2025 for the charge of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble.” After she appealed this verdict in late September, it was reported that neither her family nor her lawyer was allowed to visit her. For a brief period, her whereabouts were unknown, until on November 18, her family received confirmation that she is being held at Shanghai Women’s Prison. Neither they nor her lawyer have yet secured permission to visit her, and there are ongoing concerns for her well-being.

Chinese journalist and activist Zhang Zhan was reportedly convicted of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble” and sentenced to four years in jail following her trial on September 19, 2025, at the Pudong New District People’s Court.

Reports following her detention in 2024 indicated that Zhang had gone on hunger strike while in detention, and has shown signs of having been forcibly fed. Her family and lawyer have been subjected to harassment and intimidation by authorities and are unable to share detailed updates about her situation. As a result, very little is known about her current health condition and other aspects of her case.

Zhang Zhan was previously jailed on the same charge for reporting on the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic in Wuhan. A former lawyer, she traveled to Wuhan in February 2020 to provide on-the-ground information about what was happening there. She posted on social media about how government officials had detained independent reporters and harassed families of Covid-19 patients.

She went missing in Wuhan in May 2020. It later emerged that she had been taken by the Chinese authorities and detained in Shanghai,

Graphics used are either in the public domain or from Amnesty International

where she was convicted of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble” after a sham trial. Zhang Zhan was released on May 13, 2024, after completing a four-year prison sentence.

However, she was subjected to strict surveillance and continuous harassment by the authorities after her release, and she was detained again less than four months later. Her second arrest (in September 2024) came shortly after she reportedly traveled to the northwestern province of Gansu to show solidarity with other human rights defenders.

Zhang Zhan has spent more than five and a half years deprived of her liberty, solely for exercising her right to freedom of expression. During her previous imprisonment, she went on a hunger strike that led to multiple hospitalizations and her weight dropped drastically to just 37 kilograms — half of what she weighed prior to her deprivation of liberty.

Zhang Zhan was featured in Amnesty International’s 2021 Write for Rights campaign.

Amnesty International has documented numerous cases of independent journalists and activists who were sentenced for reporting on the truth of the pandemic, with Zhang Zhan being a notable example. These repressive measures intensified after the 2022 “White Paper Movement,” leading to further restrictions on civil society. More information on the misuse of national security- and public order-related criminal provisions to target human rights activism, covering cases of 64 individuals over the last ten years, is available in our October 2025 report, *How could this verdict be ‘legal’?*

Sample Letter

Dear Warden Chen,

I am writing to express my grave concern for journalist and human rights defender, Zhang Zhan, who was sentenced to four years in prison on charge of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble” at the Pudong New District People’s Court — the same accusation for which she was previously imprisoned. Again, these charges are baseless; she has merely exercised her right to freedom of expression and to defend the rights of others.

After she appealed this verdict in late September, it was reported that neither her family nor her lawyer was allowed to visit her. For several days her whereabouts were unknown. On November 18, it was finally confirmed that Zhang Zhan is being held in Shanghai

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 Third UA 90.24. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Warden Chen Jianhua
Shanghai Women’s Prison
No. 1601 Zhangjing Road, Sijing Town,
Songjiang District,
Shanghai 201601
People’s Republic of China

Send a copy of your letter to the address below.

Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in
the United States
Ambassador Xie Fang
3505 International Place, NW,
Washington DC 20008
Email: chinaembpress_us@mfa.gov.cn

Please take action as soon as possible until
May 25th, 2026

Women’s Prison. However, her family and lawyer have not yet secured permission to visit her.

Zhang had reportedly gone on hunger strike in detention and may have been forcibly fed in January 2025. Her family and lawyer have also been reported to face serious harassment and intimidation by authorities, and her current health status is unknown.

I call on you to release Zhang Zhan immediately and unconditionally and ensure the convictions are quashed. Pending her release, ensure that Zhang Zhan has regular, unrestricted access to her family and lawyers, as well as access to adequate medical care, and that she is not subject to torture or other ill-treatment. Finally, I call on you to stop harassing and threatening human rights defenders, including her family, lawyer, and others who are supporting this case.

Yours sincerely,

Sustainable Peace Requires International Justice for All Victims of All Crimes in Israel and the OPT

December 10th, 2025 --States must demonstrate their commitment to international justice to ensure genuine accountability for victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide for all those in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and in Israel, said Amnesty International following the recent conclusion of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Assembly of States Parties in the Hague.

"The international justice system is under attack and faces existential threats. There is no greater litmus test for this than in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. States must demonstrate their commitment to international justice by supporting institutions such as the ICC and protecting their ability to pursue accountability," said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General.

Amnesty International has extensively documented how Israel has committed and is continuing to commit genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, even despite the ceasefire, and how its ongoing system of apartheid amounts to crimes against humanity. Today the organization has also published in-depth research documenting war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Hamas and other armed groups during and after the attacks launched on October 7, 2023. <https://www.amnestyusa.org/press-releases/sustainable-peace-requires-international-justice-for-all-victims-of-all-crimes-in-israel-and-the-opt/> "World leaders hailed last month's UN Security Council resolution setting out a plan for Gaza as a blueprint for sustainable peace. But decades of international crimes cannot be swept under the carpet with deals that ignore accountability and entrench injustice. Truth, justice and reparations are the bedrocks of lasting peace," said Agnès Callamard.

"Amnesty calls on all those in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as well the international community concerned about the evident flaws of the UN Security Council Resolution, to develop

and commit to a roadmap for justice and reparations. This roadmap should aim to end Israel's genocide, its system of apartheid and unlawful occupation of Palestinian territory, while also addressing crimes under international law by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups."

To guarantee genuine, effective and meaningful justice and non-recurrence, Amnesty International recommends that the roadmap be predicated on the complementarity of a variety of justice institutions and mechanisms.

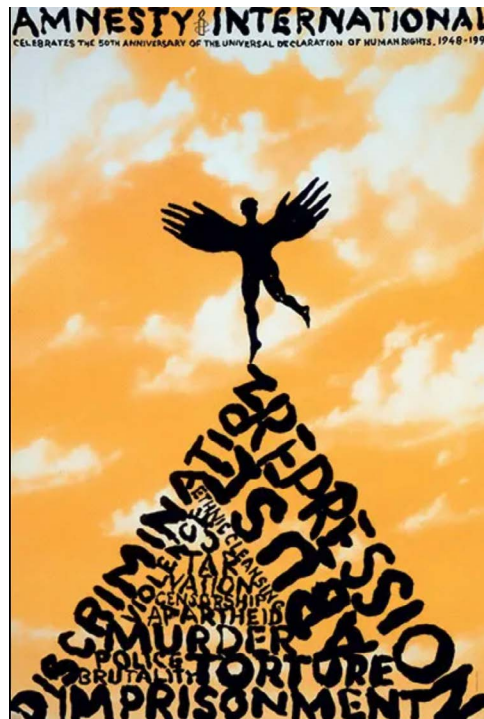
These include ICC investigations into Israeli and Palestinian crimes, which must take place free from any obstruction and with access to investigators and other justice actors. Such investigations should consider Israel's genocide and crimes against humanity of apartheid, as well as crimes committed by Palestinian armed groups before the October 7, 2023 attacks, during the attacks and since, with a view to ensuring that all individuals, including – where they are still alive – those most responsible, are brought to justice.

The roadmap should commit states to support and fully cooperate with bodies such as the UN Commission of Inquiry and the ICC. They should enforce ICC arrest warrants and take all necessary

steps to ensure the lifting of sanctions and restrictions imposed on Palestinian human rights organizations, which for decades have been documenting violations of international law and representing victims regardless.

In parallel to international mechanisms, states can chart a new course for peace rooted in justice by exercising domestic, universal or other forms of extraterritorial criminal jurisdiction for international crimes committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel.

"Victims of atrocities in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory deserve genuine justice. This does not just mean seeing perpetrators prosecuted and convicted but ensuring adequate and effective remedy and delivering guarantees of non-repetition.



There is no escaping the reality that these are crucial steps towards lasting peace and security,” said Agnès Callamard.

Israel’s ongoing genocide, apartheid and unlawful occupation

Two months since the ceasefire was announced and all living Israeli hostages were released, Israeli authorities are still committing genocide against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip with total impunity by continuing to deliberately inflict conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction, without signaling any change in their intent.

Amnesty International recently published a legal analysis of the current situation showing how the crime of genocide continues, along with testimonies from local residents, medical staff and humanitarian workers highlighting the dire ongoing conditions for Palestinians in Gaza. The organization found that despite a reduction in the scale of Israeli attacks, and some limited improvements, there has been no meaningful change in the conditions Israel is inflicting on Palestinians in Gaza and no evidence to indicate that its intent has changed.

At least 370 people, including 140 children, have been killed in Israeli attacks since the ceasefire was announced on October 9. As part of its genocide for more than two years, Israel deliberately starved Palestinian civilians, restricting critical aid and relief provisions, including medical supplies and equipment necessary to repair life-sustaining infrastructure, despite some limited improvement. It has subjected them to wave after wave of inhumane forced displacement compounding their catastrophic suffering. Overall, more than 70,000 Palestinians were killed and over 200,000 injured, many of whom have sustained serious, life changing injuries.

The objective probability that the current conditions would lead to the destruction of Palestinians in Gaza persists. Yet Israeli authorities have not signaled a change in their intent: they have ignored three sets of binding decisions by the International Court of Justice; they have failed to investigate or prosecute those suspected of responsibility for acts of genocide or hold accountable officials who have made genocidal statements. Israeli officials responsible for orchestrating and committing genocide remain in power, effectively granting them free rein to continue to commit atrocities.

Israel’s genocide against Palestinians in Gaza has taken place in the context of pervasive impunity for its ongoing crime against humanity of apartheid alongside decades-long unlawful occupation of Palestinian territory.

“It is against this backdrop of apartheid and unlawful occupation that Israel deliberately unleashed mass starvation, unprecedented bloodshed, apocalyptic levels of destruction, massive, forced displacement and placed a deliberate stranglehold on humanitarian aid – all illustrations of the ongoing crime of genocide,” said Agnès Callamard.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel’s cruel apartheid system and unlawful occupation have exacted a heavy toll on Palestinians. Israeli military operations, including aerial attacks, have killed at least 995 Palestinians including at least 219 children, displaced tens of thousands and caused extensive damage to essential civilian infrastructure, homes and agricultural land. The last two years have been marked by an escalation in state-backed settler attacks, leading to the killing, injuries and displacement of Palestinians. OCHA has documented more than 1,600 settler attacks that resulted in casualties and/or property damage since January 2025. And Palestinian herding communities in Area C are particularly affected by this wave of unrelenting state-backed violence. Despite international condemnations and some restrictive measures adopted by third states against individual settlers and settler organizations, settler violence continues to increase due to Israeli government backing and virtually total impunity.

The Trump peace plan is the latest in a series of fatally flawed initiatives, which seek to propose ‘solutions’ that sideline international law, implicitly rewarding Israel for its unlawful occupation, illegal settlements, and its system of apartheid, which are the root causes of the continuous atrocities Israel inflicts upon Palestinians.

The conditions established during the current ceasefire further entrench Israel’s system of apartheid and its unlawful occupation and compound injustice. Israel’s imposition of a ‘security perimeter’ (buffer zone) in Gaza risks making Israel’s unlawful occupation permanent and deprives Palestinians of their most fertile land. It also risks perpetuating the territorial fragmentation that underpins Israel’s system of apartheid by failing to ensure freedom of movement for Palestinians with the rest of the occupied territory.

Similarly, impunity is enjoyed by Israeli forces responsible for arbitrarily detaining, forcibly disappearing and systematically torturing Palestinian detainees. In a recent review of Israel's record the UN Committee against Torture described "a de facto state policy of organized and widespread torture and ill-treatment, which had gravely intensified since October 7, 2023" and expressed grave concerns over "widespread allegations of sexual abuse of Palestinian detainees, both men and women, amounting to torture and ill-treatment."

"The international community's willful inaction towards holding Israel accountable for its crimes under international law and the failure to press it into adhering to the recommendations of UN mechanisms and international human rights organizations have entrenched Israel's unlawful occupation and apartheid and have directly enabled Israel's genocide against Palestinians in Gaza today," said Agnès Callamard.

Crimes against humanity committed by Hamas and other armed groups

It is critical to also ensure accountability for crimes committed by Palestinian armed groups. More than two years after the Hamas-led attacks on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, accounts of the atrocities committed by Palestinian armed groups on that day and their subsequent treatment of those held in captivity in Gaza are still emerging. Survivors of the attacks, including former hostages, as well as their families, continue to shed light on their own experiences, while calling for justice and redress.

Amnesty International is publishing a report today that sets out how Hamas's military wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades, and other Palestinian armed groups committed war crimes and crimes against humanity during their assault on southern Israel, and against hostages held in Gaza thereafter.

Amnesty International has documented how, in the early hours of October 7, 2023, Hamas forces and other Palestinian armed groups conducted a coor-

dinated attack targeting mostly civilian locations. Around 1,200 people were killed – more than 800 of them civilians, including 36 children. The victims were primarily Jewish Israelis, but also included Bedouin citizens of Israel, and scores of foreign national migrant workers, students and asylum seekers. More than 4,000 people were injured, and hundreds of homes and civilian structures were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable.

Through the analysis of the patterns of the attack,

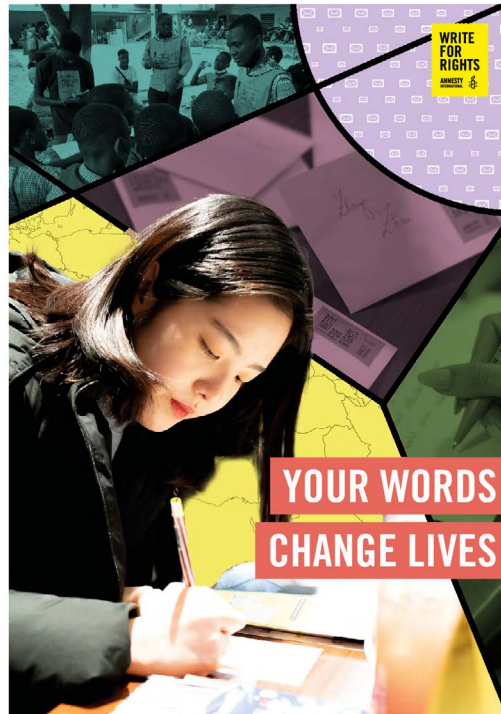
evidence and the specific content of communications between fighters during the attack, as well as statements by Hamas and leaders of other armed groups, the organization found that these crimes were committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack against a civilian population. The report found that fighters were instructed to carry out attacks targeting civilians.

"Our research confirms that crimes committed by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups during their attacks on October 7, 2023 and against those they seized and held hostage were part of a systematic and widespread assault against the civilian population and amount to

crimes against humanity," said Agnès Callamard.

"Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups showed an abhorrent disregard for human life. They deliberately and systematically targeted civilians in locations such as their homes, or while at a music festival, with the apparent goal of taking hostages, which amounted to war crimes. They deliberately killed hundreds of civilians, including by using gunfire and grenades to drive terrified people, including families with young children, out of their safe rooms and hiding places or attacked them while they fled. Amnesty International also documented evidence that some Palestinian assailants beat or sexually assaulted people during the attack and mistreated the bodies of those they had killed."

Hamas has claimed that its forces were not involved in the targeted killing, abduction or mistreatment of civilians during the October 7, 2023 attacks and that many civilians were killed by Israeli fire.



However, based on extensive video, testimonial and other evidence, Amnesty International has concluded that, while some civilians were indeed killed by Israeli forces as they sought to repel the attack, the vast majority of those who died were intentionally killed by Hamas and other Palestinian fighters who targeted civilian locations far from any military objectives. Palestinian fighters, including Hamas forces, were likewise responsible for abducting civilians from multiple locations and committing physical, sexual and psychological abuse against people they captured.

Another 251 people – mostly civilians, including older people and young children – were taken as hostages to Gaza on October 7, 2023. The majority of these 251 people were seized alive and held in captivity, but reportedly 36 of them were already dead when captured. They were held for weeks, months or, in some cases, over two years, with some hostages who returned alive describing to Amnesty International or in public forums being chained in underground tunnels for some or all of their captivity and enduring intense violence, deprivation and psychological abuse, including threats of execution. Some hostages were subjected to sexual violence, including

sexual assault, threats of forced marriage or forced nudity. At least six hostages were killed by their captors.

Amnesty International interviewed 70 people, including 17 people who survived the October 7, 2023 attacks, victims' family members, forensic experts,

medical professionals, lawyers, journalists and other investigators. Researchers visited some of the sites of the attacks and reviewed over 350 videos and photos of scenes from the attacks and of people held in captivity in Gaza.

Amnesty International's investigation found that Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups committed the crimes against humanity of "murder," "extermination," "imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law," "enforced disappearance," "torture," "rape... or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity," and "other inhumane acts."

"Israel's appalling record of violations against Palestinians including decades of

unlawful occupation, apartheid against Palestinians and its ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, can in no way excuse these crimes. Nor does it relieve Palestinian armed groups of their obligations under



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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international law. The violations by Palestinian armed groups in the context of the October 7, 2023 attacks must be recognized and condemned as the atrocity crimes that they are. Hamas must also unconditionally return the remaining body in Gaza of a person killed during the attacks as soon as it is located,” said Agnès Callamard.

In recent weeks, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the formation of a committee to examine the government decision-making surrounding the October 7, 2023 attacks. However, this move has been widely criticized, including by survivors of the attacks, and families of those killed, for a lack of independence and a failure to follow precedents of judge-led commissions of inquiry.

The authorities of the State of Palestine should publicly acknowledge and denounce the serious violations of international law committed by Palestinian armed groups. They should also conduct independent, impartial and effective investigations to identify those suspected of violations and crimes and fully cooperate with international investigative mechanisms, including by sharing evidence.

International justice needed for all victims

The ongoing ICC investigation into the “situation in Palestine” and the arrest warrants the court has issued against Prime Minister Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity remain critical to

the prospect of ensuring genuine accountability.

Taking steps to hold senior Israeli officials accountable for their crimes under international law is an essential step in the path towards bringing Israel’s genocide in Gaza to an end, to restore faith in international law as well as ensuring that all victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity are granted access to justice, truth and reparations.

The ICC should also continue to investigate crimes committed by Palestinian armed groups before, during and after the October 7, 2023 attacks, with a view to ensuring that individuals suspected of responsibility for crimes against humanity and war crimes, are brought to justice.

“Accountability is non-negotiable. The perpetrators of international crimes must face justice and the institutions they represent must commit to a new path rooted in human rights and international law, including by adopting legislation to prevent recurrence of future violations,” said Agnès Callamard.

“All parties must acknowledge their responsibility and cooperate with investigative bodies and international justice mechanisms such as the UN Commission of Inquiry and the ICC by implementing their recommendations and allowing them to collect, preserve and analyze evidence for accountability. Victims must be heard, acknowledged, and granted effective remedy, including reparations. Without such concrete steps to ensure truth and justice there can be no lasting peace.”

USA: International Withdrawals a Vindictive Effort to Tear Apart a Global System for Cooperation

January 8th, 2026 -- Responding to the Trump administration’s announcement opens in a new tab that the United States is withdrawing from 66 international organizations, conventions, and treaties, Erika Guevara Rosas, Amnesty International’s Senior Director of Research, Advocacy, Policy and Campaigns, said:

“This is a vindictive and reckless assault on the legitimacy and integrity of the United Nations and the rules-based international order that has been the bedrock of global cooperation for the past 80 years. With this latest in a series of damaging attacks, President Trump is shamefully doubling down on his efforts to destroy the multilateral system that the United States helped to build from the ashes of World War Two to guarantee the universal human rights and protection of all people.

“This was a deceptive announcement, given the United States had already disengaged from many of these bodies and chosen to defund key UN agencies. It is yet another troubling example of the Trump administration’s callous disregard for international law and global commitments in crucial areas such as promoting development, addressing the climate crisis, ending violence against children, and achieving gender equality. For example, the UN Population Fund, which the administration has now announced withdrawing from after previously defunding it, is vital in the fight against gender-based violence and advocating for millions of women and girls around the world.

“Further, in publicly withdrawing from organizations it already had disengaged from, the administration used the occasion to broadcast its overt anti-Black

racism. With Secretary of State Marco Rubio citing ‘DEI mandates’ as justification for the withdrawals, the administration’s announcement that it was leaving the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, a body of the UN Human Rights Council, from which the United States had already withdrawn, was nothing more than a deliberate act of racism and institutional sabotage.

“These decisions are not just cruel, racist and discriminatory, they will also no doubt prove to be devastatingly short-sighted by undermining the interests of people in the United States and around the world.

“Withdrawing from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in particular is unprecedented and the United States will be the only country to have done so. Along with its withdrawal from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other climate-related bodies, this will actively undermine climate action both domestically and globally. It will inhibit efforts to protect the US population from the impacts of the climate crisis and could drive more climate displacement from other countries. Still, other

states should seize this as an opportunity to now do the important work of fairly phasing out fossil fuels and funding a just transition, then call on the US to rejoin later.

“Withdrawing from peacebuilding mechanisms and bodies directly contradicts the US government’s stated calls for the UN to prioritize ‘peace and security’ opens in a new tab. This is particularly alarming at a time when President Trump is threatening several countries with military action and on the same day he called for a \$1.5 trillion military budget opens in a new tab. The consequences of these withdrawals risk triggering global destabilization, further endangering human rights everywhere, and disproportionately harming the most marginalized communities.

“UN member states and implicated international organizations must act immediately to shore up the multilateral and international legal architecture essential to universal human rights, including by engaging in robust defense of these systems and meaningful reforms to preserve accountability, prevent erosion of standards and protect people all over the world.”

Reversal of U.S. Landmine Ban Endangers Civilians and Undermines Human Rights Globally

December 23rd, 2025 --Reacting to the Trump Administration’s decision to reverse the United States’ ban on the use of anti-personnel landmines, Ben Linden, Advocacy Director for Europe and Central Asia for Amnesty International USA, said:

“The Pentagon’s reported landmine policy change would be a major setback for the protection of civilians in conflict zones. Antipersonnel landmines are inherently indiscriminate weapons that take a disproportionate toll on civilian lives, oftentimes long after conflicts end. Not only will this policy change put more civilians at increased risk of harm, but it will undermine global efforts to eliminate the use of these dangerous weapons. This landmine policy reversal would make the United States and its partners less safe by eroding the prohibition against the use of these indiscriminate weapons on the battlefield.

Amnesty International urges the Trump administration to reconsider this devastating decision. The U.S. government must commit to taking all possible steps to prevent harm to civilians in conflict zones and supporting human rights globally.”

The Pentagon’s decision to lift the United States’ prohibition on the use of anti-personnel landmines

was detailed in a Department of Defense December 2nd, 2025 memo – first reported on December 19, 2025.

According to Landmine Monitor, at least 6,279 casualties of landmines were recorded in 2024. Civilians made up 90 percent of all recorded casualties, where the military or civilian status was known. Children accounted for 46 percent of civilian casualties, where the age group was recorded.



Chad: Protecting Villages, Delivering Justice, Responding to the Climate Crisis: No reprisals or impunity

“They set fire to the house while continuing to shoot.”
–A survivor of the Bédoli 2 attack

Chad has been experiencing an escalation of conflicts between herders and farmers, particularly in the southern provinces. A complex interplay of environmental, social, and political factors fueled these conflicts.

Historically, herders and farmers coexisted, sharing resources. Increased competition for land and water has weakened this complementary relationship, however. Desertification and the shrinking pastureland in the centre of Chad because of higher temperatures from climate change have led to longer transhumance and longer sedentary stays by herders in the south. (Transhumance refers to the seasonal movement of livestock and herders between fixed summer and winter pastures to utilize different grazing lands and climates, a traditional and sustainable pastoral practice.)

Southern Chad is also experiencing strong population growth in the areas offering significant natural resources. In the context of climate change, farmers are seeking to diversify their production while expanding their cultivated areas, encroaching on transhumance corridors. This generates recurrent tensions between herders and farmers, exacerbated by the influx of weapons and armed groups from the Central African Republic. Conflicts that arise between herders and farmers often stem from disputes over land acquisition, damage caused by animals in fields, or obstruction of transhumance corridors, water access routes and grazing areas.

Amnesty International’s report “Live off the land and die for it–Human Rights Violations in Conflicts Between Herders and Farmers in Chad” documents violent incidents between herders and farmers in 4 southern provinces that left at least 98 dead and 100 injured, and over 600 homes destroyed in 14 villages between 2022 and 2024. The IS page and full report are available here:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/11/chad-clashes-herders-farmers/>

A 20 to 30-minute podcast episode in French and English has been shared on the account Amnesty Africa Spotify. It is also available on Apple Podcasts as



Amnesty in Africa, Season 2, Episode 13. In this podcast, the researcher and campaigner on Chad and the Regional Director of AI’s office for West and Central Africa, present the main findings and recommendations of the report and the follow-up actions.

We can give you access to a 3-minute 2D explanatory video on the key issues of the report to share, available in English, French and Arabic (with subtitles

Here are the IS researchers’ social media pages, if you want to follow them. On X, if you post an image from the campaign and tag their account, they’ll retweet it:

X: <https://twitter.com/AmnestyWARO>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/amnestyafrika/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/AmnestyWARO>

Sample Letter

Dear Minister,

Subject: Urgent action to bring justice to the victims of conflicts between herders and farmers in Chad

I am writing to share the main concerns and findings of Amnesty International’s recent report entitled “Live off the land and die for it - Human Rights Violations in Conflicts Between Herders and Farmers in Chad” published on November 20, 2025 and to call on your Ministry to meet the Chadian State’s obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Human Rights Peoples.

The report analyses the causes of recurrent violence between herders and farmers in the southern provinces of the country and documents violent incidents in four provinces (Moyen Chari, Mandoul,

Logone Oriental, and Logone Occidental) that left at least 98 people dead and 100 injured and caused the destruction of over 600 homes in 14 villages between 2022 and 2024.

While some cases of violence between herders and farmers studied in this report have been the subject of legal proceedings and even trials (as in the cases of Sandana and Bara 2), impunity remains a serious problem, particularly in cases of violence in Pala Koudja (Logone Occidental, August 30th, 2024) or in the villages of Mempon, Bendjabo and Dangdah (Logone Oriental, April 2023). Our report finds that local authorities and security forces have deliberately prevented the arrest of several individuals wanted by the courts, according to the commission of inquiry into the events in Sandana. No investigation has been opened into the alleged case of excessive use of force in Krim Krim, where eight protesters were killed by security forces (Logone Occidental, November 22, 2022) following clashes between herders and farmers.

The report also outlines the obstacles to access to justice for the victims, in particular the amount of court fees and difficulties in obtaining legal aid. Even when victims obtain a judgment with compensation, effective access to that compensation remains difficult. Finally, many victims explained that they had given up on any legal action, fearing a lack of impartiality or independence of judicial authorities, or even external interference.

We call on your ministry to implement the following recommendations:

- Insure effective, independent and impartial judicial investigations into all cases of violence between herders and farmers; if there is sufficient evidence, prosecute and try those suspected of murder, serious injury, looting/destruction of livestock, homes, fields and other essential means of subsistence through fair trials before competent, independent and impartial courts.

- Ensure that judicial proceedings are opened and promptly conducted on the cases of violence that took place in the village of Pala Koudja and in the villages of Monts de Lam and Nya Pende documented in this report.

- Ensure that victims of violence between herders and farmers can participate in legal proceedings, through the possibility of filing complaints within or outside any existing procedure, being heard by judges, and benefiting from rapid and effective legal aid.

- Ensure that victims of violence between herders

and farmers can obtain reparations, including taking the measures to ensure the effective enforcement of court decisions awarding damages to victims by waiving the fees that victims must pay to ensure the enforcement of decisions that grant them compensation.

- Ensure effective, independent and impartial judicial investigations into all alleged cases of unlawful use of force by the defence and security forces during demonstrations; if there is sufficient evidence, prosecute and try those suspected of murder and other human rights violations through fair trials before competent, independent and impartial courts.

- Provide provinces with functional courts, competent judicial personnel, and sufficient logistical means to effectively deal with land and agropastoral disputes and human rights violations.

These actions are essential to break the cycle of impunity, restore trust in the justice system, and uphold Chad's human rights commitments.

Best regards,

TAKE ACTION:

Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter provided or your own words.

Minister of Justice and Human Rights
Mr. Youssouf TOM
Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, in
charge of Human Rights
Ministry of Justice, in charge of Human Rights

Ndjari
N'Djamena,
Republic of Chad

Please send a copy of your letter or email it to
the Chadian Ambassador in Washington DC:

Her Excellency Ambassador
KITOKO GATA NGOULOU
2401 Massachusetts Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20008
Email: info@chadembassy.us