

"THE ROLE OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN PROTECTING OF HUMAN RIGHTS"

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ABSTRACT

Man as an individual has the inviolable rights which are protected by numerous conventions, declarations, constitutions and laws. The role of human rights and freedoms are guaranteed rights and they reflect the role played by human and civil society. Human rights can not buy, earn or inherit, they are "inalienable" because no one has the right to confiscate any reason. These rights are inherent to every human being, regardless of his race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, nationality, property status, status of birth etc.. Human rights is particularly important in the relationship between people and the state. They control and regulate the performance of the state government on individuals, are granted freedoms of individuals in relation to the state, and they are required by the state to meet the basic needs of the people within its jurisdiction. Internationally these rights are best described in the international instruments agreed between states and that set standards in the field of human rights. The most famous such instrument is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in which are reflected the principles that have a strong influence in the world. The Declaration itself is not binding, but over the years it has become legally binding through international custom and practice, because they are used in many states constitutions and legal cases. In today's world that are more acts of violence, torture and turmoil, it is inevitable there is no legal protection of man and his rights. For this reason, despite the existence of the European Court of Human Rights, organized and formed a number of international and national organizations, with the sole purpose to protect universal human rights. One of the most influential and also the largest organization for the protection of human rights worldwide is Amnesty International. It is a worldwide campaigning movement that works to promote and protect human rights around the world, which has been carefully kept by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international standards. Amnesty International is actually a global NGO, ie the movement of people who are fighting for the protection of human rights and their international recognition. The vision of this organization is to give support to each individual in

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order to be able to enjoy all the benefits and rights that are provided with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty International characteristic is that it works with and for the people through their organizing campaign to protect and promote human rights. She through her campaigns actually send messages to all governments and authorities to respect the rule of law and thus affect international relations.

Keywords: human rights, international organization, promotion, protection, organizing

INTRODUCTION

Amnesty International is the largest international organization for the protection of the rights of man all over the world. It is a worldwide campaigning movement that works to promote all human rights, which has been carefully stored in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international standards. This organization is a movement of people who are fighting for human rights and for their international recognition.

It has more than 2.2 million members, supporters and signatories in more than 150 countries and territories in every part of the world and an international NGO which is a non-partisan, independent and free of any government, political persuasion, economic interest or religion. Amnesty International is a democratic and self-organization, which is funded mainly through membership fees paid by its members, voluntary contributions and donations from its worldwide membership.

Amnesty International was formed in London, England in 1961 by Peter Benson and turns his attention to the violations of human rights and campaigning for the protection of the same^{2,3}. In 1977, Amnesty International was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her (against torture), and in 1978 received an award from the United Nations for human rights.

⁴Vision of the Amnesty International is a world in which every person enjoys all the human rights guaranteed with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following his vision, the task of Amnesty International conducts research and shares ie organize campaigns aimed at prevention, protection and an end to human rights violations. Its members believe that the protection of human rights violations in the interest of all people throughout the world. So starting from the lawlessness and abuse of human rights and inspired by hope for a better world, they work to improve human lives. Hence arises that Amnesty International advocates for the protection of human rights worldwide.

² Amnesty International- Nobel Peace Prize, 1977, more on www.Nobelprize.org

³ United Nations Award for contributions in the field of human rights, 1978, more on www.unhchr.ch

⁴ Statute of Amnesty International 27th International Meeting, 2005

Amnesty International campaigns in the hope to help those who need support and protect. Working for and with people all over the world, she is fighting for every person to may enjoy all the rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human rights. It through its campaigns send messages to all governments and other powerful institutions to respect the principle of the rule of law.

1. SPHERE OF ACTION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The sphere of action of Amnesty International is clearly defined and refers to the protection of human rights around the world. Specifically this organization fights ie key areas of operations:

1. protection of women;
2. protection of children;
3. ending the torture and execution (barring any illegal torture people);
4. protection of prisoners of conscience (freedom of conscience and freedom of expression, and the release of all prisoners of conscience);
5. protection of refugees;
6. protection and overcoming the phenomenon of human rights violations that are related to his physical and psychological integrity;
7. abolishing the death penalty, torture and other cruel treatment has held prisoners;
8. fair (fair and fast) trials tnr.politichkite prisoners
9. overcoming the phenomenon of discrimination on any grounds: gender, race, religion, language, political opinion, national or social origin, and others.
10. regulation of the global arms trade.

Besides the activities in these areas, Amnesty International stands for protection in zones of armed conflict, ending political killings and disappearances, ensuring prison conditions by international human rights standards, providing free education for all children in the world, breaking recruitment of child soldiers. This organization acts as a protector of human rights all over the world and its actions are not only superciliary for governments but and for all non-governmental organizations, institutions and individuals. It does not support and opposes any government or political system, and works even in cases when you do not agree with the beliefs of those whose rights are violated.

Amnesty International as mass movement for the protection of human rights operates on the principles of international solidarity, global security, human rights universality, impartiality, independence, democracy and mutual respect.

Amnesty International act through her voluntary membership, which stands for the cessation of human rights violations, by putting pressure on governments, armed groups, government

organizations, to respect the law and to apply international standards of human rights, organized a series of educational activities on human rights and encourages all non-governmental organizations, individuals and social institutions to support and respect human rights. It is his work to discover the violations of human rights used array techniques, such as pressure on public opinion and on the governments in the world by organizing various actions ranging from public demonstrations to writing letters, from human rights education to concerts to increase funds from individual appeals for help for specific cases to global campaigns for some particular examples. Despite all stated conducts research organization facts, systematic and unbiased individual cases and patterns of human rights violations through interviewing victims, observing trials, working with human rights activists and all these findings it published in the media, in letters or its website. It is also issued and periodicals, reports, educational materials for the rights of man and other rights-protective literature. In these publications are published cases of violation of human rights in the world, and their readers she proposes to send letters of support for victims of inhuman acts. By taking the above actions by Amnesty International give good results in the fight for human rights. Amnesty International on its work and activities submitted official messages or reports end of each year and through them send messages to all the world's governments to ensure decent, persistent, respect and realization of human rights anywhere in the world.

2. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Amnesty International as a protector of human rights all over the world campaigns and organize public demonstrations in order to promote and protect human rights. That through its membership worldwide campaigns to stop torture and promotion of safety, for the protection of women, the abolition of the death penalty, to control the use of weapons for the protection of refugees, protection azilcite victims protection campaign from poverty and others.

- CAMPAIGN “WAR ON TERROR”

The so-called "anti-terror" is one of the key campaigns which was conducted by Amnesty International. Amnesty International campaign so called "Anti-terror" began on June 26, 2005 and it applies to all governments that there is evidence that use raw violent interrogation methods used torture and various inhuman and degrading treatment in detention. This campaign strives to unite

governments in their activities in the fight against torture in order to confront the harsh reality that is consequence turturata.

Namely terrorism over the past decade has led to a violation of all human rights everywhere in the world. Although terrorism is not a new phenomenon, "fight against terror" leads in order to exert pressure on governments to protect their citizens who are facing threats and demand their rights. Amnesty Intrnational requires all governments to find common ground in the fight against terrorism and responsible to take actions to uphold international law and to argue for an absolute ban on the use of torture.

By running this campaign Amnesty Intrnational sends the following messages:

- The use of torture and any form of cruel or inhuman behavior is not justified;
- Violence and the use of harsh treatments must stop;
- The use of force does not increase the security of citizens;
- Torture only serves to perform violence and it is a form of terror;
- Closure of all illegal prisons, where it cruel and inhumane treatment and enabling all people to have full, honest and fair trial or be released;
- All calls for torture and cruel treatment to be fully investigated by impartial authorities.

But records and evidence show that states continue to use force and cruel treatment rather than to fight for their abolition. Such countries are Egypt, Syria, Afghanistan and America. Unlike them key leaders who actively combat terrorism and who have successfully lead this campaign England and some European countries.

Amnesty Intrnational addressed to President-elect Obama's America and asked the human rights to be at the center of its work program. She called the president and his administration to take concrete steps in the first 100 days of that basic is to announce the plan and the date of closure of the illegal prison Gvatanamo in Cuba, issued an executive order to ban torture and other cruel treatments such as specified in international law and to establish an independent commission to investigate abuses caused by the U.S. government determined campaign against terror. According to the report, Obama was able to make reforms on human rights in America and to clear up the past by taking actions to prevent terror and to restore security in the Americas.

- **CAMPAIGN "TERMINATION OF ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN" - STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Violence against women is often ignored and rarely punished and is the biggest scandal of human rights violations today. Experiences and threats of violence affect the lives of women everywhere, regardless of their race, religion, social status, education. Women and girls suffer disproportionately from violence and abuse, they are beaten, raped, осакатувани and killed while in a state of peace and times of war, in the hands of the state, society and family.

Starting from the idea to protect women, March 5, 2004 Amnesty International begins a global campaign to stop violence against women. This runs a campaign based on the definition in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the elimination of violence against women, according to which violence against women is: *"any procedure which causes psychological, sexual or psychological harm, injury or suffering to women, including forced or willful deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life."*

Amnesty International through this campaign focuses on ending violence against women, ranging from domestic violence to violence against women in armed conflicts, the two most dangerous areas of the violence of the suffering millions of women around the world. Ultimate goal of this campaign is to create a world in which women and girls will enjoy the basic human rights. ***⁵Life free from violence is a basic human right.*** Although this right is defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, yet his advanced interpretation shows that this definition is missing because it does not cover and does not sanction all forms of violence against women. So it should be extended to include the following types of violations of women also represent violence, such as: domestic violence, violence against women in society and discrimination against women by the state. Violence against women can be physical, psychological or sexual violence that are prevalent worldwide.

Amnesty International by running this campaign is pushing for the implementation of violence against women in all existing rights and providing legal protection to all forms of violence, seek to end gender discrimination against women and this campaign managed to protect women.

– CAMPAIGNS TO CONTROL THE USE OF WEAPONS TRAFFICKING IN WEAPONS -CONTROL ARMS AND ARMS TRADE

Unregulated global arms trade causes misery and suffering around the world. Every year millions of people suffer as a result of unregulated global arms trade. Millions of people daily live with fear that they can be killed⁶. Today there are about 639 million peace weapons and eight

⁵ Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 3, December 10 1948

⁶ www.controlarms.org, www.iansa.org, www.oxfam.org

million of them are produced each year. This data is daunting, it is assumed that if this continued until 2020, the number of war victims to surpass dead prichineteti deadly outbreaks of malaria and measles. So if you do not take strict control over the production and use of weapons, it will continue to be used in violent conflicts, state learning, crime and performing family violence. If governments take action to stop the trade in and use of weapons many lives will be lost and many human rights would be violated, and the availability of weapons will increase and as a consequence will continue wars and many people will be tortured and forced to homes. Wicked arms trafficking, wars and abuses can and must be stopped. This is a global problem that faces the world and it takes a global, common solution. So Amnesty International together with IANSA-Internacional Action Network on Small Arms and Oxfarm Internacional conducts a campaign CONTROL ARMS in order to force governments to adopt laws that would regulate the production of weapons and weapons will disrupt world trade order to protect people from armed violence, the military, security forces, armed groups and criminal gangs. They through this campaign urging governments worldwide to make a joint decision on the termination of the use of weapons. According to them, in trade and the use of weapons should all adhere to the same rules taking into account the rights chovekot. In 2006, 153 governments voted wholeheartedly for conducting negotiations to reach an international agreement to control the arms trade, order to put an end to this deadly trade. After two years of voting still see suffering and killings and wait for governments to fulfill the promise to bring mutual agreement. Governments must start statutory negotiations to arrange the arms trade and to ensure that they will implement them as soon as possible in the time that is necessary to help end armed crises. According to Amnesty International, governments must to sign and to ratify international agreement on arms trade, so that he entered into force, which is desperately needed to save lives and to protect human rights. Amnesty International with this campaign published many reports and organizes meetings with over 100 organizations in over 40 countries around the world in order to unite the people to ask their governments to take action on international arms control. This campaign began in October 2003 and has since received support from more than a million people worldwide, and the vote of the General Assembly of the United Nations found that this campaign ie the resolution came into force to adopt an international agreement on world trade arms voted 153 governments as a step towards the achievement of the goals of this campaign.

- CAMPAIGNS AIMED AT ABOLISHING THE DEATH PENALTY

Thousands of people around the world are waiting to be killed by their governments. Amnesty International organized this campaign to put an end to these killings across the world. Amnesty

International opposes the death penalty because it constitutes a violation of two fundamental human rights as guaranteed with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and they are Article 3 and Article 5:

- The right to life and
- Right nobody to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The death penalty is the ultimate most cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment which by its type is irreversible and it cannot affect correctional among prisoners in relation to the commission of criminal offenses. Amnesty International opposes the imposition of the death penalty from the beginning of its implementation on the political prisoners but over time it opposes imposing the death penalty for anyone who is sentenced to death. In 1971 Amnesty International demands of the United Nations and the Council of Europe to make all possible efforts to abolish the death penalty worldwide. International Conference on the Death Penalty, held in Stockholm in 1977, only 16 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes. Today this figure amounted to 80 countries. In 1989 Amnesty International organized global campaign against the death penalty and started to work on the abolition of this cruel punitive measure by developing warnings laws, collecting information on the use of the death penalty throughout the world and has developed a program of work against the death penalty in cooperation with other human rights organizations and governments. In 2000 the project Moratorium Amnesty International together with several organizations presented the Secretary-General of the United Nations, more than three million signatures in support of the campaign for complete abolition of the death penalty worldwide. Amnesty International leading the campaign especially fighting for the execution of children, or the abolition of the death penalty on juvenile perpetrators - who at the time of the crime were under 18 years of age. Execution against children is prohibited in international law, the Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified most world countries except Somalia and the United States continued to condemn children to death. ⁷In The Convention of Children Rights in Article 37 stipulates that: ***"No child cannot be subject to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisoned without the possibility of release can give u dealt culprit-offender who is younger than 18 years."*** Amnesty International since 2000 has revealed 26 cases of execution of children across five states and they are Pakistan, China, Iran, Congo and America. On executions Amnesty International special advocates abolishing executions of child perpetrators throughout the world and especially focused on the abolition of executions in Iran and Pakistan. This campaign is of great importance for America 30 years that uses the death penalty and in January 2007 in America were 1059 executions of which one third

⁷ artical.37 of the United Nations Convention for the Protection of Children, www.undemocracy.com

were in Texas, which marked the 30 anniversary of the execution in the U.S. criminal legal system. In these thirty years, 70 countries have abolished executions and 128 countries and turned back court killings. No through campaign efforts they be abolished in America. There are signs that America is slowly turning against the death penalty that arises from the fact that in 2006 were carried out 53 executions, which is the lowest number in the last ten years and reduced the death sentences.

Amnesty International and all supporters of this campaign believe that the death penalty has no place in a modern criminal justice system and that it is not a correctional measure for prisoners.

CONCLUSION

Amnesty International as massive international organization for the protection of human rights on December 10, 2008 together with all human rights advocates celebrated the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Universal Declaration set the basic principles for the protection of human rights at the heart of all international organizations that fight for the promotion, protection and realization of human rights. It cause significant progress in human rights, creating international standards for human rights, laws and institutions have improved thanks to which many lives anywhere in the globe today and after 60 years there are still violations and abuses of human rights and therefore Amnesty International its latest report, which he called **"60 years of human rights failure - governments must apologize and act now,"** appeals to governments and world leaders requiring them to apologize to the 60 years of human rights failure and inability to argue for specific improvements. It urged them to take concrete steps to solve problems, not just to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The 2008 report of Amnesty International about the state of human rights in the world begins with the ⁸words: Human Rights in Darfur, Zimbabwe, Iraq and Myanmar demand immediate action. Injustice, inequality and impunity marks world today. Governments must act now to stop staring space between promises and realized.

The report shows that 60 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations, people are still tortured and ill-treated in at least 81 countries, face unfair trials in at least 54 countries and are not allowed to speak freely in at least 77 countries. According to

⁸ Statement by the Secretary General of Amnesty International, Irene Caine, 60anniversary the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 2008.

Amnesty International 2007 was characterized by the inability of Western governments and the unwillingness of the authorities to urgently acceptance of some of the worst human rights crisis worldwide, ranging captured trenches erupted into inequalities in living millions. Amnesty International warned that the most intimidating and threatening the future of human rights is the absence of a shared vision and joint lead. According to Amnesty International 2008 is the year which is a favorable opportunity for the coming to power of new leaders and new leaders principles are emerging on the world stage and to set up a new government that should act chaotic policies and practices that in recent years has made the world more dangerous and separated place. It prompted governments to set up a new headquarters for joint leadership based on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The report 2008 Amnesty International specifically warned that world leaders are able to refuse, but their failure to act has a high cost. As is the case with Iraq and Afghanistan, human rights problems are not isolated tragedies, but more like viruses that can infect and spread very quickly and not to endanger us all. Governments today must demonstrate compliance in outlook, courage and determination principles 60 years ago, led the United Nations to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. More growing demands of the people for justice, freedom and equality, so people will be angry and will not be quiet, not silent as world leaders ignore their pleas for help.

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