



# BAGGRUND OM LANDE – SKRIV FOR LIV 2016

Dette dokument er udarbejdet som en inspirationskilde til at arbejde med Skriv for Liv-sagerne i undervisningen. Det bygger primært på informationer fra Amnestys seneste årsrapport 2015/2016.

Formålet er at give lidt mere viden om, hvordan de sagsrelevante menneskerettigheder bliver krænket i landene.

Udover de udvalgte afsnit henviser vi også til rapporter og pressemeddelelser, hvor du kan læse mere. Du kan også bruge søgetjenesterne på vores internationale hjemmeside [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org) eller den danske [www.amnesty.dk](http://www.amnesty.dk) til at finde mere om sagen, krænkelserne og om landene generelt.

Vi håber, at du kan bruge dokumentet.

# CAMEROON



## Annual report 2015/2016 introduction

The armed group Boko Haram disrupted the lives of thousands of people in northern Cameroon, committing crimes under international law including unlawful killings, attacks against civilian objects, misappropriation of property and assets, looting and abductions. In an attempt to prevent Boko Haram from capturing territory, security forces carried out arbitrary arrests, detentions, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions of suspected members of the group.

## Abuses by armed groups

Boko Haram committed crimes under international law and human rights abuses, including suicide bomb attacks in civilian areas, summary executions, torture, hostage taking, abductions, the recruitment of child soldiers, looting and destruction of public, private and religious property. These crimes appear to be part of a systematic attack against the civilian population across both northeastern Nigeria and the Far North in Cameroon. According to the UN, 770 civilians were killed and some 600 women and girls abducted by Boko Haram in Cameroon since 2013. Many schools were also targeted, leaving 35,000 children without access to education since 2014.

## Anti-terrorism law

Cameroon passed an anti-terrorism law in December 2014, which was subject to wide criticism from both domestic and international organizations for violating basic human rights. In addition, journalists and members of the political opposition were concerned that the law would be employed to repress dissent and limit freedom of expression.

The anti-terror law contains a vague and overbroad definition of terrorism, which might allow the authorities to criminalize peaceful political dissent and various other actions, including the exercise of the rights to peaceful assembly and association. It covers acts that do not involve violence, such as property crimes, and also has an overly broad definition of the intent requirement, contrary to recommendations issued by the UN special rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism.

## Read more:

- Amnesty annual report: <http://amnesty.dk/media/2256/air201516-english.pdf>



- Cameroon: Human rights under fire: Attacks and violations in Cameroon's struggle with Boko Haram: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr17/1991/2015/en/>
- Cameroon: Right cause, wrong means: Human rights violated and justice denied in Cameroon's fight against Boko Haram: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr17/4260/2016/en/>
- Cameroon: More than 1,000 people accused of supporting Boko Haram held in horrific conditions, some tortured to death: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/07/cameroun-conditions-de-detention-effroyables-voire-tortures-a-mort-pour-plus-de-1-000-personnes-accusees-de-soutenir-boko-haram/>

# CANADA



## **The Peace River Valley**

The Peace River Valley in northeast British Columbia (BC), Canada, is a unique natural environmental and one of the very few areas in the region that has been largely preserved from the impacts of oil and gas extracting, mining and other large-scale resource development. The Peace Valley is part of the historic lands and territory of Dene-Zaa, Cree and Métis peoples. While there are no First Nations or Métis communities in the valley itself, these Indigenous peoples rely on the valley for hunting and fishing, gathering berries and sacred medicine, and holding ceremonies. Their ancestors are buried in this land.

International human rights law – and rulings by the Supreme Court of Canada – have made it clear that decisions with the potential for serious harm to the rights of Indigenous peoples should only be made with their mutual agreement, or free, prior and informed consent. The new Canadian government (which was elected in October 2015) has publicly declared its commitment to respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples as established in international law. This is the standard that should be applied to the Site C dam.

## **Indigenous Peoples' rights**

In July 2015, construction of the Site C dam in British Columbia began without addressing its impact on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Also in July, the UN Human Rights Committee called on Canada to report back within one year on progress made in addressing violence against Indigenous women and girls and protecting Indigenous land rights.

An appeal against the decision to allow the Northern Gateway Pipeline project to proceed in northern British Columbia, despite opposition from many Indigenous Peoples who depend on lands and waters potentially impacted by the project, was pending at the end of the year.

## **Read more:**

- Canada: The point of no return: The human rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada threatened by the Site C dam <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr20/4281/2016/en/>
- Honouring the intent of the treaties: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/honouring-intent-treaties>
- Amnesty annual report: <http://amnesty.dk/media/2256/air201516-english.pdf>
- Video: Human impact of Site C: <http://e-activist.com/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1770&ea.campaign.id=40607>

# EGYPT



## **Annual report 2015/2016 introduction**

The human rights situation continued to deteriorate. The authorities arbitrarily restricted the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, enacted a draconian new anti-terrorism law, and arrested and imprisoned government critics and political opposition leaders and activists, subjecting some to enforced disappearance. The security forces used excessive force against protesters, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. Detainees faced torture and other ill-treatment. Courts handed down hundreds of death sentences and lengthy prison sentences after grossly unfair mass trials.

## **Freedom of expression**

Journalists working for outlets critical of the authorities, or linked to opposition groups, were prosecuted for reporting “false news” and on other politically motivated criminal charges. Courts sentenced some to lengthy prison terms and one was sentenced to death. Individuals continued to face prosecution on criminal charges such as “defaming religion” and offending “public morals” for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.

## **Excessive use of force**

The authorities arbitrarily restricted the right to freedom of peaceful assembly under the Protest Law (Law 107 of 2013). There were fewer protests than in recent years, but security forces continued to use excessive or unnecessary force to disperse “unauthorized” demonstrations and other public gatherings, resulting in deaths and serious injuries.

## **Torture and other ill-treatment**

Detainees held by state security forces and military intelligence were tortured, including by being beaten and subjected to electric shocks and stress positions. Security forces frequently beat detainees at the time of their arrest and when transferring them between police stations and prisons. Throughout the year there were reports of deaths in custody as a result of torture and other ill-treatment and lack of access to adequate medical care.

Conditions of detention in prisons and police stations remained extremely poor. Cells were severely overcrowded and unhygienic, and in some cases officials prevented families and lawyers giving food, medicine and other items to prisoners.



## **Unfair trials**

The criminal justice system continued to serve as an instrument of state repression, with courts convicting hundreds of defendants on charges such as “terrorism”, “unauthorized protesting”, engaging in political violence and belonging to banned groups, after grossly unfair mass trials in which prosecutors did not establish the individual criminal responsibility of the defendants.

At least 3,000 civilians stood trial before unfair military courts on “terrorism” and other charges alleging political violence. Many, including leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, were tried in mass trials. Military trials of civilians are fundamentally unfair.

## **Read more:**

- Blog: Letter from Shawkan photojournalist imprisoned in Egypt <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2016/03/cruelty-insult-photojournalist-letter-egyptian-jail/>
- Shawkan’s letter: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/12/letter-from-shawkan-photojournalist-imprisoned-in-egypt/>
- Amnesty annual report: <http://amnesty.dk/media/2256/air201516-english.pdf>

# MALAWI



## **Discrimination – people with albinism**

Thousands of people with albinism live in constant fear of being abducted or killed in Malawi, where their body parts are being sold for use in ritual purposes. Ritual killings of people with albinism are influenced by superstitions and myths that their bones or body parts can bring riches.

Between December 2014 and April 2016, 18 known people with albinism were killed in Malawi, five others were abducted and their whereabouts remain unknown. At least 69 other crimes against people with albinism, including attempted abductions and opening up of graves in search of bones of dead people with albinism, have been reported between December 2014 and May 2016.

On 19 March 2015, the President issued a statement condemning attacks on people with albinism, and called on security agencies to arrest perpetrators and provide protection to people at risk of attack. The Minister of Internal Security reported that eight suspects had been arrested in connection with some of the attacks.

In May, police reported that they had arrested four men for abducting and killing Symon Mukota, a man with albinism, in December 2014. The men were caught with the deceased's bones after failing to find a buyer.

## **National legislation**

There is no specific legislation dealing with emerging threats to person with albinism (PWA). The police prosecutors mainly rely on the Penal Code as the main law for prosecution but offences listed in the Penal Code are limited in that they do not envisage the current experiences of PWA, such as exhumation of body parts for use in economic activity or witchcraft. The Police are also ill equipped and are not familiar with other laws such as the Anatomy, Disability, Child Protection, Human Trafficking Acts etc. from which charges could be sourced. Despite the presence of these pieces of legislation, they are also limited in that they do not comprehensively deal with crimes against PWA such as cutting hair and exhumation of bodies for selling of bones, hair, teeth for example. Perpetrators of crimes against PWA have often been charged with minor offences and in some cases been fined as little as 10,000 Malawi Kwacha which the equivalent of \$15. In some cases victims still live with perpetrators in their communities.

The right to life and security of people with albinism are seriously compromised in Malawi. The government has failed to guarantee these rights especially in rural areas where 85 % of Malawi's population resides. The government's response to this crisis is uncoordinated and mainly reactive, doing too little too late.



**Read more:**

- Killing spree of people with albinism fuelled by ritual practices and policing failures <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/06/malawi-killing-sprees-of-people-with-albinism-fuelled-by-ritual-practices-and-policing-failures/>
- Malawi: “We are not animals to be hunted or sold”: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr36/4126/2016/en/>
- Mission statement by UN Independent Expert on rights of Persons with albinism, after official visit to Malawi in April 2016: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=19903&LangID=E>
- Amnesty annual report: <http://amnesty.dk/media/2256/air201516-english.pdf>



# INDONESIA



## Police and security forces

Reports continued of human rights violations by police and military, including unlawful killings, unnecessary and excessive use of force, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

## Freedom of expression

Prisoners of conscience, including Johan Teterissa in Maluku, remained imprisoned for peaceful demonstrations under articles of the Indonesian Criminal Code relating to makar (rebellion). At least 27 prisoners in Papua also remained imprisoned under these articles, and 29 prisoners of conscience from Maluku remained imprisoned.

The arrest and detention of peaceful activists also continued in Papua and West Papua provinces. In May, authorities arrested 264 peaceful activists who had planned peaceful protests marking the 52nd anniversary of the handover of Papua to the Indonesian government by the UN. A further 216 members of the West Papua National Committee (KNPB) were arbitrarily detained for participating in peaceful demonstrations in support of Papua's application to join the Melanesian Spearhead Group – a sub-Pacific intergovernmental organization. While most were later released, 12 were charged for participating in the protest, including under the “rebellion” laws.

Convictions continued to be documented throughout the year of people peacefully expressing their views under laws concerning criminal defamation, blasphemy and “hate speech”.

## Read more:

- Johan Teterissa speaking to Al Jazeera in May 2008: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7ImzAnU2xl>
- Indonesia: Crackdown on freedom of expression in Maluku (Index number: ASA 21/021/2008), 17 December 2008: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa21/021/2008/en/>
- Indonesia: Jailed for waving a flag: Prisoners of Conscience in Maluku (Index: ASA 21/008/2009), 26 March 2009: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA21/008/2009/en>
- Amnesty annual report: <http://amnesty.dk/media/2256/air201516-english.pdf>

# IRAN



## **Annual report 2015/2016 introduction**

The authorities severely curtailed the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, arresting and imprisoning journalists, human rights defenders, trade unionists and others who voiced dissent, on vague and overly broad charges. Torture and other ill-treatment of detainees remained common and was committed with impunity; prison conditions were harsh. Unfair trials continued, in some cases resulting in death sentences. Women and members of ethnic and religious minorities faced pervasive discrimination in law and in practice. The authorities carried out cruel punishments, including blinding, amputation and floggings. Courts imposed death sentences for a range of crimes; many prisoners, including at least four juvenile offenders, were executed.

## **Torture and other ill-treatment**

Detainees and prisoners continued to report acts of torture and other ill-treatment, particularly during primary investigations mainly to force “confessions” or gather other incriminatory evidence.

Detainees and sentenced prisoners were denied adequate medical care; in some cases, the authorities withheld prescribed medications to punish prisoners, or failed to comply with medical doctors’ recommendations that prisoners should be hospitalized for treatment. The authorities also frequently subjected detainees and prisoners to prolonged solitary confinement amounting to torture or other ill-treatment.

Prisoners were kept in severely overcrowded and insanitary conditions with inadequate food and exposed to extreme temperatures.

## **Unfair trials**

Many trials, including some that resulted in death sentences, were grossly unfair. Prior to trial, the accused were frequently detained for weeks or months during which they had little or no access to lawyers or their families, and were coerced into writing or signing “confessions” that were then used as the main evidence against them in unfair proceedings. Judges routinely dismissed defendants’ allegations of torture and other ill-treatment in pre-trial detention without ordering investigations.

After years of deliberation, the new Code of Criminal Procedures took effect in June. It brought about some improvements, including stricter regulation of interrogations and the requirement that detainees be informed of their rights, but it was seriously weakened by amendments approved only days before its entry into force. These included an amendment that restricted the right of detainees in national security cases to be represented by lawyers of their own choosing during the often lengthy investigation phase; instead, they can only choose a lawyer approved by the Head of the Judiciary.



### **Discrimination – ethnic minorities**

Iran's disadvantaged ethnic groups, including Ahwazi Arabs, Azerbaijani Turks, Baluchis, Kurds and Turkmen, continued to report that the state authorities systematically discriminated against them, particularly in employment, housing, access to political office, and the exercise of cultural, civil and political rights. They remained unable to use their own language as a medium of instruction for primary education. Those who called for greater cultural and linguistic rights faced arrest, imprisonment, and in some cases the death penalty.

#### **Read more:**

- Health taken hostage: Cruel denial of medical care in Iran's prisons (MDE 13/4196/2016): <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4196/2016/en/>
- "Iran is putting political prisoners' lives at risk by denying them medical care": <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/07/iran-is-putting-political-prisoners-lives-at-risk-by-denying-them-medical-care/>
- Amnesty annual report: <http://amnesty.dk/media/2256/air201516-english.pdf>

# USA



## Snowden

On 20 May 2013, U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) subcontractor Edward Snowden left his home in Hawaii for Hong Kong carrying a range of NSA classified documents. These documents, which were leaked to journalists, including to The Guardian, revealed the existence of sweeping surveillance programmes operated by the NSA and UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), as well as the so-called Five Eyes alliance – a secret arrangement of spying and intelligence-sharing agreements between Australia, the USA, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. The surveillance programmes spy on most of the world's digital communications and interfere with individuals' right to privacy on a global scale.

On 14 June 2013 the U.S. Department of Justice charged Snowden with violating the Espionage Act and the theft of government property, punishable by up to 30 years in prison.

## Read more:

### About Snowden and the results of his actions

- Two years after Snowden: protecting human rights in an age of mass surveillance / report: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act30/1795/2015/en/>
- Two years after Snowden governments resist calls to end mass surveillance: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/06/two-years-after-snowden/>
- 7 ways the world has changed thanks to Edward Snowden: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2015/06/7-ways-the-world-has-changed-thanks-to-edward-snowden/>
- USA: Leaving Edward Snowden in limbo will be a stain on President Obama's legacy: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/09/leaving-edward-snowden-in-limbo-will-be-a-stain-on-president-obamas-legacy/>
- Intelligence, security and privacy – why we need the whistleblowers: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2014/05/intelligence-security-and-privacy-why-we-need-the-whistleblowers/>

### Privacy and mass surveillance

- 6 simple tools to protect your online privacy (and help you fight back against mass surveillance): <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2015/05/6-simple-tools-to-protect-your-online-privacy-and-fight-back-against-mass-surveillance/>



- 7 reasons why 'I've got nothing to hide' is the wrong response to mass surveillance: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2015/04/7-reasons-why-ive-got-nothing-to-hide-is-the-wrong-response-to-mass-surveillance/>
- Easy guide to mass surveillance: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2015/03/easy-guide-to-mass-surveillance/>
- Amnesty.dk tema på dansk: <http://amnesty.dk/emner/frihed/overvaagning> + Amnesty bladets om overvågning: <https://issuu.com/amnestybladet/docs/281114> + Amnesty bladet om whistleblowers: <https://issuu.com/amnestybladet/docs/150915>