

# YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.

Today is the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Well, happy bloody birthday, human rights.

We'd love to celebrate the fine words set forth by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948.

But they are words that could have been written a million times over in the blood of those who have been murdered, massacred and mutilated in the last 50 years.

were held without charge or trial in at least 78 countries.

Repetitive, isn't it. There's more.

13 million people are refugees.

A further 17 million people are displaced within their own countries.

300,000 children under the age of 18 - some as young as 7 years old - are being made to fight as child soldiers in 25 countries.

We say "people" and "children". Impersonal words, those.

These are real flesh-and-blood human beings like you.

Fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters.

Many of them are innocent bystanders, caught in the crossfire of political conflict or war.



EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM AND RESIDENCE WITHIN THE BORDERS OF EACH STATE.

If you're eating your breakfast while you read this, digest the following:

Last year, thousands of extrajudicial executions were carried out in at least 69 countries.

Last year, thousands of prisoners of conscience were held in at least 94 countries.



ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL IN DIGNITY AND RIGHTS.

Last year, thousands of people were "disappeared" in at least 39 countries.

Last year, tens of thousands of people were tortured in at least 124 countries.

Last year, tens of thousands of people



EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION.



NO ONE SHALL BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE OR TO CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT.

Some of them are human rights activists who are prepared to fight for their rights, maybe even die for them.

A few of them work for Amnesty International.

Men and women who risk their liberty and their lives to defend the rights of those who cannot defend themselves.

We don't ask you to risk anything.

If you join Amnesty, or send us a donation, you will not be arrested and thrown in jail.

Your children will not be abducted on their way home from school.

You will not receive threatening phone calls at four o'clock in the morning.

You are a free human being. It is your fundamental right to support us if you choose to.



EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO A FAIR AND PUBLIC HEARING BY AN INDEPENDENT AND IMPARTIAL TRIBUNAL.

Just as it is your right to ignore us, and turn the page.

After all, why should you join Amnesty? Why should you send us money?

Out of sympathy? A sense of guilt perhaps? Or maybe, just maybe, because you can make a difference.

Listen.

"For years I was held in a tiny cell. My only human contact was with my torturers. On Christmas Eve, the door to my cell opened and the guard tossed in a crumpled piece of paper. It said simply, 'Constantino, do not be discouraged. We know you are alive.' It was signed 'Monica' and had the Amnesty International candle on it. Those words saved my life and my sanity. Eight months later I was set free." Released prisoner of conscience, Paraguay.

we refuse to remain indifferent to the



NO ONE SHALL BE HELD IN SLAVERY OR SERVITUDE.

suffering of our fellow human beings.

For us, and our one million members

and supporters around

the world, the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are a constant inspiration.

Yes, you have the right to remain silent.

But the strongest voice in the world isn't that of governments, presidents, or politicians.

It's yours.

Please use it. Please fill in the coupon.



NO ONE SHALL BE SUBJECTED TO ARBITRARY ARREST, DETENTION OR EXILE.

I want to be a member of Amnesty International. Here's my annual subscription fee:

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I wish to donate \$500 £250 £100 £50 £25 £10 Other

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