









MY BODY MY RIGHTS
GLOBAL CAMPAIGN
EXIT STRATEGY UPDATE



## MY BODY MY RIGHTS EXIT STRATEGY

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## INTRODUCTION

The Exit Strategy for My Body My Rights is written to provide sections, structures and national offices as well as IS London and IS regional offices with a comprehensive overview of the status of the campaign, an overarching assessment of impact and any milestones to expect beyond the global campaign.

MBMR will close at the end of May 2016 marking two and half years of campaigning. As we move toward launching our new global campaigns it is essential that we are clear on which aspects of the current campaigns will continue, in what form and where this work will be located within Amnesty as well as having a clear understanding of how we will continue to build on and nurture existing and new partnerships.

The exit strategy will also provide colleagues with an assessment of national, regional and international advocacy, HRE work continuing beyond the campaign and finally provide useful contacts, materials and resources created for the campaign.

This document will be translated into core languages.

## MY BODY S MY RIGHTS



## MY BODY MY RIGHTS

#### **OVERVIEW**

Over the last two and a half years Amnesty International has campaigned globally to end the control and/or criminalization of sexuality and reproduction by state and non-state actors and to empower individuals to know and claim their sexual and reproductive rights. We have focused on three strands of work: decriminalizing abortion, repealing discriminatory laws, and ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services.

We have worked on these three global goals through the country-focused campaigns in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, El Salvador, Ireland, Burkina Faso, and Nepal. Information on how to continue the work in these countries as well as on reactive work in Poland, Argentina and globally linked to sexual and reproductive rights and the sustainable development goals and how we are approaching exiting our work after the global campaign comes to an end in May 2016 is included below.

A cross-cutting aspect of our work has involved initiatives to bring the voices of health professionals in to the campaign. In October 2015, Amnesty International attended the Congress of the International Federation of Gynaecologists and Obstetrics (FIGO) and organized a panel discussion on the role of health professionals as human rights defenders. On 20 November, we published an open letter, signed by more than 800 health professionals from 44 countries, calling for the decriminalization of abortion on health grounds.

#### **GLOBAL TIMELINE**

#### Key moments beyond the campaign

Beyond the global campaign, the following key dates (at the international level) will be potential moments throughout 2016 to work on MBMR/SRR-related issues:

- June 2016: Ireland petition handover: Exact date and plans to be confirmed.
- June 2016: El Salvador Teodora petition handover
- June 2016: El Salvador decriminalization of abortion petition handover
- 2 July 2016: El Salvador solidarity concert for "Las 17"
- Argentina: petition handover
- 26 September 2016: World Contraception Day
- 28 September 2016: Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion
- 11 October 2016: International Girls Day
- 20 November 2016: International Child Rights Day
- 25 November 2016: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- **2016:** The Letter Writing Marathon

#### IMPACT OF CAMPAIGN

#### Impact of the campaign on the countries of focus

#### In Burkina Faso:

• In 2015, the National Transitional Council in Burkina Faso took a significant step in relation to violence against women and girls, when it passed a new law re-defining crimes and setting out the penalties for such acts. This new law No.061-2015-CNT titled "Law on prevention, enforcement and redress on violence against women and girls ("Loi portant

- prévention, répression et réparation des violences à l'égard des femmes et des filles") contains a provision which asserts that men and boys who deny their partners their sexual and reproductive rights commit a criminal offense, punishable with a fine. The same applies to the denial of contraception, which is a criminal offense punishable with a fine.
- In December 2015, the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Family adopted a national strategy (2016-2025) and a three year action plan (2016-2018) to prevent and eliminate child marriage in Burkina Faso.
- The Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Civic Promotion has begun reviewing the Code of Persons and Family with the view of amending it to raise the legal age of marriage for girls to 18 years. The ministry will also undertake to ensure that forced marriage which is a crime under Burkina Faso's law is better defined in the penal code. The Minister also publicly recognized in a press release on 23 February 2016, that the ministry had been receiving many letters, emails and correspondence from all over the world regarding early and forced marriages.
- The report was launched on 26 April at a press conference which lead to national and international media coverage by about 400 media outlets with interviews by including RFI, BBC, VOA, Reuters, AFP, Channel Africa and RFI English.
- The Minister of Justice congratulated Amnesty International on the success
  of the MBMR campaign including W4R. According to him, it was impressive
  how Amnesty challenged the authorities on the issue of early and forced
  marriage with thousands of letters and postcards received.
- The adoption of laws on forced and early marriage is expected by the end of 2016.
- The President of the National Assembly (MP's) planned to use the recommendations of the report to propose laws (without waiting for the government to submit a bill) to be voted on at the next session of MPs.
- After two advocacy meetings on sexual and reproductive rights with the Belgium Embassy in Burkina, a Belgian corporation has given 9 billion XOF (approximately GBP10.6 million) to the Government of Burkina Faso to improve access to contraception and family planning for girls and women.
- Several members of the transitional government the President of the transitional government, the Minister of Justice, the President of the CNT (national assembly) pledged their support to the "My Body My Rights" manifesto produced by Amnesty Burkina Faso. By supporting the manifesto, they expressed their support to the call to address barriers to sexual and reproductive health for women and girls in Burkina Faso and committed to work with the new government, once in office, for this engagement to become a reality. Three other candidates to the presidential elections also promised to consider giving their support. The Mogho Naba, the traditional King also met with Amnesty International and signed the manifesto, committing to address barriers to sexual and reproductive rights for women and girls.
- The launch of the campaign in Burkina Faso attracted about 30 civil society organizations who welcomed the campaign and signed the manifesto and committed to working with Amnesty Burkina Faso on MBMR-related issues.

#### In Ireland:

- More information on abortion laws as well as on the human rights impact of
  the current restrictive abortion law is now available to the public in Ireland
  and in other key countries in Europe. We have contributed to more personal
  stories about abortion experiences being shared. This has had a significant
  impact on the discourse on abortion in Ireland. There has also been a more
  positive response by the media to personal stories about abortion
  experiences.
- Pressure on the Irish government for the repeal of abortion laws and the
  decriminalization of abortion has been generated in Ireland and
  internationally. Following the launch of the report on abortion in Ireland in
  June 2015, the campaign successfully built momentum in the country,
  generating huge media coverage and significant political debate and
  engagement.
- Public support for the decriminalization of abortion has increased. We generated important new information on public attitudes in Ireland to the criminalization of abortion, which was greatly welcomed by Irish NGOs and activists. Results of a poll (undertaken in May 2015 with the research and marketing group, RedC) released in July highlighted that only 9% of people knew that abortion carries a possible 14-year prison sentence in Ireland, and 67% agreed that abortion should be decriminalized. 81% of people polled support expanding Ireland's abortion laws in line with human rights standards.
- At the International Council meeting on 6 August 2015, Amnesty Ireland and the International Secretariat (IS) organized a stunt outside the Taoiseach Enda Kenny's offices, the target of our petition. We were joined by 50 International Council Meeting (ICM) delegates from over 20 countries. The stunt garnered significant media attention in Ireland and drew attention to the amount of women who feel forced to leave Ireland to access a safe and legal abortion. At the stunt, we had 80 suitcases the suitcases representing the number of women who travel to England and Wales each week to access an abortion. The suitcases featured baggage stickers stating *She is not a Criminal*, which has been our key message on the Ireland campaign and which reflects the sentiment that women and girls, who want to get an abortion, are made to feel like criminals due to Ireland's restrictive abortion law.
- We have received strong support from health professionals to our call on the decriminalization of abortion, including in Ireland. We worked on an Open Letter with health professionals that we have been working closely with, including (but not limited to) doctors in Ireland, to show the support from health professionals and counter the popular claim that the criminalization of abortion does not impact the quality of the medical care that women and girls receive. Over 800 gynaecologists, nurses, midwives and other health professionals have signed the open letter and expressed their strong support for the decriminalization of abortion including in Ireland. The letter received coverage on the day of its release by more than 20 offline and online newspapers in Ireland and the UK, including the Irish Times, the Guardian, and the BBC world news.

- We have also progressed on our long-term, overarching objective to see the repeal of the laws that criminalize abortion or information on abortion (the 8th Amendment of the Irish Constitution and Section 9 of the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act (PLDPA) 2013). Political parties' positions have changed slightly towards at least agreeing to engage in the debate about the decriminalization of abortion and we have definitely facilitated this change. A general election on 26 February resulted in no political party receiving a majority and negotiations for a colaition were needed to form a government. Following 70 days of negioations, the new government, which is led by Fine Gael with the support of Independents, has committed to establishing a Citizens' Assembly on the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution.
- During the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Ireland, session 25, in May, there was a commitment from the Tánaiste, the Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland, and the Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD, to review Ireland's restrictive abortion laws. During the UPR, Ireland's human rights record was examined by other UN member states for the second time. Many expressed concerns about human rights protections regarding a wide range of issues. Ireland was questioned by a large number of states on its restrictive abortion laws with clear recommendations being made to bring them in line with international human rights standards. Ireland is to expand access to abortion, decriminalize abortion, provide women and girls with full information on abortion services, and amend its Constitution.

In **the Maghreb**, the sub-regional dimension of the project was well received and led to some positive emulation and co-operation among sections in the region.

#### In Algeria:

- Our briefing calling for comprehensive reforms to end sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls (MDE 28/010/2014) was launched on 25 November 2014, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Amnesty International Algeria organized a press conference in Algiers which generated strong media coverage, with more than 50 articles and 10 TV programmes covering the launch. The briefing was well received by women's rights organizations, which is a particularly noteworthy achievement as women's rights groups have been hostile to Amnesty International due to their perception of our work in the 1990s during Algeria's internal armed conflict. Women's rights organizations subsequently started to engage with Amnesty Algeria on proposed amendments to the Penal Code to enhance the protection of women from domestic violence and sexual harassment.
  - In December 2015, Algeria's upper house of Parliament approved amendments to the Penal Code aimed at improving women's protection from some forms of violence. These amendments represent an important step in the right direction by notably criminalizing physical and/or psychological violence against a spouse as specific offences and broadening the current provisions on sexual harassment. They however allow a spouse

responsible for theft, coercion, intimidation or violence (unless causing permanent disability or death) to escape prosecution if the victim forgives them. Amnesty International was amongst the first NGOs to publicly reiterate its calls and concerns ahead of the vote. This generated good national media coverage (nine articles and one TV interview).

#### In Morocco/Western Sahara:

- The amendment of Articles 475, 494, 495, 496 of the Penal Code in 2014 provided stronger safeguards for women against violence and put an end to impunity of rapists from punishment. In March 2015, King Mohammed VI called on the government to provide a draft bill aimed at reforming the abortion law.
- Breaking the silence on the subject of sexual and reproductive rights in conversation with young people made it possible for them to identify with the objectives of the campaign and get involved in the training of other young people.
- Greater involvement of civil society organizations in advocacy and lobbying activities in order to amend discriminatory laws and pass laws that criminalize violence against women and protect victims.
- Wide debates took place in the media on sexual and reproductive rights, which is considered one of the most sensitive issues in the society, on topics such as abortion, rape within marriage, LGBTI rights.
- Open discussions and workshops at the level of parliament to amend discriminatory articles in the Criminal Code.

#### In Tunisia:

- On 18 November 2014, the MBMR Maghreb petition was handed over to Neila Chaabane, Tunisia's Secretary of State for Women and Family Affairs, and Mohamed Salah Ben Ammar, Minister of Health, at a round table conference on sexual violence organized by Amnesty International in Tunis. The event was a tremendous success, with both ministers attending in person and pledging support to our campaign – an unprecedented commitment.
- With approximately 100 participants, the event also brought newly-elected members of parliament as well as delegates from the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice; prominent Tunisian activists, including representatives from national and regional women's rights organizations as well as UN agencies, INGOs and the Council of Europe.
- Media coverage in French and Arabic was very good, with more than 25 articles and TNN TV coverage.
- On 3 December 2015, Amnesty International organized a press conference in Tunis to mark the launch of its report Assaulted and accused. Sexual and gender-based violence in Tunisia. Around 50 people attended the press conference. The event was originally planned for 25 November but had to be postponed following an attack on a bus carrying members of the Presidential Guard in central Tunis on 24 November. Twelve people died and many more

- were injured. Given the circumstances, there was a relatively good turnout from national media and civil society at the press conference.
- An email-to-target action was directed at the Prime Minister of Tunisia. The action closed at the end of March 2016. Sections also collected more than 12.800 offline signatures in total.

#### In El Salvador:

- Launching the report in San Salvador in September 2014 via a high level mission which enabled Salil Shetty and other Amnesty delegates to hold advocacy meetings with representatives of government in El Salvador.
- Advocacy work undertaken by Amnesty sections and structures resulted in 11 member states making 14 recommendations on the total ban on abortion and the impisonment of women on pregnancy-related charges at El Salvador's UPR in 2014.
- A "Super Urgent Action" was run for "Guadalupe", a 25-year-old Salvadoran woman who was imprisoned on pregnancy-related charges, in early in 2015. She was pardoned in January 2015 and released from prison in February.
- Meetings were held with the President of El Salvador, the President of the Legislative Assembly, and the President of the Supreme Court in April 2015 to hand over a petition signed by 300,000 people from around the world.
- We are currently providing legal support to assist Agrupacion, our partners on the ground, to file appeals for the commutation of sentence for the remaining women in the group of "Las 17", women and girls who have been imprisoned on abortion-related charges. This support included the preparation of the appeal for the commutation of Teodora's sentence, which Agrupacion submitted on 18 November 2015.
- We have generated media coverage of the issue in El Salvador and raised awareness of the issue. This includes the work done to bring the voices of health professionals into the debate by publishing an open letter from health professionals around the world.
- We supported Agrupación's Christmas dinner which raised money to support
  personal expenses of imprisoned women and their families. The money is
  used for example to pay for hygiene kits, school materials for women who
  are currently studying in prison, or families' fares to the prison.
- The sculpture, "Global Solidarity for the Freedom of Las 17", is ready to be installed and donated to the city of San Salvador. We are currently deciding with the Major's office where in the city to install it. Agrupación Ciudadana and Amnesty are jointly promoting the installation. The sculpture will be presented together with the Mayor in a public event. It is supposed to encourage further dialogue about the abortion ban. We received more than 10,000 ribbons from sections in solidarity with imprisoned women. On the day of the installation launch, we will attach the ribbons to the sculpture.
- A rock concert in solidarity with women in El Salvador was going to be held on 1 April in San Salvador but had to be postponed due to Natalia Lafourcade, the multi-award winning Mexican singer, being ill. The concert will now be held on 2 July. At the concert, 20 local and international youth organizations will participate in an NGO fair where they will promote their

- work. The audience will mostly be young people, aged 15-25. With this concert, we are targeting new audiences who usually do not get involved in human rights issues.
- On 20 May A court decided to release Maria Teresea Rivera, a woman who spent four years in jail in El Salvador for miscarrying her pregnancy (one of "Las 17"). It is yet another step towards justice in the country. During the trial, one of Maria Teresa's bosses testified against her saying she knew she was pregnant in January 2011. This would have made her 11 months pregnant by the time the miscarriage took place. The outrageous testimony was used as one of the pieces of evidence to convict her. The release came after a judge ruled there was not enough evidence to prove the charges against her. Upon her release Maria Teresa said, "I want to thank everyone who supported me and who never left me alone... everyone who believed in me and always said that I was innocent even though you did not know me... this was very special for me, I really want to thank you... I am very grateful with God and with every men and women who have been following my case, with that lighted candle, and who had hope that I would be free, that made me feel full of strength... because how could you believe it being outside and I didn't... I had to believe it too... Every one of you represent an angel that God sent to my life at the most important moment, when I needed it the most. Thank you to each of you."

#### ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT LIST

Operational plan (OP) projects from 2016 onwards referencing and/or including work on sexual and reproductive rights and LGBTI issues.

#### **West Africa**

#### Early and Forced Marriage in West Africa:

- In 2016-2019, the West Africa team will work on Early and Forced Marriage in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Côte d'Ivoire.
- A Human Rights Education (HRE) Project on Early and Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) will be implemented in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone, co-ordinated by Amnesty International UK, Amnesty International Burkina Faso and Amnesty International Sierra Leone.

#### Sierra Leone: Shamed and Blamed: Pregnant Girls' Rights at Risk in Sierra Leone:

 Until the end of 2016 the West Africa Anglophone team will continue work on its project: Shamed and Blamed: Pregnant Girls' Rights at Risk in Sierra Leone.

#### Latin America

#### Americas Regional Sexual and Reproductive rights:

 A report was published on 7 March, looking at discriminatory laws and practices impacting on sexual and reproductive rights in Latin American countries. Case studies on the following countries are included Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, El Salvador and Dominican Republic. A regional campaign on sexual and reproductive rights was launched in conjunction with the report launch.

#### Global

## Securing the Human Rights of Women and Girls, Criminalization of Sexuality and Reproduction:

• The Gender and Sexuality Unit will continue to work on the rights of women and girls in all regions via several projects. They will support projects and initiatives led by regional teams and relevant sections (in Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and, Americas regions).

#### Areas of work carried forward by country/region

#### Global

Accountability for the implentation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

#### Europe (ECA)

- Amnesty International Ireland's: campaign to repeal the 8th Amendment will
  continue for the next two years at least. Until the end of 2016, support will be
  provided to Amnesty Ireland to continue this work, including support from the
  Europe and Central Asia (ECA) programme and the Law and Policy programme
  as and when relevant.
- **Poland:** As part of the efforts to prevent the enactment of a restrictive proposal to restrict the right of women and girls to access safe and legal to abortion services, AI Poland plans to collect photos from all around the world with solidarity messages both in English or Polish to show the international outcry towards such proposal.

#### Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

- Maghreb: Work on sexual and reproductive rights in the Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco/Western Sahara and Tunisia) will continue as "legacy work" through advocacy and campaiging activities with specific focus on legal reforms.
- Algeria: The Algeria team will continue to monitor and react to legislative
  developments, including the proposed review of the Penal Code to enhance the
  protection of women from domestic violence and sexual harassment in 2016
  and proposed amendments to the Family Code (subject to legislative calendar).
  It will also work to ensure that parliament adopts a law to combat sexual and
  gender-based violence.
- Morocco/ Western Sahara: Current plans to reform the judiciary provide the Moroccan authorities with a unique opportunity to amend discriminatory articles and ensure women and girls, as well as boys and men, are protected from all forms of violence, including sexual violence. The Morocco/Western Sahara team will react to four upcoming key pieces of legislation when the drafts of these are made public (Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, draft law on violence against women and specific plans to revise Penal Code articles on access to abortion). Amnesty International Morocco will also be focusing on HRE projects, with public campaigning taking place on key international days.
- **Tunisia:** The Tunisia team will keep working towards ensuring that the Tunisian authorities carry out comprehensive legislative reforms and, in particular, that

they adopt a comprehensive law to combat violence against women and girls through advocacy and campaigning opportunities as well as media outputs. Amnesty International Tunisia will also be focusing on HRE initiatives.

**In the Maghreb**, country teams will also work on the following projects and areas of work that are not related to sexual and reproductive rights:

- Algeria: Lifting restrictions on freedom of expression, association and assembly.
- Morocco/Western Sahara: Lifting restrictions on freedom of expression, association and assembly.
- **Tunisia**: Holding Tunisia's security forces to account.
- Tunisia: Marwan, a 22-year-old gay man in Tunisia, was given a prison sentence because he 'confessed' to being gay. Police officers questioning Marwan threatened to rape him and conducted an intrusive examination to 'prove' he had engaged in sexual acts with a man. Work on this case will continue.

#### In Latin America (AMR)

- A report was published on 7 March, looking at discriminatory laws and practices impacting on sexual and reproductive rights in Latin American countries. Case studies on the following countries are included Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, El Salvador and Dominican Republic. A regional campaign on sexual and reproductive rights was launched in conjunction with the report launch.
- Amnesty International Chile has been campaigning for the decriminalization in Chile since June 2015. This work will continue late into 2016. The project had its first breakthrough on 4 August 2015 when Congress' Health Commission approved the idea of legislating on abortion, which opened the debate within the Health Commission. The second break-through came on 17 March 2016, when the Chamber of Deputies approved the legislation, needing approval by the Senate to become law.
- In June, **Amnesty International Peru** launched the campaign "Against their will" ("Contra su voluntad") demanding reparations and justice for women who were forcibly sterilized in Peru during the 1990s. The campaign's main objective initially had been for the Peruvian President to create a single register of victims to make clear the real number of women forcibly sterilized. This has now happened and the campaign has moved on to ask the Peruvian President to ensure that the new register is adequately funded and implemented. This campaign will continue into 2016.
- HRE Project on Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Chile, Peru and Argentina (2016-2020). This project, led by Amnesty sections, aims to ensure that young people know and are able to claim their sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) and make informed decisions about their own bodies and sexuality. It will train young people on their rights and create a network that will campaign on SRR issues.
- The 2016 work on **youth and activism from the Mexico regional office** will focus on engaging young people on SRR issues mainly in Central America and on movement building in the Caribbean.

• Argentina: Al Argentina and the UA team are preparing an update of the Belen UA (sentenced to eight years in prison accused of murder, following a miscarriage) to reflect recent developments. Al Argentina is also preparing an open letter to the Ministry of Justice about the case. Sections are encouraged to reach out to the Argentina diplomatic representation in your country to discuss the case and to use the letter as guide/talking points as well as an opportunity to present the signatures you might have collected on the case (please continue to send your final signatures to Al Argentina who will compile and hand them over to the Argentinean authorities). Belen's lawyer has highlighted the positive effect that the publicity around her case has had on her personally as she has been amazed by the level of support she has had. We would like to encourage sections who have the capacity to send solidarity postcards/letters to her via Al Argentina.

## **COUNTRIES OF FOCUS**

#### **BURKINA FASO**



#### Status and rationale (what continues, what doesn't and why)

By the end of the Global Campaign in May 2016, we aim to have attracted public and political support for women's and girls' access to contraceptive services, information, and products as well as have sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) laws

enforced in Burkina Faso. With a new President inaugurated on 29 December 2015 and a new government in place since 12 January 2016, we hope to get a declaration of support for the total exemption of fees for contraception and a public commitment for the removal of key barriers to girls' and women's access to contraception services, information and products. We hope that this will be part of wider efforts of the government to ensure that SRR-related laws are enforced. At the global level, sections and structures, in particular Amnesty Belgium, Amnesty France, Amnesty Spain, Amnesty Italy, AI UK Amnesty USA and Amnesty Canada have successfully promoted the petition targeting the new government and asking for access to contraception for all women and girls in Burkina Faso. They will have gathered at least 90,000 signatures by the time the petition closes.

Beyond the global campaign, we work with other local and national authorities, traditional and religious leaders, as well as communities for:

- a positive change in discriminatory attitudes towards women and girls with regards to the use of contraception;
- a positive change towards women and girls becoming free to make decisions about marriage and children, as a result of having increased information on contraception and increased autonomy with regards to accessing sexual and reproductive health services, in accordance with human rights standards.

Between 2010 and 2015, Amnesty has worked on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) documenting cases and doing advocacy on sexual and reproductive rights in the region and mainly in Burkina Faso ("Demand Dignity" campaign on Maternal Health and "My Body My Rights" campaign). Our "My Body My Rights" campaign has helped make advances in Burkina Faso and we will go further by using the report recommendations to do advocacy work targeting Burkina Faso's new authorities, around key dates and through advocacy with international and African institutions.

#### ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

Burkina Faso receives bilateral aid from several countries and institutions. Some sections have some level of influence on Burkina Faso and we encourage them to continue to lobby their governments and development agencies (for more details please refer to Strategy Circulars (Index: AFR 60/1974/2015 and AFR 60/3689/2016)

#### SECTION MOBILIZATION ON EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE (EFM)

In 2016-2017, the West Africa team will develop a project on EFM. This project will provide a way to contribute to changes in other countries in the West Africa region and to address a practice still widespread in the region. The number of girls forcibly married will double by 2050 if we do not act. The project on EFM focusses on Burkina Faso, Mali and Cote d'Ivoire. The West Africa team and Amnesty International Burkina Faso will also continue to work on the case of Maria ("Individual at Risk" case) to illustrate the issue. Beyond the global campaign, all engaged sections will be invited by the regional office to mobilize their members to take action, including to put pressure on the new government of Burkina Faso to realise their commitments before the end of 2016.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We will continue to work with communities in Burkina Faso, with youth groups and with local associations, including through human rights education work. We will work with local civil society and communities to contribute to positive change in discriminatory attitudes towards women and girls with regards to sexual and reproductive rights. This work will be mostly done by AI Burkina with the support AI UK (DFID project).

#### Key moments beyond the campaign

- June 2016: Film festival Ciné Droit Libre in Burkina Faso
- 3 June 2016 : ECOWAS meeting in Dakar
- 16 June 2016: International Day of the African Child
- July 2016 (exact date tbc): African Union Summit
- 26 September 2016: World Contraception Day
- 11 October 2016: International Girls' Day
- 25 November 2016: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- January 2017: One year anniversary President Roch Kabore presidency (to remind him of his commitments)

#### Useful contacts

Sections who wish to continue to engage with the work on Burkina Faso as specified above should contact:

Kiné Fatim Diop, West Africa Campaigner (<u>kinefatim.diop@amnesty.org</u>) Gaëtan Mootoo, Researcher West Africa (<u>g.mootoo@amnesty.org</u>)

#### Materials and useful links

See "Resources" list below

#### **KEY CASES**

#### Early and forced marriage in Burkina Faso

#### Status of the case

The case of Maria, a young girl who lives in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso and was forced to marry a much older man when she was 13 years old, aims to highlight the issue of early and forced marriage. In Burkina Faso, girls as young as 11 or 12 are married so that their parents can benefit from the dowry ("dot" or bride price, from the man or his family, to the bride's family). Once these young girls are married the decision about whether and, if so, when to have children, and the decision about family planning is almost always made by the husbands with little or no consideration for the wives' wishes.

(For more information on the issue of early and forced marriage in Burkina Faso, please refer to the casefile)

#### **Action plan**

We are encouraging mobilization in this case beyond the end of the global campaign, as the case will remain open as an "Individuals at Risk" case. The petition on early and forced mariage remains open until October 2016. If Burkina Faso's authorities do not realize their commitments, we will send a new petition on the international Day of the Girl Child on 11 October.

#### **Contact teams**

For more information on the case and opportunities for action around it beyond the Letter Writing Marathon, sections should contact the West Africa team at the Dakar Regional Office.

#### Useful links

The portfolio is available at:

https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/display/IAR/Girls+forced+into+early+marriages+in+Burkina+Faso

#### INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

#### Overview – assessment of existing and potential partners

Amnesty International Burkina Faso works with several civil society organizations, shelters and other relevant stakeholders in Burkina Faso and at the regional level, for the work on sexual and reproductive rights.

#### Advice for sections on how to have conversations with partners

Sections should contact the Burkina Faso team and Amnesty International Burkina Faso for an exhaustive list of partners and to engage/work with any partner in Burkina Faso or West Africa in relation to the work on sexual and reproductive rights.

#### **Contact teams**

- Kiné Fatim Diop, West Africa Campaigner (kinefatim.diop@amnesty.org)
- Yves Boukary Traoré, Director of Amnesty Burkina Faso (yves.traore@amnestyburkina.org)

#### NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

#### **National Advocacy**

The aim is that the new elected President and other relevant Ministers discuss the report findings and the key recommendations. The Burkina Faso team will work to remind the new authorities of the commitments taken when they were election candidates, in the case of the candidates who signed the "My Body My Rights" manifesto. Work will continue to use all national advocacy opportunities to remind the governments and local authorities of our recommendations.

#### **International Advocacy**

At the international and regional level, we will continue to encourage all countries to support and promote initiatives on gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights as well as campaign for countries to comply with their international human rights obligations in relation to women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health services.

#### Upcoming key moments/dates/opportunities

At the international level, the appointment of a new government will be an opportunity for UPR follow up at any time in their first year in office (more information on this opportunity is available in the MBMR Operational Plan update and Action circular - Coerced and Denied: Forced marriages and barriers to contraception in Burkina Faso (Index: AFR 60/3689/2016)).

#### Contact teams

The main contact will be with colleagues in the International Advocacy Programme and Regional Advocacy Co-ordinators. Section campaigners should liaise with the IGO Co-ordinators (if relevant) in their section, as they receive regular updates and details on upcoming international and regional opportunities and actions to engage in, from the International Advocacy Programme.

#### HRE/ACTIVIST SUPPORT

#### Tools to support activists

Respect My Rights, Respect My Dignity: Module Three – Sexual And Reproductive Rights Are Human Rights. (Index: ACT 30/0010/2015).

Please note that there will be a folder on Basecamp with tools that activists can keep using for their work on SRR.

#### Existing or planned HRE projects beyond the campaign

Alongside the project on early and forced marriage that the West Africa team will

work on from 2016 to bring change to other countries in West Africa, Amnesty International Burkina Faso will also start work on a HRE project from August 2016.

The practice of early and forced marriage is still widespread in the region – if we don't act now, the number of girls married before the age of 18 will double by 2050. This project will tackle issues around early and forced marriage and female genital mutilitation through community-led education. Amnesty International Burkina Faso plans to work in 15 communities – 12 new and three old. This project will be implemented in: Centre, Eastern, Northern, Sahel and Boucle du Mouhoun regions. The project will help prevent early and forced marriage for thousands of girls and aim to secure increased commitment from policy-makers for longer term legislative change benefitting many more women and stronger legal protections from violence for women in Burkina Faso.

#### **Contact teams**

- Kiné Fatim Diop, West Africa Campaigner (<u>kinefatim.diop@amnesty.org</u>)
- Yves Boukary Traoré, Director of Amnesty International Burkina Faso ( <u>yves.traore@amnestyburkina.org</u>) and the HRE team in the Dakar Regional Office.

#### **EL SALVADOR**



#### Status and rationale (what continues, what doesn't and why)

By the end of the Global Campaign in May 2016, we aim to:

- have made progress towards securing the freedom of all women and girls imprisoned on abortion-related charges;
- launch initiatives to change the legislation and to decriminalize abortion in El Salvador;
- attract public and political support for the decriminalization of abortion in El Salvador.

#### What continues:

Beyond the end of the global campaign on My Body My Rights, work in El Salvador will continue on the case of Teodora, beyond the Letter Writing Marathon, and on other cases of women and girls imprisoned on abortion-related charges (on a reactive basis). Human rights education (HRE) and youth activism activities will continue in El Salvador, led by the new HRE/activism co-ordinator based in the Mexico Regional Office.

In the region, a regional campaign on sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) was launched on 7 March 2016 with the report *The state as a catalyst for violence* 

against women (Index: AMR 01/3388/2016). The report looks at how certain practices, policies and laws violate the SRR of women and girls and constitute violence against women perpetrated by the state. The publication includes cases from El Salvador and the Dominican Republic that sections will be able to campaign on. For more information please see the strategy circular- *End state violence against women and torture in sexual and reproductive health services* (Index: AMR 01/3353/2016).

This regional campaign, which initially will last until March 2017, has a very important lobbying component and a lobbying strategy was sent to sections at the beginning of May with more details. Two points to highlight are:

- 1. The **regional petition**, distributed when the regional report was launched, is still open at
  - http://amnistia.cl/web/acciononline/open-letter-to-presidents-heads-of-state-of-countries-in-the-americas/.
  - Signatures will be delivered together with an open letter- to selected member states of the OAS a few weeks in advance of the General Assembly.
- 2. The **OAS GA** will take place from **13-15 June** in the Dominican Republic and an Amnesty delegation will participate. The main topic of the discussions will be the "Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development in the Americas". The debate will be concentrating on how the Americas can comply with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The focus of Amnesty's lobbying will be:
- institutional violence and torture of women in sexual and reproductive health services;
  - the situation of stateless persons in the Dominican Republic.

Key sections in the region will also continue to work on MBMR-related issues at the national level:

- Amnesty International Chile has been campaigning for the
  decriminalization of abortion in Chile since June 2015. This work will
  continue late into 2016. The project had its first breakthrough on 4 August
  when Congress' Health Commission approved the idea of legislating on
  abortion, opening the debate within the Health Commission. On 17 March
  2016, the Chamber of Deputies approved the legislation, needing approval
  by the Senate to become law.
- Amnesty International Peru launched the campaign "Against their will"
   ("Contra su voluntad") in June 2015 demanding reparations and justice for
   women who were forcibly sterilized in Peru during the 1990s. The
   campaign's main objective initially had been for the Peruvian President to
   create a single register of victims to make clear the real number of women
   forcibly sterilized. This has now happened and the campaign has moved on

to ask the Peruvian President to ensure that the new register is adequately funded and implemented. This campaign will continue into 2016.

A project on sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) in Chile, Peru, and Argentina (2016-2020), led by Amnesty International sections, is being developed. It aims to ensure access to SRR for young people and capacity to make informed decisions about their own bodies and sexuality. It will train young people on their rights and create a network that will campaign on these issues.

#### Key moments beyond the campaign

The strategy for the regional campaign on sexual and reproductive rights highlights the following key moments beyond May 2016.

- June: deliver 108,051 letters from the sections asking for Teodora's release.
   The letters will be directly delivered to the Minister of Justice (primary target).
- June: deliver letters from the sections asking for the decriminalization of abortion. The letters will be delivered to the Parliamentary Assembly. We are planning to organize a public event with youth organizations.
- 2 July: Natalia Lafourcade music concert in solidarity with women in El Salvador
- June: OAS General Assembly in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- **25-28 October:** Regional Women's Conference, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 28 September: International Day for the Decriminalization of Abortion
- **25 November:** International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

#### **Useful contacts**

Sections who wish to continue to engage with the ongoing work in El Salvador and in Latin America should be in touch with:

- Pamela Carmona, Youth and Activism Regional Co-ordinator pamela.carmona@amnesty.org
- Andrea Vera, Campaigner, Central America, <u>andrea.vera@amnesty.org</u> (El Salvador)
- Fernanda Doz Costa, Researcher, ESCR AMR, Fernanda.dozcosta@amnesty.org
- Until end of June, Lucía Hernández, Campaigner on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Americas (Chile and Peru), <a href="mailto:lhernand@amnesty.org">lhernand@amnesty.org</a>
- Flori Estevez, Campaign Manager, Amnesty International Chile flori.estevez@amnistia.cl
- Sylvia Toledo, Advocacy Co-ordinator, Amnesty International Peru s.toledo@amnistia.org.pe

#### **KEY CASES**

#### Teodora del Carmen Vásquez

#### Status of the case

Actions on this case will continue beyond the Letter Writing Marathon.

#### **Background**

Teodora suffered a still-birth in 2007 after the rapid onset of serious pain while she was at work. Police arrested her as she lay in a pool of blood. She was later sentenced to 30 years for "aggravated homicide", presumed guilty of "abortion". Our calls are for Teodoroa and all women and girls imprisoned on abortion-related charges to be freed and for abortion to be decriminalized in El Salvador.

#### Action plan

We are encouraging strong mobilization from the movement on this case from the 2015 Letter Writing Marathon launched in November 2015. Actions on this case should continue beyond the end of the global campaign – the case will remain open as an "Individuals at Risk" case.

#### Contact teams

For more information on the case and opportunities for action around it beyond the Letter Writing Marathon, sections should contact the team at the Mexico regional office:

- Andrea Vera, Campaigner, Central America (andrea.vera@amnesty.org)
- Karen Javorski, Campaigner, Individuals at Risk (karen.javorski@amnesty.org)

#### Useful links

The portfolio is available at:

https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/x/tAHpB

(You will need access to the I@R portfolio space on Amnesty's Intranet)

#### Sonia's case

#### Status of the case

This case is not currently an open case. An Urgent Action might be issued if relevant.

#### **Background**

Sonia was working as a domestic worker when, in early 2005, she gave birth prematurely and alone in a bush. Her relatives found her bleeding heavily and in a state of shock. They took her to the hospital, where doctors accused her of having an abortion, and called the police. She was sentenced to 30 years on homicide charges

a few months later. Sonia was cleared of all charges in 2012 and released, but is at risk of being sent back to prison and we are keeping an eye on her case. We are at this time asking that sections and structures not engage in advocacy or public campaigning on any cases unless this is approved by the Mexico regional office and our partner in El Salvador.

#### Action plan

If Sonia is sent back to prison, we will open her case as an urgent action and ask all sections to take action.

#### Contact teams

For more information on the case, sections should contact the team at the Mexico regional office:

- Andrea Vera. Campaigner, Central America (andrea.vera@amnesty.org)
- Karen Javorski, Campaigner, Individuals at Risk (karen.javorski@amnesty.org)

#### **Useful links**

The portfolio is not yet available

#### INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

#### Overview – assessment of existing and potential partners

In El Salvador, Amnesty is working with Agrupacion Ciudadana por la Despenalizacion del Aborto Terapeutico, Etico y Eugensico (an NGO based in San Salvador which has been leading this campaign for several years), the Centre for Reproductive Rights (CRR), the Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and IPAS. In the Dominican Republic, as part of the upcoming regional campaign, we are working with Colectiva Feminista and Women's Link Worldwide. In Peru, we are working with the "Quipu project", CRR, IDL and DEMUS.

#### Advice for sections on how to have conversations with partners

Please contact the Mexico regional office before contacting any of the partners linked to the campaign in El Salvador or the upcoming campaign on sexual and reproductive rights in Latin America.

#### Contact teams

Andrea Vera, Campaigner, Central America (andrea.vera@amnesty.org)

#### NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

#### National advocacy

- During the launch of the campaign, Salil Shetty and other Amnesty delegates met with the Vice President, the Vice Minister of Health, the Ombudsperson, the Human Rights Commission, and the Minister of Justice and Public Security.
- MBMR El Salvador petition, signed by more than 300,000 people, was handed over to the President, the President of the Legislative Assembly, and the President of the Supreme Court.

#### Regional

• The Center for Reproductive Rights have been taking some of the cases of "Las 17" through the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights. Amnesty International has supported this, but has not been directly involved.

#### International

 UPR follow-up process. The following countries intervened during the review of El Salvador by the UPR Working Group and made strong recommendations: Australia, Czech Republic, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom. Representatives of states which made recommendations were invited to the Mexico regional office as part of the launch of the new campaign digest on 30 November 2015. UN Representatives were also invited to the launch event.

#### **Upcoming key moments/dates/opportunities**

OAS General Assembly on 13-15 June will be a great opportunity to work towards achieving the objectives of the regional campaign launched in March 2016. A lobbying strategy was sent to sections at the beginning of May.

#### Contact teams

The main contact will be with colleagues in the International Advocacy Programme and Regional Advocacy Co-ordinators. Section campaigners should liaise with the IGO Co-ordinators (if relevant) in their section, as they receive regular updates and details on upcoming international and regional opportunities and actions to engage in, from the International Advocacy Programme.

#### HRE/ACTIVIST SUPPORT

#### Tools to support activists

Respect My Rights, Respect My Dignity: Module Three – Sexual And Reproductive Rights Are Human Rights. ACT 30/0010/2015.

https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act30/0010/2015/en/

Please note that there will be a folder on Basecamp with tools that activists can keep using for their work on SRR.

#### Existing or planned HRE projects beyond the campaign

El Salvador and Latin America: There will be several HRE initiatives on sexual and reproductive rights that will continue beyond the MBMR campaign. They are described above, in the El Salvador focus section, in more detail, but to summarise:

- HRE activities will continue in El Salvador, organized by the Mexico regional office.
- There is a project on Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Chile, Peru, and Argentina that will run from 2016-2020.

#### **Contact teams**

Please contact the campaigner at the Mexico regional office, Andrea Vera, Campaigner, Central America (<a href="mailto:andrea.vera@amnesty.org">andrea.vera@amnesty.org</a>)

#### **IRELAND**



#### Status and rationale (what continues, what doesn't and why)

The overarching objective for this campaign is to repeal Ireland's abortion laws and decriminalize abortion. In the short term, to contribute to us achieving the overarching goal, we have been increasing the public's awareness of the human rights impact of Ireland's abortion laws and build their support for changing Ireland's abortion laws. We have also focused on putting pressure on the Irish government, through media and advocacy work, to repeal the 8th amendment of the Irish Constitution (which protects the foetus' right to life on an equal footing with a woman's right to life) and decriminalize abortion. One primary target has been political parties urging them to make commitments to repealing the 8th when seeking election in Ireland's General Election in Spring 2016.

From now to the end of the Global Campaign in May 2016, we are continuing to work towards getting public support to manifest itself into political pressure on the political parties. We are focusing on building political will through strategic lobbying, media work, and building and demonstrating public support. Beyond the global campaign, Amnesty International will continue to build this public support in order to maintain the political pressure until our key long-term objectives are achieved.

The campaign, since its launch in June 2015, has had a significant impact on the national movement to repeal the 8th amendment of the Irish Constitution. While

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there is a tangible sense that public momentum is building behind the campaign in that support is becoming more vocal, there is still much work to be done to bring political opinion along to support a referendum being put to the people. We must continue our work to build upon this momentum and ensure that the pressure is felt by politicians and the government. The latter has firmly ruled out scheduling a referendum on this issue, so the next government will be a critical target. The General Election in Spring 2016, and the Programme for Government that the new government will adopt, are pivotal. Amnesty International Ireland will look to political parties to include commitments in their election manifestos to scheduling a referendum on the 8th amendment.

Amnesty International Ireland will also look to secure from the newly-elected Irish government some commitment to scheduling a referendum on abortion in its Programme for Government. Thereafter, we will work to ensure that by the end of 2016, there is clarity on when the referendum will take place. Work will also be undertaken to ensure that steps are taken, once the referendum is passed, to reform the law to provide for access to safe and legal abortion – and to information on abortion – substantially in line with the minimum required by international human rights law, as well as steps for the repeal of the criminal penalty for women and health professionals.

#### Section engagement

Sections and structures have successfully promoted the Ireland campaign since the launch of the report in June 2015. Nearly all sections in Europe and some key sections in America, Asia and Africa have dedicated some time promoting the global petition, sharing stories on the impact of the restrictive abortion law in Ireland to increase the knowledge about the issue, and developing human rights education activities for their members. As of May 2016, we had collected over 200,000 signatures for the global petition calling for the decriminalization of abortion, targeting Taoiseach Enda Kenny.

#### Key moments beyond the campaign

We remain strongly committed to our longer term objectives to bring about the decriminalization of abortion and the repeal of the laws that criminalize abortion and restrict access to information on abortion, and can expect to be closely involved, at key moments, in ensuring theses objectives are met.

Amnesty International Ireland will be the lead in this work and are interested in hearing directly from sections that would like to continue their engagement in the campaign beyond MBMR's.

#### **Useful contacts**

Sections who wish to continue to engage with the work on Ireland should be in touch with Sorcha Tunney, Campaigner at Amnesty International Ireland (STunney@amnesty.ie)

#### Materials and useful links (see 'resources list' below)

REPORTS AND CAMPAIGN DOCUMENTS

<u>Ireland: She is not a criminal. The impact of Ireland's abortion law</u> (Index: EUR 29/1597/2015)

<u>Ireland: She is not a criminal. The impact of Ireland's abortion law</u> Executive Summary (Index: EUR 29/15982015)

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS The Unusual suspects (video)

Photos are available in ADAM

#### **KEY CASES**

N/A

#### INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

#### Overview – assessment of existing and potential partners

Amnesty has joined the coalition to repeal the 8th amendment and we will continue to work closely with the Irish Family Planning Association, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, the National Women's Council of Ireland, Lawyers for Choice and Doctors for Choice, and the Abortion Rights Campaign.

#### Advice for sections on how to have conversations with partners

Please contact the team at Amnesty Ireland before contacting any of the partners linked to the campaign in Ireland.

#### Contact teams

Sorcha Tunney, Campaigner (STunney@amnesty.ie)

#### NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

#### National advocacy

Only one of the political parties in Ireland has made a pre-election pledge to scheduling a referendum if in the next government. All political parties have declared that if they are in the next government, they will not schedule a referendum until and unless the legal framework for the grounds upon which abortion is provided in Ireland is made clear, and supported by the NGO sector campaigning for abortion access. We will work with key NGOs and lawyers to develop the model legal framework political parties are seeking. We will continue to build political support within the parties in government after the election, including by reaching out to the moveable middle of the Irish public to demonstrate to politicians their support for what we are seeking from their politicians, and to mobilize people into taking action.

## National Partnerships – assessment of existing and potential partnerships

This campaign will continue to extend, complement and enhance not only our own advocacy but also the advocacy of our allies in Ireland. The current Ireland project also lays a solid foundation for our continuing advocacy, and that of our allies, following the project's end. Amnesty International Ireland has joined the coalition to repeal the 8th amendment and we will continue to work very closely with the Irish Family Planning Association, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, the National Women's Council of Ireland, Lawyers for Choice and Doctors for Choice and the Abortion Rights Campaign. We will continue to build on these relationships and look to support each other's work where possible. We, together with our NGO partners and academics, will develop a model legal framework on abortion access to present to political parties to encourage them to commit to this referendum. This will provide political parties and the new government with a legal framework to propose to the Irish public in tandem with a constitutional referendum.

#### Upcoming key moments/dates/opportunities

At the international level, a key moment at the end of the global campaign was the review of Ireland by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) working group in May 2016 during UPR 25. Sections and structures were asked to lobby their own government via their Ministry of Foreign Affairs ahead of the review to ensure that our calls and recommendations, in particular on abortion, are reflected in as many governments' interventions as possible. Beyond the global campaign, it will be key for sections to keep the pressure on the Irish government, including via targeting Irish diplomatic representatives in their own country.

#### **Contact teams**

The main contact will be with colleagues in the International Advocacy Programme and Regional Advocacy Co-ordinators. Section campaigners should liaise with the IGO Co-ordinators (if relevant) in their section, as they receive regular updates and details on upcoming international and regional opportunities and actions to engage in, from the International Advocacy Programme.

#### HRE/ACTIVIST SUPPORT

#### Tools to support activists

Respect My Rights, Respect My Dignity: Module Three – Sexual And Reproductive Rights Are Human Rights (Index: ACT 30/0010/2015) https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act30/0010/2015/en/

Please note that there will be a folder on Basecamp with tools that activists can keep using for their work on SRR.

#### Existing or planned HRE projects beyond the campaign

N/A

#### Contact teams

Sorcha Tunney, Campaigner (STunney@amnesty.ie)

#### THE MAGHREB



#### Status and rationale (what continues, what doesn't and why)

#### Algeria

• Work will continue to ensure that Algerian authorities adopt comprehensive laws and policies to combat gender-based violence.

#### Morocco/Western Sahara

- Work on Morocco/Western Sahara will focus on four different pieces of legislation and will take place when draft legislations are presented. This may be either before or after the MBMR campaign winds down.
- We will push our recommendations with the relevant stakeholders when draft laws are debated. Dates to be confirmed.



#### Tunisia:



- The Tunisia team will keep working towards ensuring that the Tunisian authorities carry out comprehensive legislative reforms and, in particular, that they adopt a comprehensive law to combat violence against women and girls.
- On 17 May, the Tunisia team launched a campaign digest highlighting the
  human rights violations that LGBTI people face in law and practice. The
  campaign calls on the Tunisian authorities to repeal Article 230 of the
  Penal Code (which criminalizes consensual same-sex sexual relations and
  carries a sentence of up to three years in prison) and other discriminatory
  legislation based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and
  consensual sexual activity. The campaign also aims to ensure that LGBTI
  survivors of sexual and gender-based violence are able to seek justice

without being accused or threatened with prosecution for their gender or sexual identity. Alongside the campaign digest there are three actions: twitter and letter-writing actions calling for Article 230 to be repealed, and a solidarity action to send messages of support to LGBTI survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

#### Key moments beyond the campaign

- 17 May 2016: International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia
- 13 August 2016: National Women's day in Tunisia
- 10 October 2016: National Women's day in Morocco
- 22-23 September 2016: ESCR Committee review of Tunisia
- October 2016: Legislative elections in Morocco
- October 2016: ICCPR review of Morocco/Western Sahara
- 25 November 2016: International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 8 March 2017: International Women's day
- April-May 2017: UPR reviews of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco/Western Sahara

**Date tbc, likely 2016:** Adoption of a new draft law on violence against women and a new draft law amending the Penal Code in Morocco/Western Sahara

#### **Useful Contacts**

Sections who wish to continue to engage with the work on the Maghreb, should be in contact with the country teams at the International Secretariat:

- Algeria team: <u>algeria.team@amnesty.org</u>
- Morocco/Western Sahara team: Morocco-WSteam@amnesty.org
- Tunisia team: tunisia.team@amnesty.org

#### Materials and useful links (see 'resources list' below)

REPORTS AND CAMPAIGN DOCUMENTS

- Assaulted and accused: Sexual and gender-based violence in Tunisia (Index: MDE 30/2814/2015)
- <a href="https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde30/3717/2016/en/">https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde30/3717/2016/en/</a>
- Morocco: Unprecedented legal reforms must uphold human rights (Index: MDE 29/1438/2015)
- Morocco. Amnesty International's submission in the context of the national debate on abortion (Index: MDE 29/1341/2015)
   Algeria: Comprehensive reforms needed to end sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls (Index: MDE 28/010/2014)

#### **KEY CASES**

N/A

#### INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

#### Overview – assessment of existing and potential partners

In the Maghreb, Amnesty International Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia already work with local partners, including women's rights and human rights groups and will continue to do so beyond the end of the campaign. The Algeria, Morocco/Western Sahara and Tunisia research teams will also continue to engage with local partners and nurture relationships.

#### Advice for sections on how to have conversations with partners

Please contact the Algeria, Morocco/Western Sahara and Tunisia teams before engaging with partners on the ground in the Maghreb.

#### **Contact teams**

- Algeria team: <u>algeria.team@amnesty.org</u>
- Morocco/Western Sahara team: Morocco-WSteam@amnesty.org
- Tunisia team: tunisia.team@amnesty.org

#### NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

#### Advocacy on the Maghreb

#### Algeria

- Sections and structures have been encouraged to lobby their governments, including via their Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic representatives to Algeria, to encourage them to support our calls and recommendations in bilateral meetings with Algeria. These include recommendations from our November 2014 briefing Algeria:
   Comprehensive reforms needed to end sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls (Index: MDE 28/010/2014). Particular attention will be paid to governments who fund gender-rights programmes in these three countries and to EU member states.
- Algeria's Universal Periodic Review will take place in April-May 2017. The Algeria team will work on a submission to the Human Rights Committee and is planning an advocacy trip to Geneva.

#### Morocco/Western Sahara

 Sections and structures have been encouraged to lobby their governments, including via their Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic representatives to Morocco, or relevant parliamentary groups, to encourage them to support our calls and recommendations in bilateral meetings with Morocco (please see *Morocco: Unprecedented legal reforms must uphold human rights* (Index: MDE 29/1438/2015) and *Morocco: Amnesty International's submission in the context of the national debate on abortion* (Index: MDE 29/1341/2015).

- In addition, there will be legislative elections in Morocco/Western Sahara in 2016 and potentially opportunities for Amnesty to engage with the process.
- Morocco/Western Sahara's ICCPR review is planned for October 2016 while its UPR review wil take place in April-May 2017. The Morocco/Western Sahara team works on submissions and is planning advocacy trips to Geneva.

#### **Tunisia**

- Sections and structures have been encouraged to share the report and its recommendations with their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Tunisian embassy in their country and their diplomatic representatives in Tunisia.
- An advocacy mission to Brussels took place in February 2016. The Tunisia team also raised key concerns with the Committee Against Torture in a submission in March 2016 and during the Committee's review of Tunisia in Geneva in April 2016. The Committee questioned the Tunisian delegation about the concerns raised by Amnesty International during the review. The team also raised its concerns with the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and the Working Group on discrimination against women during the advocacy mission to Geneva.
- Tunisia's Universal Periodec Review will take place in May 2017. The Tunisia team will prepare a submission to the Human Rights Committee in September 2016.
- Tunisia will be reviewed by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee in September 2016. The team plans to prepare a submission on sexual and reproductive rights to the Committee in August.

#### International advocacy

At the international and regional level, we will continue to encourage all countries to support and promote initiatives on gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights as well as for the countries to comply with their international human rights obligations in relation to women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health services.

#### Upcoming key moments/dates/opportunities

Other opportunities might come up in all countries involved in the campaign, at key international IGO meetings (including sessions of the Human Rights Council, sessions of the UN General Assembly as relevant and other upcoming key reviews by Treaty Bodies) and key Regional IGO meetings.

#### Contact teams

The main contact will be with colleagues in the International Advocacy Programme and Regional Advocacy Co-ordinators. Section campaigners should liaise with the IGO Co-ordinators (if relevant) in their section, as they receive regular updates and details on upcoming international and regional opportunities and actions to engage in, from the International Advocacy Programme.

#### HRE/ACTIVIST SUPPORT

#### **Tools to support activists**

Respect My Rights, Respect My Dignity: Module Three – Sexual And Reproductive Rights Are Human Rights (Index: ACT 30/0010/2015) https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act30/0010/2015/en/

Please note that there will be a folder on Basecamp with tools that activists can keep using for their work on SRR.

#### Existing or planned HRE projects beyond the campaign

- HRE projects in Morocco: (A) Amnesty International Morocco has partnered with the European Union to run "Schools for Gender Equality". This started in September 2015, involved 25 schools, and will run for one and a half years; (B) Amnesty International Morocco is working to develop more "human rights friendly" schools. There are currently four in Morocco; (C) Toolkit for HRE in partnership with Amnesty International Norway.
- Amnesty International Tunisia has received a grant from the Education, Empowerment and Justice programme – Amnesty International Norway to support HRE outreach and capacity building activities and this work is ongoing. Amnesty International Tunisia is also in the process of seeking a grant aimed at empowering activists, NGOs, trade unionists, lawyers and journalists outside Tunis.

#### Contact teams

- Algeria team: <u>algeria.team@amnesty.org</u>
- Morocco/Western Sahara team: Morocco-WSteam@amnesty.org
- Tunisia team: tunisia.team@amnesty.org
- Global Campaigns team (for partnerships at global level): <u>GlobalCampaignsTeam@amnesty.org</u>

#### **NEPAL**

#### Status and rationale (what continues, what doesn't and why)

#### Status

MBMR/SRR related work is suspended for the foreseeable future but might restart when conditions in the country allow further work and campaigning.

#### Context

The MBMR campaign aimed to have the Government of Nepal recognize "uterine prolapse" as a human rights issue and develop a comprehensive plan to address the underlying gender discrimination which is contributing to the problem. On 17 July 2014, the Nepali Government released its 4th Five-Year National Human Rights Action Plan to cover the period 2014/5 to 2019/20. This plan includes a section on reproductive health and references uterine prolapse. In the second half of 2014, partner organizations recommended suspending campaigning while political negotiations continued on a new Constitution. As we were reassessing prospects for campaigning in the following year, the April 2015 Nepal earthquake occurred.

#### **Current situation**

Following the earthquake, it was impossible to campaign specifically on the issue of uterine prolapse; however, Amnesty highlighted issues relating to sexual and reproductive rights in the post-earthquake response and in the adoption of the new Constitution. Post-disaster response continues to be the main focus of Amnesty's work in Nepal. One year after the earthquake in Nepal, the majority of disaster-affected people are still living in temporary and make-shift housing. The slow pace of post-disaster reconstruction leads to the denial of the right to adequate housing for those affected by the quake. This will be the focus of Amnesty's work in 2016. However, where opportunities arise, Amnesty International Nepal, the Gender, Sexuality and Identity programme and the Asia programme will continue to work to highlight sexual and reproductive rights in Nepal. For more information please contact the team.

#### Useful contacts

Please contact project manager Iain Byrne if you have any further questions: <a href="main.byrne@amnesty.org">iain.byrne@amnesty.org</a>

#### Materials and useful links (see 'resources list' below)

REPORTS AND CAMPAIGN DOCUMENTS

- <u>Unnecessary Burden: Gender discrimination and uterine prolapse in Nepal</u> (Index: ASA 31/001/2014)
- Campaign digest (Index: ASA 31/002/2014)

 Joint Submission to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: 53rd Session, 10-28 November 2014 (Index: ASA 31/006/2014)

## OTHER AREAS OF WORK

#### BASECAMP AND COMMUNICATIONS

From 1 July the MBMR Basecamp will be archived and the Global Campaigns team will no longer communicate MBMR/SRR related work on this platform. It will remain as a "read only" database. Registered users may still access old messages, search for content, and download and view attachments. Please note, archived projects don't appear on your dashboard. There is a 'Your archived projects' link at the bottom of your list of projects where you will be able to find the MBMR Basecamp after 1 July.

Many of you will already receive emails from the Gender, Sexuality and Identity (GSI) team on issues relating to sexual and reproductive rights. For those of you who do not, and would like to do so please contact the GSI team, <a href="mailing-gis@amnesty.org">ais-gsi@amnesty.org</a> who will add you to their mailing list.

Please note you will also still be able to access documents and materials via our Box files: https://amnesty.app.box.com/v/mybodymyrights

## ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE IMPLEMENATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOBALS

Amnesty International is partnering with the Centre for Reproductive Rights (CRR) in an action to achieve accountability for the implementation of Agenda 2030, commonly known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly regarding Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SRR). This is the last global push under the My Body My Rights Campaign (MBMR) for a shift from policy to practise, leading to direct impact on the lives of people, especially women and girls.

We are at a key moment in the process of the implementation of the SDGs, which have come into effect in January 2016. These first few months of implementation are a window of opportunity to influence and make sure we achieve the establishment of strong and participatory accountability mechanisms to hold governments to account on the promises of the SDGs. Greater accountability on the implementation of SDGs will be key for the full realization of all human rights, in particular sexual and reproductive rights.

#### **Duration**

The action will run for four months, from 16<sup>th</sup> May when the petition was launched to coincide with the Women Deliver Conference till September/October when the signatures will be delivered (exact dates TBC).

#### **Materials**

Accountability for Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Action Strategy (Index: (ACT 30/4023/2016)

#### **Useful Contacts**

From 31 May please get in contact with Lesly Lila (GSI), lesly.lila@amnesty.org

#### SIERRA LEONE - SHAMED AND BLAMED: PREGNANT GIRLS' RIGHTS AT RISK IN SIERRA LEONE

Although there is no new project for Sierra Leone, the campaign on the rights of pregnant girls will continue until the end of 2016. The work carried out by Al has been very useful in keeping the issue on the public agenda, as well as to encourage donors to be more careful with the human rights implications within the alternative educational system exclusive for pregnant girls. Since the publication of Al's report there have not been any reports of pregnancy tests carried out on school girls.

#### Duration

The project will continue until the end of the year in order to try to achieve the main objective, which has not yet been met; specifically to lift the ban on pregnant girls attending mainstream school. There is the risk that the alternative system, which allows for the discrimination of pregnant girls, is being extended and institutionalized. In addition the Campaign materials became available later than expected and sections didn't have much time to effectively use them.

#### **Useful Contacts**

West Africa Anglophone countries Campaigner, Marta Colomer Aguilera, marta.colomer@amnesty.org

#### **Materials**

- Report: SIERRA LEONE: SHAMED AND BLAMED: PREGNANT GIRLS' RIGHTS AT RISK IN SIERRA LEONE (AFR 51/2695/2015)
- Campaign Digest: Shamed and Blamed: pregnant girls in Sierra Leone deserve a future too (AFR 51/If no 3381/2016)
- Posters, postcards, card game
- Drawings, social media assets, pictures

## POLAND - HELP PROTECT WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHT TO ACCESS SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION IN POLAND

Recent developments in Poland have seen, following the electoral victory of the Law and Justice Party in the October '15 parliamentary elections, a deterioration of the human rights situation with several controversial pieces of legislation being proposed and swiftly translated into law. Recently, the right to access safe and legal to abortion services has also come under threat. Pro-life organizations are rounding up signatures to support a recent proposal which would worryingly restrict women and girls' human rights. Once the necessary signatures will be collected (minimum quorum of 100,000) the proposal will be discussed and voted on in the Parliament.

As part of the efforts to prevent the enactment of the restrictive proposal AI Poland plans

to collect photos from all around the world with solidarity messages both in English or Polish to show the international outcry towards such proposal. This action will be launched at the end of the My Body My Rights Campaign to make sure we respond efficiently to such worrying developments. This action will also offer sections the opportunity to continue to work on Sexual and Reproductive Rights beyond the official "end" of the global campaign at the end of May and phase out their involvement in the campaign.

#### Duration

From end of May through July – further stages of campaign TBC

Call for solidarity action – help us protect women and girls' right to access safe and legal abortion in Poland (Index: EUR 37/4110/2016)

#### **Useful Contacts**

Al Poland: Weronika Rokicka, weronika.rokicka@amnesty.org.pl Europe and Central Asia: Researcher, Catrinel Motoc, Catrinel.Motoc@amnesty.org; Europe and Central Asia Campaigner, Kartik Raj, kartik.raj@amnesty.org

#### ARGENTINA - EIGHT-YEAR SENTENCE FOR HAVING A MISCARRIAGE

On 19 April, the Third Chamber of the Criminal Chamber of Tucuman sentenced Belén to eight years in prison for murder. She was held in pre-trial detention for over two years in Tucuman Province, northern Argentina, after suffering a miscarriage in a public hospital. Medical personnel and police officials violated her right to privacy and have unfairly accused and mistreated her. She continues to be held in prison while her lawyers file appeals.

#### **Duration**

At the time of writing an update to the current UA is being drafted and AI Argentina is assessing plans for medium to long-term work on the case.

#### **Materials**

UA: Argentina: Eight-year setence for having a miscarriage (Index: AMR 13/3905/2016)

#### **Useful Contacts**

Americas Individuals at Risk Campaigner, Karen Javorski, karen.javorski@amnesty.org Al Argentina: Paola Garcia Rey, pgarciarey@amnistia.org.ar

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### RESOURCES

#### Upcoming materials - global and per country

#### MBMR and SRR related projects ("Full project portfolio")

MBMR and SRR related projects can be found on the <u>Intranet</u>. Please note that only templates that were shared with the Strategy and Evaluation (SEU) team appear on this site. For more information please contact SEU@amnesty.org

#### Global

My Body My Rights Global Campaign Internal Review

#### The Maghreb

 The Algeria, Morocco/Western Sahara and Tunisia team will react to legal reforms and other relevant developments through public outputs.

#### **Existing materials**

Most of the content listed below may also be found on the MBMR box files: https://amnesty.app.box.com/v/mybodymyrights

- My life, My health, My education, My choice, My future, My body, My rights, ACT 35/001/2014
- MBMR Operational Plan Update 2015-2016
- Open letter from Health Professionals, ACT 30/2908/2015
- SDG petition, social media graphic and messages

#### **Burkina Faso**

- Report, Coerced and denied: Forced marriages and barriers to contraception in Burkina Faso (Index: AFR 60/3851/2016)
- Executive Summary, Coerced and denied: Forced marriages and barriers to contraception in Burkina Faso (Index: AFR 60/3851/2016)
- Action Circular, Burkina Faso coerced and denied: Forced marriages and barriers to contraception in Burkina Faso (Index: AFR 60/3689/2016)
- Animated video on early and forced marriage
- Social media graphic x 1: 52% of girls in Burkina Faso will marry before they are 18
- Stories, blogs, testimony:
- Burkina Faso campaign story page (updated by 25th April)
- WIRE Martine Kabaore's story
- Girls in Burkina Faso say 'no' to forced marriage (photo story)
- Forced and early marriage in Burkina Faso: The facts
- Burkina Faso finding out about contraception when it's too late
- In Burkina Faso, preventing a pregnancy can mean defying your husband
- Living a useful life what drives Cendrine Nama

- Communication & media strategy for report launch including: social media plan, press materials, Q&A for media workers. All materials available on box.com
- Break the barriers to free choice in Burkina Faso, (Index: AFR 60/1960/2015)
- Burkina Faso: Giving Life, Risking Death: Maternal mortality in Burkina Faso (Index: AFR 60/001/2009)
- Bibata's mission: Sowing seeds of change for women's rights in Burkina Faso (video)
- Photos are available in ADAM
- IAR Casefile

#### Ireland

- Ireland: She is not a criminal. The impact of Ireland's abortion law (Index: EUR 29/1597/2015)
- Ireland: She is not a criminal. The impact of Ireland's abortion law. Executive Summary (Index: EUR 29/1598/2015)
- Two-thirds majority in Ireland want abortion decriminalized (press release)
- Ireland: Submission to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Index: EUR 29/1629/2015)
- The Unusual suspects (video)
- Photos are available on ADAM
- Amnesty International Red-C poll reveals Irish-public-want-expandedaccess-abortion
- Amnesty International tentatively welcomes inclusion of Citizens' Assembly on Eighth Amendment in Programme for Partnership
- <u>UN states scrutinise Ireland's human rights record, resounding call for</u> reform of abortion laws

#### El Salvador

- Video *End the total ban on abortion in El Salvador* on ADAM (ID: 202970) and Youtube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G09NdVx7jAM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G09NdVx7jAM</a>
- El Salvador Report, AMR 29/003/2014 On the brink of death: Violence against women and the abortion ban in El Salvador
- El Salvador Report, Executive Summary, AMR 29/2873/2015 On the brink of death: Violence against women and the abortion ban in El Salvador: Executive summary
- El Salvador Campaign Digest, AMR 29/2873/2015.

#### Latin America

- Regional report: Americas: Defenders Under Attack! Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the Americas (Index: AMR 01/2775/2015)
- Action Circular: Americas: Defenders Under Attack! Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the Americas (Index: AMR 01/2947/2015).
- Regional Report: <u>The state as a catalyst for violence against women (Index:</u> AMR 01/3388/2016)

• Strategy circular- End state violence against women and torture in sexual and reproductive health services (Index: AMR 01/3353/2016)

#### The Maghreb

- Assaulted and accused: Sexual and gender-based violence in Tunisia (Index: MDE 30/2814/2015)
- Tunisia: Submission to the UN Committee against Torture (Index: MDE 30/3717/2016)
- <u>Tunisia: 'I Am not a monster': State-entrentenched discrimination and homophobia in Tunisia (Index: MDE 30/3903/2016)</u>
- <u>Morocco: Unprecedented legal reforms must uphold human rights (Index: MDE 29/1438/2015)</u>
- Morocco. Amnesty International's submission in the context of the national debate on abortion (Index: MDE 29/1341/2015)
- Algeria: Comprehensive reforms needed to end sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls (Index: MDE 28/010/2014)

#### Nepal

- <u>Unnecessary Burden: Gender Discrimination and Uterine Prolapse in Nepal</u> (Index: ASA 31/001/2014).
- <u>Joint Submission to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: 53rd Session, 10-28 November 2014, (Index: ASA 31/006/2014)</u>

#### **Poland**

• Call for solidarity action – help us protect women and girls' right to access safe and legal abortion in Poland (Index: EUR 37/4110/2016)

#### **Argentina**

• <u>UA: Argentina: Eight-year setence for havng a miscarriage (Index: AMR 13/3905/2016)</u>

# MY BODY MY RIGHTS GLOBAL CAMPAIGN EXIT STRATEGY

Since 2014, Amnesty International has campaigned globally to end the control and/or criminalization of sexuality and reproduction by state and non-state actors and to empower individuals to know and claim their sexual and reproductive rights through its My Body My Rights campaign, pursuing three strands of work: decriminalizing abortion, repealing discriminatory laws, and ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services. Amnesty International has worked on these three global goals through country-focused campaigns in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, El Salvador, Ireland, Burkina Faso, and Nepal and through reactive work in other countries.

This exit strategy report, provides in-depth, country by country assessment of the impact the campaign has had, and, outlines how to continue the work in these countries beyond 31 May 2016.



Index: ACT 10/4009/2016 May 2016

