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# 衝破矛盾 捍衛人權

2006年的國際特赦組織年報又出爐了。每年一到這個時候，我們也回顧過往一年全球的人權大事，並檢討我們倡議的人權工作。

去年，世界依然滿目瘡痍：伊拉克陷於無止境的教派衝突、聯合國仍未採取積極行動處理蘇丹的種族屠殺血案；在亞洲，印尼、斯里蘭卡等多國受天災人禍蹂躪，人民自海嘯後依然陷於水深火熱，阿富汗和印度人民也因環境惡化和人為衝突而被奪去了有尊嚴的生活。

至於香港，雖然遠離天災和人禍，但法律上仍未全面保障婦女和同性戀者應享有的人權，社會上仍普遍存在暴力和歧視。

感到沮喪嗎？不！再看清楚，儘管去年充滿了血腥和暴力，但我們作為捍衛人權的一份子，依然可以看到絲絲希望。2005年，全球整體的軍事衝突數目減少了，聯合國強化了機制，處理世界各國的人權事務。在民間，由中國農民的守護農地、守護生計行動，至全球婦女站在第十屆聯合國世界大會的台階上，宣揚婦女權利，我們可以看到，全球人類為捍衛人權而產生的凝聚力，那是值得我們驕傲的。

約翰連儂的名曲《想像》，創造了一個理想的世界：沒有殺戮或犧牲，不再貪婪，沒有飢餓，人類情同手足。儘管我們不知這一天何時來臨，但是，我們深信，只要透過各位的努力，一切將不會只是一個想像。過去，我們的成員和義工，努力不懈，為改善世界各地的人權狀況而獻出精神和時間，在此，我們衷心感謝您的支持。我們深信，每個普通人也有力量作出強而有力的轉變。國際特赦組織，也是因為普通人的力量，而凝聚成全球的人權運動。讓我們在此呼籲，只要您認同我們的理念，並願意世界變得更加美好，歡迎您加入我們，為人權出一分力！

The Amnesty International Report 2006 was eventually launched last month. 2005 was a year of contradictions in which signs of hope for human rights were undermined through the deception and failed promises of powerful governments. While Iraq sank into a vortex of sectarian violence in 2005, natural disasters and ongoing conflicts devastated Indonesia. Here in Hong Kong, the legislation has never been sufficient to protect women and girls against violence, and there has been no legislation against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, and the LGBT community faces discrimination in housing, jobs benefits and immigration.

Nevertheless, a closer look at the events of 2005 gives us reason for hope. The overall number of conflicts worldwide continues to fall. Institutional reform was initiated at the United Nations to strengthen the international human rights machinery. From peasant farmers protesting against land grabbing in China to women asserting their rights on the 10th anniversary of the UN World Conference on Women, the events of 2005 showed that the human rights idea – together with the worldwide movement of people that drives it forward – is more powerful and stronger than ever.

As we set our future agenda, Amnesty International and its members and supporters take encouragement from the remarkable achievements of the human rights movement. Amnesty's work to fight those peddle fear and hate, to challenge the myopic vision of the world's most powerful leaders and to hold governments to account, can only continue with the hard work of our volunteers and members. We believe in the power of ordinary people to bring about extraordinary change. Let us extend our gratitude to you all for your support over the years, and we look forward to seeing more people sharing our visions and making a difference.

## 國際特赦組織 香港分會



# 2005年 全球人權大

## A Year in Perspective:

## Amnesty International Annual Report

人權不僅包括個人及社區能免於戰事、種族滅絕及恐怖襲擊，還有免於饑餓、疾病及天災的侵害。二〇〇五年，全球的活躍分子發起運動，要求惡名昭彰的人權侵犯者及強國負上更大責任，以阻止種族主義、歧視及社會排斥。《國際特赦組織報告2006》於二〇〇六年五月二十三日公佈，當中回顧了二〇〇五年的世界人權狀況，摘要如下：

### 全球重點 - 「恐怖戰事」

二〇〇五年，全世界都因為「恐怖戰事」政策而受害，連不容致疑的酷刑禁令亦被漸漸蠶食，例如英國已實施「反恐法」，而美國政府亦透過與其他政府互相勾結，使不少人因「反恐」之名而無故「消失」。埃及、約旦及蘇丹仿效美國的做法，為該國的缺失立論；而伊拉克則繼續災難性地陷入社會秩序失控及教派暴亂之中，武裝組織、政府及以美軍為首的多國軍隊仍每日凌辱群眾。上千計的伊拉克人被殺，而社會亦被各方的暴力分化：所有人都成為「恐怖戰事」的受害者。

### 亞太區 - 水深火熱，掙扎求存

整個地區中，許多社區仍然受到紛爭及環境損害的惡性影響。在阿富汗，三分之一人口未能依賴安全或可靠的食物來源、飲用水或庇護。在印度，上千人仍等待著一九八四年波帕爾災難的賠償。

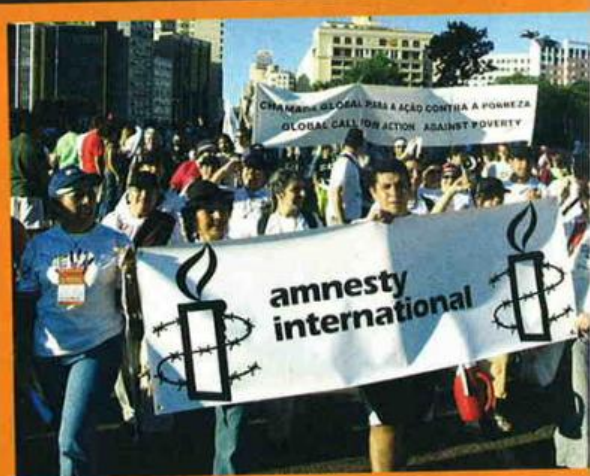
### 中港重點 - 自由岌岌可危

「全球盟約」及「世貿會議」在中港兩地舉辦後，亞洲開始轉為國際貿易及商務中心。可是，中國的互聯網仍被國家嚴厲監管，不少網址被阻斷，用者亦因發表政見或令政府為難的消息而被檢控。「洩漏國家機密」這廣義的罪行，仍被用以指控記者及報導員。

在香港，二〇〇五年十二月在世貿部長會議期間，警方以胡椒噴霧、催淚氣及豆袋彈對付示威人士，激起人權監察者的譴責，指警方過分使用武力。超過一千名示威人士被扣押，而若干人稱在被警方拘留期間受到虐待。

### 國際特赦組織於2006年的使命

- 抵抗對人權標準的攻擊，尤其是對酷刑及虐待的絕對禁令；
- 強烈譴責武裝組織對平民的蓄意襲擊；
- 推廣對難民、流徙人士及移民的保護；
- 把貧窮及人權侵犯的連繫公之於眾，使政府出於尊重人權而有責任消滅貧窮。



On 23 May 2006, The Amnesty International Report 2006 covering the state of the world's human rights in 2005 was released. Highlights of the report are as follow:

### Global Highlights - "War on Terror"

2005 exposed the extent to which the world has been damaged by the policies of the "war on terror". The US authorities are now "disappearing" individuals, with the collusion of other governments. Egypt, Jordan and Sudan used the practices of the US to justify their own failings, and Iraq continued its disastrous slide into civil disorder and sectarian violence, with mass abuses carried out daily by armed groups and government and the U.S.-led multinational force.



# 事回顧

## Report 2006



### Asia Pacific Highlights – A Matter of Survival

Across the region, conflict and environmental degradation still adversely affected many communities. In Afghanistan, up to a third of the population could not rely on safe or reliable sources of food, drinkable water or shelter. In India, thousands of people were still awaiting remedies for the 1984 Bhopal disaster.

### China and Hong Kong Highlights: Freedom at Risk

Access of internet in China continued to be heavily monitored by the state, with many websites blocked and users prosecuted for posting political opinions or information embarrassing to the government. Broadly defined "state secrets" offences continued to be used to prosecute journalists and reporters. In Hong Kong, police used pepper spray, tear-gas and bean-bag rounds against protesters during the ministerial meetings of the WTO in December 2005, prompting accusations by human rights monitors of excessive use of force. More than 1,000 protesters were detained and several claimed to have been ill-treated in police custody.

### Amnesty International's Commitments in 2006

- Resist attacks on human rights standards, in particular the absolute prohibition on torture and ill-treatment;
- Condemn strongly deliberate attacks on civilians by armed groups;
- Promote the protection of refugees, displaced people and migrants;
- Expose the link between poverty and human rights abuses and hold governments accountable for poverty eradication through respect for all human rights.

## Amnesty International Report 2006

the state of the world's human rights

國際特赦組織年報2006

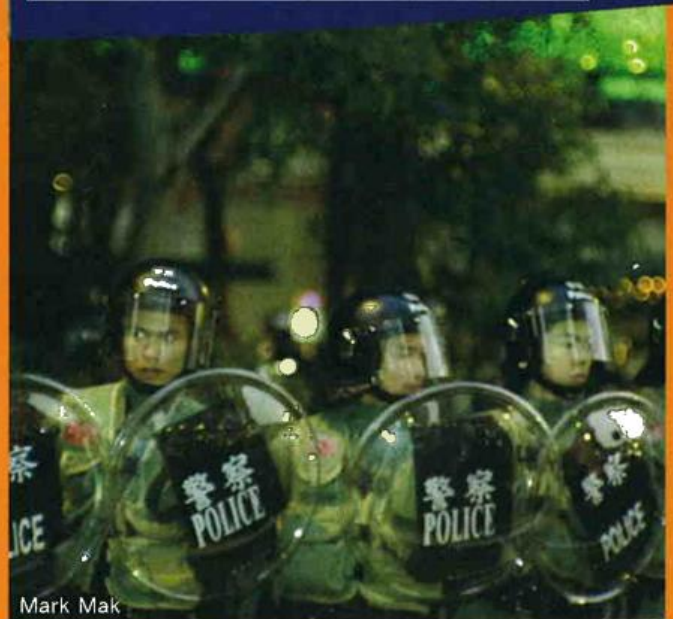
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Mark Mak



# 尋找保障婦女免受

## Forum on Due Diligence: A Framework to Stop Violence



國際特赦組織香港分會、香港大學法律學院比較法及公共法律研究中心，以及平等機會婦女聯席於今年三月十八日協辦了一個名為「盡職調查：停止暴力對待婦女的制度框架」的論壇。講者包括：國際特赦組織西班牙分會Maria Naredo Moloreo女士、香港律師會何志權先生、立法會議員張超雄先生、楊森先生及王國興先生、香港衛生福利及食物局和社會福利署的官員、本地婦女團體的代表，還有家庭暴力的受害者。與會者有警員、社工和曾被虐待的婦女等。會上，講者們表達了他們對香港《家庭暴力條例》的意見，以及修改該法的可能性；政府代表也詳述了現時香港家庭暴力狀況及政府就此問題的未來計劃；本地婦女團體代表和曾被虐待的婦女除了陳述他們的經驗，並對現時有關保障感到不足而表示不滿。

在論壇上，Moloreo女士分享了西班牙政府在保障婦女權益的經驗。西班牙政府最近引用《消除對婦女一切形式歧視公約》中「盡職調查」的概念作為修改當地《家庭暴力條例》的法律框架。Moloreo女士在是次論壇結束後，也跟其他婦女團體，如和諧之家、香港婦女中心協會、平等機會婦女聯席的代表作進一步交流。

### 「盡職調查」的概念

《消除對婦女一切形式歧視公約》適用於香港，該《公約》在多國社會中，於防止暴力對待婦女的工作上擔當積極角色。各締約國須履行《公約》中的四重責任——尊重，保護，實踐和提倡。要達到「尊重」婦女免受暴力對待的權利，各國須避免剝削婦女這項權利；要「保護」婦女免受暴力對待的權利，各國須盡力防止他人侵害這種權利；各參與國有義務多管齊下去「實踐」有關條約，在立法、行政、財政預算、司法、宣傳等方面採取措施，確保婦女權利受到重視和肯定；最後，為「提倡」婦女免受暴力對待，各國須對公民進行權利教育。



### 天水圍慘案的啟示

2004年的天水圍家庭悲劇揭示了香港家庭暴力問題的嚴重性，同時也顯示了香港婦女的權利得不到適當的保障。在香港政府正研究如何修改《家庭暴力條例》的契機下，國際特赦組織香港分會要求香港政府在修改法例和制定政策時，引用「盡職調查」的概念，從而令婦女權益得到更全面的保障。

是次論壇由香港樂施會贊助。

# 暴虐之路

## Against Women



On 18 March, Amnesty International Hong Kong, together with the Centre for Comparative and Public Law of the University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Women's Coalition on Equal Opportunities, held a forum on "Due Diligence: A Framework to Stop Violence Against Women and its Implication for Domestic Violence in Hong Kong".

Speakers of the forum included Ms Maria Naredo Molero from Amnesty International Spain, who shared with us the concept of "Due Diligence" as a framework for the Spain government to introduce legislation that complies with the requirement of a state under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in dealing with domestic violence.

### Other speakers included:

Mr Dennis Ho from the Hong Kong Law Society, Legco members Dr Hon Fernando Cheung Chiu Hung, Dr Hon Yeung Sum and Hon Wong Kwok Hing, MH, commenting on the domestic violence legislation in Hong Kong and the reform possibilities; Government officials from the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, and the Social



Maria Naredo

Welfare Department, commenting the situation of domestic violence in Hong Kong and the future plan to combat domestic violence;

Representatives from the local women's groups, and the survivors of domestic violence, speaking of their experience and the inadequacy of community support.

Participants included policemen, social workers and women who survived domestic violence.

On the next day, Ms Naredo continued to share her experience on campaigning for legislation reform with local

women's groups such as the Harmony House, the Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres, and the Hong Kong Women's Coalition on Equal Opportunities.

### The Concept of "Due Diligence":

The CEDAW, applicable to Hong Kong, calls on State Parties to act with due diligence to prevent and respond to violence against women. There are four layers of obligation on States parties: the obligations to respect, protect, fulfill and promote. In the context of women's rights not to be subjected to violence, the State's obligation to respect requires them to refrain from interfering with women's enjoyment of the right to freedom from violence. The obligation to protect requires States to take measures that prevent third parties from interfering with women's rights to be free from violence. The obligation to fulfill requires States to adopt appropriate legislative, administrative, budgetary, judicial, promotional and other measures towards the full realization of the rights of women, and the obligation to promote means to take measures to educate all citizens about rights through a variety means.



本會婦女組成員在論壇上發言

### The Implications of the Tin Shui Wai case

The Tin Shui Wai family tragedy in 2004 exposes the acute situation of domestic violence in Hong Kong, in which women's human rights are abused disproportionately. At a time when the Government of HKSAR is reviewing the Domestic Violence Ordinance, AIHK urges the government to incorporate the concept of "Due Diligence" into its legislation and policy to combat domestic violence in Hong Kong.

The forum was sponsored by Oxfam Hong Kong.



# 為何要恐懼？

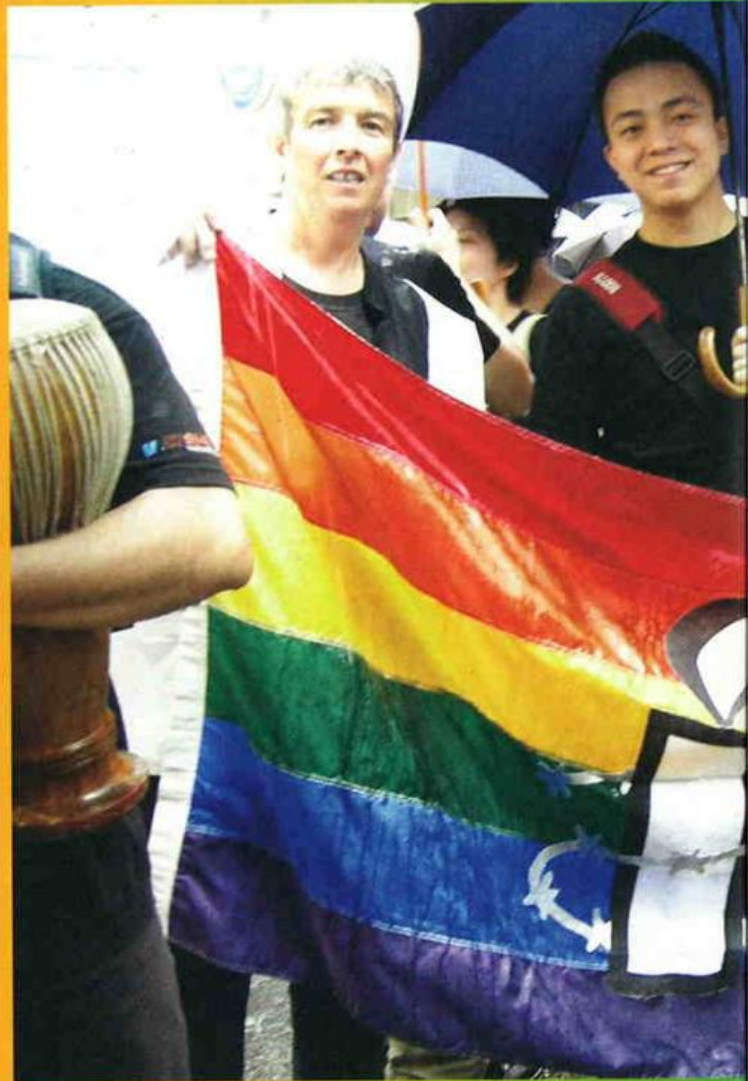
## International Day Against

為響應第二屆「國際不再恐同日」，本會聯同18個志願團體於5月21日在銅鑼灣鬧市發起遊行，呼籲社會大眾消除對同性戀、雙性戀與跨性別社群的畏懼和歧視。

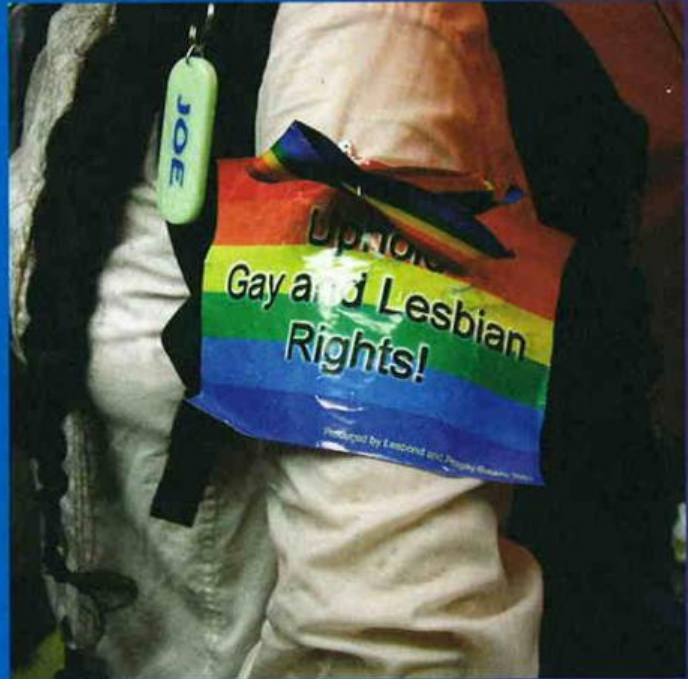
在豪雨之下，超過三百名支持消除性傾向歧視的人士組成的隊伍，依然無懼風雨，完成歷時兩個半小時的集會遊行。今年的主題為「挺身而行 消除歧視」，今年全球共有50多個國家同步響應，向公眾推廣性傾向及性別認同的平等權利訊息。

世界衛生組織於1990年5月17日將「同性戀」從精神病名冊中正式除名，去年，國際同性戀組織為紀念這個日子，將每年當日正式定為「國際不再恐同日」。今屆香港區遊行加入了「一分鐘默哀」環節，以悼念一些國家和地區在恐同下的死難者，及向受害者致意。

國際特赦組織深信，同性戀者就如其他人一樣，接受人權的全面保障，而政府則有責任保障及推動同志社群的基本人權。國際特赦組織更體諒到那些純粹因為性取向而受牢獄之苦的人，或因為性別身份而受困的良心犯。



# 國際不再恐同日 Against Homophobia



On 21 May 2006, AIHK together with 18 community groups, organized the second International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO). More than 300 activists braved downpours to march through crowded Causeway Bay demanding an end to discrimination against homophobia. Before marching around the Sogo department store, the parade held a minute's silence for the victims of discrimination.

Although the IDAHO event was well-supported and events took place in many countries, the success cannot hide the daily reality of LGBT people throughout the world, where homopho-

bic discrimination remains widespread. Persecution continues in Nepal and executions continue in Iran. In 80 countries, homosexuality continues to be illegal, with penalties ranging from imprisonment to execution.

Amnesty International believes that LGBT people are entitled to the full range of human rights protections afforded to anyone else, and that governments have an obligation to protect and promote the basic human rights of LGBT people. Amnesty International considers people imprisoned solely because of their sexual orientation or gender identity to be prisoners of conscience.

# 香港政府有責任處理難民問題

## Refugees are our responsibility, too



香港雖然地少人多，但過去已曾收容過不少難民。大部分難民都是在政治動亂時，為了避難而逃到香港的中國大陸公民，此外，亦有來自世界各地，尋求政治庇護的人士。在九十年代中期，香港曾收容了超過二十萬名越南船民。這足以證明香港是有能力應付難民的湧入。

可惜，香港至今還沒有確立保障難民權益的相關法律或行政程序。現時共有143個國家受《1951年難民地位公約》約束，雖然中國是該公約的其中一個締約國，可是《公約》至今並未適用於香港。因此，香港政府聲稱它沒有訂立明確難民政策的需要或法律責任。香港政府對待尋求政治庇護的難民所施行的措施，跟一般的入境者無異。

但是，香港政府實在有法律上的義務來保障難民的權益，尤其在進行遣返具難民資格的人士時，更需要慎重處理。這些人士如被遣返，其生命或自由會因為其種族、宗教、國籍、社會組織的成員資格或持某種政見而受到危害。「不能遣返具難民資格人士」這個原則是國際法律慣例。香港實行普通法，所以此慣例也適用於香港。此外，其他適用於香港的主要人權公約，也列明有關於不能遣返具難民身份人士的條文。要遵守這個原則，香港需要訂立清晰指引來釐定難民的身份，並確保難民不會在非自願下遣返。

自從篩選越南船民的機制被廢除後，香港政府再沒有制定新的機制去處理來港難民。現時，來港難民大部分會到聯合國難民事務高級專員香港辦事處（下簡稱「辦事處」）申請成為難民。可是，辦事處並沒有足夠財力去擔當這個角色。最近，辦事處已因財政問題，宣佈停止對等候結果的尋求庇護者提供生活津貼。香港作為一個富裕的社會，實在有責任保護這批人士的合理權益。

來港難民的權益實在需要受到切實保障。國際特赦組織十分關注現時在沒有明確政策規管下，來港難民可能會在沒有經過公平調查的情況下被遣返。國際特赦組織呼籲港府儘快制定有關法律和把《公約》伸延到香港。只有這樣，香港才能夠履行其對來港難民的責任。

Hong Kong has accepted refugees throughout its history, despite its increasing population and small size. Most have come from mainland China during periods of political unrest and asylum seekers continue to arrive from all over Asia and other parts of the world. Hong Kong proved its capacity to deal with a large influx of refugees when more than 200,000 Vietnamese "boat people" landed in Hong Kong between 1975 and the mid-1990s.

Currently, however, Hong Kong has no legal or administrative procedures to protect the rights of refugees. The 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees which binds 143 countries, does not apply to the SAR, although China is a party to this Convention. As a result, the Hong Kong government claims it has no legal responsibilities or explicit policy toward refugees and that it treats asylum seekers like any other arrivals coming into Hong Kong.

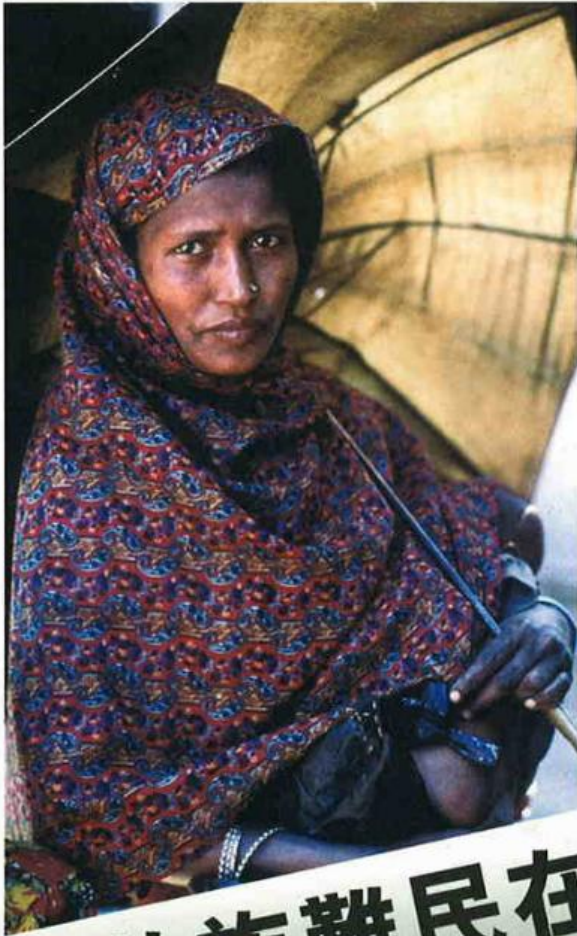
But the SAR does in fact have international legal obligations to protect refugees, especially from refoulement, or from being returned to places where their lives or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or holding a certain political opinion. The principle of non-refoulement is part of customary international law which binds all states and is directly applicable to Hong Kong through the common law. Other key human rights treaties which apply to Hong Kong contain their own prohibitions against refoulement. In order to ensure respect for this principle, Hong Kong needs procedures designed to determine who is at risk and to ensure that refugees are not returned.

Since the dismantling of mechanisms to screen Vietnamese asylum seekers, however, the Hong Kong Government has not developed a new system and refugees who enter the territory tend to make their way to the Hong Kong sub-office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to apply for refugee status.



The under-funded UNHCR cannot afford to play this role and it should not have the primary responsibility for protecting refugees in a wealthy jurisdiction such as Hong Kong. Its limitations were revealed recently when the UNHCR announced that budget constraints have forced the office to stop providing living allowances for the most vulnerable asylum seekers while they wait for the outcome of their claims.

Refugees in Hong Kong need guarantees to ensure their rights. In particular, Amnesty International is concerned that without a proper policy refugees may be returned to their countries of origin without a fair investigation of their claims. AI calls on the government to take the necessary steps to protect asylum seekers, including the introduction of domestic legislation and the extension of the Refugee Convention to the HKSAR. Only then will Hong Kong be able to honour its international obligations towards refugees and asylum seekers.



四月二十六日，國際特赦組織香港分會聯同Christian Solidarity Worldwide (HK)就緬甸欽族難民舉辦講座，匯報他們最近在馬來西亞考察欽族難民情況的結果。

講者們與欽族難民的訪談揭露了性暴力、虐待及強迫勞動這些使人震驚的謠傳。這都迫使受訪者們冒著極大的風險逃離家園，逃越泰國到達馬來西亞。可是，抵達馬來西亞後，欽族難民所遇到的困難並沒有完結。馬來西亞不是聯合國難民公約的締約國，這表示尋求國際難民保護的人實際上跟那些因經濟理由移居的人沒有分別。

尋求庇護人士必須嘗試跟聯合國難民事務高級專員署登記，以獲得難民身份文件。在他們獲發該文件前，他們只會被歸類為「非法移民」，不享有任何法定地位，並有可能隨時被補。

有尋求庇護人士舉報受到警方的不公平對待。那些被補的無證移民多被關於拘留所，拘留所內環境過度擁擠、衛生情況欠佳、食物和安全食水供應不足、醫療要求被拒，還有精神及身體虐待都在舉報項目之列。

多年來，國際特赦組織要求馬來西亞政府追認聯合國難民公約以確保所有尋求庇護人士不受干擾地接觸聯合國難民事務高級專員署。這次調查團再一次說明難民及尋求庇護人士在馬來西亞面對的嚴峻情況，以及馬來西亞當局處理此問題之手法，實在有迫切需要作出革新。

# 欽族難民在馬來西亞的悲劇

## Chin Refugees in Malaysia: an on-going human rights tragedy

Malaysia.

However on arrival in Malaysia,

the problems of the Chin refugees are not over.

Malaysia is not a party to the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. This means that it makes no distinction between people seeking international refugee protection and those migrating for economic reasons.

Asylum seekers have to try and register with United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to obtain documentation as a refugee. Until they have that documentation, they are designated as "illegal immigrants", they have no legal status and are liable to arrest at any time.

The asylum seekers have reported unfair treatment by the police. Those arrested as undocumented migrants are often held in detention centres, where conditions problems of overcrowding, poor hygiene and sanitation, inadequate provision of food and safe drinking water, denial of medical care and verbal or physical abuse have all been reported.

Amnesty International has been campaigning for many years for the Malaysian government to ratify the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol and to ensure that all those seeking asylum have full access UNHCR. This fact-finding mission demonstrates once again the harsh conditions that refugees and asylum-seekers face in Malaysia and the urgent need for change in the way that the Malaysian authorities handle this issue.



講者/Speakers: Raquel Amador, Melissa Karpousez Neher, Choto Olivas Gallo

AIHK and Christian Solidarity Worldwide (HK) co-presented a talk on Chin refugees from Myanmar on April 26, and reported on a recent mission to investigate the conditions of Chin refugees in Malaysia.

The speakers' interviews with Chin refugees revealed shocking tales of sexual violence, torture and forced labour, which led to the interviewees fleeing their homeland, at great personal risk, to cross Thailand into

# 人權理事會：人

## Human Rights Council: A new b



香港社會對聯合國的關注一向有限，即使是近年在國際社會上鬧得熱烘烘的聯合國改革議程，在本地報章都鮮有聽聞。作為一個全球跨政府的組織，聯合國在維護人權上的影響舉足輕重，眾多的國際人權公約，包括《公民權利和政治權利國際公約》及《經濟、社會與文化國際公約》等，都是由聯合國屬下的各個委員會審議締約國落實公約的情況，並作出相應的批評及建議。聯合國的憲制文件《聯合國憲章》亦清楚指出，聯合國的宗旨之一，就是要「增進並激勵對於全體人類之人權及基本自由之尊重」，可見改善全球人權狀況本身就屬於聯合國及其成員國的基本責任。

### 改革內容

在聯合國成立超過六十年的今天，呼籲聯合國改革的聲音日隆，除了最為人熟悉的「入常」爭議外（指的是日本希望加入安理會成為常任理事國），處理人權事務的架構也有著重要的改變。今年三月，聯合國大會以大比數通過成立人權理事會，以取代舊有的人權委員會。新的理事會將會有更緊密的會期（一年至少三次，相對於委員會每年只有一次長六星期的會期），以及更容易啟動的特別程序，以就緊急的重大侵權事件作出更有效的反應。在會員的選舉上，亦由過往只要簡單多數（即出席會議並投票的會員國的一半票），改為必須由大會過半數成員（即在一百九十一個成員國中得到至少九十六票）支持才能獲委任的制度，希望透過提高入選門檻，儘量避免在人權問題上聲名狼藉的國家入選，故意左右理事會的工作。聯合國大會亦有權在三分之二的成員國同意下，中止嚴重違反人權的國家的人權理事會成員資格。

### 當選的責任

第一次理事會成員選舉已於今年五月舉行，最惹人關注的是有部份當選國家有著不光彩的人權紀錄，國際特赦組織認為，這些國家必須盡快改善國內的人權狀況，並履行參選人權理事會時所許下的承諾，包括落實主要的人權公約、邀請聯合國人權專家到訪、以及強化國內人權機制等，以求真正能夠發揮理事會的職能，促進世界的人權發展。



# 權發展的里程碑

## Beginning for human rights

Although there has been a heated debate on the reform of the United Nations (UN) in recent years, there is only a very limited attention by the Hong Kong people. As a global inter-governmental organization, UN has always been an important platform to the protection and promotion of human rights around the world. Many of the international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), are managed by the committees under the UN to monitor the ratification of these important treaty bodies, while making valuable criticism and suggestions to the signatory countries. The UN Charter, a document outlining the status of the organization, also states that the purposes of the UN are to "promote and encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all". It is thus very clear that the protection and promotion of human rights are the inherent responsibilities of the UN and also its member countries.

### What's inside the reform?

Sixty years after its establishment, there has been increasing voices calling for reform at the UN, including the popular debate on the Japanese government's attempt to become a permanent member of the Security Council. Human rights structures would also undergo significant changes in the proposed reform. In March 2006, the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favour of the set up of a new human rights body, the Human Rights Council, to replace the existing Commission on Human Rights. The new Council will have a more frequent meeting schedule (at least three times a year, in contrast to once a year for the Commission on Human Rights) and the ability to convene more easily in special sessions, thereby allowing it to react more effectively to both chronic and urgent situations. Instead of slates being adopted by acclamation as for the Commission, each member of the Council must be elected individually. A higher threshold of votes applies - at least 96 individual votes out of 191

members - so as to prevent the Council from being paralyzed by members with poor human rights record. Those committing gross and systematic violations of human rights can have their membership suspended by a two-thirds majority of members of the General Assembly.



### The responsibility of the elected

The first election of the Human Rights Council had been held in May 2006. Some elected states have a record of serious human rights violations. These states must improve their human rights performance and materialize the pledges and commitments that were made before running for the election, including the ratification of important human rights treaties, invitation to UN human rights experts to visit the country, and to strengthen the national institutions, in order to exercise the Council's mandate to address all human rights situations effectively.



例如當他們知道了在一個仍有死刑制度的國家中，有人被判死刑，無論這人犯了什麼罪行，它們會集合了組織人員的力量，爭取免去該罪犯的死刑，改為其他刑罰，因為死刑是不可挽回的。

在採訪期間看到的一些圖片和文章，帶給我某種殘上的震撼，原來在某些地方，人權是這樣被踐踏，但該地人卻沒有能力去改變這些情況。因此，國際特赦組織希望去援助每一個被踐踏人權的人。但是，人權的範圍很廣闊，大至一個國家的制度，小至一個家庭暴力問題，卻與人權扯上關係，國際特赦組織所能夠擱上的未必是百分之一百，但令我深刻的是，他們從來沒有放棄每一個機會。

我毫不猶豫地參加了該次的採訪。我舉行了採訪特赦組織的時候，基於對這個組織的好奇，人權的孩子後，令我留下一個很深刻的印象。於是在明組織的義工，當時聽他們介紹關於如何幫助一些被剝奪人權的義工，我曾經在街上接觸過這個組織的義工，當時聽他們介紹關於如何幫助一些被剝奪人權的孩子後，令我留下一個很深刻的印象。於是在明

我叫歐陽葉妮，是葵涌循道中學中四級的學生，也是明報的校園記者。



他們的精神實在是讓我敬佩，作為一位校園記者，以至是一位記者，我會去想這個職業能否為人種出一分子？當然可以，我一直深信傳真力量是有很大的影響力，我們或許只有一部相機和一枝筆，但我可以把真相送到讀者們的眼前，用文字去揭露事件後的真相，捍衛社會上不為人知的弱勢社群。

國際特赦組織 燃點人權燭光

視放眼世界

聆聽巴人的

國際特赦組織 香港分會

明報校園記者 Student Reporters of Hong Kong

揮動筆桿為人權

I'm Au-Yeung Yip Ni, and I'm a student reporter of Ming Pao.

Prior to the interview, I had previously come across some AIHK's volunteers on one occasion. Listening to their stories about how to help the exploited children impressed me a lot. Hence when Ming Pao organized the visit to Amnesty, I joined without hesitation.

During the visit, I saw some photos and articles which stuck me with the horrible reality. In some parts of the world, human rights are being wantonly trampled upon. However, the locals are incapable of altering the situation. Amnesty, therefore, strives to help those who are deprived of their human rights on their behalf.

The scope of human rights is so vast that it encompasses weighty issues of a country but also minute issues of family violence. What Amnesty could help may not cover all, but what impressed me is that they never let go of a single chance.

For example, when they learn about a person being sentenced to death in any country where capital punishment still exists, Amnesty will gather all the manpower in their organization to fight for an exemption. This is regardless of what the offender has committed. Amnesty is against the irredeemable nature of the death penalty and treasures precious human lives.

Their spirit is what I appreciated. Being a student reporter, or a journalist, I sometimes question myself whether this profession enables me to make an effort towards upholding human rights? Yes, sure. I have always believed in the powerful impact of the media. We may have a mere pen and camera, but we can let the readers know the truth, disclose the hidden facts by words, and fight on behalf of the silent yet vulnerable groups in society.

本欄歡迎會員分享他們的人權工作，請把內容電郵至 [admin-hk@amnesty.org](mailto:admin-hk@amnesty.org)



我是葵涌循道中學中四級的學生，也是明報的校園記者。

歐陽葉妮



孔繁強  
本會新任策劃經理

Billy Hung  
Campaign Manager, AIHK

我跟很多人一樣，一直都被國際特赦組織的標誌所吸引！一支被刺棘鐵線圍繞的蠟燭，堅持地燃點著。它既反映出在很多不同的地方，人們生存的艱難處境，卻又不致令人感到氣餒，反而是令人感到了不屈的力量。它表現出的個性，很像我一直都喜歡的，來自各地的異議音樂。

我在關注貧窮和勞工問題的民間組織工作多年，這次投入到國際特赦組織的工作中，令我對「權利」的視野大大的擴展了。我很樂意接受這項工作，我深信我會得到的東西，會比我付出的多，也將會認識到更多的同路人。

Like many others, I'm always attracted to the logo of Amnesty! A candle, though with barbed wire snaking around, is still glowing persistently. In a sense, it reflects the difficult circumstances that people in various locations are surviving through. However, it isn't discouraging, but radiates an unyielding power instead. The character it presented is much alike to something I always enjoy – dissident music worldwide.

For years, I've been working in local organisations on poverty and labour issues. Now, I've joined Amnesty and it has very much widen my horizon regarding "rights". I'm delighted to take up the job. I truly believe I'll gain more than I can give, and make more acquaintances who are heading down the same path as me.



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國際特赦組織是一個獨立自主的機構，我們不會接受任何政府或政治團體的捐獻，而只是倚仗熱心的市民大眾的捐款，以支持我們捍衛人權及生命的工作。因此您的慷慨支持對我們的工作實在非常重要。

Amnesty International is an independent organization, we do not accept any donations from governments or political parties, but depend largely on the generosity of the general public to fund our human rights and life-saving work. Therefore, your generous support is very important to our work.

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You can support our work to protect human rights by making a donation to us, especially through monthly automatic payment as it can definitely help save administrative costs, and your ongoing and continuous support can also enable us to plan our human rights programmes more effectively.



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