

Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a world-wide volunteer organization funded entirely by subscriptions and donations. It is totally independent of any government, political faction, ideology, economic interest or religious creed.

The organization works for the release of 'Prisoners of Conscience'- men, women and children imprisoned anywhere for their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion. It also seeks fair and immediate trial for all political prisoners detained without charge, and opposes torture and the degrading treatment of prisoners. It is also against the death penalty for all types of crime.

Amnesty works by collecting information. When it has proof that a person is a 'Prisoner of Conscience', that person's case is handed over to a local group. The local groups are ordinary individuals who believe in Amnesty's work. They send letters to governments, embassies, leading newspapers and the prisoner's family and friends. They also collect

signatures and raise money to send medicine, food and clothing to the prisoners and their families. These volunteers use their freedom of speech to win the same freedom for their adopted prisoner.

Paradoxically, Amnesty International is an organization that will only be satisfied when it has become redundant.

1. Answer the following questions using your own words. (2 points: 1 point each)

- What are the aims of Amnesty International?
- How do Amnesty's local groups operate?

2. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? (1 point: 0.5 each)

- Amnesty International follows a religious creed.
- Amnesty International fights for the release of any prisoner who opposes violence.

3. Find a word or phrase in the text which, in context, is similar in meaning to: (1 point: 0.5 each)

- looks for, tries to obtain
- most important

4. Choose a, b, or c, in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (2 points: 0.5 each)

1. Amnesty International is supported ...

- by people with left-wing views.*
- in part by government assistance.*
- by people who give money or subscribe to the organization.*

2. Amnesty gathers information ...

