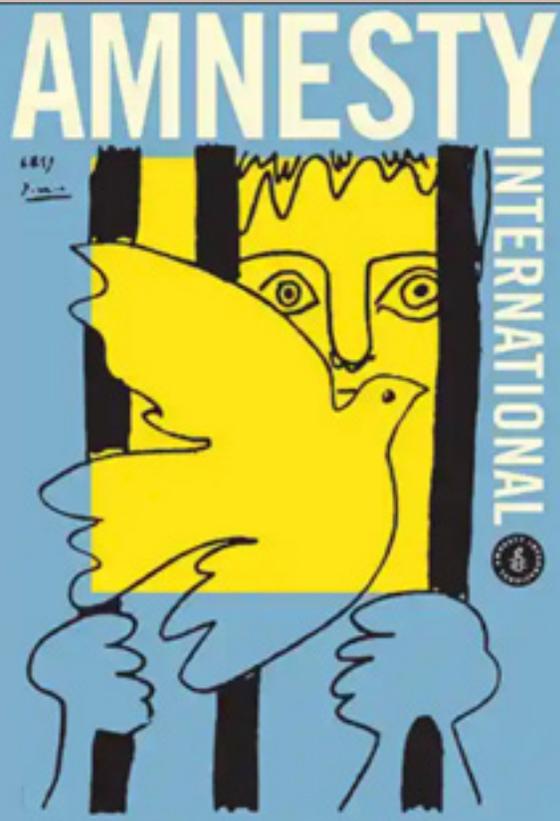




**July 2022**

**Our Next Meeting:  
July 14th on Zoom**



“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

**Eleanor Roosevelt**

## **Urgent Action: Iran Health of Tortured Iranian Defender at Risk**

On November 16, 2021, Narges Mohammadi was violently arrested while attending a memorial ceremony in the city of Karaj, Alborz province, to mark the second anniversary of the death of Ebrahim Ketabdar, who was killed by Iranian security forces during nationwide protests in November 2019. The day after her arrest, while held in solitary confinement in section 209 of Tehran’s Evin prison, which is under the control of the Ministry of Intelligence, the authorities informed her that she was to begin serving a prison sentence of two years and six months following a 2021 conviction, and they also threatened to carry out her flogging sentence of 80 lashes imminently.



She recounted being held in prolonged solitary confinement for 64 days in section 209, during which period Ministry of Intelligence agents subjected her to torture and other ill-treatment. She said Ministry of Intelligence agents kept bright lights on 24 hours a day; severely limited her access to fresh air and natural light to only thrice a week for 20 minutes each time; and kept her in almost total isolation without meaningful contact with other prisoners; she only saw the guards who took her to toilet or brought food – all this caused her severe distress and suffering, including shortness of breath.

On January 4, 2022, while still in solitary confinement, Narges Mohammadi was taken before Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran to stand trial in a second case. This trial was grossly unfair: it lasted just five minutes and she revealed afterwards being denied access to a lawyer both before and during the trial. On January 15, 2022, she was informed that the Court sentenced her to eight years and two months in prison; two years in internal “exile” in a city outside Tehran where she normally lives; a two-year ban on membership in political and social parties, groups or collectives; a two-year ban on engagement in online space, media and press; and 74 lashes.

The January 2022 conviction and sentence are in addition to an earlier conviction by Branch 1177 of Criminal Court Two in Tehran, which, according to Narges Mohammadi’s Instagram post dated May 24, 2021, sentenced her to two years and six months in prison, 80 lashes and two fines on charges that included “spreading propaganda against the system”. She was convicted of “offences” stemming from her participation, during an earlier period of imprisonment,

in a sit-in with other prisoners in the women's ward of Evin prison between December 21 and 24, 2019 to protest unlawful killings during the November 2019 nationwide protests and making statements condemning the death penalty. She also spoke out against prison, male security and judicial officials subjecting her to torture and other ill-treatment, shortly after the peaceful sit-in, including through repeated beatings all over her body, roughly yanking her down a stairwell and throwing her against a wall. The office of the prosecutor in Tehran refused to process the complaint that Narges Mohammadi filed in late December 2019 in connection with these allegations of torture and other ill-treatment.

She is being denied the ongoing healthcare she requires following heart attacks and subsequent heart surgery she had earlier in 2022, including monitoring of the inserted stent, medication, the specialized diet recommended by her doctors and maintaining low levels of stress. In addition to this, Narges Mohammadi has a pre-existing lung disease, which is characterized by breathing difficulties, and for which she must use an inhaler and regularly take anticoagulant medications that prevent the formation of blood clots in her lungs.

On January 19, 2022, Narges Mohammadi was transferred from section 209 of Evin prison to Shahr-e Rey prison and placed in a ward with women convicted of serious violent crimes is in breach of both Iranian law and international standards, which require the authorities to keep prisoners convicted of non-violent offences separate from prisoners convicted of violent offences. These unsafe conditions have contributed to a deterioration in Narges Mohammadi's mental well-being, particularly as she had reported receiving death threats by other prisoners in April and July 2020.

Narges Mohammadi was released from prison on October 8, 2020 after being unjustly imprisoned for over five years in a case also solely stemming from her human rights work. She reported that from the time of her release until her arbitrary arrest and detention on November 16, 2021, she received death threats from security forces and was arbitrarily arrested on at

least five occasions and detained each time for periods reaching up to about a day. Each time, she was arrested while carrying out her peaceful human rights work, including supporting those who are unjustly detained by seeking to draw public attention to the human violations Iranian authorities subject them to and attending a gathering for the people of Afghanistan. On some of these occasions, Narges Mohammadi

said that Ministry of Intelligence agents subjected her to torture and other ill-treatment, including by roughly pulling her hair and repeatedly beating her all over her body.

Arbitrarily detained Iranian human rights defender Narges Mohammadi is being tortured and otherwise ill-treated in Shahr-e Rey prison in Varamin, outside Tehran, including by being intentionally denied the specialized healthcare she requires in reprisal for her

human rights work. She is a prisoner of conscience who must be immediately and unconditionally released.

### **Sample Letter**

*Dear Mr. Gholamhossein Moheni Ejei,*

*Prosecution authorities on the instruction of Ministry of Intelligence agents are subjecting human rights defender Narges Mohammadi, 50, who is arbitrarily detained in Shahr-e Rey prison (also known as Gharchak) in the city of Varamin, Tehran province, to torture and other ill-treatment. They are deliberately denying her adequate healthcare in reprisal for her public campaigning against the use of solitary confinement in Iran's prisons and for seeking accountability for hundreds of unlawful killings during the November 2019 nationwide protests.*

*From about late April 2022 to mid-May 2022, the authorities withheld the medication she requires for serious health conditions, including for her heart and lungs. Narges Mohammadi reported that on February 3, 2022, following a heart attack, the prison doctor denied her adequate healthcare, while prosecution officials barred her transfer to hospital outside of prison for urgent healthcare, placing her life at risk. Only*



after Narges Mohammadi suffered a series of heart attacks on February 16, 2020, she was transferred to hospital, where she had emergency heart surgery. Against medical advice and before she recuperated, on February 19, 2022, authorities took her back to prison.

Narges Mohammadi has been unjustly in and out of prison for over a dozen years in relation to her human rights work. Most recently, Narges Mohammadi was convicted and sentenced to a total of 10 years and eight months in prison, 154 lashes and other sanctions in two separate cases both stemming solely from her human rights work; and in late April 2022, prosecution authorities summoned her for questioning in a new case also in relation to her peaceful human rights activities.

Narges Mohammadi's latest imprisonment resumed on April 21, 2022, when Ministry of Intelligence agents arrested her while she out of prison on medical leave, began on February 22, 2022, and sent her to Gharchak to resume serving her sentences. There, prison authorities are holding her in cruel and inhumane conditions. In recent weeks, prisoners in Gharchak have reported overflowing sewage resulting

in filthiness and foul odours, putting prisoners at risk of disease and exacerbating the unsanitary conditions in the wards, washing and toilet facilities. She is also held with women convicted of violent crimes and in late May 2022 her lawyer reported that a prisoner threatened to kill Narges Mohammadi and another prisoner held for political reasons.

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Narges Mohammadi as she is prisoner of conscience detained solely for her peaceful human rights activities, quash her unjust convictions and sentences, and drop any criminal proceedings against her in relation to the peaceful exercise of her human rights. Pending her release, she must be provided with adequate health care, including for treatment unavailable in prison, and protected from further torture and other ill-treatment. A prompt, independent, effective and impartial investigation into her allegations of torture and other ill-treatment must be conducted, with a view of bringing those responsible to justice in fair trials.

Sincerely,

#### **TAKE ACTION:**

1 Write a letter in your own words or using the sample as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.

2 Click [here](#) to let us know the actions you took on Urgent Action 105.15. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

#### **Head of judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei**

c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union,  
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15,  
1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

Dear Mr. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

#### **H.E. Majid Takht Ravanchi**

Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor,  
New York, NY 10017  
Phone: 212 687-2020  
Fax: 212 867 7086

## AIUSA Group 48

<https://aipdx.org>  
[www.facebook.com/  
amnestygroup48/](https://www.facebook.com/amnestygroup48/)

**Group Coordinator**  
**Ron Noble**

ronald65536@gmail.com

**Treasurer**  
**Tena Hoke**

tena.hoke@gmail.com

**Newsletter**  
**Daniel Webb**

pdx.videozine@gmail.com

**OR Area Coordinator**  
**Marty Fromer**

martyfromer@gmail.com

**Indonesia**  
**Max White**

maxw33@comcast.net

**Prisoners' Cases**  
**Jane Kristof**

kristofj@pdx.edu

**Concert Tabling**  
**Will Ware**

ww\_ware@yahoo.com

**Central Africa/ OR State  
Death Penalty Abolition**  
**Terrie Rodello**

tarodello@igc.org

[www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)

Postage Rates

Within the United States

\$0.58 - Domestic Letter up to 1oz,  
standard envelope size

\$0.40 - Domestic Postcard

International Postage

\$1.30 - Up to 1 oz

## China: Families of Xinjiang detainees speak out as they await long-overdue UN report

July 6, 2022--Amnesty International today published heartbreaking new testimony from relatives of 48 ethnic Uyghur and Kazakh people detained in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, as it reiterated its call for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to take action.

The outgoing High Commissioner, Michelle Bachelet, has yet to release a long-awaited report on serious human rights violations in Xinjiang, and has repeatedly failed to recognize the gravity of violations by Chinese authorities in the region. It is deeply disappointing that due to this delay, yet another UN Human Rights Council session will close this week without having been able to discuss the UN's findings on Xinjiang.

The new testimony gathered by Amnesty International is part of its [Free Xinjiang Detainees campaign](#), which now tells the stories of 120 individuals who have been swept up in China's vast system of prisons and internment camps in Xinjiang.

"The accounts of these families offer a window into the horrors taking place in Xinjiang, which amount to crimes against humanity. Many people said they have several family members in detention, illustrating the industrial scale of the abuses – one man said 40 of his relatives had been detained," said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General.

"The foot-dragging which has characterized the UN response to the dystopian nightmare in Xinjiang adds insult to injury for victims and survivors of China's campaign of mass imprisonment, torture and persecution against predominantly Muslim minorities in Xinjiang since 2017. We continue to call on the Chinese government to dismantle its vast system of internment camps; end all arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and ill-treatment whether in prisons or other locations; and end its horrific persecution of Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other minorities in Xinjiang.

"Chinese authorities must be held accountable, and a crucial step is for High Commissioner Bachelet to publish her long-delayed report that should be presented urgently at the UN Human Rights Council. Her ongoing failure to call out crimes against humanity and other serious human rights violations in Xinjiang is an obstacle to justice. It also puts the UN system to shame."

Amnesty International recently carried out in-person interviews in Turkey with exiled relatives of 48 detainees. They described how their loved ones had been arrested for "terrorism"-related or other spurious charges, apparently for things as mundane as traveling or paying for their children's education abroad. Others appear to have been arrested solely on the basis of their religion or ethnicity.

Gulaisha Oralbay, a Kazakh woman, described what happened to her brother, Dilshat Oralbay, a retired Kazakh journalist and translator, after the Chinese authorities coaxed him into returning to Xinjiang from Kazakhstan in 2017. His passport was confiscated immediately upon his return, and he was arrested several months later.

"There is no court, they just put him in jail, [and told him it would be]



Illustration copyright Molly Crabapple

for 25 years,” Gulaisha said.

“I don’t even think [he] himself knows the reason. Somebody said [it was] because he travelled to Kazakhstan, and different excuses; there is no clear justification and reason.”

Gulaisha and Dilshat’s two sisters, Bakytgul and Bagila Oralbay, are also in detention.

Abdullah Rasul told Amnesty International how his brother Parhat Rasul, a Uyghur farmer and part-time butcher, was detained and taken to an internment camp in May 2017. The family have not heard from him directly since then, but in 2018 a reliable source told them Parhat had been sentenced to nine years in prison.

Parhat’s family believes that he was arrested simply because he is an observant Muslim and was doing charity work. Family members said Parhat’s wife Kalbinur and his mother-in-law Parizat Abdugul were also imprisoned. Parhat and Kalbinur have two daughters, aged 14 and 16, and a son aged 11.

“They [the Chinese government] want to erase our identity, erase our culture, erase our religion,” Abdullah Rasul said. “I hope everyone can see clearly what is happening in our homeland.”

Medine Nazimi described how she last heard the voice of her sister, Mevlüde Hilal, at the end of 2016. Mevlüde had been studying in Turkey but, after she returned to Xinjiang to help her ailing mother, she was sent to an internment camp in 2017 and later allegedly sentenced to 10 years in prison on a charge of “separatism”. She is married and has a young daughter.

“When they took my sister, my niece, Aisha, was only one year old,” Medine told Amnesty International. “We were just going about our daily lives, and we were a happy family. My sister was taken for only one reason: it’s because she’s a Uyghur.”

People who speak out about the situation do so at great risk; several family members of detainees described being threatened by the authorities for going public.

Abudurehman Tothi, a Uyghur businessman and activist living in Turkey was interviewed by international media about his wife and mother’s imprisonment and father’s arbitrary detention. He told Amnesty International that afterwards the Chinese consulate in Turkey contacted him and threatened him with detention or death in a “car crash”.

Since 2017, there has been extensive documentation of China’s crackdown against Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, carried out under the guise of fighting “terrorism”. In 2021, a comprehensive report by Amnesty International demonstrated that the systematic state-organized mass imprisonment, torture and persecution perpetrated by Chinese authorities were crimes against humanity.

Chinese authorities have used their repressive surveillance state to try to sweep these violations under the carpet, but information continues to seep out of Xinjiang. In May 2022, several international media outlets published a joint investigation, the Xinjiang Police Files, which included a cache of leaked speeches, images, documents and spreadsheets obtained from Chinese internal police networks.

“Despite a growing body of evidence, Chinese authorities are still lying to the world about arbitrary detention on a massive scale in Xinjiang,” said Agnès Callamard.

“Amnesty International supports the joint call by dozens of UN experts to establish an independent, impartial and international mechanism. Such a mechanism must investigate crimes against humanity and

other serious human rights violations committed by the Chinese government in Xinjiang. The many thousands of people still arbitrarily detained, and their families, deserve truth, justice and accountability.”

Bachelet should as a matter of urgency address the demands of the detainees’ families and indicate whether her office has been able to take any steps towards facilitating information on those detained.

The UN Human Rights Council’s 50th session is ongoing and will end on 8 July. It will be the last with Michelle Bachelet as High Commissioner; her mandate ends on 31 August 2022 and she has announced she will not seek a second term.

At the end of May, in a press conference following her long-awaited trip to China – including a brief visit to Xinjiang, Bachelet failed to acknowledge serious human rights violations in China. Her statement at the end of her visit undermined efforts to advance accountability in the region, instead giving the impression she had walked straight into a highly predictable propaganda exercise for the Chinese government. She admitted afterwards that she could not speak to any detained Uyghurs or their families while in Xinjiang, and was accompanied by state officials at all times in the region.

## Amnesty International USA Statement on President Biden’s Executive Order to Protect Access to Reproductive Health Services

July 8, 2022 --Today, President Biden signed an executive order that makes strides to safeguard access to abortion and protect patient privacy, among other protections to abortion services. Responding to this news, Tarah Demant, Interim National Director of Programs, Advocacy, and Government Affairs at Amnesty International USA, said:

“We welcome President Biden’s vital step to protect access to safe and legal abortion through executive order. Still, more must be done to ensure that women, girls, and people who can become pregnant have full access to healthcare. This includes providing more resources to support people in need of abortion care, including expanding telehealth services for those seeking medication abortions and access to abortion for low-income people.

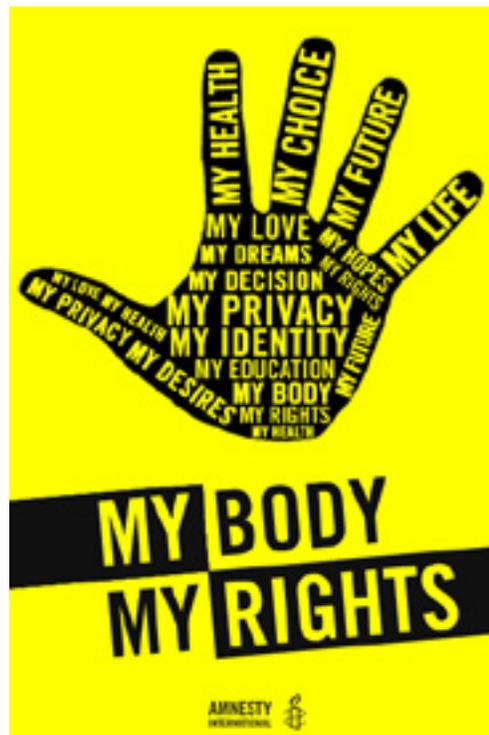
“The Department of Justice (DOJ) and Health and Human Services (HHS) must fulfill its promise to safeguard abortion services by aggressively pursuing legal action against any and all roadblocks to abortion access at the state level, including bans on medication abortion and out-of-state travel for abortion

care. Beyond this, the DOJ must examine all federal pathways to prevent state efforts to criminalize abortion care, including the use of federal property and resources to provide reproductive healthcare in states with severe restrictions.

“While we welcome the administration’s commitment to protecting patient privacy and access to accurate information, it must also consider tech companies, including Meta, Google, and Twitter, as central partners to these efforts. Action to regulate tech companies’ censorship of online information about abortion is urgently needed, as we have already begun to see the devastating effect of this anti-abortion landscape on all facets of society, including access to online information.”

“As more states rush to pass anti-abortion legislation, Amnesty International USA also renews its calls on the Biden administration

to declare a national public health emergency. Until then, we remain vigilant and will continue to hold the administration accountable to their promises to protect safe and legal access to abortion.”



## Urgent Action: Canada Indigenous Land Defenders at Risk

### NAME AND PRONOUN:

Wet'suwet'en people (they/them)

(June 22, 2022)Wet'suwet'en land defenders in Canada are at risk of serious human rights violations and could be arrested on their territory by Canadian Police. Hereditary chiefs oppose a liquified natural gas pipeline and have not given their consent to the project. Wet'suwet'en and other land defenders have already faced three raids by heavily armed police since 2019, and 15 people are currently facing criminal contempt charges for defying a court injunction that authorizes the police to remove people occupying permitted work sites. Wet'suwet'en Nation members report daily visits, harassment and intimidation by Canadian police officers and the company's private security service.

The British Columbia Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General supported the deployment of Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers to arrest Wet'suwet'en land defenders and peaceful protesters on their traditional territory on three separate occasions in 2019, 2020, and 2021. Seventy-four people have been arrested and detained, including legal observers and journalists. The RCMP were equipped with assault weapons, helicopters, and dog units and on one occasion were recorded by media breaking down the door to a home with an axe and a chainsaw while pointing weapons at people inside. To date, over CAN \$20 million dollars has been spent on policing and surveilling Wet'suwet'en land defenders. Federal government public safety documents label Wet'suwet'en leaders as 'aboriginal extremists'.

In February 2022, lawyers for Coastal Gaslink asked BC Supreme Court Justice Marguerite Church to seek Crown approval for criminal contempt charges against those arrested in November 2021. On two previous occasions, the Crown determined criminal charges were not in the public interest. However, on June 1, 2022, BC's Prosecution Service announced it will prosecute 15 people for criminal contempt and that it is contemplating criminal charges against a further 10 people who were arrested on November 19.

The Crown will announce its decision on July 7, 2022. The Crown says that land defenders are repeatedly defying a court order, but the Hereditary Chiefs say that Canada has no jurisdiction to grant a company an injunction on their own sovereign territory for a project they do not approve. The Wet'suwet'en won their title and rights claim in the 1997 Supreme Court of Canada Delgamuukw decision.

The RCMP Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG) was formed by in 2017 in response to large scale resource based industrial projects throughout British Columbia. It aims to 'provide strategic oversight addressing energy industry incidents and related public order, national security, and crime issues and to create a standardized response across the province'. Much of its efforts concern injunction enforcement. C-IRG coordinates responses from different policing groups such as the RCMP, Indigenous Policing Services, E-Division Critical Incidents Program, and government agencies.

Canada is party to international human rights Conventions, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and has a legal obligation to uphold the rights enshrined in those treaties. Canada announced its support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) which was passed into federal and provincial law in 2021 and 2019 respectively. The Declaration affirms that Indigenous peoples have the right to make their own decisions about their lives and futures according to their own laws and traditions. Yet Canada consistently fails to respect the rights of Indigenous peoples when they say no to resource extraction projects. A selective approach to human rights is contrary to the letter and spirit of Canada's human rights obligations and the reconciliation with Indigenous peoples that the Federal and Provincial governments claim to champion.

The Coastal GasLink pipeline is part of LNG Canada's liquified natural gas project to export LNG



to Asian markets. The project has the support of the government of Canada and the province of British Columbia. Canada is pursuing a policy of aggressive domestic fossil fuel expansion which contributes to the increase of greenhouse gas emissions. Canada must urgently phase out fossil fuels use and production to protect human rights.

## Sample Letter

Dear Minister Mendicino,

*I am writing to express serious concern about the safety of Wet'suwet'en land defenders in British Columbia who oppose the construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline. According to Wet'suwet'en leaders, drilling under the under the Wedzin Kwa (Morice River) is imminent. This is one of the last remaining clean sources of drinking water and salmon spawning grounds in the territory. Peaceful protestors and land defenders have occupied the drill pad site since September 2021. British Columbia's Minister of Public Safety authorized militarized police forces to arrest and forcibly remove land defenders from the territory in order to enforce an injunction obtained by the company. I am extremely worried that further arrests will put Wet'suwet'en land defenders at risk of serious human rights violations.*

*Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs – the traditional authorities of the Nation according to Wet'suwet'en Law as well as the Supreme Court of Canada's 1997 Delgamuukw ruling – have never consented to the Coastal GasLink pipeline project, even though some elected First Nations governments have signed benefit agreements with the company. Wet'suwet'en land defenders say they are harassed, intimidated, forcibly evicted, and criminalized by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the company's private security guards for peacefully defending their traditional lands over which they have title.*

*In May, the United Nations' Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) issued a third letter to Canada noting its concern over the escalating use of force, surveillance, and criminalization of land defenders and peaceful protestors by the RCMP, the RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (CIRG) and private security firms. I ask you, as a matter of urgency, to:*

- *Immediately withdraw RCMP and associated security and policing forces from Wet'suwet'en territory*

*and investigate all allegations of harassment, intimidation and forced evictions;*

- *Immediately cease all construction on the Coastal GasLink Pipeline and affiliated infrastructure until the free, prior and informed consent is obtained from all Wet'suwet'en people;*

- *Return to constructive discussions that were stalled in November 2021 with the Hereditary Chiefs about the Coastal GasLink Pipeline, respect for the laws, self-determination and right to free, prior, informed consent of the Wet'suwet'en people.*

Sincerely,

### Take Action:

1 Write a letter in your own words or using the sample letter as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.

2 Click [here](#) to let us know the actions you took on Urgent Action 61.22. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

### The Honourable Mark Mendicino, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Public Safety  
House of Commons, Ottawa  
Ontario K1A 0A6  
Tel: 613-992-6361  
Email: marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca

### Ambassador Kirsten Hillman

Embassy of Canada  
501 Pennsylvania Ave. NW,  
Washington DC 20001  
Phone: 202 682 1740  
Fax: 202 682 7726  
Email: ccs.scc@international.gc.ca  
Twitter: @CanEmbUsa ; @KristenHillmanA

Please take action until July 31, 2022

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.