

HUMAN RIGHTS TAKES CENTER STAGE AT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA'S 'WE MAKE OUR WORLD' FESTIVAL

Press Release

5 December 2023

Amnesty International Malaysia is excited to announce that the ***"We Make Our World: Our Rights are Connected, Our Lives are Intertwined"*** Festival kicks off this weekend at the Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall, from 8 to 10 December.

Featuring poetry, music performances, art installations, photography exhibitions, workshops and many other exciting events, ***We Make Our World*** celebrates the work of artists and human rights defenders, locally and internationally, who have sought to amplify stories of human rights violations through their art and activism.



**WE MAKE
OUR WORLD**

OUR RIGHTS ARE CONNECTED
OUR LIVES ARE INTERTWINED

8 – 10
DEC 2023
KLSCAH, KL
10AM – 10PM

**HUMAN
RIGHTS
DAY**

EXHIBITIONS
WORKSHOPS
DISCUSSIONS
MUSIC

MALAYSIA
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL 

UDHR75

Held in conjunction with International Human Rights Day 2023, annually commemorated on 10 December, this year's Human Rights Day also marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a foundational document in the history of international human rights law.

“On this 75th anniversary of the UDHR, we invite you to our human rights festival where people of all ages can engage with human rights issues in Malaysia and globally. Come join us in envisioning a world we can collectively create—where human rights are enjoyed by all—while recollecting how 75 years ago, we were once able to envision a global promise for justice that affirms the worth of all human beings,” said Katrina Jorene Maliamauv, the Executive Director of Amnesty International Malaysia.

Art & Photography Exhibitions

The festival will also be placing a special focus on several art installations and photography exhibitions that address key human rights issues—such as the retention of the death penalty and the prevalence of custodial violence within criminal justice systems—that are pertinent not only in the context of Malaysia but also resoundingly in the region.

All the artworks and photographs showcased during the festival are being featured for the first time in Malaysia including the **Magnum Photo Exhibition** – which seeks to promote Human Rights For All through a retrospection into the iconic Magnum photographs that document 60 years of mobilization for human rights around the world.

Also being featured for the first time in Malaysia is the **Hope & Sorrow: Photography Exhibition on The Death Penalty** which explores how the death penalty gravely impacts the family members of those on death row. This intimate exhibition will portray the stories and difficult moments faced by three families (including two belonging to Malaysians) who have had loved ones sentenced to the mandatory death penalty in Singapore.

We are also pleased to announce that this year’s human rights festival will be featuring the **debut work of three Malaysian artists on the theme of police violence and custodial deaths**. The three artists began exploring how social issues can be translated into art during a workshop called Drawing Rights—organized by Amnesty International Malaysia with the guidance of artist Rupa Subramaniam. Drawing Rights aimed to give local artists an opportunity to creatively explore and navigate the topic of police brutality through their art. Having now undergone a more intensive mentorship program with Rupa, the three artists produced a range of artworks that hope to represent the voices of victims of police brutality in ways that are liberating and respectful.

“The artworks and photographs showcased at the festival challenge us to think deeply about the various manifestations and structures of state violence. By confronting these thought-provoking pieces that illustrate how rights violations impact the lives of individuals and communities that are targeted, we are driven to reflect on what needs to be changed in order for human rights to become truly accessible to all. The exhibition showcasing 60 years of human rights mobilizations globally serves as an important reminder that change is indeed possible; and that when we act together, we are more powerful,” said Katrina.

Write For Rights

During the 3-day festival, Amnesty International Malaysia will also be launching its annual global Write For Rights campaign, which brings together millions of people across the globe to take collective action demanding for justice and an end to human rights violations faced by activists and other individuals at risk.

Since Write for Rights began in 2001, more than 50 million actions have been taken globally and every year, the campaign has had positive impacts—whether it is with individuals being taken off death row, with activists being released from unlawful detention, or with unjust charges against human rights defenders being dropped, Write For Rights has helped countless individuals whose rights have been wronged secure justice—proving that words really can make a difference.

This year, Amnesty International Malaysia’s Write for Rights campaign will be focused on four individuals, whose human rights have been violated by states and corporations. They are:

- **Thapelo Mohapi**, a leader of the grassroots movement C (AbM), who is living in hiding due to threats to his life, simply because he is fighting for a better future for people in South Africa.
- **Pedro Henrique**, a Brazilian activist who was shot dead when he was 31 years old. Four years after he was killed, the police officers suspected of his killing are still on duty and a trial has yet to begin. Pedro’s mother, Ana Maria is bravely fighting for justice for his death.
- **Rocky Myers**, a Black man with an intellectual disability, who is under sentence of death for murder in Alabama, USA, despite no evidence directly linking him to the crime scene and serious flaws in his legal case. The judge imposed a death sentence against the jury’s recommendation, a practice now outlawed in Alabama.
- **Maung Sawyeddollah**, a young Rohingya refugee who fled ethnic cleansing in Myanmar. Meta allowed anti-Rohingya hate to thrive on their Facebook platform, fueling the Myanmar military’s violence against people from the Rohingya ethnic group. Sawyeddollah, who sought refuge in Cox’s Bazaar in Bangladesh, wants to become a lawyer and is seeking reparations from Meta for its role in the atrocities, including funding for educational programmes in Cox’s Bazar.

We Make Our World begins on the 8th of December, running from 10am to 10pm until the 10th of December at the Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall. For more information, visit: [Human Rights Day 2023 - Amnesty Malaysia](#)

“Our world is ours to make. Let us be brave in our imagination, bold in our ability to think beyond the restrictions of oppression, and open in our expressions of solidarity,” said Katrina Jorene Maliamauv.

For media inquiries or to schedule an interview with our spokesperson, please contact: shesshsan@amnesty.my