

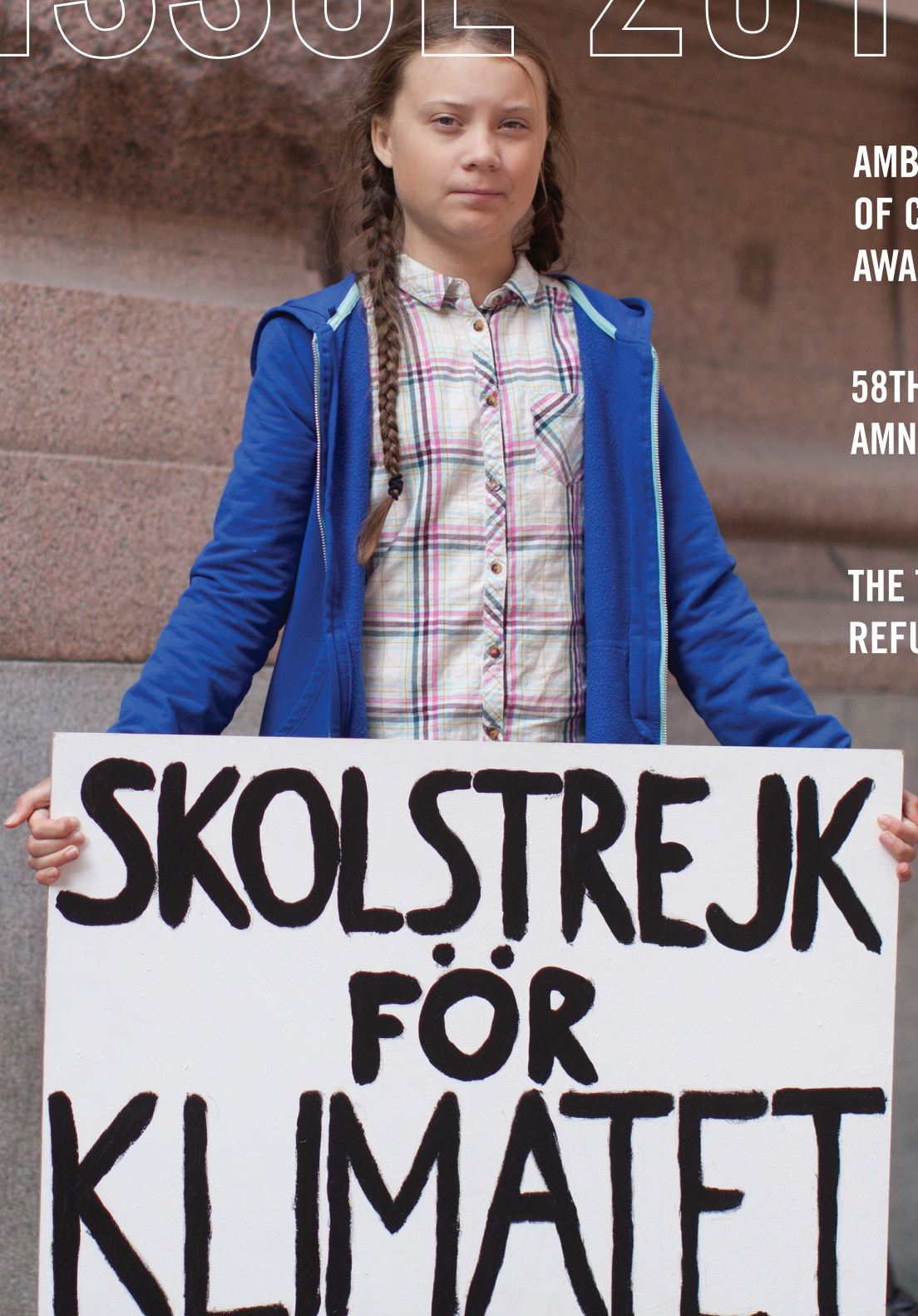
FREEDOM

ISSUE 2019/2

AMBASSADOR
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58TH ANNIVERSARY
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

THE TEARS OF A SOMALI
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AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL
THAILAND

GRETA THUNBERG

And the Fridays for Future movement honoured with Amnesty International award

Climate change activist **Greta Thunberg** from Sweden and the **Fridays for Future** movement of school-children have been honored with Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award for being an inspiration for people around the world to stand up for human rights. The ceremony will be held on 16th September in the United States.

"It is a huge honour to receive Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award on behalf of Fridays for Future. This is not my award, this is everyone's award. It is amazing to see the recognition we are getting and know that we are fighting for something that is having an impact," said Thunberg.

The **Fridays for Future** movement was started by Greta Thunberg, a teenager from Sweden, who in August 2018 decided to miss school every Friday and instead protest outside the Swedish parliament until it took more serious action to tackle climate change. Her efforts to raise awareness of the climate crisis quickly went global. More than 1 million young people from all over the world took part in the most recent global day of Fridays for Future school strikes on 24 May. Demonstrations were held in more than 100 countries.

Thunberg states that *"Human rights and the climate crisis go hand in hand. We can't solve one without solving the other. Climate change means people won't be able to grow food, their homes will come under threat and their health will be compromised. Governments have a duty to protect us, so why are they doing nothing to stop climate change from devastating our lives?"*

Secretary General of Amnesty International, **Kumi Naidoo**, states that the Ambassador of Conscience Award is Amnesty International's highest honour, to celebrate people who have shown unique leadership and courage in standing up for human rights. He reveals the reason Greta Thunberg being chosen this year as follows:

"Young people are often told they are the leaders of tomorrow. I am so glad that Greta Thunberg and the Fridays for Future activists ignored that message. If they wait until tomorrow, there will be no future for any of us. They have proved that they are already leaders, and now it's time for adults to follow their lead," said Kumi Naidoo.



AMBASSADOR OF CONSCIENCE AWARD

The **Ambassador of Conscience Award** was founded in 2002 to celebrate individuals and groups who have furthered the cause of human rights by acting on their conscience, confronting injustice and using their talents to inspire others.

This award is inspired by Seamus Heaney's famous poem written for Amnesty International, **"From the Republic of Conscience"**. Previous awardees include **Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, Harry Belafonte, Ai Weiwei, the Youth Groups of West and Central Africa, Angélique Kidjo, the Indigenous rights movement in Canada, Alicia Keys** and **Colin Kaepernick**.



To celebrate the 58th anniversary of Amnesty International back on 28th May, Amnesty Thailand invited all members and human rights supporters to join our fight for human rights. Even when our world is filled with violence, injustice, and discrimination every single day, Amnesty remains determined to make the change and inspire people all over the globe. On that day we invited special guests to exchange their inspiration to create a culture of mutual respecting in Thailand.

Celebrating AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S 58TH ANNIVERSARY with human rights inspiration

Yingcheep Atchanont, Project Manager from iLaw,

Human rights work is to expect change step-by-step, not to suddenly turn black into white, and there's never anything that changes immediately after little work... We must prepare for heavy work, If you want something to happen, prepare a lot, expect little, and get to work right away. Research, examine the facts, communicate. It can all be done, it can all have results, but not by doing a little; you must do a lot.

Toshi Kazama, a professional photo-grapher who calls for the global eradication of the death penalty

We have the vision to create a better future for society. As the new generation, however, this is very hard. Older generation leaders don't think of the future of the mass. So, at this moment all of us need to come together as one, work together, and help each other, in order to ease the difficulty or make it worth fighting for. I'm proud of what Amnesty is doing. Congratulations again for standing tall and working to protect human rights globally for 58 years. And thank you, for letting me become a part of tonight.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kovit Wongsurawat, former lecturer at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, Kasetsart University

If there is to be change at all, it is most likely to depend on people of this era. People my age are too ignorant, because of the lack of sufficient diversity in information to make a decision. Even I myself used to fall for the junta's various reasons for taking over until the internet become widespread and I came to see otherwise.

Angkhana Neelapaijit, a human rights defender who works to stop enforced disappearance in Thailand, and the wife of Somchai Neelaphaijit, a human rights lawyer who was disappeared in 2004

My proudest moment in life is to be called a woman human rights defender. This expression proves what I have done, who I have helped, and what I want to change. And I want everyone to help support the voice of human rights defenders because the more people help, the louder the voice becomes, until it reaches those in power, and reaches the violators. It might not bring change in a day or two, but it could spark a great change.

Sirisak Chaited, LGBT and sex worker rights defender

I want to say that for every human rights issue, it doesn't have to be the victim who talks about it, but we must make it possible for everyone in society to be able to talk in the victim's stead. I want to say that when I talked about LGBT rights, it wasn't only about me, but also about every human in this world. Just like how we talk about human rights in Thailand, it isn't only about LGBT and sex workers in Thailand, but about LGBT and sex workers everywhere in the world.

Tattep Ruangprapaikitseree, temporary coordinator for the new generation and youth issue activist network

Amnesty International is the first civil society organization that mainly deals with human rights that comes to my mind. If our society was democratic, Amnesty wouldn't raise any issue with the government, instead, it would support the government. If Amnesty raises issues with the government, that means that the government is not democratic, and does not respect human rights. Therefore, the concept of human rights can only be secure in a society where democracy grows, with the support of both government and civil society.

Angkhana Neelapaijit,

Amnesty has one unique trait, and it is to be a human rights organization that always sees the best in people, even when that person is a criminal. Thus, Amnesty is working to stop the death penalty, so that a person will have a chance to return to good so that justice is developed.--



Sirin Mungcharoen, Vice Chair of the Chulalongkorn Student Council and a member of Amnesty Thailand

We have to believe first, that change comes from tiny normal people like us. If we can believe that and we try to make a change by ourselves, by helping each other, we'll also believe that change can happen.

“I WANT TO SEE MY CHILDREN GROW IN HAPPINESS” THE CRY FROM A SOMALI REFUGEE MOTHER



Amnesty Thailand had a chance to talk with **Nasrin**, a 43-year-old single mother who fled Somalia with her 6 children in search of stable life and freedom, leaving behind her husband who was beaten by his family until he was paralyzed. Until now, his fate remains unknown.

Nasrin is Somali born and raised. She lived with her grandmother in a rural area without her parents. Eventually her grandma was killed by other tribes, who then took her back with them to become a servant. There, she met her husband and they fell in love, despite his family's disapproval of loving a servant. They fled far away from his family, got married and she was pregnant with their first child.

Her husband's family pestered her until she lost her firstborn, so her family fled to Saudi Arabia. They found work, and together they had 1 son

and 5 daughters. It was the happiest moment in her life, until the Saudi Arabian government deported them back to Somalia, then it become the worst moment in her life, when her husband's family came to threaten them again, then her husband was shot by his brother and become paralysed.

"Because he married outside his tribe. My tribe is his tribe's nemesis, so his family don't give him anything at all. Also because I bring dishonour to his family, and then I gave birth to 5 daughters instead of son."

Somalis believe that if a mother gives birth to too many daughters, the daughters will bring dishonour to family by, for example, running away with a man and becoming the subject of gossip. Therefore, most people prefer boys over girls. Also many Somali girls are s violated, s caged within their homes, and not allowed to do many things for fear of dishonouring their family, while a boy can do anything freely.

Nasrin put up with the threats for 4 months before she took her 6 children and fled to Thailand for their safety. Now she doesn't even know if her husband is still alive.

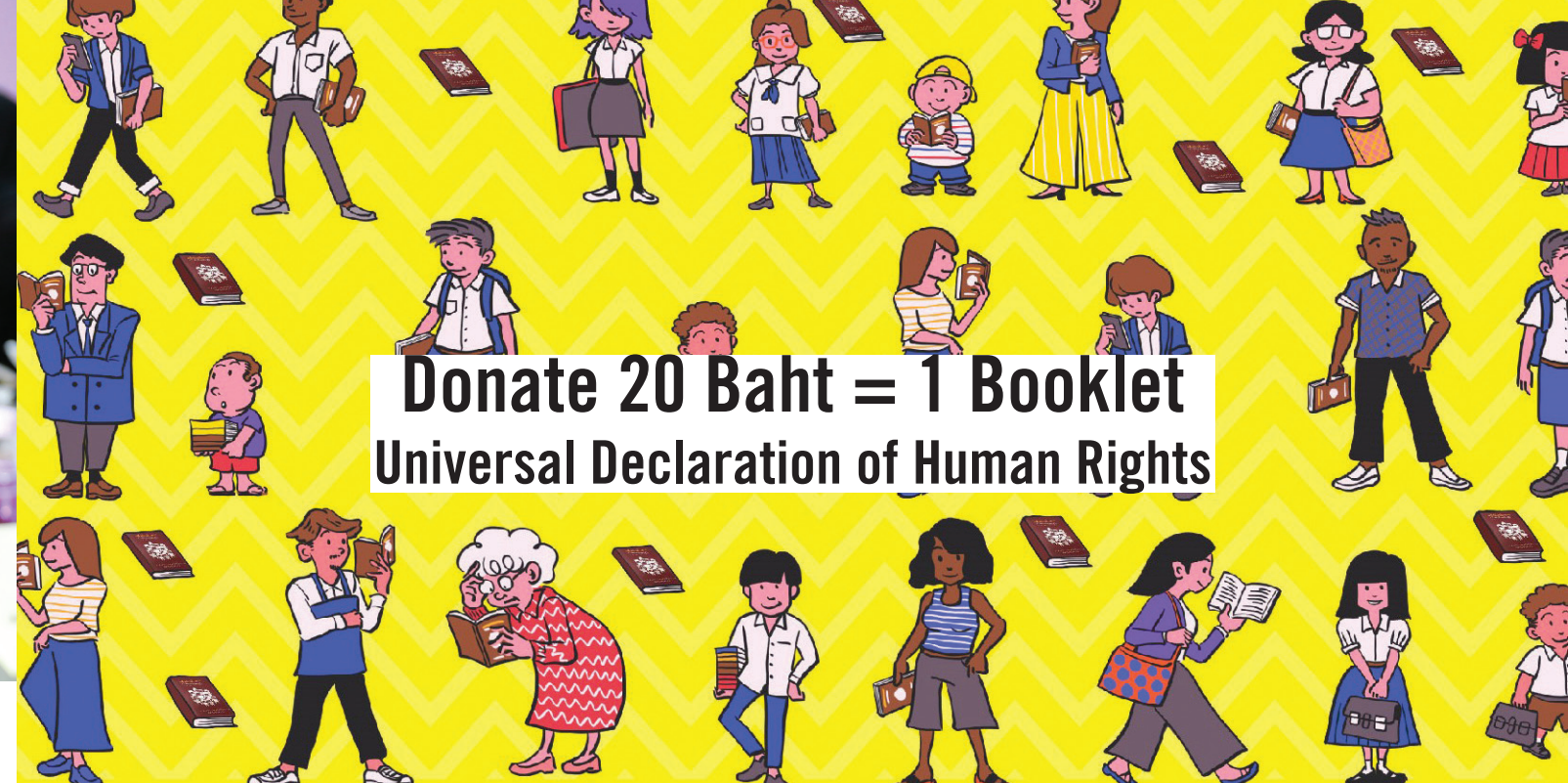
"I don't want my daughters to be attacked or treated horribly. They keep threatening me with my daughters because I brought them dishonour by having many daughters but only one

son. They said they will burn my house and hurt my daughters, because my daughters brought them shame. So I have to take my children out. It's for their own safety."

Now this family of 7 have got refugee status, and await third country resettlement, which Nasrin wishes to be a place where they are free, but most importantly, she wants her children to have a good life, good education, and complete family in the future.

"Everyone might see us as just refugees, but we still have ambition, still have our dreams, and we believe that tomorrow we will go to a better place, and if we work hard, we will succeed one day. I believe that one day horror will leave our lives. I want to see my children grow up happy, educated, living a good life and having good families. Their success in life is the only thing I want to see." Nasrin said.

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Donate 20 Baht = 1 Booklet Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Amnesty International Thailand would like to invite you to donate money for printing the "Human Rights Passport - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Booklets"

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which Thailand is one of forty eight countries that voted in favour of the Declaration, Amnesty International Thailand, therefore, would like to invite you to join the project for the publishing budget of 70,000 UDHR Booklets gives to schools, universities and communities throughout Thailand.



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Project Report



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AMNESTY
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THAILAND






WHAT IS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL?

Amnesty International is an organization of ordinary people from diverse career fields who cannot maintain silence in the face of injustice and human rights violations no matter where in the world and who take action in the belief that every person can campaign for the respect, protection, and defence of human rights. Amnesty International was established in 1961, and the organisation was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. Today, there are more than 7 million supporters in over 150 countries.

After the 6th October 1976 massacre of Thai students, Amnesty became known in Thailand from its prisoner of conscience campaign. Over 100,000 letters from people all around the world were sent to the Thai government requesting the release of students and citizens. At present, Amnesty has over 1,000 members in Thailand carries out a wide range of activities for promoting knowledge, understanding, and campaigns for protection and defence of human rights.

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