

Amnesty International Sacramento – What we did 2023 - 2025

Amnesty International Chapter 283 in Sacramento California continued our human rights activism. We tried to stay engaged, educate ourselves and offer meaningful action opportunities to our supporters.

We continued to meet monthly on Zoom and we published a monthly newsletter for several hundred local subscribers. The newsletter lets supporters who do not attend meetings learn about human rights issues and take action locally, nationally and internationally. We met in-person for our October meeting and hope to have more in-person meetings in 2024.

Here are activities Local Group 283 in Sacramento organized or participated in during 2023.

International issues:

- We wrote letters of advocacy and posted on social media for detainees at Guantanamo Prison.
- We wrote letters of advocacy and solidarity for human rights defenders in Egypt, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and China
- We educated ourselves about Palestinian issues through films and speakers, then took action to defend those human rights, with an emphasis on stopping home and school demolitions.
- We took actions to call for a ceasefire by Hamas and Israel and for humanitarian aid to Gaza.
- We held in-person Banned Books/Banned Authors evenings and wrote dozens of letters to support persecuted authors and journalists around the world. We held in-person World Press Freedom events with letter writing as well.
- We held in-person Write for Rights events each December and wrote hundreds of letters with other community members.

Our Individual at Risk

- We tweeted at Turkish officials about Turkish Rights Defender Eren Keskin and charges against her.
- We took actions to support Eren Keskin with virtual signs, advocacy letters and social media postings.
- We continued to gather signatures on a petition for Eren Keskin.

Refugees, Immigrants and Asylum-Seekers

- We advocated for Afghan refugee legislation.
- We partnered with immigrant justice groups to support immigrant detainees in our community.
- We wrote letters to ICE officials, the CA Governor government officials against immigrant detention.
- We celebrated the closure of immigrant detention at the Yuba County Jail and attended the final rally there (we worked for this for 4 years!)
- We aided a local immigrant families by purchasing warm winter clothes and school supplies for them.

California/Sacramento Issues

- We worked with community partners and CA Legislative leads for human rights CA Legislation, HOME ACT and Mandala Act.
- We worked with other organizations to persuade the City and County of Sacramento that their Military Equipment Use Policy must show respect for citizens and avoid human rights abuses. We wrote talking points and spoke at public meetings.
- We sent a representative to meet with AG Bonta's staff along with AFSC, asking him to ensure that cities and counties properly meet the provisions of AB481 on Military Equipment Policies.
- Several from our group helped plan and attended a Retreat Day for all 7 Northern California Amnesty Groups (late 2023)

Educational

- Some of our members attended a virtual, member-led, state-wide Amnesty California Gathering in February. Attendees learned more about Individuals at Risk, recruiting and retaining members, and getting to know other Amnesty groups in CA.
- Five of our members attended a national Amnesty International conference in San Diego (2024), and the Regional Conference in Berkeley (2025).
- We educated ourselves about Palestinian issues through films and speakers, then advocated for their human rights.
- We worked with Amnesty International Clubs at 3 local high schools. We shared actions, gave educational talks, supported the clubs with materials, helped them hold Write for Rights events and inspired one another!

Human Rights Book Club

Our Group 283 Human Rights Book Club expanded to become a Western Region Club, discussing the books online:
A list of these books can be found at <https://amnestysacramento.org/human-rights-book-club/>

We partnered with NorCal Resist, NorCal ACLU, Decarcerate Sacramento, Police-Terror Project, California Coalition for Immigrant Justice, and American Friends Healing Justice. Lastly, we partnered with other Amnesty groups in Northern California for some of our actions.