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### **Canadians write to protect human rights with no exceptions in Amnesty International's *Write for Rights***

Lethbridge, Alberta – On Human Rights Day, December 10, thousands of Canadians will be writing letters together to promote human rights in Amnesty International's global write-a-thon, *Write for Rights*. Amnesty International members and supporters will hold more than 500 *Write for Rights* events across the country.

This international event commemorates the rights enshrined more than 50 years ago in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and annually involves tens of thousands of participants from more than 30 countries worldwide.

The theme for 2006 is Human Rights for All. No Exceptions. Human rights belong to all people, everywhere, no exceptions. Today this historic achievement is under attack and the results are shocking.

- Individuals are being secretly kidnapped, imprisoned and tortured by governments in the name of fighting terrorism.
- Women are being raped or murdered by community and family members and by armed groups, while their governments do nothing.
- Indigenous people are being violently forced by governments and business interests off lands essential to their identity and survival.

Amnesty International's worldwide voluntary mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of work to promote all human rights.

As part of this global effort, Amnesty International Lethbridge Action Circle will host an event for local people to write letters to government worldwide about human rights violations. All Lethbridge residents are invited to the Penny Coffee House on December

6 at 7:00 pm, where there will be music, snacks and a silent auction. This event is just one of hundreds that will be carried out throughout Canada and other countries worldwide.

"By their actions, many governments, companies and social leaders are saying today that human rights do not belong to all people all the time. This is totally unacceptable. It fuels violence and misery. It's an attack against the hard-won laws that protect human dignity and security. And it is not the kind of world most Canadians want. Canadians can do something about it by participating in our community Write for Rights," said Mary Kosta, coordinator of the local Lethbridge Action Circle.

Amnesty International members with other community groups are pressuring governments to stop these abuses and to ensure, through their actions that human rights are upheld.

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For further information:

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Visit [www.amnesty.ca/writeathon](http://www.amnesty.ca/writeathon) or call 1-800-AMNESTY.