

massacres

babies thrown off balconies

mutilated

decapitated

pregnant women disembowelled

burned alive

# Write your own bloody headline.



Amnesty International: working worldwide for the release of prisoners of conscience, fair trials for political prisoners and an end to torture, extra-judicial executions, "disappearances" and the death penalty.

*No words — there are no words — to express what this Algerian woman is feeling. In this conflict children are killed in front of parents, people are blowtorched and howl like bagpipes, ordinary folk are caught in horror beyond imagining. You can do something to stop these things, but knowing yourself as you do, are you more likely just to turn the page? Even if there were words, what words could touch you?*

On 27th August this year, a group of armed men entered Rais, the village of the woman in the picture, and killed about three hundred people. They spared neither women nor children. The victims died in ways too hideous to describe.

But were we to catalogue each brutal detail, it would still be beyond our power to convey the horror of what was done.

Words can't say it and photographs, however gruesome, don't show it.

### When words lose power.

It is a filthy conflict in Algeria. Both Government forces and armed groups have committed atrocities.

The Government uses the gangs' atrocities to justify its massive repression of human rights, the armed groups use the repression to justify their atrocities.

The woman from Rais got caught in the middle.

We don't know precisely what loss she suffered, whether she saw her family murdered, her baby dashed to its death, her small daughter disembowelled, her mother's head rolling in the dust.

All these things have happened, if not to this woman, to others just as uninvolved, helpless and anguished. The words on the picture come from the opening paragraph of Amnesty International's latest report on Algeria. We have become used to seeing words like these in our newspapers.

Shocking headlines no longer touch us. We're not moved, we resent being manipulated. Experience says that you'll read this page, turn over and forget it, because this is how you, like the rest of us, have learned to cope with clamouring ads.

### Listen to what the children said.

Two children, sisters of 11 and 13, spoke about the night their parents were killed.

*"We woke up at the noise; some armed men were hitting father with a shotgun. They pushed father into the kitchen and the others took mum out into the courtyard and tied her hands. They cut her throat. The other men called from inside the house and the one who slaughtered mum shouted: "Wait I'm finishing". We pulled mum into the house and closed her eyes and covered her with a blanket, and also covered father; he had also had his throat cut. We cried and screamed."*

Reader, wake up. This isn't a game of words. It isn't some clever advertising agency trying to score a 'creative' coup. It's a plea, a big desperate one, for your help.

### You can make a big difference.

We need you. Even as you are reading this, people are being murdered, tortured, being made to "disappear", thrown in jail without trial.

You could help them. Why won't you?

Is it right to murder, torture, or imprison people for their religion, the colour of their skin or beliefs?

You may say 'no', but unless you stand up for human

rights, you might as well say 'yes'.

Amnesty International was founded on the idea that ordinary people can make a difference in the world, can help to stop murder, torture and other abuse of human rights. Since our foundation in 1961, we have proved over and over and over that we can help.

### Amnesty is international.

Do you dislike the idea of western liberals laying down the moral law to the rest of the world?

Good, so do we. Amnesty International is a worldwide organisation with members in just about every country on earth. In some places our members risk their lives to stand up for human rights. And people in that deadly danger are standing up for your human rights, whether or not you choose to recognise the fact.

### Decades of broken promises.

After the Second World War, the world's nations signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since then every single one of them has at some time broken its promise to defend and not abuse human rights.

Only one voice in the world is strong enough to force politicians to keep their promises. Yours.

But only you can convince yourself that you want to stand up for other people's human rights.

Are you a do-nothing? Or will you make a difference?

Only you know the answer, only you can find the words, only you can sign your name below.

### Yes, it's time I joined Amnesty International. Here's my annual subscription fee:

£21 Individual  £27 Family  £7.50 Student  Under 22  Claimant  Senior Citizen

I wish to donate £500  £250  £100  £50  £25  £10  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Please tick if you do not wish to receive mail from sympathetic organisations.

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To join or make a donation please call 0345 611116. Calls are charged at local rates.  
TO: DEPT. AA. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK. FREEPOST, LONDON EC1B 1HE.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



The 'Chalumeau', a blowtorch, is routinely used by the Algerian security forces to make suspects 'sing'.

Main picture: Distraught survivor of a massacre carried out at Sidi Rais village by an armed group.