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Q53

Amnesty International is (a) an agency of the United Nations to help refugees of civil wars (b) a global Human Rights Movement (c) a non-governmental voluntary organization to help very poor people (d) an inter-governmental agency to cater to medical emergencies in war-ravaged regions Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK
Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Helping refugees of civil wars is the work of **UNHCR** and related UN bodies, not Amnesty International. Amnesty is not a United Nations agency. This option is therefore not the key.

(b) Official key

Amnesty International is a worldwide non-governmental movement that campaigns for human rights: prisoners of conscience, torture, death penalty, unfair trials and related abuses. That description matches the organisation. This option is the official key.

(c)

Poverty relief is the field of development NGOs and charities; Amnesty's mandate is human rights research and campaigning, not general anti-poverty work. This option is therefore wrong.

(d)

Medical emergencies in war are associated with bodies such as the **International Committee** of the Red Cross or Médecins Sans Frontières, not Amnesty. Amnesty is not an inter-governmental medical agency. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (b) a global Human Rights Movement. Amnesty International is an independent NGO that documents and campaigns against human-rights violations worldwide. It is not a UN refugee agency, not a poverty charity, and not a wartime medical body. Those other mandates belong to **UNHCR**, development NGOs and humanitarian medical organisations. Only (b) states Amnesty's role correctly.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Founded

1961 by Peter Benenson (United Kingdom)

Nobel Peace Prize

Awarded to Amnesty International in 1977

Prisoner of conscience

Core Amnesty category for persons jailed for non-violent expression of belief

UNHCR

UN agency for refugees, distinct from Amnesty

ICRC

Inter-governmental-recognised humanitarian body for armed conflict, not Amnesty

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