



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION? DIGITAL HUMAN RIGHTS

DIGITAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND YOU

Human rights belong to everyone online as well as off but do we need an equivalent of Magna Carta of new legislation to protect our rights in the digital age? You can take action, debate the issues and make your submission for a digital rights charter.

Act

Amnesty International supports individuals around the world who are at risk because they have exercised their right to expression and equality online. Read the cases below and use the links to find out more. Take action for Raif Badawi to protest against his treatment and show solidarity with Raif and his family

Debate

My Digital Rights is a project run by the British Library which is asking young people to submit clauses for a digital rights charter. You can take part in a range of debates using resources at <http://www.bl.uk/my-digital-rights>; themes include freedom of expression, right to privacy and access to the internet.

Submit

Once you have debated one of the topics on the My Digital Rights website, decide what clause you think is needed to protect our rights in a new charter. Submit your clauses online by 30 April. Email hre@amnesty.org.uk to share them with us.

CASES

Once you have debated one of the topics on the My Digital Rights website, decide what clause you think is needed to protect our rights in a new charter. Email us your clauses and submit them to the project online.

Raif Badawi

Raif Badawi, who founded an online forum for political and social debate, called "Saudi Arabian Liberals", was arrested on 17 June 2012. He was charged with violating Saudi Arabia's information technology law and insulting Islamic religious figures by creating and managing an online forum. The charges against him also mention his failure to remove articles by other people on his website. Raif Badawi was sentenced on 7 May by the Criminal Court in Jeddah to 10 years in prison, 1,000 lashes and a fine of 1 million Saudi Arabian riyals (about US\$266,630) for creating and managing the Saudi Arabian Liberals website and insulting Islam. Raif Badawi was publicly flogged on 9 January in front of the al-Jafali mosque in Jeddah. He is at risk of receiving the remaining 950 lashes over the coming weeks.

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/sites/default/files/writ_eforrights2014-youth_raif.pdf

Edward Snowden

On 20 May 2013, U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) subcontractor Edward Snowden left his home in Hawaii for Hong Kong carrying a range of NSA classified documents. These documents revealed the existence of sweeping surveillance programmes operated by the NSA and UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), as well as the so-called Five Eyes alliance – a secret arrangement of spying and intelligence-sharing agreements between Australia, the USA, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. The surveillance programmes spy on most of the world's digital communications and interfere with individuals' right to privacy on a global scale.

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Snowden claimed at the time that his "sole motive" for leaking the documents was, in his words, "to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them." In response, the US government branded him a 'traitor' who had significantly harmed US national security interests. Snowden was charged with violating the Espionage Act and the theft of government property, punishable by up to 30 years in prison if he returns to the USA.

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/Mass-surveillance>

Elena Klimova

Elena Klimova, a journalist and founder of the online project Children 404 aimed at supporting LGBTI teenagers, was found guilty of "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors" and ordered to pay a fine. Children 404 risks being shut down. Almost a year after the first unsuccessful attempt by St Petersburg politician and anti-LGBTI activist Vitaliy Milonov to have Elena Klimova prosecuted for "gay propaganda" and her online project Children 404 closed down, the Moscow Department of Roskomnadzor (the official media watchdog) has initiated a new case against her. In support of its allegations, Roskomnadzor presented a "witness statement" from the leader of Mediagvardia, a project run by the pro-government youth movement Young Guard (Molodaia Gvardia). Members of Mediagvardia browse the internet to identify websites and groups on social networks which they deem unlawful, and report them to Roskomnadzor and the Prosecutor's Office requesting they be blocked.

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/russia-journalist-elena-klimova-lgbt-gay-propaganda>

Saleh al-Mulla

Former Kuwaiti opposition MP Saleh al-Mulla was arrested on 6 January for tweets deemed insulting to the Amir of Kuwait and the visiting President of Egypt. The next day the Public Prosecution ordered him to be detained for 10 days for investigation. He is a prisoner of conscience, detained for sending tweets that criticised the official visit to Kuwait of Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and asking the Amir of Kuwait not to grant the Egyptian government any more of the Kuwaiti people's money. He faces charges of "insulting the Amir", "questioning the authority of the Amir", "carrying out a hostile act against a brotherly state through insulting its

president that could lead to the severing of the ties between the countries" and "misusing social media (via Twitter)". Saleh al-Mulla was released on bail on 11 January by a criminal court. His next court hearing is due on 15 February.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE17/02/2015/en/60d586c9-b506-4ff1-bc8c-860a068046eb/mde170022015en.html>

Su Changlan

Chinese women's rights activist Su Changlan has not been heard from since she was taken away by police on 27 October. There are concerns that her detention might be as a result of comments she made online in support of protests in Hong Kong. She has been formally arrested and charged with 'inciting subversion' which could lead to life imprisonment. At least 94 people have been detained in mainland China, including approximately a dozen in Guangdong, for showing their support for pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong since they began on 26 September.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA17/06/2015/en/2d4f32b8-b0ab-40bf-aff4-0e0eda42bd7b/asa170062015en.html>