



WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Greetings card and
letter writing campaign 2014



Amnesty International

LETTER WRITING WORKS

All our words together make a difference

‘When I feel I am left with no hope, I’ll get a letter out and it will inspire me. The light of hope appears again, and confidence in myself and my ability to change things returns!’

Message from **Ihar Tsikhanyuk**, beaten by police in Belarus for being gay, speaking about the support he received from Write for Rights 2013.



POSTAGE RATES

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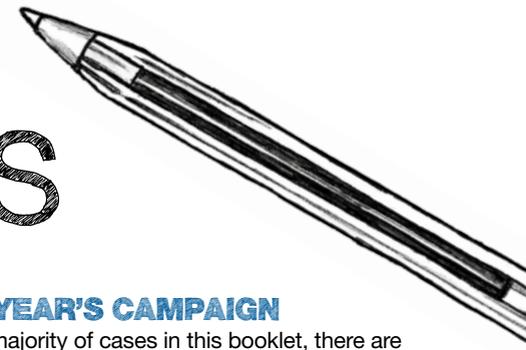
This booklet is suitable for audiences aged 14+. For younger supporters please download our youth casesheets. www.amnesty.org.uk/write click on resources.

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WRITE FOR RIGHTS



It only takes a few minutes to write a card or letter. But this simple act brings hope and comfort to people suffering human rights abuses.

For a prisoner wrongly detained, for families waiting for news of a relative who has ‘disappeared’, for survivors of abuse fighting for justice, messages of solidarity are a source of strength and inspiration.

Letters can pressure the authorities to address cruelty and injustice. Presidents, police chiefs and prison governors take note when they receive appeals to release a prisoner, stop the harassment of an activist or change an unjust law.

CHANGE HAPPENS, HOPE GROWS

Three of the people featured in the campaign last year have been released from prison and one had his sentence reduced (see Updates, page 18). Even when we don’t immediately achieve the change we are hoping for, the powerful effect of these solidarity actions is evident in all the feedback we receive (see Feedback, page 22).

‘I want to convey Eskinder’s gratitude and my own to everyone who has taken part, taken action or sent us letters. For him, it’s a huge source of encouragement and moral strength. The regime will be forced to release him and other prisoners of conscience. That kind of pressure, they can’t resist forever.’

Message from Serkalem Fasil, whose husband is serving 18 years in jail in Ethiopia. The family received thousands of messages last year. You can still take action for Eskinder at URL.TK

Read about the individuals we would like you to support this year, and how to take action. Then use your freedom to stand up for the freedom of others. A single letter can be brushed aside, but thousands of letters calling for change are harder to ignore.

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Write for Rights Campaign runs from **1 November to 31 December**. International Human Rights Day is **10 December**.

THIS YEAR’S CAMPAIGN

For the majority of cases in this booklet, there are two actions you can take:

- Send a solidarity message to the person or family suffering from human rights abuses
- Write an appeal letter targeting the authorities who have the power to remedy these abuses.

For some cases we ask you to make online solidarity actions or send tweets. We are featuring 12 stories of people who need your help this year, but if you want to do more we have seven additional cases. For details call **020 7033 1777** or go to URL.TK

GETTING STARTED

If you are new to this campaign, here are a few tips.

- Each page has all the information you need to act on one case. Just follow the advice given.
- Don’t feel you have to take action on all 12 cases – choose one or two if that is easier.
- Write your own personal message of support and solidarity. It’s always best to use your own words, but if you’re unsure, there is a suggested message as a guide.
- When writing to the authorities, include your name and address and country. This shows the letter is genuine and personal. Think about the people who read your letter. Write to them as one human being to another, but keep requests clear and polite.
- For more information, see Frequently Asked Questions on page 19.

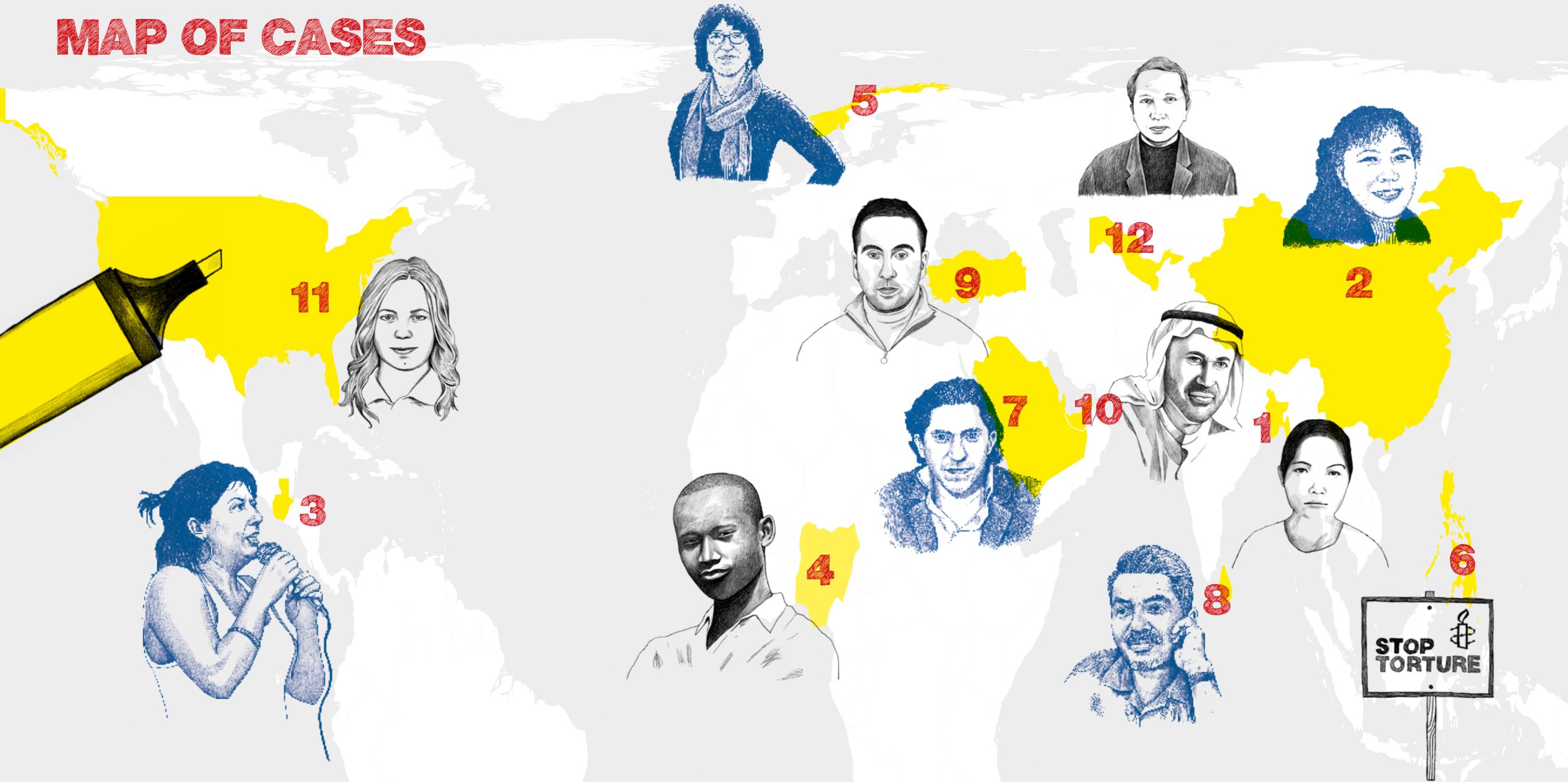
STAY INFORMED

Our actions on behalf of the people featured in this booklet often need to change in response to new circumstances. For updates and new advice or actions on these cases check www.amnesty.org.uk/write or contact:

Individuals at Risk programme
Amnesty International UK
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA
T: 020 7033 1777
E: sct@amnesty.org.uk



MAP OF CASES



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BANGLADESH

Kalpana Chakma

18 YEARS, NO JUSTICE

Kalpana Chakma was the organising secretary of the Hill Women's Federation, which campaigns for the rights of Indigenous peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh.

In the early hours of 12 June 1996, she and two of her brothers were abducted from their home by plain-clothed security officers. Her brothers Kalinda and Lal managed to escape and identified their three captors by name. However, the police failed to investigate. Kalpana Chakma, 23 at the time, was never seen again.

Despite an agreement signed 15 years ago, the Pahari Indigenous peoples are still waiting for the Bangladeshi government to restore traditional lands in the eastern Chittagong Hill Tracts. Tens of thousands are still landless and trapped in violent clashes with Bengali settlers.

In January 2013 a Bangladeshi court demanded a new investigation into the case but the police have yet to submit a report.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

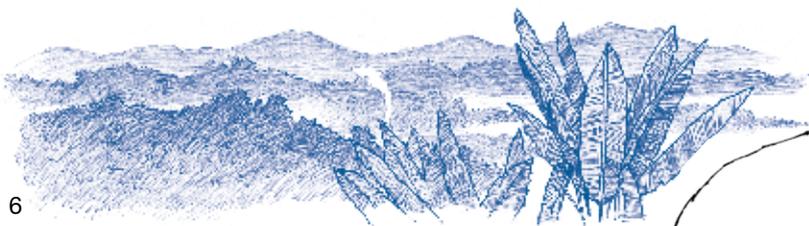
SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Kalicharan Chakma
c/o International CHT Commission
Bangladesh Secretariat
House # 1/3, Block-F Lalmatia
Dhaka-1207
Bangladesh

- **Preferred language** English or Bangla
- **Salutation** Dear Kalicharan
- **Suggested message** We stand with you in your struggle for justice.
- **Additional information** Kalicharan Chakma is Kalpana's brother.

CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?**
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?**
- Include my name and address?**
- Download the message in another language?**



SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge Minister of Home Affairs Sheikh Hasina Wajed to ensure Kalpana Chakma's case is properly investigated and those responsible for her 'disappearance' brought to justice.

Write to: Sheikh Hasina Wajed
Minister of Home Affairs
Prime Minister's Office
Old Sangsad Bhaban
Tejgaon
Dhaka-1215
Bangladesh

Email: info@pmo.gov.bd

Salutation: Dear Home Minister

In your letter:

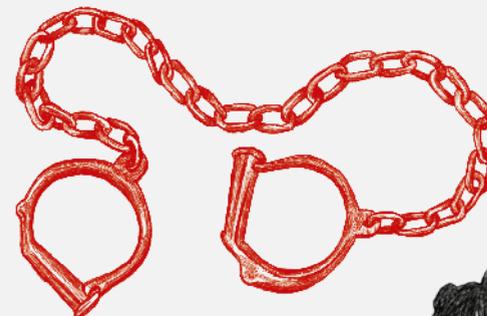
- Urge the Home Minister to give the Rangamati District police the resources needed to re-investigate Kalpana Chakma's 'disappearance' as demanded by the court order.
- Ask him to protect investigators and witnesses from the risk of reprisals.
- Call on him to ensure a thorough, independent re-investigation of the case, including interrogation of the three main suspects, and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

'I am very happy that young children across the world expressed their concerns for my family; at the same time, these letters remind me of my sister, whose fate remains unknown to us.' **Kalindi Kurmar Chakma**



CHINA

Liu Ping



TORTURED AND IMPRISONED FOR FIGHTING CORRUPTION

In June 2014 activist Liu Ping was sentenced to six and a half years in jail.

She is one of many activists who have been harassed or detained for their links with the New Citizen's Movement, a peaceful network of activists which aims to promote government transparency, help the weak and expose corruption.

Liu Ping says she was tortured while in pre-trial detention, and remains at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. She is also being denied the medical care she needs and there are serious concerns for her health. Amnesty International considers Liu Ping to be a prisoner of conscience.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Liu Ping
Jiangxi Nanchang Women's Prison
630 Changzheng Road
Zhang Leng County
Nanchang City
Jiangxi Province
330100
People's Republic of China

- **Preferred language** Chinese
- **Salutation** Dear Liu Ping
- **Suggested message** We stand with you even when they all think you are defeated! Courage! Although you are in prison, you have inspired many others to defend human rights. We are thinking about you.
- **Additional information** 2 December is Liu Ping's 50th birthday.

CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?**
Liu Ping is a Christian
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?**
- Include my name and address?**
- Download the message in another language?**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge President Xi Jinping to release Liu Ping.

Write to: President Xi Jinping
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie
Xichengqu
Beijingshi 100017
People's Republic of China

NB: Also send copies to the UK government calling on them to raise Liu Ping's case with the Chinese authorities.

Fax: +86 10 6238 1025
Email: gov@govonline.cn

Salutation: Dear President Xi Jinping

In your letter:

- Call on the President to release Liu Ping immediately and unconditionally, because she was imprisoned solely for exercising her rights to freedom of expression and association.

'I am innocent; every step that I have taken, it has all been in the legitimate pursuit of equality, freedom and democracy. I have lived with what I believe in. History will declare my innocence.' **Liu Ping**

GUATEMALA

Yolanda Oquelí

ACTIVIST INJURED IN SHOOTING

Yolanda Oquelí is the leader of the Frente Norte del Area Metropolitana (FRENAM), a group formed to protest against the damage caused by a gold mining project in their community. She and her fellow FRENAM members have been the victims of harassment, vandalism and death threats, simply for raising concerns about the lack of consultation from the state and mining company and how mining will affect local water sources.

On 13 June 2012, Yolanda was shot and seriously injured as she travelled home from a peaceful protest outside a mine site. No one was arrested for this attack. In July 2013 gun shots were fired near the protest site.

She has filed several complaints with the Public Prosecutor's Office, about the threats and harassment that she and her fellow activists have experienced, but they remain at risk.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Yolanda Oquelí (FRENAM)
Colectivo Madreselva
6 avenida "A"
0-26 zona 2
Ciudad de Guatemala
Guatemala

NB: Include nature images, especially of streams and lakes, to reflect Yolanda and her colleagues' desire to protect the environment, because a vital part of their campaign is about protecting water sources.

- **Preferred language** Spanish or English
- **Salutation** Dear Yolanda/Estimada Yolanda
- **Suggested message** I am sending this message of solidarity to you and all FRENAM activists to wish you success in your human rights work, and to let you know you are not alone, we are with you!
- **Additional information** 24 November is the anniversary of the issuing of the exploitation licence for the El Tambor mining project.

CAN I

- ✓ Send a religious card or message?
- ✓ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✓ Include my name and address?
- ✓ Download the message in another language?

'Defending life, making heard the voice of the children who don't know the challenges they face – that's what gives me the strength to continue fighting, despite everything I have suffered.'
Yolanda Oquelí

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge President Otto Perez Molina to thoroughly investigate the attack on Yolanda Oquelí and bring those responsible to justice.

Write to: Otto Perez Molina
 Presidente de la República
 Casa Presidencial
 6ª Avenida 4-41, Zona 1,
 Puerta del Centro
 Ciudad de Guatemala
 Guatemala

Fax: +502 2221 4423
Online: www.facebook.com/ottoperezpp
www.twitter.com/ottoperezmolina

Salutation: Dear President

In your letter:

- Urge the President to open investigations into attacks on Yolanda Oquelí and her colleagues, and bring those responsible to justice.
- Call on him to provide protection measures for her and her family as long as they require them.
- Ensure the safety of all activists at the mine protest site so they can carry out their work without fear of further attacks or threats.



NIGERIA

Moses Akatugba



TORTURED AND ON DEATH ROW

Moses Akatugba was 16 when he was arrested in November 2005 by the Nigerian army. He was accused of armed robbery, a crime he says he never committed.

After eight years in prison, he was sentenced to death by hanging and remains on death row. International law states that no one under the age of 18 at the time of the alleged crime should be sentenced to death.

Moses Akatugba says he was shot in the hand, beaten and hung for hours in interrogation rooms after his arrest. He claims police officers used pliers to extract his finger and toe nails and forced him to sign a 'confession'.

Since he was transferred to prison in March 2006, he sees his family only twice a month.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Human Rights, Social Development and Environmental Foundation (Moses Akatugba)
PO Box 1800
Diobu
Port Harcourt
Rivers State
Nigeria

- **Preferred language** English or Nigerian pidgin
- **Salutation** Dear Moses
- **Suggested message** You are not alone! I am thinking of you and send you my best wishes. Your friend from Amnesty International.
- **Additional information** 12 November is the anniversary of Moses Akatugba's death sentence.

CAN I

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- ✗ Download the message in another language?

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the Governor of Delta State, Dr Emmanuel Uduaghan, to commute the death sentence and investigate the torture of Moses Akatugba.

Write to: His Excellency Dr Emmanuel Uduaghan
 Governor of Delta State
 Office of the Governor
 Government House
 Asaba
 Delta State
 Nigeria

Email: info@emmanueluduaghan.com.ng
Online: www.facebook.com/euduaghan
www.twitter.com/Euduaghan

Salutation: Your Excellency

In your letter:

- Urge the Governor to commute Moses Akatugba's death sentence.
- Ask him to ensure an independent investigation into allegations of torture by the police in Delta State.

'The pain of torture is unbearable. I never thought I would be alive till this day. The pain I went through in the hands of the officers was unimaginable. In my whole life, I have never been subjected to such inhuman treatment.'
Moses Akatugba

NORWAY

John Jeanette Solstad Remø

SEEKING LEGAL RECOGNITION OF HER GENDER

John Jeanette Solstad Remø is 65 years old and says 'I have been transgender all my life.' Sadly she had to hide and suppress this for many years.

In Norway, transgender people wishing to legally identify themselves by their chosen gender can only do so by completing a 'real sex conversion'. This involves psychiatric diagnosis and compulsory medical treatment, including surgery and mandatory sterilisation. John Jeanette does not want to go through this.

Her right to a private life is violated on a daily basis. Her identity documents indicate that she is male, so whenever she presents them – at the library or the pharmacy or staying at hotels – she faces lengthy questioning.

Legal gender recognition for John Jeanette would mean 'that I would be seen as the person that I feel on the inside.'

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

SEND AN ONLINE SOLIDARITY MESSAGE:

jsolstadreme@gmail.com

- **Preferred language** Norwegian or English
- **Salutation** Dear John Jeanette
- **Suggested message** We support your campaign to be legally recognised as who you are
- **Additional information** Please tell John Jeanette about any actions taken and offer moral support.

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'When you have to spend your whole life trying to be who you really are but still get referred to as a man by public bodies and in everyday life, you never get to move on from that part of your past.'

John Jeanette Solstad Remø

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the Minister of Health and Care services to allow John Jeanette Solstad Remø to have her gender legally recognised.

Write to: Bent Høie: Minister of Health and Care Services
Ministry of Health and Care Services
PO Box 8011 Dep
0030 Oslo
Norway

Email: postmottak@hod.dep.no

Salutation: Dear Minister

In your letter:

- Call on the Minister of Health and Care to allow John Jeanette Solstad Remø to change her legal gender on official documents issued by the state.
- Urge him to introduce a legislative proposal for enabling transgender people to obtain legal recognition in accordance with their own sense of gender identity.
- Ask him to abolish the requirement for transgender people to be sterilised before they can obtain legal gender recognition.



PHILIPPINES

Alfreda Disbarro



PUNCHED IN THE FACE AND BEATEN WITH A CLUB

On 3 October 2013 Alfreda Disbarro was tortured by police in Parañaque City, Manila, Philippines, after being arrested at an internet café. She was kicked and beaten repeatedly, including with a police baton and a metal bar, suffering serious injuries as a result.

Over the following days, Alfreda Disbarro was in a lot of pain, had difficulty breathing and kept vomiting. During this period the police photographed her with three \$100 bills and a sachet of drugs.

Alfreda, who is a single mother is currently in detention, accused of selling and possessing illegal drugs, charges she strongly denies. She says that the police have fabricated evidence against her, and forced her to sign a blank piece of paper.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Alfreda Disbarro
New Paranaque City Jail
P. Dandan Street
Brgy. La Huerta
Paranaque City
1700 Metro Manila
Philippines

- **Preferred language** English or Filipino
- **Salutation** Dear Alfreda
- **Suggested message** You are in our thoughts, and we hope that you are safe. You have been so brave to report your experience. Be strong and continue fighting for justice.
- **Additional information** 10 November is the anniversary of the Anti-Torture Act of 2009.

CAN I

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- Download the message in another language?

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the Acting Inspector General to investigate allegations of torture and other ill-treatment suffered by Alfreda Disbarro.

Write to: Police Director Alexander Roldan
Acting Inspector General
Internal Affairs Service
Philippine National Police Compound
Camp General Crame
Quezon City
Metro Manila
Philippines 1100

Email: iaspd@pnp.gov.ph

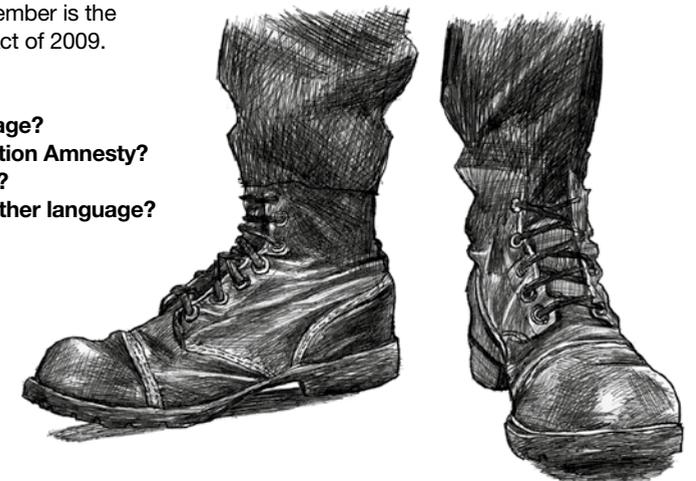
Salutation: Dear Inspector General

In your letter:

- Call on the authorities to open a prompt and thorough investigation into Alfreda Disbarro's allegations of torture and other ill-treatment.
- Urge that if they are confirmed, the case is referred for public prosecution and immediate action is taken against police officers involved or complicit in the torture.

'He (the higher ranking police officer) asked, "Can you take my kicks?" I said, "No, sir." He then kicked me so hard that I fell against the wall. He punched me continuously and hit me with the wooden baton.'

Alfreda Disbarro



SAUDI ARABIA

Raif Badawi

BLOGGER SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS AND 1,000 LASHES

On 7 May 2014 Raif Badawi was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for 'insulting Islam' and setting up a liberal web forum.

Raif Badawi, the co-founder of Saudi Arabian Liberals, an online forum for political and social debate, was arrested in June 2012 and detained in Briman prison, Jeddah.

He was charged with violating the country's information technology law and insulting Islamic religious figures through his online writing and hosting writing by others on his website.

Amnesty International considers Raif Badawi to be a prisoner of conscience held solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Ensaf Haidar
c/o Amnistie Internationale Canada Francophone
50 Rue Ste-Catherine Ouest
Bureau 500
Montréal
Québec
Canada H2X 3V4

You can also send a solidarity tweet to

@raif_badawi

Hashtags # Raif_Badawi #FreeRaif #Saudi

This Twitter account has been managed by his wife since his arrest.

- **Preferred language** Arabic or English
- **Salutation** Dear Raif
- **Suggested message** Our thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time. We admire your courage and hope you will be released soon.
- **Additional information** 13 January is Raif Badawi's birthday. Ensaf Haidar is Raif Badawi's wife.

CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?
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- Download the message in another language?



SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the King of Saudi Arabia to release Raif Badawi immediately and unconditionally.

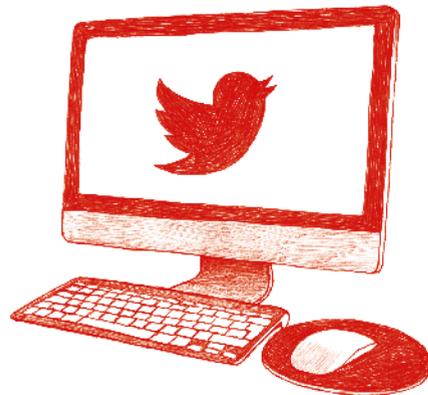
Write to: King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
Office of His Majesty the King
Royal Court
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia

Fax: (via Ministry of the Interior)
+966 11 403 3125 (please keep trying)

Salutation: Your Majesty

In your letter:

- State that Raif Badawi is a prisoner of conscience and should be immediately and unconditionally released.
- Call on the authorities not to carry out any punishment of flogging, which would violate the prohibition on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in international law.



SRI LANKA

Prageeth Eknaligoda

JOURNALIST 'DISAPPEARED' SINCE 2010

Sri Lankan journalist Prageeth Eknaligoda has been missing for nearly five years.

On 24 January 2010, he left work at the Lanka-e-News office but never arrived home. Amnesty believes he was subjected to enforced disappearance due to his work as a journalist and outspoken criticism of the authorities. He had declared his support for one of the main opposition candidates for the presidential elections, due to take place two days after he disappeared.

Since then his wife Sandya Eknaligoda has been campaigning for truth and justice for her husband, as well as other victims of enforced disappearance in Sri Lanka. However, official investigations have been ineffective and his whereabouts are still unknown.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Sandya Eknaligoda
132/2
Suhada Mawatha
Hiripitya
Pannipitiya
Sri Lanka

- **Preferred language** English
- **Salutation** Dear Sandya
- **Suggested message** I am writing to you in solidarity with your campaign to seek justice for your husband Prageeth Eknaligoda. There are many others who support your struggle for truth and justice.
- **Additional information** 24 January is the fifth anniversary of Prageeth's disappearance.

CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?
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- Include my name and address?
- Download the message in another language?



SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the Inspector General of Police to urgently investigate the disappearance of Prageeth Eknaligoda.

Write to: N.K. Illangakoon
Inspector General of Police (IGP)
New Secretariat
Colombo 1
Sri Lanka

Fax: +94 11 2 440440
Email: igp@police.lk

Salutation: Dear Inspector General

In your letter:

- Call on the authorities to open a prompt and thorough investigation into the disappearance of Prageeth Eknaligoda.
- Ensure that attacks and abductions of journalists in Sri Lanka are properly investigated, and the perpetrators are brought to justice.

'Every time I come home and see all the cards and letters of support it reminds me that people are working on this. To be reminded of international solidarity every day gives me strength to keep going.' **Sandya Eknaligoda**



TURKEY

Hakan Yaman

BEATEN, BURNED AND LEFT FOR DEAD

On 3 June 2013 Hakan Yaman was walking home from work in Istanbul when he passed a public demonstration against police violence in Gezi Park. Within moments, he was caught up in a brutal attack by police officers.

He was sprayed by water cannon, repeatedly beaten in the head, and one officer gouged his eye out. He says: 'I heard one of them say "This one is finished, lets completely finish him off." They dragged me and threw me on to a fire.'

He has suffered severe and life changing injuries, including losing one eye and, as a result, his job as a mini bus driver.

Hakan Yaman has lodged a criminal complaint for attempted murder. However, no officers have yet been brought to justice despite video evidence captured by witnesses.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

C/o Hakan Yaman
Amnesty International Turkey/Uluslararası
Af Örgütü
Hamalbaşı Cd. No 22
Dükkan 2-D2-D3-D4
34425 Beyoğlu/Istanbul
Turkey

- **Preferred language** Turkish
- **Salutation** Dear Hakan
- **Suggested message** Dear Hakan. Wishing you a quick recovery and thinking of you.
- **Additional information** Hakan is a Formula 1 fan.

CAN I

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- ✗ **Include my name and address?**
- ✓ **Download the message in another language?**

'They thought I was a protestor and they tried to kill me.' **Hakan Yaman**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the Minister of Interior to ensure an effective and impartial investigation of the attack on Hakan Yaman, so that those responsible can be prosecuted.

Write to: Mr. Efkan Ala
Minister of Interior
İçişleri Bakanlığı
Bakanlıklar
Ankara, Turkey

Fax: +90 312 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

In your letter:

- Briefly outline what happened to Hakan Yaman and the severity of his injuries.
- Express concern at delays in the prosecutor's investigation.
- Call on the Minister to ensure the full co-operation of the security directorates and individual police officers with the investigation, so that the officers responsible can be identified and brought to justice.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)

Dr Mohammed al-Roken



HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER JAILED FOR 10 YEARS

Mohammed al-Roken, a human rights lawyer and long-time Amnesty member, is serving a 10-year prison sentence in the UAE, following his conviction on 2 July 2013 in a mass trial of government critics and reform activists. He had previously been harassed for a number of years because of his human rights work.

In a crackdown on human rights defenders, this trial – known as 'UAE 94' – was an attempt to silence calls for reforms. He was among 69 out of 94 defendants convicted of attempting to overthrow the government.

The trial was politically motivated and grossly unfair, and the defendants were denied the right to appeal the court's verdict. Mohammed al-Roken is a prisoner of conscience.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Muna Mohammed Yousif AlRaees
PO Box 60438
Dubai
United Arab Emirates

- **Preferred language** English or Arabic
- **Salutation** Dear Dr al-Roken and family
- **Suggested message** Our thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time. We admire your courage and hope that you will be released soon.
- **Additional information** Dr al-Roken likes travel and poetry. He studied at Warwick University.

CAN I

- ✗ **Send a religious card or message?**
- ✓ **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?**
- ✓ **Include my name and address?**
- ✓ **Download the message in another language?**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to immediately and unconditionally release Dr Mohammed al-Roken.

Write to: President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Ministry of Presidential Affairs
Corniche Road
Abu Dhabi
POB 280
Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates

Fax: +971 2 622 2228
Email: ihtimam@mopa.ae

Salutation: Your Highness

In your letter:

- Call on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Dr Mohammed Al-Roken.
- Urge them to ensure he has immediate and regular access to his family, lawyers and medical assistance, and protection from torture and other ill treatment.

USA

Chelsea Manning

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS



35-YEAR SENTENCE FOR BLOWING THE WHISTLE ON ABUSES

In July 2013 US Army Private Chelsea (then known as Bradley) Manning was sentenced to 35 years' imprisonment after leaking classified government material to the website WikiLeaks.

Some of this material pointed to potential human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law by US troops, among others, and by the CIA in its counter-terror operations.

Chelsea Manning claimed she acted in the public interest, hoping to spark a meaningful debate on the costs of war, specifically on the conduct of the US military in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, she was not permitted to present this as evidence at trial, only to explain her motives at the sentencing phase.

Before her conviction, she had already been held for three years in pre-trial detention, including 11 months in conditions which the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture described as cruel and inhumane.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Chelsea E Manning 89289
1400 North Warehouse Road
Fort Leavenworth
Kansas 66027-2304
USA

- Preferred language English
- Salutation Dear Chelsea
- Suggested message <<TO COME>>
- Additional information: 17 December is Chelsea Manning's birthday.

CAN I

- ✓ Send a religious card or message?
- ✓ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✓ Include my name and address?
- ✗ Download the message in another language?

'It was never my intention to hurt anyone. I only wanted to help people. When I chose to disclose classified information, I did so out of a love for my country and a sense of duty to others.' **Chelsea Manning**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Call on the President to grant Chelsea Manning clemency and release her, and urgently investigate the potential human rights violations exposed by the leaks.

Write to: President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20500
USA

Email: (via website comment page)
www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments

Salutation: Dear President Obama

In your letter:

- Call on the President to commute Chelsea Manning's sentence to time served in pre-trial detention and to release her immediately, in view of her motivation, the treatment she endured in detention, and unfair aspects of her trial.
- Urge him to investigate the potential human rights violations Chelsea exposed.
- Urge him to strengthen protection for whistleblowers.

UZBEKISTAN

Erkin Musaev

JAILED AFTER UNFAIR TRIALS

Erkin Musaev, a former Ministry of Defence official, was working for the UN Development Programme in Uzbekistan when he was detained by the National Security Service (SNB) in January 2006.

He was charged with spying, held incommunicado for several weeks, and reportedly subjected to a month of daytime beatings, night-time interrogations and threats to harm his family.

He eventually signed a confession on condition that the SNB leave his family alone. Erkin Musaev was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for treason and abuse of office following three unfair trials in 2006 and 2007.

He is serving his sentence in north-western Uzbekistan and is in need of qualified medical care which he is not receiving.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Erkin Musaev
c/o Individuals at Risk programme
Amnesty International UK
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

- Preferred language Uzbek or Russian (Erkin Musaev speaks English, however prison authorities will not pass messages if they are unable to read it).
- Salutation Dear Erkin
- Suggested message Uzbek: Siz doim bizning uilarimizda – Siz doim bizning uylarimizda (Our thoughts are with you).
- Additional information: 8 December is Constitution Day in Uzbekistan.

CAN I

- ✗ Send a religious card or message?
- ✗ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✗ Include my name and address?
- ✓ Download the message in another language?

'Erkin, although he had to endure a lot of terrible things, is not giving up. He lives in the hope of a better future... He wants to help others who need help and support and who have survived the horrors of injustice.' **Father of Erkin Musaev**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge Prosecutor General Rashidzhon Kodirov to immediately and unconditionally release Erkin Musaev.

Write to: Prosecutor General Rashidzhon Kodirov
Prosecutor General's Office of
Uzbekistan
ul. Gulyamova 66
Tashkent 700047
Uzbekistan

Fax: +998 71 133 39 17
Email: prokuratura@lawyer.uz

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

In your letter:

- Urge him to release Erkin Musaev on the grounds that repeated calls for a fair retrial have gone unheeded for eight years.
- Call for a prompt investigation into allegations that he was tortured in custody and to bring the perpetrators to justice.



UPDATES

Last year's **Write for Rights** campaign led to the release of three prisoners featured and many more people at risk of human rights abuses felt safer and more hopeful. Worldwide people from 143 countries took a record-breaking 2.3 million actions. Here's an update from the twelve cases.

AFGHANISTAN
Afghan Women Skills Development Centre
<<TO COME>>

BANGLADESH
Kalpana Chakma
The family received over 5,000 solidarity cards.

BELARUS
Ihar Tsihanyuk
More than 172,000 people took action raising awareness of challenges faced by the LGBTI community. 'When I feel I am left with no hope, I'll get a letter out and it will inspire me. The confidence in myself returns!'

BRAZIL
Láisa Santos Sampaio
There were no further developments.

BURMA
Dr Tun Aung
More than 120,000 messages were sent to the authorities calling for his release. Dr Tun has had his 17-year sentence reduced, and is due to be released in 2015.

CAMBODIA
Yorm Bopha
She was released on bail in November 2013 and the authorities received nearly 253,000 appeals. She continues to campaign for her community. 'I am very happy now I know we are not alone.'

ETHIOPIA
Eskinder Nega
The journalist is still serving his 18 year prison sentence. His wife Serkalem was overwhelmed by the solidarity messages: 'I cannot emphasise enough the positive impact and encouragement we got from the campaign.'

HONDURAS
COFADEH
The human rights activists received 5,000 solidarity messages and more than 51,000 appeals called on the authorities to protect them. 'We were able to see the international support which is so necessary for us to be able to continue our risky work.'

MEXICO
Miriam López
She is still fighting for justice for her kidnap and torture by soldiers. 'Thank you for supporting me, even though you don't know me. For the cards, for the lanterns, for everything – thank you.'

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
Nabi Saleh
The villagers continue to protest against an illegal Israeli settlement which has taken over their farmland, and said messages helped raise awareness of their struggle.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
The Bolotnaya 3
Vladimir Akimenkov was released in December 2013. After being sent for forcible psychiatric treatment in hospital, Mikhail Kosenko is now able to continue treatment at home with his family. Artiom Saviolov remains in prison.

TUNISIA
Jabeur Mejri
After more than 158,000 people petitioned the authorities, the blogger was released in March 2014. Sadly, after a confrontation with officials, he was arrested again a month later.

ZIMBABWE
WOZA
The members remain at risk due to their work.



FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why send cards to communities, organisations and families?

People working for organisations or community groups can often be under threat because they are defending human rights. Receiving a mass of cards can really boost morale. Sometimes it's not possible to write to an individual directly (for example where someone has been 'disappeared' or is in prison and unable to receive mail). The family can benefit from your support, however, and may be able to share your message with the individual, for example at prison visits.

In some cases you advise not to send a religious card or to mention Amnesty. Why?

This is for the safety of the recipients. In some cases association with a particular faith or with Amnesty's human rights work could put them at greater risk.

What counts as a non-religious card?

Cards illustrated with things like snowy scenes, fir trees or robins. The message 'Season's Greetings' is non-religious too.

Can I send cards produced by other organisations?

This is generally fine, as long as their work cannot be considered 'political'.

What if I receive a reply?

Please send a copy to the Individuals at Risk programme.

Some of the addresses are long and complicated. Is there a way of making this easier?

You can download and print address labels for each case from www.amnesty.org.uk/write

How do I know that sending a card will not put that person at risk?

We have checked with those featured in the campaign (or their families or other representatives) that they are happy to be part of the campaign and that it is safe for them to receive cards throughout the two months.

I have the capacity to take action on more cases than the 12 included in this campaign. Can I have more?

The 12 cases have been carefully chosen and we would ask that people focus on them in the first instance. However we have seven extra cases requiring solidarity for people who want more. Contact sct@amnesty.org.uk

What can I do once the campaign ends?

We welcome your continued action for individuals at risk throughout the year. You can find the latest actions or sign up to be part of our Urgent Action network at www.amnesty.org.uk

I'm running an event/stall. Do you have any materials to make this easier?

Yes. You can download casesheets specifically designed for stalls from our website. Each casesheet includes a solidarity action and a letter writing action. For individual casesheets, download from the web address at the bottom of each page in this booklet; or for a pack of all 12 download from www.amnesty.org.uk/write

RESOURCES

PRINT

To order more materials, call **01788 545553**. Or email amnesty@tfstore.co.uk (put Write for Rights materials in the subject line of the email).

WFR 018

Write for Rights Campaign Booklet 2014 with information on all cases

WFR 019

Write for Rights Poster

WFR 020

Map of cases

You can also download these at www.amnesty.org.uk/write



ONLINE

Go to www.amnesty.org.uk/write to keep up to date with the campaign and to download additional resources, including:

- Casesheets to download and print with solidarity and appeal actions (useful for events and stalls)
- Translations of suggested solidarity messages
- Address labels
- Any updates on cases
- Casesheets written for a younger audience
- Top tips for organising a Write for Rights event
- Good news from previous campaigns
- Photo gallery.

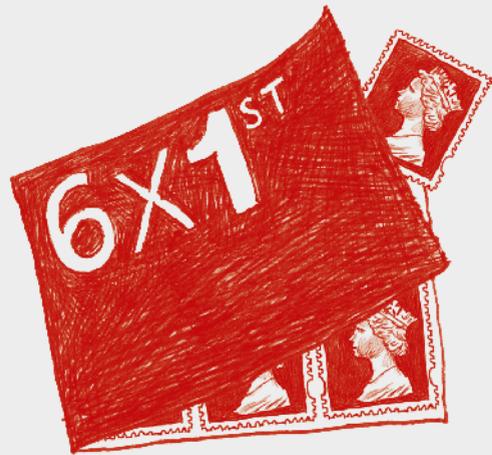
If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact our Supporter Care Team on **020 7033 1777**.

CREATIVE IDEAS

GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR MESSAGES OF SOLIDARITY

PERSONALISED CARDS

- Design and make your own cards.
- Instead of a card, send a photo of yourself holding up a message of solidarity.



GET OTHERS INVOLVED

AT HOME

Invite friends and family round for coffee and mince pies and ask them to sign greetings cards. Or send them this booklet with your seasonal cards and ask them to send a card to someone featured in the campaign.

AT WORK

Ask colleagues to sign cards over lunch or tea and cake – challenge teams to make the most creative one.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Set up a stall – in a coffee shop, bookshop, library, place of worship or shopping centre – and ask passers-by to sign individual cards, or a giant card from the whole community. Ask people for a donation to help cover the postage cost. Invite the mayor or local MP to join in.

IN SCHOOL

Casesheets written for a younger audience can be downloaded from www.amnesty.org.uk/write. See our code of conduct on working with young people at www.amnesty.org.uk/youth.

TIPS FOR CARD-WRITING EVENTS

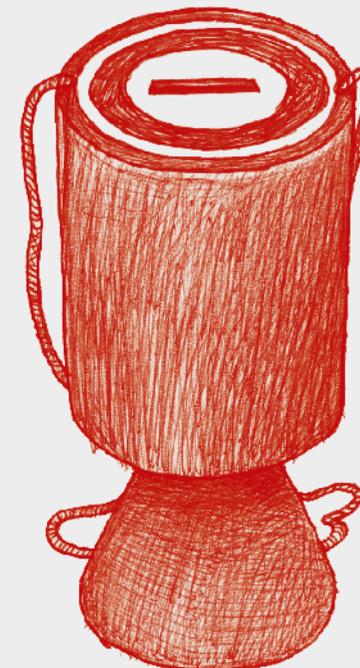
- Choose a few cases to focus on. Download and print individual casesheets and translated solidarity messages from www.amnesty.org.uk/write.
- Order posters, maps and booklets free of charge: call **01788 545553**.
- Stock up on envelopes, stamps, pens and cards, or materials to make your own cards.
- Address and stamp envelopes in advance.
- Have a tin available to collect donations towards postage.
- 'Amnestea parties' combine campaigning and fundraising – to order a kit call **020 7033 1682** or download from www.amnesty.org.uk/tea.
- Promote your event. Write to your local newspaper, or send a press release to your local radio. For a sample press release, call **020 7033 1552** or email press@amnesty.org.uk.

ONLINE ACTIONS AT EVENTS

- Take a group photo to upload. Ask everyone in the photo to sign their name on a letter to the authorities.
- Try to have a laptop available for people to add online solidarity messages.

SHARE IDEAS WITH OTHERS

Send your photos to iar@amnesty.org.uk.



FEEDBACK



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'I would like to thank Amnesty International for helping and supporting my community as well as myself and thank all of the people who devoted their time to write petition letters to the government to request my release. I am very happy that we are not alone.'

Yorm Bopha, Cambodian housing rights activist – soon after her release and responding to last year's Write for Rights campaign.



'When we receive cards from Amnesty International activists... we read them with love, because we know they were made with love for us. And they mean recognition of our work. That is a big source of satisfaction for us as human rights defenders.'

Kenia Oliva of the Honduran Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH) – a case from last year's Write for Rights



'It's incredible that there is so much support from different countries and cultures, and that people who don't even know me feel solidarity with me and support my struggle. I truly thank you all.'

Mexican torture survivor **Miriam Lopez** sends a message back after the Write for Rights campaign 2013



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'When I received the letters the first day I was debating with the delivery person "No these could not be mine, I could never receive so many letters!" I was elated. It was beyond my expectation. I received five huge packages of letters. There were far too many to count. Nafkot looks at the pictures in the letters. This is a huge resource of encouragement for me and for Eskinder.'

Serkalem Fasil on the support she and her son Nafkot received from Write for Rights 2013. Her journalist husband Eskinder is serving 18 years in jail for criticising the government in Ethiopia



CREDITS

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amnesty.org.uk/join

020 7033 1777



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WFFR018



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