**[MP Name]**

**[MP’s constituency address]**

**[Date]**

Dear **[MP Name]**,

We are the **[group name]** Amnesty International Group and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your re-election as Member of Parliament for **[constituency name]**.

Our group is one of many across the UK that regularly come together to protect human rights as part of the Amnesty International movement. Here in **[local area/town/city]** we raise awareness of human rights, campaign for individuals who face wrongful imprisonment or other abuses of their rights, and work for the protection of human rights in the UK and internationally.

As you re-enter Parliament we would like to draw your attention to two individuals who are enduring ongoing human rights violations. Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Kamal Foroughi are both British-Iranian nationals who are currently imprisoned in Iran.

Nazanin is serving a five-year prison sentence on a trumped up national security charge that stems solely from her professional work with media foundations and charities based in the UK. She was arrested on 3 April 2016, after which she was held for 45 days in solitary confinement and given no access to a lawyer until three days before the start of her trial. She was not permitted visits with her family, including her young daughter, for well over a month after her arrest. In September 2016, following an unfair trial held before a Revolutionary Court in Tehran, she was convicted of “membership of an illegal group” in connection with her work at Thomas Reuters Foundation, a charity organisation promoting socio-economic progress, independent journalism and the rule of law, and her past work as an Administrative Assistant on a project that trained young journalists at BBC Media Action.

Kamal (then 71, now 77 years old) was arrested on 5 May 2011 by men in plain clothes who did not show an arrest warrant or explain the reasons for his arrest. He was held in solitary confinement for 18 months and he was only allowed to meet his lawyer once before the start of his trial. In 2013, following an unfair trial, he was convicted of alleged espionage and given a seven-year sentence – there has never been any evidence or explanation provided. He has been eligible for release under Iran’s own early release laws since January 2014. His lawyer has submitted over 50 applications for his release and there has never been a formal response.

Kamal suffers from various medical conditions; he has developed cataracts in both his eyes in prison and has complained of memory loss and back pain. Prior to his arrest, his doctors had also told him that he was at increased risk of prostate cancer. Despite his poor health, the authorities have failed to provide him with specialist medical care outside prison and have denied his repeated requests to be released or granted leave on medical grounds.

The Iranian authorities have denied Nazanin and Kamal British consular assistance.

Both Nazanin and Kamal are separated from their families and loved ones. Nazanin has a two-year-old daughter with whom she has visits in prison, while Kamal has not seen his daughter, son, or two granddaughters in six long years. Additionally, both are in urgent need of specialised medical care: Nazanin has severe arm, neck and back pain and could face permanent damage to her right arm; and Kamal requires surgery to avoid becoming blind from cataracts.

Human rights are about ordinary people, including British citizens like Nazanin and Kamal, and their families who suffer the devastating consequences when their loved ones are being denied their human rights. As our Member of Parliament, we would like you to call for Nazanin and Kamal to be released from prison, and to support a Backbench Business Debate on their cases. Based on decades of working for imprisoned prisoners of conscience and individuals denied fair trials, we at Amnesty International believe that public political pressure will play a significant role in ensuring their release.

We hope to continue to work with you throughout the next five years on individuals facing human rights abuses and on human rights issues in the UK and internationally. We would very much like to meet with you, in the next few weeks or over the summer recess, to discuss our ongoing work, the human rights issues that interest you and how we might work together. Please do let us know of dates that would be convenient for a meeting.

Kind regards,

**[Name of Chair or Secretary signing off letter, their group role, and group name]**