



Write a letter, change a life

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2017

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



YOUR WORDS HAVE POWER

‘Letters from Amnesty supporters . . . were really powerful and helped me to stay strong. They protected us because the authorities knew thousands of people were watching.’

Pro-democracy activist **Fred Bauma**, who was released from prison in the Democratic Republic of Congo in August 2016. Over 170,000 Amnesty supporters globally took action for him during Write for Rights 2015.

This winter, you can give a boost to people who are under fire for defending human rights. It only takes a few minutes to write a letter or card. But for a peaceful protester arrested and tortured, an activist fighting against forced evictions, or refugees left in limbo rather than offered a place of safety, it can provide the strength to carry on. A message of solidarity tells people that, however difficult the circumstances, they’re not alone.

Letters from you, and millions of others around the world, can help to put pressure on kings, presidents, governments and other authorities to correct injustices, free prisoners of conscience, and stop human rights abuses. Your messages show them that the world is watching.

Over **152,000** people across the UK took part in Write for Rights 2016 – and made a real difference.

- » Uzbek journalist **Muhammad Bekzhanov** was freed in February after 17 years behind bars. **Hundreds of thousands of people** worldwide wrote messages calling for his freedom.
- » Criminal charges against **Máxima Acuña**, a subsistence farmer standing up against a mining giant in Peru, were dropped in May 2017. **More than 150,000 people** worldwide sent her solidarity messages.
- » In February 2016, **Albert Woodfox** was freed after over 40 years in solitary confinement in the US. **More than 200,000 people** around the world called for his release.
- » Whistle-blower **Chelsea Manning** was freed in May 2017 after outgoing US president Barack Obama cut short her 35-year sentence. **Over 250,000 people** wrote asking him to free her.

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‘I am grateful that I am not alone. I have the support of so many people from all around the world, from many different countries. Keep on supporting, helping . . . thank you for everything.’

Máxima Acuña

LETTER WRITING WORKS

THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN

Join our campaign and change lives this winter. This booklet has information on 10 people or groups suffering human rights abuses right now. We've suggested actions you can take for each one, including:

- » Sending a message of solidarity to let them know you're thinking of them
- » Writing a letter appealing to those with the power to stop the abuse
- » Getting creative to make your voice heard
- » Using social media to show your solidarity or contact the authorities.

KEEP UP TO DATE

The circumstances of some of the cases may change during the campaign. When this happens, it is important for us to be able to update you, so please let us know your plans by contacting us at:

Individuals at Risk programme
Amnesty International UK
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA
Tel: **020 7033 1636**
Email: iar@amnesty.org.uk

NEW TO WRITE FOR RIGHTS?

Getting involved in our global letter-writing campaign is easy, but we know the first time may seem a bit daunting. Here are some tips:

- » You don't need to take action on all 10 cases in the booklet – anything you do to support one or two of them will really make a difference
- » Try to personalise your message of solidarity as much as possible – this has a real impact on recipients. If you're unsure what to write, we've provided some suggested messages.
- » When writing to presidents, ministers or authorities, include your name and country, and if you're comfortable (and the case information says it's OK), your address. This shows that the letter is genuine and personal. Write as one human being to another, and keep requests clear and polite.
- » For each case, we say whether you should include your name and address in solidarity cards or letters. When we ask you not to, it is to ensure that the individual does not feel overwhelmed at having to respond to everyone who writes to them.
- » Check out our Frequently Asked Questions page if there's anything else you're unsure of.

POSTAGE RATES

Rates correct at time of writing. For the latest guidance on pricing and to buy postage online, visit royalmail.com

Weight not over	Europe	Rest of the World
10g	£1.17	£1.17
20g	£1.17	£1.40
100g	£1.57	£2.27

RESOURCES

PRINTED MATERIALS

Want to order more materials? Please call us on **01788 545553** or order online: amnesty.org.uk/write

Booklet

WFR 030: Write for Rights campaign 2017 booklet. Includes information on all the cases featured in this year's campaign

Posters

WFR 031: Write for Rights campaign poster and map 2017 (A2)

WFR 032: Poster of case 1 Shackelia Jackson (A3)

WFR 033: Poster of case 2 The Istanbul 10 (A3)

WFR 034: Poster of case 3 Sakris Kupila (A3)

WFR 035: Poster of case 4 Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash (A3)

Action cards

WFR 036: Action card for The Istanbul 10

WFR 037: Action card for Shackelia Jackson

Stickers

WFR 038: Sticker sheet
(20 stickers per A4 sheet)

ONLINE

Go to amnesty.org.uk/write for the latest information on Write for Rights 2017. You can download pdf versions of the printed materials and additional resources, including:

- » Case sheets with solidarity and appeal actions (print outs of these are useful for events and stalls)
- » Translations of suggested solidarity messages
- » Address labels for individuals or appeal targets
- » Updates on cases
- » Case sheets aimed at younger audiences
- » Top tips for organising a Write for Rights event
- » Good news from previous campaigns
- » Photo galleries of cases

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

1 NOV -
31 DEC

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Write for Rights 2017 campaign runs from **1 November** to **31 December**. International Human Rights Day is **10 December**.

SOLIDARITY AROUND THE WORLD

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BANGLADESH

XULHAZ MANNAN

LGBTI activists killed

On 25 April 2016, LGBTIQ activists Xulhaz Mannan and Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy were killed by members of the armed group Ansar al-Islam, which is linked to Al Qaeda. The pair, who helped to set up and run Bangladesh's first and only LGBTIQ magazine, *Roopban*, were hacked to death after men posing as couriers gained entry to Xulhaz's apartment. Xulhaz's 75-year-old mother, Sakhina Khatun, was also injured in the attack.

A year and a half on from the murders, there has been little progress in the case. The police have made a handful of arrests and claim to have identified other suspects, but no one has been formally charged.

Although same-sex relations are illegal in Bangladesh, LGBTIQ campaigners were beginning to change people's attitudes. The murders have set back this progress.

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Minhaz Mannan Emon
c/o Amnesty International Regional Office
16/F Siu On Centre
188 Lockhart Road
Wanchai
Hong Kong

- » **Language:** English
- » **Suggested messages:** We support you in your continued struggle for justice for your brother.

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **No**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes** (But only in the card, not on the envelope)
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**



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'The fear is that we have gone back 15 years. We had started having a public presence. Now we are scared to have even small gatherings.'

Bangladeshi LGBTIQ blogger

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge Bangladesh's Home Minister to ensure that those responsible for the killing are brought to justice.

- » **Write to:**
Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan
Ministry of Home Affairs
Bangladesh Secretariat
Building #8
Dhaka
Bangladesh
- » **Salutation:** Dear Home Minister
- » **In your letter:** Express your concern about the lack of progress in the police investigation into the murders of Xulhaz Mannan and Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy and associated criminal prosecution. Urge him to ensure they are concluded promptly and those responsible for the killings brought to justice.

CHINA

NI YULAN

Housing activist under attack

Award-winning housing activist Ni Yulan has defended Beijing residents against forced eviction for nearly 20 years, despite harassment, surveillance, restrictions on her movements, detention and physical attacks. She has used a wheelchair since being badly beaten by the police in 2002.

Ni Yulan, who was particularly active in the run-up to the 2008 Olympic Games, was released from prison in 2013 after serving two-and-a-half years behind bars on spurious charges. Since then she and her family have been evicted from their home or obstructed from renting alternative accommodation at least seven times.

Ni Yulan's courage and determination earned her the Dutch government's 2011 Human Rights Tulip award. In 2016, she won the International Women of Courage Award from the US Department of State, but was unable to accept the prize in person after the Chinese government imposed a travel ban.

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Ni Yulan and her family do not have a permanent mailing address, as they are forced to move regularly, so please take a photo of your solidarity action and share it on social media using the hashtag #NiYulan.

- » **Language:** English or Chinese (Chinese preferred)
- » **Suggested messages:** You are so brave. We stand by you, Ni Yulan. We are thinking about you and support your work. May our joint struggle for human rights bring social change and justice one day.

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **Yes** (Ni Yulan is Christian)
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**



©AP/Rex/Shutterstock

'We will not yield to this pressure because we will not be able to survive in this world if we don't defend our rights. Facing [state] violence, we have to exhaust all legal means to fight for our rights.'

Ni Yulan

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge the Director of Beijing's Municipal Public Security Bureau to stop the harassment of Ni Yulan and her family.

- » **Write to:**
Director Wang Xiaohong
No.9 Dongdajie
Qianmen
Dongchengqu
Beijingshi 100740
People's Republic of China
- » **Salutation:** Dear Director
- » **In your letter:** Urge him to stop the harassment of Ni Yulan and her family, and carry out a thorough and impartial investigation so those responsible are brought to justice. Call on him to allow Ni Yulan and her family to find adequate accommodation, lift her travel ban, and issue her a valid passport. Urge him to ensure residents are not evicted without adequate notice, consultation, or adequate alternative accommodation.

EGYPT

AZZA SOLIMAN

Women's rights lawyer faces imprisonment

Prominent lawyer Azza Soliman has dedicated her life to defending victims of torture, arbitrary detention, domestic abuse, and rape. She co-founded two organisations, the Centre for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance and Lawyers for Justice and Peace, to provide women in poverty and survivors of abuse with legal aid, support, and literacy lessons.

The authorities have responded to Azza's courageous work by labelling her a 'spy' and a 'threat' to national security. She has been put under surveillance, targeted by smear campaigns, and harassed by security forces and pro-government media outlets.

Azza now faces three trumped-up charges as part of the politically motivated Case 173 (the 'foreign funding case'), which targets NGOs: tax evasion, operating a civil society organisation without proper registration, and slandering Egypt's image and reputation by claiming Egyptian women are at risk of rape. Her assets were frozen and she was banned from travelling. If found guilty, Azza faces imprisonment.

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Azza Soliman
19A Oboor apartments
Salah Salem
Masr el-Gedida
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

- » **Language:** English or Arabic
- » **Suggested messages:** Dear Azza, you are not alone, we are here in solidarity with you. Or: Dear Azza, thank you for all your efforts, with love from.



'We have decided to carry on despite the injustice and darkness that are rampant in Egypt today.'

Azza Soliman

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **Yes**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **No**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**

Due to the political situation in Egypt, please do not send letters from Israel, Turkey or Qatar.

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to drop all the charges against Azza Soliman.

- » **Write to:**
President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
- » **Salutation:** Your Excellency
- » **In your letter:** Urge him to immediately and unconditionally drop the charges against Azza Soliman, and lift her travel ban and asset freeze orders. Call for him to drop Case 173, and lift all travel bans and asset freeze orders against human rights defenders and organisations. Also call for reform of the draconian NGO bill and for the current law to be amended to protect the right to freedom of association.

FINLAND

SAKRIS KUPILA

Denied legal gender recognition

Sakris Kupila is being denied legal gender recognition because he refuses to undergo a humiliating process that involves a mental disorder diagnosis and enforced sterilisation. The 21-year-old medical student and activist is calling for reform of Finland's gender recognition procedures, which violate the rights of transgender people to be free from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, to the highest attainable standard of health, to privacy, and to recognition as a person before the law.

Sakris has suffered harassment, intimidation, violent threats and open hostility because of his work defending the rights of transgender people. It got so bad that he was forced to take a year away from his university education. But Sakris remains determined to continue his campaign.

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Sakris Kupila
c/o Amnesty International Finnish Section
Hietaniemenkatu 7 A
00100 Helsinki
Finland

- » **Language:** Finnish or English
- » **Suggested message:** I support you in your fight for transgender rights.

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **Yes**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**

Use the pronoun 'he' for Sakris and neutral terms like 'transgender person', rather than terms like 'transgender man'.



'All my adult life I have tried to achieve the right to change and live as myself, and an easy and normal life with everyday problems feels like a dream.'

Sakris Kupila

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge Prime Minister Juha Sipilä to reform the humiliating process for obtaining legal gender recognition in Finland.

- » **Write to:**
Prime Minister Juha Sipilä
Finnish Government
PL 23, 00023 Valtioneuvosto
Finland
- » **Salutation:** Dear Prime Minister
- » **In your letter:** Tell him the legal gender recognition procedure is humiliating and violates the human rights of transgender people. Urge him to revise the Trans Act, and abolish the sterilisation, other medical treatment, and mental health diagnosis requirements. Call for a new process that is quick, transparent, based on self-determination, and available irrespective of age, medical or legal status. Finally, call for greater support for transgender rights defenders.

IRAN ESMAIL ABDI

Trade unionists at risk

Esmail Abdi is at imminent risk of imprisonment, solely because of his peaceful trade union activities.

Maths teacher Esmail, leader of the Tehran branch of the Iran Teachers' Trade Association, was convicted of national security offences in February 2016, after organising peaceful protests. He was given a six-year sentence, but following a hunger strike, was released on temporary leave on 25 June after making a large bail payment. He could be recalled to prison at any time.



©Private

'Is it a crime to be a member of a trade association and participate in peaceful demonstrations... Is it a crime to gather signatures petitioning the government to uphold the law?'

Esmail Abdi

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

For reasons of personal security, we cannot send solidarity messages to Esmail Abdi's family. Messages sent to us will be sent by secure electronic means. Please send your message to:
Esmail Abdi
c/o Individuals at Risk
Amnesty International UK
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

- » **Language:** English or Farsi
- » **Suggested message:** You are not alone. From the UK I support your struggle to defend workers' and human rights in Iran and to insist on the right to a decent education for all.

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **No**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **No**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge the Head of the Judiciary to ensure that Esmail Abdi's conviction is quashed and workers' rights are respected.

» Write to:

Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
c/o Public Relations Office
Number 4, Deadend of 1 Azizi
Above Pasteur Intersection
Vali Asr Street, Tehran, Iran

» Salutation:

- Your Excellency
- » **In your letter:** Call on him to ensure that the conviction against Esmail Abdi is quashed. Insist that Iran meets its international obligations to ensure that trade unionists can exercise their legitimate workers' rights free from harassment and ill-treatment.

ISRAEL/OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES ISSA AMRO AND FARID AL-ATRASH

Peaceful protesters face military trial

Prominent Palestinian human rights defenders Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash face prison sentences for their peaceful campaigning against illegal Israeli settlements in the city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank. They were arrested after a non-violent demonstration on 26 February 2016, during which Israeli forces threw sound bombs and fired tear gas at protesters.

Farid, a lawyer, and Issa, coordinator of the Youth Against Settlements group, now face trials in an Israeli military court on politically motivated charges, including participating in an illegal demonstration and attacking soldiers. They deny all the charges.

Video footage corroborates Farid's account that he was peacefully standing in front of Israeli soldiers and holding a poster when he was pushed, dragged and then violently arrested. He also told Amnesty he was shot in the foot. Issa alleges he was beaten by the Israeli police twice while in custody. He has also been threatened and harassed by the Israeli army, police and settlers.

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash
c/o Amnesty International
PO BOX 42 626
Jerusalem, Israel

- » **Language:** Farid al-Atrash: Arabic only. Issa Amro: English or Arabic. A message in Arabic will be provided online at amnesty.org.uk/write
- » **Suggested messages:** Dear Farid al-Atrash, You are not alone in your struggle. I am here and I am advocating on your behalf too. In solidarity. Dear Issa Amro, You are not alone in your struggle. I am here and I am advocating on your behalf too. In solidarity. You can also send messages via Facebook, using #FARIDANDISSA



©GettyImages

'I am innocent. I am a lawyer. I was standing peacefully. They are putting me on trial to silence me and deter other human rights activists from continuing their work.'

Farid al-Atrash

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **No**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to drop all charges against Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash.

» Write to:

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan St, PO Box 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91950, Israel

» Salutation:

- Dear Prime Minister
- » **In your letter:** Urge him to immediately drop all the charges against Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash, and end the harassment of them and other human rights defenders in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Call for an immediate investigation into Issa Amro's allegations of police beatings, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

JAMAICA SHACKELIA JACKSON

Demanding justice for her brother

Ever since her brother was unlawfully killed by the police, Shackelia Jackson has fought to bring the officers responsible to justice. Despite a campaign of harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against her, her family and witnesses to the attack, Shackelia refuses to give up.

On 20 January 2014, Shackelia's brother Nakiea Jackson was shot dead by police officers, who allege he pointed a gun at them first. But their claims are contradicted by witnesses, who say Nakiea, a cook who was making lunch for a local blood bank at the time, was unarmed.

A police officer was charged over the killing, but a preliminary inquiry was dismissed in July 2016 after a witness failed to appear in court. The witness later told the Jackson family that they were too scared to attend.



'I only want justice. This is not an equal fight but I'm too much of an optimist and will continue in my fight for what is right.'

Shackelia Jackson

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Shackelia Jackson
184 Orange Street, BLK J apt 10
Kingston
Jamaica

» **Language:** English

» **Suggested message:** Dear Shackelia I want to tell you that you are not alone. Your struggle for justice is an inspiration for families facing a similar situation in Jamaica and elsewhere. I want to express my solidarity with your struggle and hope that justice will prevail for Nakiea's killing and that many other families in Jamaica can soon obtain truth, justice and reparation. In solidarity.

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **Yes**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge the Jamaican authorities to ensure justice for Nakiea Jackson and his family.

» Write to:

Prime Minister of Jamaica
Andrew Holness
1 Devon Road
Kingston 10
Jamaica

» **Salutation:** Honourable Andrew Holness,

» **In your letter:** Urge him to ensure a swift and independent judicial investigation into the alleged unlawful killing of Nakiea Jackson is carried out, and call for those responsible to be brought to justice. Tell him to provide the Jacksons with protection, in accordance with their wishes. Call for reform of the criminal justice system to ensure justice for Shackelia and other relatives of people allegedly killed by police.

SUDAN DR MUDAWI IBRAHIM ADAM

Jailed for exposing abuses

Award-winning activist Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam has dedicated his life to exposing human rights violations, providing humanitarian support and working on development projects. Because of this work, the engineering professor has been repeatedly targeted by the Sudanese authorities.

Dr Mudawi, who in 2005 won both the Human Rights First Award and the Front Line Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk, was arrested in December 2016. He was imprisoned for eight months on trumped-up charges, with the threat of the death penalty hanging over him.

Dr Mudawi, who suffers from chronic respiratory and heart conditions, was denied adequate medical care and allegedly tortured. He went on hunger strike in protest against his treatment. Although Dr Mudawi was released in August, and the charges against him dropped, he remains in danger, with the Sudanese authorities continuing their relentless assault on those who speak out.



'Human rights defenders are messengers of social change, advocates for equality and justice, and support them is support for a world free of cruelty, human suffering and pain.'

Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

» Write to:

Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam
KACE
Kampala Office
P.O Box: 35376 Kampala
Bukoto
Plot 1175 Mukalazi Road
Uganda

» **Language:** English or Arabic

» **Suggested message:** We are standing with you, you shall be free again. Your fight for human rights is ours too. (An Arabic translation of this message is available at [amnesty.org.uk/write](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write))

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **No**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **No**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**

There is no need to send an appeal letter to the Sudanese authorities at this time.

TURKEY THE ISTANBUL 10 Amnesty Turkey staff detained

'Truth and justice have become total strangers in Turkey.'

Salil Shetty, secretary-general of Amnesty International



Ten people who have dedicated their lives to defending the human rights of journalists, activists and other dissenting voices in Turkey are themselves in danger.

Among them are İdil Eser of Amnesty International and Özlem Dalkıran of Avaaz and Citizens' Assembly. Known as the Istanbul 10 they, along with Amnesty's Taner Kılıç, are under investigation for terrorism-related crimes – an absurd accusation intended to choke their human rights activism. They are currently in prison, awaiting trial.

The Istanbul 10 are: İdil Eser, Özlem Dalkıran, Günel Kurşun, Veli Acı, Ali Gharavi, Peter Steudtner, İknur Üstün, Şeyhmus Özbekli, Nejat Taştan and Nalan Erkem.

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Please upload a photo of your solidarity message to freeistanbul10.tumblr.com

- » **Language:** English or Turkish
- » **Suggested message:** Tell them you support their struggle and are demanding an end to the persecution of human rights defenders in Turkey.

GET CREATIVE

Your solidarity message does not have to be written – it could be a photo, a drawing or anything else you can think of.

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **Yes**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge Turkey's Minister of Justice to release the Istanbul 10.

- » **Write to:**
Minister of Justice Abdulhamit Gül
Adalet Bakanlığı
06659 Ankara
Turkey
- » **Salutation:** Dear Minister
- » **In your letter:** Call on him to stop the persecution of İdil Eser, Özlem Dalkıran and eight other human rights defenders arrested in Istanbul on 5 July. Urge him to release them immediately and unconditionally.

UK IMMIGRATION DETAINEES

Thousands held indefinitely

Tens of thousands of people are held in immigration detention in the UK every year, often in terrible conditions.

For almost all, there is no fixed time-limit on their detention. Amnesty's research has shown that indefinite immigration detention regularly causes damage to detainees' mental and physical health and has harmful knock-on effects for their loved ones left behind, including children.

The uncertainty surrounding how long detention might last adds considerably to the suffering and distress of all those affected.

The harm will continue, unless the debate on immigration takes into account the impact of the UK's immigration detention system on the lives and families of the people it incarcerates.

Immigration detention should only ever be an exceptional measure. Instead it has become routine.

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

We will deliver your solidarity messages to people in immigration detention through partner organisations.

Individuals at Risk
Amnesty International UK
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London
EC2A 3EA

- » **Language:** English
- » **Salutation:** Dear Friend
- » **Suggested message:**
You are not forgotten.
Amnesty UK and its partners are calling for the government to introduce a time-limit for immigration detention.
We support your aspirations for freedom, dignity and a safe place to live.



CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **Yes**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention **Yes**
- » Include my name and address? **Please include your name, but not your address**

I WELCOME

Amnesty UK is campaigning for the government to dramatically reduce its use of immigration detention and impose a time-limit.

WRITE FOR RIGHTS EVENTS

Every year, groups across the UK come together to host Write for Rights events. Here are some ideas if you'd like to do the same.

- » Write for Rights is a good way for people new to human rights activism to get involved. You could hold an event at work at lunchtime and ask people to sign action cards or write letters.
- » Human Rights Day is on 10 December, and can be used as a hook to get people involved in the campaign.
- » November and December are the season of goodwill: host a celebration with mulled wine, mince pies and all the trimmings and invite your local community to sign cards.
- » Amnesty has created films about some of the cases. Host a film screening in your local cinema and ask the audience to sign a petition when they leave.
- » What else is going on in your local area? The Bognor and Chichester group join in with a Christmas tree event, and the Canterbury group participate in Canterbury Whole World Fair. Piggy-backing on other events can help you to collect signatures without having to organise events yourself.
- » Sending hundreds of cards and letters individually can be expensive. If it is cheaper and easier to send them in one envelope, please do so.
- » Think about links you can make between the case and your local community. For example, if there is a large diaspora community of people from the country you are focusing on, you could work with them.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why can't I post a letter to some of the people in the booklet?

We give a postal address wherever possible, but it is not safe for some individuals or groups to receive letters. In addition, some countries have unreliable postal services, and prison authorities may also limit the amount of mail an inmate can receive.

Why can't I send religious cards to all the people featured or mention Amnesty?

It is for the safety of the recipient, as in some cases, association with a particular faith or our 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.

Can I send cards produced by other organisations?

Yes, as long as their work cannot be considered 'political' and the card follows the general guidance on the case.

Why are there only 10 cases?

The 10 cases are carefully chosen to have maximum impact so please focus on those in the first instance. However, we have four extra cases for people who want to do more. Please go to [amnesty.org.uk/write](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write) for more info.

What if the email address for the appeal letter doesn't work?

Please send a letter instead. The email may have been changed because the addressee has been overwhelmed by appeals or the inbox has become full.

What if I receive a reply?

Please send a copy to the Individuals at Risk programme. It will help us assess the impact of the campaign.

» iar@amnesty.org.uk

» IAR Programme, Amnesty International UK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA

Why is feedback important?

Finding out how many people took part in the campaign, and on which case(s), is vital, as it shows us whether our tactics are working. It also enables us to provide updates about an individual's changing circumstances. Please use the feedback form that was included in your pack, or go online at [amnesty.org.uk/writefeedback](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/writefeedback)

Can I work on these cases after Write for Rights finishes?

In most cases, yes. If you would like to work on a case long-term, please let us know so that we can make sure you have the most up-to-date information: iar@amnesty.org.uk

FAQ

What else can I do on the cases of individuals at risk?

You can join Amnesty's Urgent Action network, which year-round protects people from torture, helps free people who are wrongly detained, and secures access to medical treatment or legal counsel for prisoners. As a member of the network, you will be sent requests – how many is up to you – to take action urgently on behalf of individuals at risk. Find out more at [amnesty.org.uk/urgent](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent)

Do our letters really make a difference?

Yes, solidarity is effective. When authorities receive thousands of letters about a particular person, they know that the world is watching them. And victims of human rights abuses tell us that our solidarity letters have a huge impact. Costa, who featured in Write for Rights 2015, said: *'This mobilisation of people from all over the world is very moving... Your letters remind us we are not alone.'*

Is it risky to sign my letters and give my address? Will that country refuse to let me visit in the future?

We have no record of this happening. Thousands of Amnesty supporters sign their letters without experiencing any problems. However, if you have business or other close links with a country or you have concerns, then you can choose another case to write about, or not give your full name or full postal address (eg send a letter 'from Jane, Manchester').

UPDATES

Last year, hundreds of thousands of people around the world took part in our global Write for Rights campaign, resulting in over 4.6 million actions worldwide. Here are updates on the cases featured last year.

AZERBAIJAN

Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov

In late 2016, students Bayram and Giyas were sentenced to 10 years in prison for spraying graffiti on a statue of the former president. Over 231,000 people took action for them during Write for Rights 2016, and they asked their lawyers to thank Amnesty supporters for campaigning for them.

CAMEROON

Fomusoh Ivo Feh

Ivo remains in prison, and his appeal trial has been repeatedly postponed. But Write for Rights 2016 resulted in greater international attention on his case and that of his two friends.

'You do not know us, we do not know you, but you have been with us from the beginning and you fight for our liberation.' **Azah Levis Gob**

CANADA

Indigenous peoples in the Peace River Valley

The Supreme Court refused to hear a further appeal to halt the Site C dam. But the new coalition provincial government has ordered an independent review of the project. The Peace River Valley's Indigenous communities expressed their thanks for the Write for Rights 2016 solidarity messages. '[They] pulled at my heartstrings. There's no better way to show that you're not alone, that other people recognise that what's happening to you isn't right,' said Helen Knott.

CHINA

Ilham Tohti

Prisoner of conscience Ilham, who is serving a life sentence, was awarded the 2017 Weimar Human Rights Prize in June 2017. It also appears that prison conditions have improved for him.

'It really is heart-warming to have so many people support my family and it brought me to tears to see all the letters Amnesty had collected. It makes me feel stronger when I know there are so many people who trust in me, my father and my family. The attention the campaign has received is significant as the more people who know about my father's case, the safer my father and family will be.'

Jewher Tohti, Ilham's daughter

EGYPT

Mahmoud Abu Zeid (Shawkan)

Shawkan has spent over four years in arbitrary detention, and his health remains of concern. But his brother, Mohamed Abu Zeid, said the Write for Rights 2016 solidarity messages were really appreciated by Shawkan and his family.

INDONESIA

Johan Teterissa

Johan remains in prison, serving a 15-year sentence for leading a peaceful public protest. He thanked Amnesty for including his case in Write for Rights 2016.

IRAN

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

Nazanin is serving a five-year sentence for 'membership of an illegal group'. During Write for Rights 2016, the UN Special Rapporteur to Iran tweeted his support for Nazanin, which her husband, Richard Ratcliffe, said was significant.

MALAWI

Annie Alfred

Write for Rights 2016 helped to generate media attention on the challenges faced by people with albinism in Malawi, and several media outlets sent reporters to document the experiences of Annie and her family. The campaign also boosted the Association of People with Albinism (APAM) and other organisations that campaign for people with albinism in the country.

'The moral support from Amnesty International has helped us gain confidence in our fight.' **APAM**

PERU

Máxima Acuña

In a landmark decision, Máxima was acquitted of land invasion charges in May, although a civil case remains pending against her. During Write for Rights 2016, Máxima received 150,000 solidarity messages.

'I am infinitely grateful that I am not alone, I have the support of so many people from all around the world, from many different countries. Thank you for everything.' **Máxima Acuña**

TURKEY

Eren Keskin

Eren, who is still at risk of imprisonment, was overwhelmed by the support she received during Write for Rights 2016.

'I always saw Amnesty International as saviours of human rights defenders. I still do. I personally need this solidarity very much... it makes me feel more secure. This is why I call on Amnesty's activists not to give up on us.' **Eren Keskin**

UK

Refugees Welcome

Write for Rights 2016 solidarity messages were distributed to refugees and asylum-seekers across the UK.

'This kind of support is most heart-warming and affirms the work we do and drives us to work harder to help those in greatest need in our society. Thank you to all those who contributed in any way to this creative kindness.' **Andy Ruiz Palma, Islington Refugee Centre**

USA

Leonard Peltier

Leonard was denied clemency earlier this year, but he, his family and lawyers continue to work for his freedom. He expressed deep appreciation for all the Write for Rights 2016 solidarity messages.



'You do not know us, we do not know you, but you have been with us from the beginning and you fight for our liberation. What Amnesty International does, even our relatives did not. We will be forever grateful to you for that. You give us the strength to continue day after day and not to give up. It's not easy but we're holding on. May God bless you and continue to assist you in all that you do.'

Azah Levis Gob, who was jailed alongside Fomusoh Ivo Feh and Afuh Nivelte Nfor for sharing a joke text

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If you require this document in an alternative format please contact:

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