

Amnesty International

IMPRISONED WRITERS



DAILY READINGS: TOP AUTHORS READ FROM WORK THAT HIGHLIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES & RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Tuesday 14 August

The Power of Fiction

Today, in a departure from the traditional format of the Imprisoned Writers series, we showcase fictional characters experiencing real world events.

Today's readings:

Elif Shafak – *Three Daughters of Eve*. Elif Shafak is an award-winning novelist and the most widely read female writer in Turkey. Shafak was prosecuted on charges of “insulting Turkishness” for discussing the genocide in the novel, *The Bastard of Istanbul*. If convicted, she would have faced a maximum jail term of three years.

Gil Courtemanche – *A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali*: Gil Courtemanche’s novel is set in Rwanda, beginning in the months leading up to the 1994 genocide. Courtemanche uses his experience as a journalist to bring the story of a contemporary holocaust to life.

Camilla Gibb – *Sweetness in the Belly*: In *Sweetness in the Belly*, Lilly, a white Muslim woman who has grown up in Africa, lives amongst Ethiopian refugees in London in the period after the famine and towards the end of the revolution. Lilly works both as a nurse and at a voluntary organisation seeking to reunite the refugee women with their husbands from whom they were separated as they fled the events of the Red Terror in Ethiopia.

Angie Thomas – *The Hate U Give*: Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, *The Hate U Give* is a searing representation of the discrimination and violence faced by black people in America and the heart-rending courage it takes to stand up against injustice.

Nayrouz Qarmout is a Palestinian writer and activist. Her recent collection of short stories *The Sea Cloak* was a winner of a PEN Translates! Award in 2017.

Today's readers:

Daniel Mella is one of the key figures in contemporary Latin American literature. Fittingly for today’s event, the narrator of his latest novel, *Older Brother*, admits towards the end of the novel: “If I can’t be free in my writing, I cannot be free anywhere else”.

Claire Askew is a poet and writer living in Edinburgh. Her latest publication is a crime novel, *All the Hidden Truths*. She tweets and runs live poetry events as @onenightstanzas.

Hailing from the Black Isle, **Sophie Cameron**’s debut novel for young adults, *Out of the Blue*, was featured in the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators Undiscovered Voices 2016.

Michael Redhill is a novelist, poet and playwright. His most recent novel, *Bellevue Square* won the 2017 Giller Prize. He also writes crime fiction as Inger Ash Wolfe.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALL TO ACTION:

Photojournalist Shawkan has been locked up in a brutal Egyptian prison for over four years. Tell the Egyptian authorities to drop the charges and release Shawkan immediately.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/egypt-journalism-not-crime>