

Amnesty International

IMPRISONED WRITERS



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

Friday 24 August

Living Through Conflict *with* Mercy Corps

Today's readings:

Today's testimonies were curated by Edinburgh based development organisation *Mercy Corps*. Mercy Corps is a leading global organisation powered by the belief that a better world is possible. In disaster, in hardship, in more than 40 countries around the world, we partner to put bold solutions into action – helping people triumph over adversity and build stronger communities from within. Now, and for the future. www.mercycorps.org.uk

Violent conflict is the largest single driver of humanitarian need, causing most of the world's suffering and poverty. A decade ago, 80% of humanitarian aid was spent on survivors of natural disaster, today, 80% of humanitarian aid is spent on those living through conflict.

Today we will hear from just some of the people living through this conflict, people who can't be with us tonight, but represent Syria, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Today's readers:

David Almond is an award-winning writer for young adults, notably of *Skellig* which has been translated into 40 languages and has sold over a million copies in English. His most recent book, *The Colour of the Sun*, was published earlier this year. He will be talking about his writing, and the process of taking a book from conception to print, stage and screen with Michael Morpurgo tomorrow afternoon.

Lynne Jones is a child and adolescent psychiatrist, writer, researcher, and relief worker. She has spent much of the last twenty-five years establishing and running mental health programmes in areas of conflict or natural disaster. *Outside the Asylum: A Memoir of War, Disaster and Humanitarian Psychiatry*, her latest book, explores her experience as a practicing psychiatrist in war and disaster zones.

Sean Taylor has written more than 40 books for younger readers including *Hoot Owl, I Want to Be in a Scary Story* and *A Brave Bear*. His latest project, with Khayaal Theatre and Shirin Adl is the retelling of twenty-one Middle Eastern jokes and riddles by the trickster Mulla Nasruddin, *Riding a Donkey Backwards*.

Ozlem Warren is passionate about her homeland's Turkish cuisine. Her new cookery book, *Ozlem's Turkish Table: Recipes from My Homeland* is her tribute to the wonderful diverse cuisine of Turkey and a celebration of her Southern Turkish roots with local regional recipes from her home town, Antioch, Antakya.

Today's chair:

This Mercy Corps session is chaired by Simon O'Connell, Executive Director of Mercy Corps.

MERCY CORPS CALL TO ACTION

Donate at www.mercycorps.org/donate to help Mercy Corps address the root causes of conflict and poverty.