

Amnesty International

IMPRISONED WRITERS



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

Monday 13 August

Families Forced Apart

Today's readings:

Jewher Ilham - *A Uyghur's Fight to Free Her Father*: 2018 Nobel Peace Prize nominee Ilham Tohti is Uyghur economist, writer, and professor. He was sentenced to life in prison in 2014 after being found guilty of separatism by court officials in the western region of Xinjiang, which Uyghurs consider their homeland. In February 2013, Ilham Tohti had been due to travel to America with his daughter Jewher at the invitation of Indiana University. He was prevented from travelling but urged his daughter to go on without him. She has not seen her father since that day at Beijing Airport.
Extracted from Jewher Ilham: A Uyghur's Fight to Free Her Father. Interviewed and edited by Adam Braver and Ashley Barton. University of New Orleans Press, 2015

Valeria Luiselli - *Forty Questions*: Valeria worked as an interpreter with an immigration court in New York City, where she was given the task of assisting the children with the intake questionnaire, asking its questions of them in Spanish and then translating their answers.
Extracted from Tell Me How it Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions. Valeria Luiselli. Fourth Estate, 2017

Eddy – *Donkey*: Eddy and Lilian were separated from their mother at the US border on 19 May 2018. The family was fleeing violence in Guatemala. Their mother was prosecuted and sent to the T Don Hutto immigration detention centre in central Texas. Eddy and Lilian were left behind at a processing centre and then flown to foster care in Grand Rapids, Michigan – where they were held in separate homes.

Behrouz Boochani – *Untitled*: Kurdish journalist, filmmaker and human rights activist Behrouz Boochani has been held on Manus Island for over four years under Australia's border protection policy. He fled Iran when police began to arrest his colleagues.

Today's readers:

Stella Duffy has written sixteen novels, the most recent of which *Money in the Morgue*, is a novel started and abandoned by Dame Ngaio Marsh in the 1940s. Stella is a regular speaker and campaigner around LGBTQ, women's and arts issues.

Poet, playwright, and translator **Sasha Dugdale** is author of several poetry collections, most recently *Joy* which won the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem in 2016.

Barbadian **Karen Lord** is a writer of speculative fiction and a research consultant. Her most recent novel, *The Galaxy Game* is a sequel to *The Best of All Possible Worlds*.

Sally Gardner is an award-winning novelist whose books have been translated into 22 languages and she's sold over 1.5 million copies in the UK. Her most recent book is *My Side of the Diamond*.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALL TO ACTION:

Sign the Amnesty International UK petition calling on Home Secretary Sajid Javid to allow child refugees in the UK the right to sponsor their close family, so they can rebuild their lives together and help them integrate in their new community.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/home-secretary-reunite-refugee-families>