



**STOP
PRESS**

See **Taner Kılıç**
new appeal
on page 2

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Taner Kılıç
Turkey



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NEW APPEAL

Just after this supplement went to press, Taner Kılıç was released on bail. Please write, and ask the Minister of Justice to drop the charges against him.

Still detained on baseless charges

Taner Kılıç is a lawyer and human rights defender, and honorary chair of Amnesty International Turkey. More than a year after he was detained on baseless 'terrorism' charges, he remains behind bars. At a hearing in Istanbul on 21 June, the court refused to release him, even though the police confirmed that there was no evidence of wrongdoing.

Taner was detained in the early hours of 6 June 2017 along with 22 other lawyers on suspicion of involvement with the 'Fethullah Gülen terrorist organisation'. He was charged with membership of the organisation and remanded in pre-trial detention.

The case against him is based on the unsubstantiated claim that Bylock – a secure mobile messaging app the authorities say was used by members of the Fethullah Gülen movement – was discovered on his phone in August 2014. But two police reports submitted for the 21 June hearing confirmed that there was no evidence that the app had ever been on his phone.

His next hearing is scheduled for 6 November.

APPEAL Urge the Minister of Justice to drop the charges against Taner Kılıç and immediately and unconditionally release him from pre-trial detention.

► Minister of Justice Mr Bekir Bozdağ
Ministry of Justice
Adalet Bakanlığı
06659 Ankara
Turkey

Salutation: Dear Minister
Postage: Europe

► His Excellency Mr Abdurrahman Bilgiç
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
43 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8PA

Salutation: Your Excellency

Eduardo Cardet Concepción
Cuba



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Family visits denied

Prison authorities suspended Dr Eduardo Cardet Concepción's right to family visits on 26 May for six months, in an attempt to stop his relatives campaigning for his freedom.

Eduardo, a medical doctor and pro-democracy activist, was arrested in the city of Holguín in eastern Cuba on 30 November 2016 after publicly criticising the recently deceased former President, Fidel Castro. Eduardo was charged with attacking a state official and sentenced to three years in prison.

Eduardo is the leader of the Christian Liberation Movement (Movimiento Cristiano Liberación – MCL), a prominent part of the pro-democracy movement in Cuba. According to its website, it is a movement for peaceful and democratic change and respect for human dignity. It was founded in 1988 by Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, who became known for his role in the Cuban political opposition, and four other activists. Amnesty International has documented harassment and intimidation of MCL members for decades.

APPEAL Urge the authorities to release Dr Eduardo Cardet Concepción immediately and unconditionally, because he is a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. Call on them to reinstate his access to his family and to allow him regular contact with them and the outside world. Urge them to allow him access to a lawyer and to medical care.

► Presidente Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermúdez
Presidente de la República de Cuba
La Habana
Cuba

Salutation: Your Excellency
Postage: World

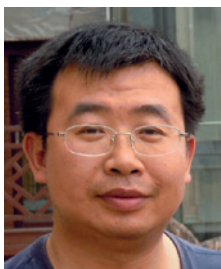
► Her Excellency Teresita Vicente
Embassy of the Republic of Cuba
167 High Holborn
London WC1V 6PA

Salutation: Your Excellency

Wang Quanzhang and Jiang Tianyong
China



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Human rights lawyers at risk of torture

Human rights lawyer Wang Quanzhang was taken away by police in August 2015 and has been held incommunicado ever since. It was more than 1,000 days later, on 12 July 2018, that his family finally received confirmation that he was still alive. They remain concerned for his physical and mental wellbeing.

Another human rights lawyer, Jiang Tianyong, is serving a two-year prison sentence for 'inciting subversion of state power'. He was convicted on 21 November 2017 in a sham trial in which he was represented by government-appointed lawyers. He has been force-fed unknown medications twice a day, and had his hands and feet cuffed to an iron chair. Reported side effects of the medications include blurred vision, headaches, and the sensation of bugs crawling on his skin.

Wang and Jiang are among almost 250 lawyers and activists who have been persecuted in a government crackdown that started in July 2015. Both men are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment, and their families face constant harassment and surveillance.

APPEAL Urge the President of China to release Wang Quanzhang and Jiang Tianyong immediately and unconditionally. Ask him to ensure that human rights defenders can carry out their peaceful activities free from intimidation, arbitrary detention or imprisonment, in line with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Call on him to protect freedom of expression in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Chinese constitution.

► President Xi Jinping
President of People's Republic of China
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu
Beijingshi 100017
People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear President
Postage: World

► His Excellency Mr Liu Xiaoming
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
49-51 Portland Place
London W1B 1JL

Salutation: Your Excellency

Aung Ko Htwe Myanmar



© Steve Tickner/Frontier Myanmar

Former child soldier jailed for speaking out

Aung Ko Htwe was sentenced to two years and six months in prison on 28 March after talking about his experiences as a child soldier in a radio interview.

In October 2005, when he was aged 13, Aung Ko Htwe was kidnapped by the Myanmar military at Yangon's main railway station and forced to serve in the army. Twelve years later he spoke about his experiences in an interview with Radio Free Asia. Shortly afterwards he was arrested, charged under Section 505(b) of the penal code – a vague law that severely restricts freedom of expression – and given the maximum sentence of two years' imprisonment. He received an additional six months for criticising the judge.

As a protest against his sentence, Aung Ko Htwe reportedly stepped on a copy of the 2008 constitution. In response, the court charged him with 'causing destruction of the whole or any part of the Union Seal', which carries a potential further prison sentence of three years.

APPEAL Urge the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Aung Ko Htwe, quash his convictions and drop the remaining charges against him. Explain that he is being punished solely for peacefully exercising his human rights. Pending his release, urge them to ensure he is held in conditions which meet international standards, with regular access to family, lawyers, and medical care. Call on them to repeal or amend Section 505(b) and all other laws that criminalise or arbitrarily restrict freedom of expression.

► Minister of Home Affairs Lt. Gen. Kyaw Swe
Minister of Home Affairs
Office No. 10, Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Salutation: Dear Minister

Postage: World

► His Excellency Kyaw Zwar Minn
Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
19A Charles Street
London W1J 5DX

Salutation: Your Excellency

Fomusoh Ivo Feh Cameroon



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Students jailed for a joke lose appeal

A military court has rejected an appeal by Fomusoh Ivo Feh (pictured) and two of his friends who were sentenced to 10 years in jail under a draconian law for re-telling a joke. After the 15 March ruling, Ivo's lawyer filed another appeal with the Supreme Court. In the meantime, the three men remain in prison.

Ivo was set to start university in 2014 when he received a satirical text message from a friend: 'Boko Haram recruits young people from 14 years old and above. Conditions for recruitment: 4 subjects at GCE, including religion.' The text was a joke about how difficult it is to find a job in Cameroon, and Ivo forwarded it to another friend, who sent it on again. But a teacher saw the text and showed it to the police. Ivo and his friends, Azah Levis Gob and Afuh Nivelle Nfor, were arrested in December 2014.

A repressive anti-terrorism law was used to charge them with several offences, including attempting to organise a rebellion.

APPEAL Urge the authorities to release Fomusoh Ivo Feh, Afuh Nivelle Nfor and Azah Levis Gob immediately and unconditionally. Pending their release, call for them to be held in humane conditions, without torture or other ill-treatment, and with regular access to their families, lawyers, medical care and all basic necessities.

► Minister of Justice Laurent Esono
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 1000
Yaoundé
Republic of Cameroon

Salutation: Dear Minister

Postage: World

► Chargé d'Affaires
High Commission for the Republic of Cameroon
84 Holland Park
London W11 3SB

Salutation: Dear Chargé d'Affaires

Rasul Kudaev Russia



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Health concerns for Russian prisoner

The mother of prisoner Rasul Kudaev is increasingly worried about his health following a report that he had tuberculosis. She visited Rasul, who has long-standing health problems and has previously been denied adequate medical care, in 2017 and saw that he was unwell and had a cough. Earlier this year he wrote to say that he had been diagnosed with tuberculosis but that it had 'healed' on its own. His mother has not been able to visit him since receiving the letter and is increasingly concerned.

Rasul was arrested on 23 October 2005 on suspicion of organising terrorist attacks on government installations in the city of Nalchik in the North Caucasus region of Kabardino-Balkaria. He was held for several days at the Organised Crime Squad in Nalchik and allegedly tortured into making a 'confession'. Partly as a result of this treatment, his health deteriorated in prison. The prison authorities have repeatedly denied him adequate medical care for his ailments, which include a disorder affecting the heart and liver.

APPEAL Urge the authorities to ensure that Rasul Kudaev is immediately examined by an independent doctor and receives the health care he requires. Call on them to investigate reports that Rasul Kudaev and his co-defendants were tortured into 'confessing'. Emphasise that Rasul Kudaev's defence presented witnesses who testified that he was elsewhere during the attacks in Nalchik. Call for Rasul Kudaev and his co-defendants to receive a fair trial on appeal.

► Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation
Ul. B.Dmitrovka d.15a
125993 Moscow GSP-3
Russian Federation

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Postage: Europe

► His Excellency Mr Alexander Vladimirovich Yakovenko
Embassy of Russia
6-7 Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QP

Salutation: Your Excellency

Zeynab Jalalian Iran



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Activist denied medical care

An Iraqi-Kurdish activist jailed after a grossly unfair trial is being denied urgent medical care. Zeynab Jalalian, who is serving a life sentence in Khoy Prison in northwest Iran, has a heart problem, a severe dental infection and an eye condition which, if left untreated, could leave her blind. In an open letter written on 11 June 2018, she said: 'I have been forced to endure intense pain... As a political prisoner, I have no rights... The authorities have not taken me to see a doctor but have lied to the media by telling them that I have seen one.'

Zeynab was arrested in March 2008 for supposed links to the armed wing of a Kurdish opposition group, which she denies. Her trial lasted only a few minutes, no evidence was produced, and Zeynab says her conviction was based on 'confessions' extracted through torture.

Before the trial, Zeynab was detained for eight months. She says she was flogged on the soles of her feet, punched, and threatened with rape. On one occasion, she says her head was hit against a wall so hard that her skull fractured.

APPEAL Urge the authorities to immediately provide Zeynab Jalalian with the specialised medical care she requires, including eye surgery and dental treatment, outside prison. Call on them to implement the recommendation of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which is for her to be released immediately and given an enforceable right to compensation. Pending this, she must be protected from further torture and ill-treatment. Also call for a prompt and impartial inquiry into her allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

► His Excellency Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
Head of the Judiciary
C/o His Excellency Hamid Baedinejad
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
16 Prince's Gate
London SW7 1PT

Salutation: Your Excellency

Sandhya Eknaligoda and Prageeth Eknaligoda Sri Lanka



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Leading activist subjected to increasing threats and abuse

Sandhya Eknaligoda, a campaigner against enforced disappearances and wife of 'disappeared' journalist and cartoonist Prageeth Eknaligoda, has received a barrage of hate, abuse, intimidation, harassment and death threats on social media in recent months. The threats escalated after 24 May, when the Homagama Magistrate's Court convicted a prominent Buddhist nationalist monk, Galagodatte Gnanasara Thero, of threatening her.

Sandhya's husband Prageeth went missing on 24 January 2010, in the run-up to the presidential election, as he travelled home from the *Lanka-e-News* office in Colombo. He was an outspoken critic of the government and had recently come out in favour of the opposition presidential candidate Sarath Fonseka, who ultimately lost the election. In the days leading up to his enforced disappearance he told a close friend that he believed he was being followed.

APPEAL Call on the President of Sri Lanka to take urgent action against those threatening human rights defender Sandhya Eknaligoda. Urge him to ensure prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into the enforced disappearance of Prageeth Eknaligoda and attacks on other journalists, with the perpetrators brought to justice.

► President of Sri Lanka Hon. Maithripala Sirisena
Presidential Secretariat
Galle Face
Colombo 01
Sri Lanka

Salutation: Your Excellency

Postage: World

► The Deputy High Commissioner
High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
13 Hyde Park Gardens
London W2 2LU

Salutation: Dear Deputy High Commissioner

Ebrima Manneh Gambia



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Journalist's family fights for justice

Twelve years on from the enforced disappearance of journalist Ebrima Manneh, his family still do not know where, when, why and how he died. In 2017, the family were told Ebrima was dead and in June 2018 the government finally paid them half of the US\$100,000 compensation they are entitled to under a 2008 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) court ruling. A second payment is due before the end of the year.

However, no one has been brought to justice for Ebrima's 'disappearance' or death, and his family cannot perform the burial rites as they do not know where his body is.

Ebrima was arrested on 11 July 2006 at the offices of the pro-government *Daily Observer* newspaper by plainclothes police officers thought to have been from the National Intelligence Agency. The government provided no official reason for his arrest and it was only after the change of regime in January 2017 that his family received confirmation of his death. They have vowed to keep fighting for justice for Ebrima.

APPEAL Call on the authorities to hold a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation into the death of Ebrima Manneh and bring those responsible to justice in fair trials that meet international standards. Urge them to release his remains so his family can bury him; comply with the 2008 ECOWAS court judgement and pay the full US\$100,000 compensation; protect the right to freedom of expression and ensure journalists can work freely; and ensure Ebrima's and other cases are raised at the future Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

► President of The Gambia
His Excellency Adama Barrow
President State House
Banjul
The Gambia

Salutation: Your Excellency

Postage: World

► His Excellency Mr Francis R Blain
The Gambia High Commission
92 Ledbury Road
London W11 2AH

Salutation: Your Excellency