

MOROCCO

# NAWAL BENAÏSSA

## Hounded for demanding change

**Nawal Benaïssa campaigns for social justice and better health services in Rif, a region where many people feel forgotten by the government. A leading voice in the popular Hirak movement, she went on peaceful protests and spoke out on social media.**

But the authorities have harassed Nawal every step of the way. In the space of four months, she was arrested and held in custody four times and ordered to close her Facebook account, which had 80,000 followers. Eventually, in February 2018, she was fined and given a 10-month suspended sentence for ‘inciting to commit an offence’. Nawal is appealing against the ruling, but the intimidation continues.

The authorities have launched a major crackdown on the Hirak movement. Security forces have arrested hundreds of peaceful protesters, some for merely expressing their support on Facebook.



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### SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Nawal Benaïssa  
c/o Amnesty International Morocco  
20 rue Ouargha appartement 5 Agdal  
10000 Rabat  
Morocco

**Language** Riffian dialect, Arabic, basic English and French

#### Suggested message

Dear Nawal, You are a great example of women’s strength in Morocco and around the world. Don’t give up!

*Please avoid any mention of the independence of the Rif region, and anything related to religion, atheism, alcohol, God or nudity. Nawal loves all types of music, from classical to modern. She loves the Amazigh musician from Algeria Idir, as well as the singer Bryan Adams.*

### CAN I

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

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Tell Morocco’s Head of Government to stop the harassment of Nawal Benaïssa.

**Write to** Head of Government, Prime Minister Saad Dine Al Othmani, Department of the Head of Government, Palais Royal Touarga, Rabat, Morocco

**Salutation** Your Excellency

#### In your letter tell him

- To stop the harassment of Nawal Benaïssa
- That she is a peaceful protester and human rights defender who just wants a better life for people in her region.

# WRITE

# FOR

# RIGHTS

# 2018



EVERY MESSAGE COUNTS Together we can help Nawal stay free to fight for her community’s future

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL

