



**STOP
PRESS**

See Israa
al-Ghomgham
case page 2

Real lives

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Leila de Lima Philippines



© Getty Images

Detained for challenging unlawful killings

Senator Leila de Lima, a vocal critic of President Rodrigo Duterte and the extensive human rights violations committed in his 'war on drugs', has spent two years in detention on politically motivated charges.

Formerly head of the National Human Rights Commission and later Secretary of Justice under President Duterte's predecessor, de Lima was elected to the senate in 2016. She repeatedly raised concerns about the killing of thousands of people suspected of using or selling drugs and launched an inquiry into the issue. The Duterte government responded with smears, harassment and intimidation.

Senator de Lima was arrested on 24 February 2017 on spurious drugs charges. If found guilty, she could be jailed for life. Senator de Lima is being held in police headquarters in Quezon City, denied access to the internet, a phone, radio and TV. Police have also ignored a request from her doctor to install air conditioning in her cell. Despite these hardships, Senator de Lima issues daily handwritten dispatches, commenting on current events and drawing attention to human rights violations in the Philippines.

APPEAL Urge the Justice Secretary to immediately and unconditionally release Senator Leila de Lima and drop all the charges against her. Pending her release, urge him to improve her living and working conditions and remove the security restrictions so she can continue to carry out her work as a senator and chair of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

▶ Secretary of Justice Menardo Guevarra
Department of Justice
Padre Faura Street
Ermita, Manila 10020
Republic of the Philippines

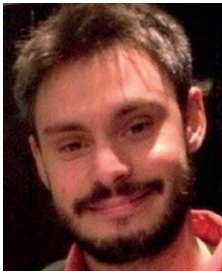
Salutation: Dear Justice Guevarra

Postage: World

▶ His Excellency Antonio Manuel Lagdameo
Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines
6-11 Suffolk Street
London SW1Y 4HG

Salutation: Your Excellency

Giulio Regeni Egypt



© Private

Still no justice for murdered student

Three years on from the abduction, torture and murder of Cambridge University student Giulio Regeni in Cairo, the Egyptian authorities have still not adequately investigated the crime.

On 25 January 2016 Giulio was conducting his PhD research on independent trade unions in the Egyptian capital when, according to media reports, he was picked-up by plain-clothed police officers. The Italian citizen's body was found by the Cairo-Alexandria highway on 3 February 2016. Autopsy evidence indicated that he was repeatedly tortured for several days prior to his death.

Egypt has seen an unprecedented rise in enforced disappearances and torture since early 2015, with tens of thousands of people jailed or detained. The authorities deny Giulio was a victim of enforced disappearance who died under torture while detained by state agents. But their various accounts of how he died have been met with widespread scepticism. Their apparent reluctance to conduct a thorough independent investigation into the case also fuels the suspicion.

APPEAL Urge the President of Egypt to work effectively with the Italian and other relevant authorities to establish the truth about Giulio Regeni's killing. Call for a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation, with the findings published and those responsible brought to justice. Ask him to provide the Regeni family with appropriate reparations. Also call for an independent inquiry into allegations of enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment of detainees by civilian, military, security, intelligence and law enforcement agencies, with those responsible held to account.

▶ President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace, Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Salutation: Your Excellency

Postage: World

▶ His Excellency Tarek Ahmed Ibrahim Adel
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
26 South Street
London W1K 1DW

Salutation: Your Excellency

Israa al-Ghomgham Saudi Arabia



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Peaceful protester faces death penalty

Israa al-Ghomgham faces execution for taking part in non-violent protests. Inspired by the 'Arab Spring', she took to social media and the streets in 2011 to peacefully call for human rights, equality and an end to discrimination against Saudi Arabia's Shia minority.

In December 2015 Israa and her husband, Moussa al-Hashim, were arrested by the State Intelligence Service and detained alongside four other activists. At a mass trial in August 2018 the public prosecutor called for Israa, Moussa and three of the activists to be executed, with the fourth sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Court documents indicate the five are accused of participating in protests in eastern Al-Qatif province, documenting these protests on social media, and travelling to Iran to receive training on how to organise riots. Since the August hearing, trial sessions have been repeatedly postponed with no update in the case. Israa could be the first woman to be executed for participating in protests in Saudi Arabia, which has one of the highest death penalty rates in the world.

APPEAL Urge the King to immediately and unconditionally release Israa al-Ghomgham, Ahmed al-Matrood, Ali Ouwaisher, Mousa al-Hashim, Khalid al-Ghanim and Mujtaba al-Muzain and drop all the charges against them. Call for an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

▶ His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques Office
of His Majesty the King
Royal Court, Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Salutation: Your Highness

Postage: World

▶ His Excellency HRH Prince Mohamed bin Nawaf bin Abdulaziz
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
30 Charles Street
London W1J 5DZ

Salutation: Your Excellency

STOP PRESS

Israa no longer faces the death penalty, although some of her fellow defendants still do. PLEASE WRITE calling for all of them to be released

Defenders of the Lenca people Honduras



© Orlando Sierra/AFP/Getty Images

Berta Cáceres's colleagues remain at risk

Despite the conviction of seven men for the murder of activist Berta Cáceres, her fellow indigenous rights campaigners remain at serious risk.

Berta was the leader of COPINH (Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras), which alongside fellow NGO MILPAH (Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz) campaigned against the construction of hydro-electric dams on the ancestral lands of the indigenous Lenca people. As a result, members of both organisations have been repeatedly threatened, harassed and physically attacked for many years. On 2 March 2016, Berta was killed in her home. This sent out a chilling message in what is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for human rights defenders.

On 29 November 2018, seven of the eight men on trial for Berta's murder were found guilty. However, there were serious irregularities in the investigation and court proceedings, the people responsible for planning and ordering the crime have still not been identified, and COPINH and MILPAH continue to face surveillance, harassment and attacks.

APPEAL Urge the President of Honduras to thoroughly investigate and prosecute all those responsible for Berta Cáceres' murder, including those who planned and ordered the crime. Call on him to guarantee the safety of members of COPINH, MILPAH and Berta Cáceres's family in accordance with their wishes and the obligations set out by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Also urge him to publicly recognise the work of COPINH, MILPAH and other human rights defenders.

▶ Presidente Juan Orlando Hernández
Casa Presidencial
Bulevar Juan Pablo II
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

Salutation: Dear President

Postage: World

▶ His Excellency Ivan Romero-Martinez
Embassy of Honduras
4th Floor 136 Baker Street
London W1U 6UD

Salutation: Your Excellency

Salima Memcha India



© AI

Threats to campaigner against state killings

Salima Memcha is one of hundreds of people in the northeast Indian state of Manipur who have lost family members to alleged extrajudicial killings. In January 2010 her husband was picked up from their home by security personnel. The next morning his dead body, dressed in a combat uniform, was found at a local police station. His corpse reportedly had 20 bullet holes in it. There were no bullet holes in the uniform.

Since then Salima has campaigned for justice, while supporting her four children. As coordinator of the Extrajudicial Execution Victim Families Association, Manipur (EEVFAM), she has documented more than 20 cases of alleged extrajudicial killings in her neighbourhood. As a result, she and other members of EEVFAM have faced sustained threats and harassment from paramilitary and state police.

In July 2017, in response to the work of EEVFAM and other NGOs, the Supreme Court ordered an investigation into over 90 alleged extrajudicial executions. This investigation is ongoing, yet prosecution of human rights violations by security forces remains nearly impossible in civilian courts thanks largely to a draconian law, the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

APPEAL Tell the Chief Minister of Manipur you are deeply concerned about the harassment and threats against Salima Memcha and other members of the Extrajudicial Execution Victim Families Association Manipur (EEVFAM). Urge him to publicly declare that intimidation, harassment and attacks against EEVFAM members will not be tolerated, and ensure complaints of intimidation, harassment and attacks against human rights defenders are properly investigated.

▶ N Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur
Manipur CM Office
4th Block, Western Block, New Secretariat
Imphal
Manipur
India – 795001

Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

Postage: World

▶ His Excellency Ruchi Ghanashyam
Office of the High Commissioner for India
India House
Aldwych
London WC2B 4NA

Salutation: Your Excellency

14 women standing up to fascism Poland



© Grzegorz Żukowski

Peaceful protesters attacked – then prosecuted

On 11 November 2017, 14 women staged a peaceful protest against racism, fascism and hate at the Independence Day March in Warsaw, which attracts far-right, xenophobic and nationalist groups. Moments after displaying a banner reading 'Fascism Stop', the women were attacked. Video footage shows marchers kicking, hitting, spitting and screaming abuse at them. One woman lost consciousness and required medical help.

Soon after the attack, the group filed a complaint with the Regional Prosecutor in Warsaw alleging grievous bodily harm, submitting photos, videos and medical records as evidence. But in September 2018 the prosecutor said they had closed the investigation into the attack, claiming there was no 'public interest' in pursuing it further. To add insult to injury, nine of the women were convicted of obstructing a lawful assembly, and ordered to pay a fine and legal costs.

APPEAL Urge the Minister of the Justice to ensure the 14 women are not punished for their peaceful protests and to bring their attackers to justice.

▶ Ministerstwa Sprawiedliwości
Mr Zbigniew Ziobro
Minister of Justice
Al. Ujazdowskie 11
00-950
Warsaw P-33
Poland

Salutation: Dear Minister

Postage: Europe

▶ His Excellency Professor Arkady Józef Rzegocki
Embassy of the Republic of Poland
47 Portland Place
London W1B 1JH

Salutation: Your Excellency

Ciham Ali Ahmed Eritrea

© Saleh Younis



Held without charge since age 15

Ciham Ali Ahmed has been held in incommunicado detention for more than five years – since she was 15. She has not been charged with a crime and no explanation has been given for her detention.

Born in California and raised in Eritrea, Ciham is a dual Eritrean and US national. She and her uncle were arrested in 2012 after attempting to cross from Eritrea into Sudan. People who are caught crossing the border are usually imprisoned for four to six months. It is believed that Ciham and her uncle's prolonged detention is because her father, Ali Ahmed Abdu, defected from his ministerial position in November 2012. Ali Ahmed Abdu's father (Ciham's grandfather) was also arbitrarily detained after he questioned authorities about the detention of Ciham and her uncle. He has since died in detention.

Ciham's family claims that when they ask about her detention they are told the case is being handled personally by President Isaias Afwerki. Neither the US government nor anyone else in the international diplomatic community has publicly spoken out about Ciham's disappearance.

APPEAL Urge the President of Eritrea to immediately and unconditionally release Ciham Ali. Pending her release, call on him to reveal her location and guarantee her safety. Also urge him to respect the rights to freedom of expression and movement of people, and to release anyone arbitrarily detained or held for attempting to leave the country without an exit visa.

▶ President Isaias Afwerki
PO Box 257
Asmara
Eritrea

Salutation: Your Excellency

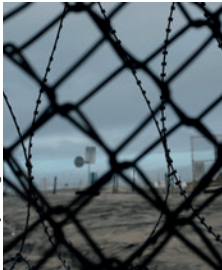
Postage: World

▶ His Excellency Estifanos Habtemariam
Ghebreyesus
Embassy of the State of Eritrea
96 White Lion Street
London N1 9PF

Salutation: Your Excellency

Valquiria USA

© Getty Images



Mother torn from her nine-year-old son at the border

After receiving a string of death threats from drug traffickers, Valquiria and her nine-year-old son Abel fled their home in Brazil in search of safety. In March 2018 they asked for protection at the US-Mexican border. But instead of providing support, US officials forcibly separated them.

Valquiria was sent to a detention centre in Texas and Abel was taken away. No explanation was given for the separation, which took place despite Valquiria having their identification documents and her asylum case file to prove their mother-son relationship. Within two weeks a US asylum officer declared that her story was credible and said her fear of returning to Brazil was justified. Despite this, her asylum claim was rejected in September and although she is appealing the decision, she remains locked up.

Abel is now staying with his father, who is free in the US as he pursues a separate asylum claim. Eleven months on, he remains separated from his mother without any explanation.

APPEAL Urge the ICE Field Office Director to immediately grant Valquiria humanitarian parole while she waits for a decision on her asylum claim appeal. Call for him to provide psychosocial support to Valquiria and Abel to help them recover from the trauma of their unlawful family separation. Also urge him to ensure asylum seekers are only detained when necessary and proportionate, and grant humanitarian parole to all asylum seekers whenever possible.

▶ ICE Field Office Director Corey A Price
ICE Enforcement & Removal Operations,
El Paso Field Office
11541 Montana Ave Suite E
El Paso, TX, 79936, USA

Salutation: Dear Mr Corey A Price

Postage: World

▶ His Excellency Robert Wood Johnson IV
American Embassy
33 Nine Elms Lane
London SW11 7US

Salutation: Your Excellency

Ahmed Mansoor United Arab Emirates

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Activist's unjust sentence upheld

Human rights defender, blogger and poet Ahmed Mansoor (Real Lives, Summer 2018) had his conviction and 10-year prison sentence upheld by the Federal Supreme Court on 31 December. Amnesty considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

Ahmed was arrested on 20 March 2017 and later found guilty of publishing 'false information, rumours and lies about the UAE' that would damage the country's 'social harmony and unity'. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined 1,000,000 Emirati Dirham (roughly US\$270,000) following a trial in which the proceedings were conducted in almost total secrecy. Ahmed Mansoor is held in Abu Dhabi's Central prison (al-Wathba prison). Amnesty understands he has been held in prolonged solitary confinement.

Up until his arrest, Ahmed was the only independent voice still speaking out against human rights violations from inside the country. In 2015 he received the prestigious Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders. The UN has called for his immediate release, and the European Parliament has strongly condemned 'the harassment, persecution and detention of Ahmed'.

APPEAL Urge the authorities to quash Ahmed Mansoor's conviction and sentence, and to immediately and unconditionally release him. Pending his release, call on them to grant him regular access to his family, lawyer and medical care, and protect him from torture and other ill-treatment. Urge them to uphold the right to freedom of expression and association, and repeal or amend provisions that criminalise freedom of expression.

▶ President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Ministry of Presidential Affairs
Corniche Road
PO Box 280, Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates

Salutation: Your Highness

Postage: World

▶ His Excellency Sulaiman Hamid Almazroui
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
1-2 Grosvenor Crescent
London SW1X 7EF

Salutation: Your Excellency