



While the Covid-19 lockdown continues, try not to make special trips to the Post Office to send your appeals unless this fits into your daily exercise routine. Use email or fax if possible, or tweet a photo of your letter.

For updates on Royal Mail international services, please check [personal.help.royalmail](https://personal.help.royalmail.com) and search for **International Incident Bulletin**

Real lives

Letter-writing changes lives.

A letter from you could help free a prisoner, stop an execution or help a bereaved family receive justice.

This *Amnesty Magazine* supplement is produced for readers and local groups wishing to write more letters in support of individuals at risk.

It is sent to all Amnesty local groups in the UK, and is also available to individual members on request, in print or by email. The supplement is printed on A4 paper to make it easier to photocopy for group letter-writing sessions.

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For a copy of our free letter-writing guide send an SAE to:

The Editor

Amnesty International UK

HRAC

17-25 New Inn Yard

London EC2A 3EA

Darvinson Rojas Venezuela

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Journalist charged after reporting on Covid-19
Freelance journalist Darvinson Rojas is under criminal investigation because of his reporting on the Covid-19 pandemic in Venezuela.

On 21 March, police officers raided his home in Caracas claiming they were investigating an alleged case of coronavirus. There was no evidence to justify their claim, but Darvinson and his parents were arrested and taken to a detention centre. There he was asked to reveal his sources for his reports on people infected by Covid-19 in Venezuela.

His parents were later released but Darvinson was transferred to another detention centre where he was held for 12 days. He was then brought before a court and charged with 'advocacy of hatred' and 'instigation to commit crimes'. He was released on bail on 2 April pending a criminal investigation. Amnesty considers him a prisoner of conscience.

Darvinson's arrest comes amid a systematic and widespread government crackdown on critics, human rights defenders, journalists and others.

APPEAL Urge the authorities to immediately and unconditionally drop all charges against Darvinson Rojas. Call on them to respect and promote the freedom of the press and ensure the safety of journalists and others working in the media.

▶ Mail deliveries to Venezuela are currently suspended, so please send a message to Nicolás Maduro, president of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, via Twitter:

@NicolasMaduro

Salutation: Dear President

▶ Her Excellency Mrs Rocío Maneiro
Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
1 Cromwell Road
London SW7 2HW
Fax: 020 7589 8887
Email: ambassador@venezlon.co.uk or
reinounido.embajada.gob.ve

Salutation: Your Excellency

Ibrahim Ezz el-Din Egypt

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'Disappeared', detained and tortured for housing rights work

Housing rights activist Ibrahim Ezz el-Din was 'disappeared', detained incommunicado, tortured and falsely accused of 'terrorism' offences. He was targeted because of his work for the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms on issues such as forced evictions.

On 12 June 2019, Ibrahim was arrested at his home in Cairo, shackled, blindfolded and taken away. For the next 167 days, he was held in secret detention centres, questioned about his work, and repeatedly subjected to torture and ill treatment, including electric shocks, beatings, sleep deprivation, starvation, and threats to his life.

During this period, the authorities refused to acknowledge to Ibrahim's family and lawyer that he was being detained. It was officially confirmed only on 26 November. Ibrahim is currently detained in Tora Investigations Prison in Cairo, where his health problems put him at heightened risk from Covid-19.

APPEAL Urge the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ibrahim Ezz El-Din. Pending his release, call for him to be given adequate health care as his health problems put him at increased risk from Covid-19. Urge them to investigate his enforced disappearance and torture

▶ Public Prosecutor Hamada al-Sawi
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat al-Rehab
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2577 4716
Email: m.office@ppo.gov.eg

Salutation: Dear Counsellor

Postage: World

▶ His Excellency Mr Tarek Ahmed Ibrahim Adel
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
26 South Street
London W1K 1DW
Fax: 020 7491 1542
Email: egtamboff@gmail.com or egyemblondon@mfa.gov.eg

Salutation: Your Excellency

Turkish prisoners Turkey

© Getty Images



Note: Mail to Turkey continues but delays are likely

Innocent and vulnerable inmates at risk from Covid-19

As the coronavirus spreads through Turkey's chronically overcrowded prison system, many inmates who are innocent of any crime or especially vulnerable to the virus are at growing risk.

Prison populations are particularly exposed to infectious diseases, and in April the Turkish government passed a new law that could allow for the early release of up to 100,000 inmates. However, the legislation does not apply to several categories of prisoner who should also be freed.

These include tens of thousands of people in pre-trial detention; those convicted in unfair trials under overly broad anti-terrorism laws such as journalists, lawyers and human rights activists; and inmates convicted under the anti-terrorism laws whose age and/or underlying health conditions put them at heightened risk.

On 13 April, the government announced that three inmates in open prisons had died from Covid-19 and that 17 inmates in five regular prisons had contracted the virus.

APPEAL Call on the minister to immediately and unconditionally release all journalists, human rights defenders and others charged or convicted simply for exercising their human rights. Call on him to ensure prisoners have the same quality of health care as is available in the community, including for Covid-19.

▶ Minister of Justice Mr Abdülhamit Gül
Ministry of Justice
Adalet Bakanlığı
06659 Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 0312 419 33 70
E-mail: info@adalet.gov.tr

Salutation: Dear Minister

Postage: Europe

▶ His Excellency Mr Ümit Yalçın
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
43 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8PA
Fax: 020 7393 0066
Email: embassy.london@mfa.gov.tr

Salutation: Your Excellency

Iranian prisoners Iran



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Covid-19 threat to prisoners of conscience

The health of hundreds of prisoners of conscience is at serious risk from outbreaks of Covid-19 in Iran's overcrowded and unsanitary prison system.

Many inmates are kept in conditions that are well below international standards, with overcrowding, poor ventilation, limited hot water during the winter, inadequate food and insufficient beds. Many prisoners are systematically denied medical care, and some have gone on hunger strike over lack of soap and sanitary products..

As of mid-April, inmates in several prisons had tested positive for Covid-19, raising grave concerns for other prisoners on the same wards. In response, the authorities have announced that some prisoners will be released. But hundreds of human rights defenders, peaceful protesters, and others jailed solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association or assembly remain behind bars.

APPEAL Urge the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience. Call on them to urgently consider releasing other prisoners, especially pre-trial and at-risk detainees. Urge them to take the necessary measures to protect the health of all prisoners, including equal access to testing.

▶ Head of Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN
622 Third Ave., 34th floor
New York, NY 10017
USA

Salutation: Dear Mr Raisi

Postage: World

▶ His Excellency Mr Hamid Baeidinejad
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
16 Prince's Gate
London SW7 1PT
Fax: 020 7589 4440
Email: iranemb.lon@mfa.gov.ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

Yiliyasijiang Reheman China



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Note: Royal Mail continues to deliver to China, but there are delays

Uyghur student 'disappeared'

Three years on from the enforced disappearance of Yiliyasijiang Reheman (Write for Rights 2019), his family have renewed their calls for his release.

Yiliyasijiang and his pregnant wife, Mairinisha Abuduaini, were studying at a university in Egypt when he went missing in July 2017. He was one of around 200 Uyghur people rounded up by the Egyptian authorities at the behest of the Chinese government. Three weeks later Mairinisha gave birth to their second child.

Mairinisha, who now lives in Turkey, later learned that her husband had been sent back to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwest China. She believes he is among the estimated one million mainly Muslim people who have been torn from their families and locked up in secretive 'transformation-through-education' camps. 'Our children need their father. I will never give up until we can be reunited with my husband,' she said.

APPEAL Urge the president to immediately and unconditionally release Yiliyasijiang Reheman.

▶ Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
Zhongnanhai
Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6238 1025
Email: english@mail.gov.cn

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

Hwang Won North Korea



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Note: Royal Mail says deliveries to South Korea have now resumed, though delays are likely until a backlog is cleared

TV producer held for 50 years

Hwang Won, a former TV producer from South Korea, has been held captive in North Korea for more than half a century. Despite repeated requests from his family, the North Korean authorities have refused to reveal any information about his whereabouts or even whether he is still alive.

On 11 December 1969, Hwang Won was a passenger on a plane travelling between the South Korean cities of Gangneung and Seoul that was hijacked and flown to North Korea. Although 39 of his fellow passengers were returned to South Korea in February 1970, 11, including Hwang Won, continued to be held in North Korea. He is among hundreds of South Koreans who have been abducted by North Korea since the end of the Korean War in 1953.

His family have strong reasons to believe Hwang Won, who would now be in his 80s, is still alive, thanks to information provided by a broker who helps people who have left North Korea to contact their relatives back home.

APPEAL Urge the South Korean authorities to raise Hwang Wong's case, and other enforced disappearances, with their North Korean counterparts. Ask them to call on the North Korean government to investigate Hwang Won's case and provide accurate information on his whereabouts.

▶ President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in
1 Cheongwadae-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul 03048
Republic of Korea
Email: president@president.go.kr
or webmaster@president.go.kr

Salutation: Dear President

Postage: World

▶ Her Excellency Ms Enna Park
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
60 Buckingham Gate
London SW1E 6AJ
Fax: 020 7227 5503

Salutation: Your Excellency

Magai Matiop Ngong South Sudan



© AI

Sentenced to death at 15

Magai Matiop Ngong (Write for Rights 2019) was just 15 when he was convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

His conviction related to an incident in which the school student attempted to break up a fight between his cousin and another boy in the neighbourhood. Magai took his father's gun and fired it at the ground to try and scare the boy away. But the bullet ricocheted and hit his cousin, who later died in hospital.

At his trial in November 2017, Magai was not allowed a lawyer. Even though he told the judge that he was only 15, he was still sentenced to death by hanging, despite this being illegal under both South Sudanese and international law.

Two and a half years on from the trial, Magai remains on death row in the capital Juba. Although he spends every day fearing for his life, the hope of one day being able to return to his studies keeps him going.

APPEAL Urge the president to commute Magai Matiop Ngong's death sentence, ensure the death penalty is not used against people who were younger than 18 when the crime was committed, and establish an official moratorium on executions.

Note: There is no postal service in South Sudan, so please send you appeals to South Sudan's president, Salva Kiir Mayardit, via Twitter: **@RepSouthSudan** and **@PresSalva**

Salutation: Dear President

▶ Mrs Ashwil Haruun Lual Ruun
Chargé d'Affaires a i
Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan
22-25 Portman Close
London W1H 6BS
Email: info@embrss.org.uk

Salutation: Dear Chargé d'Affaires

Vladislav Sharkovsky and Emil Ostrovko Belarus



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Note: Mail deliveries to Belarus continue but will be delayed

Jailed youngsters face severe Covid-19 risk

Fears are growing for the lives of vulnerable young prisoners Vladislav Sharkovsky and Emil Ostrovko (Write for Rights 2019), who are at heightened risk from Covid-19 because of underlying health issues.

In 2018, when they were both 17, Vladislav and Emil were jailed for separate minor, non-violent drug offences. Like many young people in Belarus, which has highly punitive drug laws, they should not be behind bars in the first place. Now they and many other prisoners with poor health are at a growing risk from the rapid spread of Covid-19, which poses a particular threat in confined environments such as prisons.

A healthy teenager before his arrest, Vladislav has developed a persistent and recurring cough, flashes and floaters in his vision, and deep vein thrombosis since being imprisoned. On 9 March, he reportedly complained of stomach ache in the morning before fainting later in the day. Emil suffers from chronic asthma.

APPEAL Urge the president to approve an early or conditional release for Vladislav Sharkovsky and Emil Ostrovko, as they are at heightened risk from Covid-19. Call for a prompt review of the continued custodial detention of all at-risk prisoners. Urge him to review Belarus' anti-drug policies, end the imprisonment of children for minor, non-violent drug-related offences, and release all prisoners who were children at the time of the offence.

▶ President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko
Ul. Karla Marksa
38 220016 Minsk
Belarus
Fax: +375 17 226 06 10
Email: contact@president.gov.by

Salutation: Dear President

Postage: Europe

▶ His Excellency Mr Sergei Aleinik
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Email: uk.london@mfa.gov.by

Salutation: Your Excellency

Monireh Arabshahi, Yasaman Aryani and Mojgan Keshavarz Iran



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Jailed for protesting against forced veiling

Women's rights defenders Monireh Arabshahi, Yasaman Aryani and Mojgan Keshavarz (Real Lives Autumn 2019) have spent almost a year in prison for peacefully protesting against forced veiling laws.

They were arrested in April 2019 after a video shot on International Women's Day and showing them without their headscarves, distributing flowers to female passengers on a Tehran train, and discussing women's rights was widely shared on social media. Within days they were charged with a series of sham offences, including inciting 'corruption and prostitution'.

At their trial on 31 July, they were denied access to a lawyer of their choosing and reported being verbally abused and threatened by the judge. All three were convicted: Yasaman and her mother, Monireh, received 16-year sentences – later reduced on appeal to nine years and seven months – and Mojgan received a term of 23 years and six months.

Their case is part of a worrying crackdown on women's rights defenders who campaign against Iran's oppressive forced veiling laws.

APPEAL Call on the head of judiciary to release Monireh Arabshahi, Yasaman Aryani and Mojgan Keshavarz immediately and unconditionally. Pending their release, urge him ensure they have regular contact with their families and lawyers of their choosing.

▶ Head of Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN
622 Third Ave., 34th floor
New York, NY 10017
USA

Salutation: Dear Mr Raisi

Postage: World

▶ His Excellency Mr Hamid Baeidinejad
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
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Salutation: Your Excellency