



# TAKE ACTION

# 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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## Masafer Yatta communities Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

### AT RISK OF LOSING HOMES TO ISRAELI ARMY



© Hazem Bader/AFP/Getty Images

Jamila and Muhammad Abu Sabha and their six children are among 180 Palestinian families in Masafer Yatta, in the occupied West Bank, who are at immediate risk of losing their homes.

The area is declared a 'firing zone' for the Israeli army, meaning that nine villages (combined population 1,150, half of them children) would be completely demolished.

The villagers appealed against this plan but, after 23 years of legal procedures, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled on 4 May 2022 that the evictions can go ahead. Since then, Israeli military activity in the area has increased and several villages recently received notice of their imminent demolition.

If Israel carries out this large-scale expulsion, it would amount to forcible transfer, which is a war crime and crime

#### ► APPEAL

Please write to your MP and ask for the UK government to make clear its opposition to home demolitions and forced evictions of Palestinian communities from their ancestral lands in Masafer Yatta.

► Find your MP  
<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>  
**Salutation:** Dear [MP's name]

against humanity. These crimes are a central pillar of the system of apartheid that the Israeli authorities inflict on Palestinians.

## Mohamed Benhlima Algeria

### WHISTLEBLOWER SENTENCED TO DEATH



From Mohamed Benhlima's Facebook account

Mohamed Benhlima, a former military officer and anti-corruption activist, exposed the corruption of high-ranking Algerian military officials on his YouTube

channel. In September 2019, after learning that he was at risk of detention for participating in peaceful protest against the government, he fled to Spain.

He was still in Spain as an asylum seeker when the Algerian authorities sentenced him to death in 2021 on

charges of espionage and desertion. Nevertheless, the Spanish authorities sent him back to Algeria in March 2022 without completing the proper procedures in his asylum claim.

Mohamed Benhlima is held in El-Blida military prison in Algeria, where he has been tortured and ill-treated. He faces several other legal cases and is currently in solitary confinement.

#### ► APPEAL

Urge the Algerian authorities to release Mohamed Benhlima, quash his death sentence, and drop all charges stemming from the use of his rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Pending his release, urge them to end his solitary confinement,

and ensure his prison conditions meet international standards and protect him from torture and other ill-treatment.

► President of the Republic of Algeria  
Abdelmagid Tebboune  
Présidence de la République  
Place Mohammed Seddik Benyahya  
El Mouradia  
Algiers Province 16000  
Algeria  
✉ [president@el-mouradia.dz](mailto:president@el-mouradia.dz)  
🐦 @TebbouneAmadjid  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

► His Excellency Mr Lounes Magramane  
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria  
1-3 Riding House Street  
London W1W 7DR  
✉ [info@algerianembassy.org.uk](mailto:info@algerianembassy.org.uk)  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

## Itai Dzamara Zimbabwe

### ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF JOURNALIST AND ACTIVIST



© Kumbirai Matunda/ZLHR

Journalist and pro-democracy activist Itai Dzamara was taken from a Harare barber shop on 9 March 2015 by five unknown men who accused him of stealing cattle. Itai was

handcuffed and driven off in a white truck with concealed number plates.

His family and human rights lawyers have tried to find him, but without success. On 13 March 2015, the High Court ordered the Minister of Home Affairs, the Ministry of State Security, the Zimbabwe police and the Central Intelligence Office to find Itai and regularly report progress of the

search for him, but there have been no substantial updates.

The only recent mention of Itai's case was at Zimbabwe's 40th Universal Periodic Review on 26 January 2022, where the Minister of Justice said the investigation remains ongoing.

Before his abduction, Itai called for mass action against the deteriorating economic conditions, and faced harassment and intimidation for demanding the resignation of then president Robert Mugabe.

#### ► APPEAL

Urge the authorities to thoroughly investigate Itai's disappearance and bring those responsible to justice. Urge them to comply with the High Court

order to regularly report progress of the search until he is found.

► Commissioner General Godwin Matanga  
Commissioner-General of the Police  
Zimbabwe Republic Police  
7th Street and Josiah Chinamano Avenue  
PO Box CY 8807  
Harare  
Zimbabwe  
**Salutation:** Dear Commissioner General

► His Excellency Colonel Christian Katsande  
Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe  
Zimbabwe House  
429 Strand  
London WC2R 0JR  
✉ [zimlondon@zimfa.gov.zw](mailto:zimlondon@zimfa.gov.zw)  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

## Bhima Koregaon 16 India

### FREE IMPRISONED ACTIVISTS TARGETED IN CRACKDOWN



#### FATHER STAN SWAMY



The group known as the Bhima-Koregaon (BK) 16 are among thousands of activists in

India arrested and detained for 'political offences' under the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). This law is often used to silence critics of the Indian government and it violates several international human rights standards and circumvents fair trial guarantees under Indian criminal law.

All 16 of these activists are accused of being members of the banned Maoist (communist) party and linked with violent incidents that occurred

during the annual Bhima Koregaon commemoration event held in Maharashtra state on 1 January 2018.

Some have been in jail since 2018 without trial. One, Fr Stan Swamy, died in jail from the effects of Covid and currently 11 of the activists are still in jail. Three have been granted bail on medical grounds, but under strict conditions, and one is under house arrest, also for health reasons. The remaining nine men are held at the Taloja Central Prison in Mumbai and the two women are in Byculla Jail in Mumbai.

#### ➤ APPEAL

Urge the prime minister to drop charges against the 16 activists, and to

immediately and unconditionally release the 13 who remain in detention.

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister's Office  
South Block  
Raisina Hill  
New Delhi 11011  
India

🐦 @narendramodi

**Salutation:** Dear Prime Minister

➤ His Excellency Mr Vikram Kumar Doraiswami  
Office of the High Commissioner for India  
India House  
Aldwych  
London WC2B 4NA  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

## El Hiblu 3 Malta

### THREE YOUTHS STILL FACE INJUSTICE IN MALTA



© Amnesty International/Joanna DeMarco



In March 2019, three teenagers from Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire boarded a crowded rubber dingy, fleeing Libya. They were aged 15, 16 and 19 at the time, and were trying to reach Europe.

The dinghy began to deflate and, along with 108 people, they were

rescued by an oil tanker named the El Hiblu. The captain promised they would be taken to safety in Europe but instead tried to return them to Libya, where refugees and migrants face horrific human rights abuses including mass arrests and torture.

A protest broke out and the three teenagers, acting as interpreters, were asked to calm the situation. The El Hiblu changed course to Europe. But when it entered Malta's waters, the authorities stormed the ship and arrested the three teenagers, claiming they had taken it by force.

For three years, they have faced life in prison, despite the lack of evidence to support the charges against them, and currently live under strict bail conditions.

#### ➤ APPEAL

Urge Malta's Attorney General to drop all charges and dismiss the case against the El Hiblu 3.

➤ Attorney General Dr Victoria Buttigieg  
The Palace  
Valletta  
VLT 1115  
Malta

✉ ag@gov.mt

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

➤ His Excellency Emmanuel Mallia  
Malta High Commission  
Malta House  
36-38 Piccadilly  
London W1J OLE  
✉ maltahighcommission.london@gov.mt  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

## Ahmed Mansoor United Arab Emirates

### HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT



Blogger and poet Ahmed Mansoor is serving a 10-year prison sentence for his peaceful criticism of government policies and calls for human rights

reform. He was unfairly convicted on charges including 'insulting the status and prestige of the UAE and its symbols including its leaders'.

Until his arrest in 20 March 2017, Ahmed Mansoor advocated for human rights through his blog, social media and international media interviews. A recipient of the 2015 Martin Ennals Awards for Human Rights Defenders,

he is also a member of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights' advisory board, and of the Human Rights Watch advisory committee of the Middle East and North Africa division.

Since his arrest, Ahmed Mansoor has been held in solitary confinement in al-Sadr prison in Abu Dhabi, and deprived of adequate medical care and regular access to his family. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

#### ➤ APPEAL

Urge the authorities to quash Ahmed Mansoor's conviction, to release him immediately and unconditionally, and

to lift the travel ban imposed on him before his arrest.

➤ His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan  
President of the United Arab Emirates  
Presidential Court  
F836+2GJ – Al Khubeirah  
Abu Dhabi  
United Arab Emirates  
🐦 @MohamedBinZayed  
**Salutation:** Your Highness

➤ His Excellency Mansoor Abdullah Khalfan Juma Abulhoul  
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates  
1-2 Grosvenor Crescent  
London SW1X 7EE  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

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## Chau Van Kham Vietnam

### JAILED FOR 12 YEARS OVER PARTY MEMBERSHIP



#### ➤ APPEAL

Urge the authorities to ensure Chau Van Kham is released and allowed to reunite with his family in Australia. Pending his release, ask that he is given regular access to his family, a lawyer of his choice and the medical care he needs.

➤ Secretary General Nguyễn Phú Trọng  
Số 2, Hùng Vương  
Ba Đình  
Hanoi 10020  
Viet Nam  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

➤ His Excellency Mr Hoang Long Nguyen  
Embassy of the Socialist Republic of  
Viet Nam  
12-14 Victoria Road  
London W8 5RD  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency



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Chau Van Kham, a 72-year-old Vietnamese-Australian, is serving a 12-year prison sentence in Vietnam for being a member of a political party.

A baker from Sydney, he was detained within hours of arriving in Vietnam in January 2019, and accused of 'terrorism to oppose the government'. He was later convicted, even though the only 'evidence' presented during the trial was his membership of Viet Tan, an unregistered political party based overseas.

Kham's wife and children have grave concerns about his well-being, especially because he has several health problems. He has been denied access to his family and a lawyer of his choice.

Prison conditions in Vietnam are notoriously harsh, and prisoners of conscience like Chau often face additional harassment, intimidation and ill-treatment.

## Ibragim Gazdiev Russia

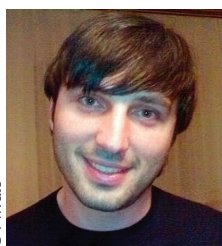
### MISSING FOR 15 YEARS



responsible for his disappearance are identified and brought to justice in line with international fair trial standards.

➤ President Putin  
President of the Russian Federation  
Ul.Ilyinka, 23, pod'ezd 11  
103132 Moscow  
Russian Federation  
🐦 @KremlinRussia  
**Salutation:** Dear President Putin

➤ His Excellency Mr Andrei Kelin  
Embassy of the Russian Federation  
(Residence of the Ambassador)  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W8 4QX  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency



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Russian Republic of Ingushetia. He has not been seen since.

Ibragim was driving his brother's car when the men forced him to get into another car and drove him away. His brother's car also went missing.

It is thought he was detained by members of the Russian Federal

Ibragim Gazdiev, a shop manager, was 29 years old when he was seized by armed men in camouflage on 8 August 2007 in Karabulak, in the

Security Service. Ibragim's family believe that he was, or still is, held in incommunicado detention in Ingushetia or in a neighbouring North Caucasus republic, but the authorities deny this.

They have not been informed about the investigation – which is currently suspended – and appeals to various state officials have had no effect.

#### ➤ APPEAL

Urge the president to reopen and effectively conduct the investigation into Ibragim Gazdiev's disappearance, and inform his family of its progress. Call on him to ensure those

## Prisoners of conscience Cuba

### CRACKDOWN ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



release all those detained for the exercise of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Call on the authorities to guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, including for journalists, activists, artists and other critical voices.

➤ President of Cuba Miguel Díaz-Canel  
✉ despacho@presidencia.gob.cu  
🐦 @DiazCanelB  
**Salutation:** Mr President

➤ Her Excellency Mrs Barbara Elena Montalvo Alvarez  
Embassy of the Republic of Cuba  
167 High Holborn  
London WC1V 6PA  
✉ secembajador@uk.embacuba.cu  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency



© Alexandre Meneghini/Reuters/Alamy

On 11 July, thousands of people took to the streets in one of the largest anti-government demonstrations seen in decades. The authorities responded by detaining hundreds of people who took part in the protests or were linked to them.

For decades, the Cuban authorities have criminalised peaceful protest and imprisons and ill-treated Cubans for simply expressing their views. So

government actions to silence dissent pre-date this latest crackdown. But they now include new tactics such as the use of internet interruptions and online censorship to cover up human rights violations.

Artists Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara and Maykel Osorbo Castillo Pérez, and activist José Daniel Ferrer García, were detained last year. They are prisoners of conscience. However, they represent only a tiny fraction of the total number of people detained solely for peacefully using their rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

#### ➤ APPEAL

Urge the Cuban authorities to immediately and unconditionally