

# 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.

To order more copies email sct@amnesty.org.uk

# **Postage Rates**

The postage rate for international letters weighing up to 100g is **£2.20.** 

# For a copy of our free letterwriting guide send an SAE to: The Editor Amnesty International UK HRAC 17-25 New Inn Yard London EC2A 3EA

# Makomborero Haruzivishe Zimbabwe

### JAILED FOR PEACEFUL ACTIVISM



Pro-democracy activist Makomborero Haruzivishe has been targeted for speaking out against the authorities. He was arrested in February 2021 in Harare and arbitrarily detained for allegedly blowing a whistle 'to alert protestors to revolt against the police' during a February 2020 protest calling for President Emmerson Mnangagwa to step down.

Makomborero was subsequently convicted of inciting violence and resisting lawful arrest and then setenced, in April 2021, to 36 months in prison. He also faces three other charges connected to his peaceful activism, for which he will be tried separately. After 10 months in detention, Makomborero was eventually granted bail in January 2022 for the outstanding charges and released from prison the following day.

Amnesty believes his conviction, and the ongoing criminal proceedings against him, stem from his peaceful activism and is calling for the charges against him to be dropped.

### > APPEAL

Urge the minister to quash Makomborero Haruzivishe's conviction and drop all the charges against him.

Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi
Minister of Justice and Constitutional
Affairs
New Government Complex
Corner Simon V. Muzenda & Samora
Machel Avenue
6th Floor, Block C
Harare
Zimbabwe
Salutation: Hon. Minister Ziyambi

 > His Excellency Colonel Christian Katsande
Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe House
429 Strand
London WC2R 0JR
Salutation: Your Excellency

# Ciham Ali Ahmed Eritrea

### **SECRETLY DETAINED FOR OVER A DECADE**



A dual US-Eritrean national, Ciham Ali Ahmed is a victim of enforced disappearance. Born in Los Angeles but raised in Eritrea, where her family originates, Ciham

was arrested on 8 December 2012 after trying to flee across the border into Sudan. She was just 15 at the time. Ciham has since been secretly

detained for more than a decade: her

family have not seen or heard from her during this period. She has never been charged with anything and no explanation has been given for her arrest and prolonged detention.

It is believed that the government is holding Ciham to punish her for her father's alleged involvement in an attempted coup.

### > APPEAL

Urge the president to reveal Ciham Ali Ahmed's whereabouts and immediately and unconditionally release her. Call for her case to be formally investigated; for anyone involved in her 'disappearance' to be brought to justice; and for her to be given reparations.

President Isaias Afwerki
P.O. Box 257
Asmara, Eritrea
Salutation: Your Excellency

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

### Panusaya ('Rung') Sithijirawattanakul Thailand

At the beginning

### HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER 'DISAPPEARED'



of 2020, Panusaya Sithijirawattanakul, known as Rung, was a fourthyear student at Thammasat University in Bangkok. By June 2020, she was at the forefront of

Thailand's youth democracy movement. It started when she joined a protest against forced disappearances of Thai activists. She went on to protest for political, structural and institutional reform.

Once she became a protest leader, Rung was arrested and detained on multiple counts between June and October 2020. She has always protested peacefully.

On 8 March 2021 Rung was arrested under a law that makes it illegal to defame, insult or threaten the monarchy. Sentenced to 60 days' imprisonment, she contracted COVID-19 in prison and was denied bail six times.

Rung was freed on 30 April 2021, after a 38-day hunger strike. She now has more than 25 charges against her under the Emergency Decree, Computer Crime Act, Public Cleanliness Act and Public Assembly Act.

### > APPEAL

Ask the Prime Minister of Thailand to ensure that all criminal proceedings

against Rung and other peaceful activists are unconditionally dropped.

Prayut Chan-o-cha
Prime Minister of Thailand
The Office of the Permanent Secretary,
Government House,
Nakhon Pathom Road,
Dusit, Bangkok 10300
Thailand
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

 > His Excellency Mr Thani Thongphakdi
Royal Thai Embassy
29-30 Queen's Gate
London SW7 5JB
Salutation: Your Excellency

# Yahaya Sharif-Aminu Nigeria

### **DEATH SENTENCE FOR BLASPHEMY**



In August 2020, 22-year-old singer, musician and composer Yahaya Sharif-Aminu was convicted and sentenced to death for blasphemy. He had shared a song on WhatsApp that allegedly contained derogatory comments about the Prophet Muhammad.

There were serious concerns about the fairness of his trial – by a Sharia court in Kano state – and the framing of the charges against him. These include a lack of legal representation before and during the trial.

In August 2022, the Court of Appeal in Kano delivered its judgement on his appeal: it failed to dismiss the charges against him and maintained that he should be retried. A date for the retrial has yet to be set.

### > APPEAL

Urge the governor to drop all charges against Yahaya Sharif-Aminu and

immediately and unconditionally release him.

### ► His Excellency

Abdullahi Umar Ganduje The Executive Governor of Kano State Governor's Office Kano Nigeria **Salutation:** Dear Governor

> His Excellency Sarafa Tunji Isola
High Commission for the Federal
Republic of Nigeria
Nigeria House
9 Northumberland Avenue
London WC2N 5BX
Salutation: Your Excellency

### Yiliyasijiang Reheman China STUDENT FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED



Yiliyasijiang Reheman (W4R 2019) 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 government at the behest of the Chinese authorities. Three weeks later, Mairinisha, then 19, gave birth to their new baby alone.

Mairinisha later learned Yiliyasijiang 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 locked up in secretive 'transformation-through-education' camps. But Mairinisha has never lost hope that their family will one day be re-united.

In recent years, the Chinese government has had an intensive campaign of mass internment, surveillance, indoctrination and forced cultural assimilation against Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

# > APPEAL

Urge the president to release Yiliyasijiang Reheman and allow him to re-unite with his family. Pending his release, call on the president to disclose his whereabouts and allow him access to a lawyer of his choosing and communications with his wife.

➤ Xi Jinping

President of the People's Republic of China Zhongnanhai Xichangan'jie Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017 People's Republic of China **Salutation:** Dear President

 His Excellency Zheng Zeguang Embassy of the People's Republic of China
49-51 Portland Place
London W1B 1JL
Salutation: Your Excellency

# Ahmadreza Djalali Iran

### ACADEMIC AT RISK OF EXECUTION



Swedish-Iranian academic Ahmadreza Djalali, arbitrarily detained in Tehran's notorious Evin prison, is at risk of imminent

execution. A medical doctor, lecturer and researcher in disaster medicine who has taught at Belgian, Italian and Swedish universities, Ahmadreza was arrested in April 2016 in Iran. He had been invited to attend disaster medicine workshops at universities in Tehran and Shiraz, when he was arrested without a warrant by Ministry of Intelligence officials.

Ahmadreza was later sentenced to death for 'corruption on earth' through 'espionage' following a grossly unfair trial that relied, primarily, on 'confessions' Ahmadreza says were obtained through torture.

Mounting evidence suggests the Iranian authorities are holding him hostage and threatening to execute him to compel Belgium and Sweden to hand over two imprisoned former Iranian officials and deter future prosecutions of Iranian officials.

# > APPEAL

Urge the head of judiciary to halt any plans to execute Ahmadreza Djalali and release him immediately

 Head of judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei
C/o Embassy of Iran to the European
Union Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No.
15, 1050 Bruxelles
Belgium
Salutation: Dear Mr Gholamhossein
Mohseni Ejei

The Chargé d'Affaires
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
16 Prince's Gate
London SW7 1PT
Salutation: Dear Chargé d'Affaires

### **Gustavo Gatica Chile**

### JUSTICE NEEDED FOR BLINDED STUDENT



A 23-yearold recently graduated university student, Gustavo Gatica (W4R 2020) was blinded after being shot in the face by the police

0

while participating in the mass protests against inequality that erupted in Chile in late 2019. Hundreds of others also partially lost their sight or suffered eye injuries, and thousands more suffered other injuries as a result of the repression. There has been progress with the investigation and prosecution of an officer identified as responsible for shooting Gustavo. But Amnesty International has consistently campaigned for investigation into more senior officials; those whose responsibility it was to control the forces under their command and prevent human rights violations from occurring.

### > APPEAL

Urge the Attorney General to continue to identify and hold accountable the individuals directly responsible for Gustavo's injuries. But also, to hold to account those whose orders and omissions allowed

Rasul Kudaev Russian Federation FAIR TRIAL URGED FOR ALLEGED TORTURE VICTIM

On 23 October

2005, Rasul

Kudaev was

arrested on

suspicion of

terrorist attacks

on government installations in

the Kabardino-

Republic city

Balkarian

of Nalchik.

organising



) Private

He was allegedly tortured and illtreated while being arrested and during detention at the department of the Organised Crime Squad. Photographs, eyewitness testimony and official documents support these allegations of torture. His health has been rapidly deteriorating while in detention and his allegations of torture and ill-treatment remain uninvestigated.

Between 2002 and 2004, Rasul was held without charge or trial at Guantánamo Bay, before being released and returned to Russia. In December 2014, he was sentenced to life imprisonment for participating in an armed attack.

Amnesty is calling for him to be given a fair trial on appeal.

widespread violation of the right to security of the person, as well as the attack on Gustavo. Those criminally responsible should be charged and prosecuted, in accordance with international law.

Attorney General's Office
Fiscalía Nacional
Juan Agustín Meléndez
Catedral 1421-1453
Santiago de Chile
Chile
Chile
Jimelendez@minpublico.cl
Salutation: Dear Mr National
Prosecutor, Juan Agustín Meléndez

Embassy of Chile
37-41 Old Queen Street
London SW1H 9JA
Salutation: Your Excellency

### > APPEAL

Call for Rasul Kudaev to be given a fair trial on appeal. State that, while in detention pending the outcome of the appeal, he should be provided with the necessary medical treatment.

 Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation
Igor Krasnov
Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation
UI. B.Dmitrovka, d.15a
125993 Moscow GSP-3
Russian Federation
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Hadidiya and Humsa Hamlets Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories PALESTINIANS FACE FORCIBLE EVICTION



The Palestinian residents of Hadidiya and Humsa hamlets in the Jordan Valley region of the West Bank in the Occupied Palestinian Territories face being forcibly evicted by the Israeli army. They live under the constant threat of having their homes demolished; their movements are restricted and they are denied access to water and land.

Some Hadidiya inhabitants were

forced to move to Humsa, around 1km away, in 2007, when the Israeli army issued a demolition order against their homes. Army bulldozers dug up the road to Hadidiya in 2016, forcing the community's children to trek 2km along dusty or muddy tracks to school.

Israeli settlers approach at night in tractors and 4WD vehicles, shining powerful lights into the homes and setting dogs on the sleeping families and their sheep. The Israeli army repeatedly destroyed homes and animal pens in 2021.

### > APPEAL

Urge the brigadier general to prevent further destruction of homes in Humsa

and Hadidiya and end the harassment and discrimination against the residents.

> Brigadier General Fares Atila
Head of the Civil Administration in
Judea and Samaria
Office for the Coordination of
Government Activities in the Territories
Beit El Military Base
Beit El 9063100
Israel
Salutation: Dear Brigadier General
Fares Atila

 Her Excellency Tzipora Hotovely Embassy of Israel
Palace Green Kensington
London W8 4QB
Salutation: Your Excellency