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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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London EC2A 3EA

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Aleksei Navalny **Russia**

YEARS ADDED TO PRISON SENTENCE



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A string of fabricated charges has been brought against imprisoned political activist Alexei Navalny, leading to new trials and a

longer sentence. He now faces nearly two decades in prison – and there could be more to come.

In 2014, the Anti-Corruption Foundation founder was given a suspended three-and-a-half-year sentence in a politically motivated case. In 2020, he was poisoned with a nerve agent and transported for treatment to Germany. Russian authorities subsequently accused him of violating

the terms of his sentence. On his return to Russia in 2021, he was arrested, with his probation cancelled and replaced with a two-year-and-eight-month custodial sentence.

He was later presented with new ‘fraud’ and ‘contempt of court’ charges. Accused of siphoning off \$25,000 from donations to organisations he founded, he was sentenced to nine years in March 2022. In August 2023, he was sentenced to a total of 19 years, after being convicted of additional fabricated charges.

In December, further charges were brought against him. For most of the month his whereabouts were unknown as he was transferred to another penal colony, IK-3, which is in the Arctic and has some of the harshest prison conditions in Russia.

➤ APPEAL

Urge the president to immediately and unconditionally release Aleksei Navalny.

➤ President of the Russian Federation
Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin
Ilyinka St. 23
103132 Moscow
Russian Federation
✉ @KremlinRussia

Salutation: Dear President

His Excellency Andrei Kelin
Embassy of the Russian Federation 6/7
Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QP

Salutation: Your Excellency

Hakamada Iwao **Japan**

STILL SEEKING JUSTICE AFTER 45 YEARS ON DEATH ROW



© AI



More than half century after being sentenced to death in an unfair trial, Hakamada Iwao is still waiting for justice.

In 1966, Hakamada was convicted of the murder of the boss of the factory where he worked and the man’s wife and two children based on a ‘confession’ extracted through torture or other ill-treatment, as well as evidence that is likely to have been fabricated and planted. Two years later, he was given a

death sentence.

Hakamada spent more than 45 years on death row, predominately in solitary confinement. Finally, in March 2014, the Shizuoka District Court ordered his release, suspended the death sentence and granted him a retrial. But because the prosecution appealed, it took nine years to finalise the retrial, which eventually started in October 2023.

Hakamada, who has maintained his innocence, is now 87 and suffers from poor mental and physical health because of the decades he spent on death row. He must be brought to justice and exonerated as soon as possible.

➤ APPEAL

Urge the prosecutor general to eliminate evidence that has been pointed out as potentially fabricated and cooperate in bringing the case swiftly to a conclusion.

➤ Prosecutor General
Mr Nobuo Inada
Supreme Public Prosecutors Office
1-1-1 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0013
100-0013

✉ webmaster@moj.go.jp
✉ @MOJ_HOUMU

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

His Excellency Hajime Hayashi
Embassy of Japan
101-104 Piccadilly
London W1J 7JT

Salutation: Your Excellency

Marfa Rabkova **Belarus**

JAILED FOR EXPOSING STATE BRUTALITY



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Marfa Rabkova, a coordinator of the volunteer network of prominent human rights NGO Viasna, is behind bars for

documenting human rights abuses.

She was arbitrarily detained in September 2020 after exposing the brutality of law enforcement officers against peaceful demonstrators following the disputed presidential elections the previous month. The human rights defender was initially

charged with ‘training and other preparation of people for participation in mass riots’, ‘incitement of racial, national, religious or other social hatred or discord committed by a group’ and ‘membership of a criminal organisation’, for which she faced the prospect of up to 12 years in prison.

In November 2021, Marfa was charged with additional counts, bringing the total to 11. The following September, she was sentenced to 15 years in prison; the Supreme Court later reduced the sentence by three months on appeal.

Amnesty considers Marfa a prisoner of conscience.

➤ APPEAL

Urge the minister of foreign affairs to immediately and unconditionally release Marfa Rabkova.

➤ Minister of Foreign Affairs
Vladimir Makei
Lenina str, 19
220030
Minsk
Belarus

✉ mail@mfa.gov.by
✉ @BelarusMFA

Salutation: Dear Minister

Chargé d’Affaires
Dmitry Shchepachev
Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
6 Kensington Court
London W8 5DL

Salutation: Dear Chargé d’Affaires

Yren Rotela and Mariana Sepúlveda Paraguay

FIGHTING FOR TRANS RIGHTS



© Private

Yren Rotela and Mariana Sepúlveda (W4R 2022) want to live their lives freely, but as trans women

they have to fight for their rights. Trans people in Paraguay cannot legally change their names or obtain identity documents that match their gender identity, among other discriminatory practices. The state is trying to make them invisible.

Throughout their lives, Yren and Mariana have faced personal challenges and obstacles at family, social and institutional levels. Protests by trans

groups are often banned, and some demonstrations have been attacked.

But despite facing prejudice and marginalisation, Yren and Mariana have fought for years to exercise their freedom of expression, defend their human rights and those of other LGBTQI+ people, and change their legal names. As Yren said: 'I came into the world to show who I am, not to be told who I am.'

➤ APPEAL

Urge the president of the Supreme Court of Justice to order the name change of Yren Rotela and Mariana Sepúlveda, an essential step in recognising the right to identity.

➤ President of the Supreme Court of Justice
Palacio de Justicia del Paraguay
Mariano Roque Alonso y Testanova
9° Piso, Torre Norte
C.P. N°001001
Asunción
Paraguay
✉ @PoderJudicialPY
f @PoderJudicialPY
i @poderjudicialpy
Salutation: Your Excellency

Defence Attaché
Commander Napoleon Marcelo Wachigton Espinola Prieto
Embassy of the Republic of Paraguay
Ground and Lower Ground Floors, 81-83 Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BW
Salutation: Dear Defence Attaché

Umar Khalid India

DETAINED FOR CHALLENGING RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION



© Vipin Kumar/
Hindustan Times via
Getty Images

In an atmosphere of intense fear, intimidation, harassment and repression, Umar Khalid

raised his voice against religious discrimination and human rights violations. As a result, the Muslim human rights defender and scholar has been imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

Umar was active in protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, a law that legitimises discrimination on the basis of religion and violates both the

Indian constitution and international human rights law. He attended demonstrations and made speeches against the legislation.

Umar was arrested on 13 September 2020, after the authorities accused him of inciting communal violence through his speeches. He was charged under multiple provisions of the Indian Penal Code – including 'promoting enmity between different groups' and 'rioting' – and the Unlawful (Activities) Prevention Act, a draconian piece of anti-terror legislation.

Umar has been held in prison for three years without trial. His bail applications have been repeatedly rejected by the courts.

➤ APPEAL

Urge the home minister to ensure Umar Khalid is immediately and unconditionally released from prison.

➤ Union Home Minister of India
Mr Amit Shah
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi
110001
India
✉ jscpg-mha@nic.in
✉ @amitshah
Salutation: Dear Minister

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

Anon Nampa Thailand

HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER JAILED FOR PEACEFUL PROTEST



© Faozee Latah

Human rights lawyer Anon Nampa is behind bars having been targeted with more than a dozen unwarranted criminal

proceedings. Last September, he was given a four-year prison sentence and a 20,000 baht (\$551) fine for speaking at and participating in peaceful assemblies in 2020. The next month he received an additional sentence of two months' imprisonment for the same 'offences'.

Anon is a leading pro-democracy

activist who has peacefully advocated for social welfare, the rule of law, human rights and political reform for many years. As a human rights lawyer, he has defended marginalised communities and individuals targeted for exercising their civil liberties.

A poet, musician and father of two small children, Anon is one of almost 2,000 people – including 286 children – targeted by a widespread government crackdown on human rights. The authorities launched criminal proceedings against him and 279 other people – including children – under Article 112 of the Criminal Code, which allows for up to 15 years' imprisonment for criticising the monarchy.

➤ APPEAL

Urge the prime minister to immediately and unconditionally release Anon Nampa and drop the convictions and criminal proceedings against him. Call on him to do the same for everyone else who has also been targeted for exercising their human rights.

➤ Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin
Office of the Prime Minister
Government House
Pitsanulok Road
Bangkok
Thailand 10300
✉ prforeign@prd.go.th
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

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

Dorgelesse Nguessan Cameroon

JAILED FOR FIVE YEARS AFTER ATTENDING HER FIRST PROTEST



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Hairdresser Dorgelesse Nguessan (W4R 2022) had never been politically active but her concerns about the

economy – and the country as a whole – led her to join her first protest, which was organised by the opposition MRC party in September 2020 in the city of Douala.

The demonstration took place, despite being banned by the authorities. Security forces responded by firing rubber bullets, teargas and water cannons to disperse the crowd, and arrested more than 500 people,

including Dorgelesse.

She was taken to Bonanjo police station, held in a cell with 22 others, denied visitation rights and prevented from washing for a few days. A policeman later attempted to sexually assault her while she was in the shower. Many other arrested protesters also reported excessive use of force, torture and other ill-treatment while in detention.

In September 2020, Dorgelesse was transferred to Douala central prison and charged with ‘insurrection, assembly, meetings and public demonstrations’. In December 2021, a military court convicted and sentenced her to five years in prison. Her lawyers appealed the verdict. The appeal hearing began in March 2023 and continued in October. The next hearing date remains to be set.

➤ APPEAL

Urge the president to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of Dorgelesse Nguessan.

➤ President of the Republic of Cameroon
Paul Biya
Palais présidentiel
Yaoundé
Cameroon
✉ Cellcom@prc.cm
✉ @PR_Paul_BIYA
Facebook: @PaulBiya.PageOfficielle
Instagram: @presidentpaulbiya
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Albert Njoteh Fotabong
High Commission for the Republic of Cameroon
84 Holland Park
London W11 3SB
Salutation: Your Excellency

Gezi 7 Türkiye

JAILED FOR LIFE IN A SHOW TRIAL



© Kerem Uzel/NARPHOTOS



In April 2022, civil society leader Osman Kavala was convicted in an unfair trial on a baseless charge of ‘attempting

to overthrow the government’ and sentenced to life in prison without parole. Mücella Yapıcı, Çiğdem Mater, Mine Özerden, Can Atalay, Tayfun Kahraman and Hakan Altınay were sentenced to 18 years for allegedly aiding him. Collectively known as the Gezi 7, they are currently in prison while they appeal their convictions.

The chronicle of injustice they

have suffered began with arbitrary detention and politically motivated prosecutions and ended in a show trial and convictions. The injustice that these seven have been subjected to is emblematic of that suffered by so many in Türkiye’s draconian crackdown on human rights.

Amnesty is calling on the prosecuting authorities not to oppose the seven defendants’ requests to be released from prison pending the determination of their appeals.

➤ APPEAL

Urge the chief prosecutor to support any application or request for release from

prison during the determination of their appeals by Mücella Yapıcı, Çiğdem Mater, Mine Özerden, Can Atalay, Tayfun Kahraman, Hakan Altınay and Osman Kavala.

➤ Metin Sarıhan
Cumhuriyet Başsavcısı
İstanbul Bölge Adliye Mahkemesi
Orhantepe Mah. Üsküdar Cad. No:236/A
Kartal
İstanbul
Türkiye
Salutation: Dear Chief Prosecutor

His Excellency Osman Koray Ertaş
Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye
43 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8PA
Salutation: Your Excellency

Ahmed Mansoor, Mohammed al-Roken and Nasser bin Ghaith UAE

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE FACE NEW MASS TRIAL

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Human rights defenders Ahmed Mansoor (W4R 2023), Mohammed al-Roken and Nasser bin Ghaith are among

26 prisoners of conscience being prosecuted on new trumped-up terrorism-related charges in another mass trial in the UAE.

The trial, which started on 7 December before the Federal Appeal Court in Abu Dhabi, is prosecuting 87 men in total. They include 62 unjustly imprisoned victims of a 2013 mass

trial known as UAE94, 59 of whom remain in prison even though they have completed their sentences.

According to the Emirates Detainees Advocacy Center, a human rights group, the court charged 43 individuals with establishing a ‘terrorist organisation’ while 44 others were charged with supporting and endorsing the organisation. The ‘terrorist organisation’ in question is the Justice and Dignity Committee, formed by defendants in the UAE94 case in 2010-2011 to call for the respect of human rights in the UAE.

Defendants from the earlier UAE94 mass trial were already convicted and sentenced to prison terms over their involvement in the Justice and Dignity Committee in 2013.

➤ APPEAL

Urge the president to immediately and unconditionally release, and drop the charges against, Ahmed Mansoor, Mohammed al-Roken and Nasser bin Ghaith and the others arbitrarily detained and prosecuted solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

➤ President of the United Arab Emirates
Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
✉ @MohamedBinZayed
Salutation: Your Highness

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