

Fred Bauma and  
Yves Makwambala  
DRC



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**Youth activists at risk of death penalty**  
There is heightened repression in Democratic Republic of Congo against people who speak out against President Joseph Kabila. Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala, activists for Filimbi, a body that encourages young people to peacefully and responsibly perform their civic duties, are victims of this crackdown.

On 15 March 2015 security agents stormed a Filimbi press conference and arrested at least 30 people, including Fred and Yves, a US diplomat, foreign journalists, and activists from Senegal and Burkina Faso. The US diplomat and foreign journalists were released on the same day, while the activists from Senegal and Burkina Faso were later deported.

Fred and Yves, however, were kept in secret detention for two weeks without access to family or lawyers. They were later moved to Makala prison in Kinshasa. If found guilty of the politically-motivated charges against them they face the death penalty. Amnesty considers them prisoners of conscience, jailed because of their peaceful political beliefs.

**APPEAL** Urge the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala and drop all charges against them. Call on them to uphold the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

► President Joseph Kabila  
Cabinet du President de la Republique  
Palais de la Nation  
Av. De Lemera  
Kinshasa-Gombe  
DRC

**Salutation:** Your Excellency  
**Postage:** World

► His Excellency Mr Barnabe Kikaya Bin Karubi  
Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
45-49 Great Portland Street  
London W1W 7L

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Jorge Lázaro  
Samba Nunes  
Brazil



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**Father seeks justice for murdered sons**  
As the world focused on Rio for the Olympics and Paralympics, Jorge Lázaro has continued his fight for justice. Two of his sons have been murdered, and his family has been threatened, separated, and placed under immense strain.

In 2008 Jorge's son Ricardo was playing football in Salvador, when three men started shooting. They were looking for two men suspected of stealing a bike from the son of a retired military police officer. Despite denying any involvement, Ricardo and another man were killed. In 2011 three military police officers were charged, but the case has not gone to trial, and no one has been brought to justice.

In 2011 Jorge unsuccessfully applied for Ricardo's brother Enio to be included in a protection programme. In 2013 Enio was abducted and shot dead by an unknown gunman.

The family were separated for a period: the authorities placed them in separate shelters. The children have been out of school for over five years, and a third son, Denilson, was shot and wounded in July.

**APPEAL** Urge the authorities to conduct an effective investigation into the attacks, and bring those responsible to justice. Call for the family to receive the social, financial and psychological support they need.

► Rui Costa, Governor of Bahia State  
Avenida 3 n° 390, Plataforma IV  
Prédio da Governadoria  
3° andar – Centro Administrativo da Bahia- CAB.  
CEP: 41745-005  
Salvador – Bahia  
Brazil

**Salutation:** Exmo Sr. Governador / Dear Governor  
**Postage:** World

► His Excellency Mr Roberto Jaguaribe Gomes  
De Mattos  
Embassy of Brazil  
14/16 Cockspur Street  
SW1Y 5BL

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Nazanin  
Zaghari Ratcliffe  
Iran



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**Charity worker detained without charge**  
Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe, a British-Iranian project manager at the Thomson Reuters Foundation, was arrested on 3 April at Tehran's international airport.

She was due to return to the UK with her 22-month-old daughter, Gabriella, following a family visit. Before being taken away she was allowed to leave Gabriella with her parents, but the authorities confiscated Gabriella's British passport. Unidentified officials later told the family Nazanin was being held in the city of Kerman, and had been arrested for 'national security' reasons. She has no access to a lawyer and may have been coerced into 'confessing'.

On 11 May Nazanin was finally permitted to meet her family, though security agents remained present. She was allowed to make phone calls to relatives in Iran, but prevented from speaking to her husband, Richard, who is in the UK. In June Nazanin was moved to Evin prison. She is now able to see her mother and Gabriella, and has spoken to Richard, but her family has no way of contacting her. In August Nazanin was brought before a Revolutionary Court for the first time.

**APPEAL** Demand Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe is immediately released or formally charged with an internationally recognisable offence. Ask the authorities to allow her regular contact with her lawyer, British consular assistance, and family visits and phone calls. Demand that she is not tortured or ill-treated, and receives any medical attention she needs.

*All appeals should be sent to the Iranian Embassy in the UK.*

► Office of the Supreme Leader  
Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei  
c/o Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
16 Princes Gate  
London SW7 1PT

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

► His Excellency Mohammad Hassan  
Habibollahzadeh  
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
16 Princes Gate  
London SW7 1P

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

# TAKE ACTION

## Real lives

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17-25 New Inn Yard  
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Teodora del Carmen Vásquez  
El Salvador



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**Mother jailed after suffering a still-birth**  
Teodora del Carmen Vásquez is serving a 30-year sentence for 'aggravated homicide' after suffering a still-birth. In 2007 she went into labour and lost consciousness. When she woke up her baby was dead. She was arrested on suspicion of murder.

In El Salvador women who miscarry or suffer still-births are routinely suspected of having had an 'abortion', which is illegal in all circumstances. In July a group of MPs proposed extending the jail term for having an abortion to 50 years.

Teodora's trial was deeply flawed: she was presumed guilty and could not afford an effective legal team. An appeal for a pardon was denied in 2015, and her only option now is to appeal for her sentence to be changed so that she is released.

There are, however, reasons for hope. María Teresa Rivera, jailed in 2011 after suffering a miscarriage, was released in May – although the authorities are appealing against her release. Amnesty met the new Minister of Justice in June to hand over petitions and letters.

**APPEAL** Urge the Minister of Justice to immediately release Teodora del Carmen Vásquez and all other women jailed for pregnancy-related complications who have exhausted other legal remedies. Mention Amnesty's meeting with him in June.

▶ Minister of Justice and Public Security  
Mauricio Ramírez Landaverde  
Ministro de Justicia y Seguridad Pública  
17 Avenida Norte, Complejo Plan Maestro,  
Edificio B1, nivel 1  
Alameda Juan Pablo II  
San Salvador  
El Salvador

**Salutation:** Estimado Señor Ministro / Dear Minister  
**Postage:** World

▶ His Excellency Mr Werner Matías Romero  
Embassy of El Salvador  
8 Dorset Square 1st & 2nd Floors  
London NW1 6PU

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Johan Teterissa  
Indonesia



© Al Jazeera English

**Teacher convicted for raising banned flag**  
Primary school teacher Johan Teterissa is serving a 15-year sentence for leading a peaceful protest in front of the president in 2007, during which the Benang Raja, a banned regional flag, was raised.

Johan and 21 other activists were beaten by police and presidential guards. The torture continued during detention and interrogation: they were forced to crawl over hot asphalt, whipped with electric cables, and had billiard balls forced into their mouths. After an unfair trial, Johan was convicted of rebellion and sentenced to life in prison. This was later reduced to 15 years after an appeal.

Johan has endured nearly nine years of torture and ill-treatment in prison. After being moved to Batu Prison in July 2013, guards whipped him with electric cables until he bled. The following December, police and military personnel ransacked cells in the prison: Johan was stripped to his underwear and forced to sleep on a concrete floor.

Johan's prison conditions have improved, but Amnesty is still concerned about overcrowding, poor sanitation, and lack of medical treatment.

**APPEAL** Call for the immediate and unconditional release of Johan Teterissa and all other prisoners of conscience in Indonesia.

▶ His Excellency Joko Widodo  
President of Indonesia  
Istana Merdeka  
Jakarta 10110  
Indonesia

**Salutation:** Your Excellency  
**Postage:** World

▶ His Excellency Dr Rizal Sukma  
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia  
38 Grosvenor Square  
London W1K 2HW

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Mohammed al-Roken  
UAE



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**Human rights lawyer jailed after crackdown**  
On 26 September human rights lawyer and professor Dr Mohammed al-Roken will spend his 54th birthday in prison. In 2013 he was among 94 people, including other lawyers, judges, academics, students and activists, convicted of attempting to overthrow the government after the grossly unfair 'UAE 94' trial. Dr al-Roken received a 10-year sentence. Several of those tried alongside him presented evidence of torture but none has been independently investigated.

An Amnesty member for over 20 years, Dr al-Roken had been our main UAE contact for a decade. Before his arrest, the authorities harassed him because of his work as a human rights lawyer, criticism of the UAE's human rights record, and advocacy of democratic reforms. He has been detained, banned from travelling, and forced to stop writing in newspapers and giving interviews, and subjected to surveillance.

In prison Dr al-Roken has been subjected to oppressively loud music, which could amount to torture. On 11 November 2015 the sound was so loud it caused him to pass out in his cell.

**APPEAL** Call for the immediate and unconditional release of Dr Mohammed al-Roken. Demand he is given immediate and regular access to his families and lawyers, receives any necessary medical attention, is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated, and is held in adequate conditions.

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

**Salutation:** Your Highness  
**Postage:** World

▶ His Excellency Mr Abdulrahman Ghanem  
Almutaiwee CVO  
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates  
30 Prince's Gate  
London SW7 1PT

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Somchai Homla-or, Porpen Kongkachonkiet and Anchana Heemmina  
Thailand



© Al

Porpen  
Khongkaonkiet

**Activists charged after publishing torture report**

Three of the country's leading human rights activists, including the chair of Amnesty Thailand, Porpen Khongkaonkiet, have been charged with 'criminal defamation' and 'computer crimes' after publishing a report on torture by the army and police. If found guilty, Porpen, Somchai Homla-or and Anchana Heemmina could be fined and jailed for five years.

In January their organisations – Cross Cultural Foundation and Duay Jai (Hearty Support) Group – submitted a report on 54 cases of alleged torture to the Internal Security Operations Command Region 4, an army unit responsible for national security operations in the Southern Border Provinces.

Since the report's submission, and its publication in February, army officials have placed pressure on the activists to reveal the identity of the alleged victims. They have also harassed Anchana and warned her against public campaigning.

Valentina Cherevatenko  
Russia



© Alliance 'Women of the Don'

**Leading activist faces two-year sentence**

Prominent human rights defender Valentina Cherevatenko faces the prospect of two years in jail after being declared a suspect under the 'foreign agents law' on 24 June. The founder and chair of the Women of the Don Union is the first leader of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) to be accused of a criminal offence under the law, and it represents an ominous precedent.

The 'foreign agents law' was enacted in 2012 as part of the authorities' crackdown on the right to freedom of association. It requires all NGOs who receive foreign funding and engage in vaguely defined 'political activities' to register as 'organisations performing the functions of foreign agents', brand all their public materials accordingly, and comply with a stringent reporting regime.

Since then numerous independent NGOs have faced intrusive inspections by the authorities and arduous court proceedings. Over a hundred NGOs have been included in the 'foreign agents' register.

**APPEAL** Urge the authorities to drop the charges against Somchai, Porpen and Anchana, and stop all threats and harassment. Call on them to reform the defamation laws, allow human rights defenders to work without harassment, and properly investigate all complaints of torture and other ill-treatment.

▶ Gen. Prayut Chan-O-Cha  
Head of ISOC  
Government House  
Pitsanulok Road  
Dusit  
Bangkok 10300  
Thailand

**Salutation:** Dear Prime Minister  
**Postage:** World

▶ His Excellency Mr Kittiphong Na Ranong  
Royal Thai Embassy  
29-30 Queen's Gate  
London SW7 5JB

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**APPEAL** Urge the authorities to immediately stop all criminal proceedings against Valentina Cherevatenko and stop the harassment of her. Remind them of their responsibility to ensure human rights defenders can carry out their legitimate activities free of harassment and without fear of reprisals.

▶ Yuri Alekseevich Baranov  
Prosecutor's Office of Rostov Region  
Per.Khalturinskiy, 101  
Rostov-on-Don 344011  
Russian Federation

**Salutation:** Your Prosecutor  
**Postage:** World

▶ His Excellency Mr Alexander V Yakovenko  
Embassy of the Russian Federation (Residence of the Ambassador)  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W8 4QX

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Matsumoto Kenji  
Japan



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**Death sentence despite intellectual disorder**

By 10 October, World Day Against the Death Penalty, Matsumoto Kenji will have spent over 23 and a half years on death row, despite serious concerns for his mental health. He was sentenced to death on 17 September 1993 for two separate robberies and murders in 1990-1991.

Matsumoto has had an intellectual disability since birth, and has a low IQ. His lawyer said he was forced to confess during the interrogation. His brother, with whom he had a dependant relationship, was charged with the same crime but committed suicide before trial. The court still decided Matsumoto was mentally competent to be sentenced to death, and that his confession was reliable.

Matsumoto suffers from a delusional disorder thought to result from his prolonged detention. He cannot assist his lawyer nor understand the nature and purpose of his punishment. Appeals against his conviction and repeated requests for a pardon or a retrial have been rejected. Osaka High Court is currently reviewing another retrial request, but Matsumoto could be executed at any time.

**APPEAL** Call on the authorities not to execute Matsumoto Kenji. Urge them to end the use of the death penalty in Japan and improve the treatment of death row inmates, including ending solitary confinement.

▶ Minister of Justice Mitsuhide Iwaki  
Ministry of Justice  
1-1-1 Kasumigaseki  
Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 100-8977  
Japan

**Salutation:** Dear Minister  
**Postage:** World

▶ His Excellency Mr Keiichi Hayashi  
Embassy of Japan  
101-104 Piccadilly  
London W1J 7JT

**Salutation:** Your Excellency