

Hakan Yaman
Turkey



Set upon by police during protest

Postage: Europe

On 3 June 2013, Hakan Yaman, a minibus driver, was walking home from work in Istanbul when he passed a public demonstration against police violence in Gezi Park. Within moments he was caught up in a brutal attack by police officers.

He explains: 'I was first sprayed by water cannon. Then I was hit in the stomach with a tear gas canister and I fell down. Around five police officers came over and began hitting me repeatedly on the head. One of them put a hard object into my eye and gouged my eye out. By then I was lying down, without moving. I heard one of them say "this one is finished, let's completely finish him off". They dragged me about 10 to 20 metres and threw me on to a fire. They left and I dragged myself out of the fire.'

Hakan Yaman lost one eye and only has 20 per cent eyesight left in the other following the attack. He sustained a fractured skull, other broken bones and second degree burns. He has filed a criminal complaint.

TAKE ACTION

APPEAL Urge the authorities to ensure an effective, independent and impartial investigation to identify and prosecute those responsible for the attack on Hakan Yaman.

► Mr Bekir Bozdağ
Ministry of Justice
Adalet Bakanlığı
06659 Ankara
Turkey

Salutation: Dear Minister

► His Excellency Mr Ünal Çeviköz
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
43 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8PA
Fax: (020) 7393 0066

Salutation: Your Excellency

Ernesta Serrano Cruz and Erlinda Serrano Cruz
El Salvador



Missing children of El Salvador

Postage: World

On 2 June 1982, at the height of the internal armed conflict in El Salvador, the young Serrano Cruz sisters, then aged seven and three years old, were taken by the Salvadoran army during a military operation in Chalatenango. Thirty-two years later the family are still searching for them.

Much effort has been made to locate the estimated 838 children, including Ernestina and Erlinda, who 'disappeared' during the internal armed conflict. The girls' family fought a long and painful battle to force the Salvadoran authorities to take action. Yet the country has done little to reunite the missing children with their families, despite an international court ruling in 2005 obliging them to do so. A national search commission has been set up, but does not comply with the standards set in the ruling.

On 14 November 2013 the office of Pro-Busqueda, a human rights organisation in San Salvador working with the Serrano Cruz family, was raided by armed men. Three staff members were held captive while computers containing sensitive information on current legal cases were stolen and filing cabinets set on fire. The organisation believes the attack aimed to damage its work with relatives of the disappeared. 29 March is El Salvador's national day to remember disappeared children.

TAKE ACTION

APPEAL Call on the authorities to comply fully with the 2005 ruling of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights by ensuring that an investigation into the whereabouts of Ernestina and Erlinda Serrano Cruz is established and those responsible brought to justice. Urge the authorities to create a DNA database and a web database to enable the tracing and identification of disappeared children.

► President Mauricio Funes Cartagena
Casa Presidencial
Alameda Dr. Manuel E. Araujo No. 5500
San Salvador
El Salvador

Salutation: Dear President

► His Excellency
Mr Werner Romero
Embassy of El Salvador
2nd Floor, 8 Dorset Square
London NW1 6PU
Fax: (020) 7224 9878

Salutation: Your Excellency

Karma Tsewang
China



Health fears for detained Tibetan monk

Postage: World

Prominent Tibetan monk Karma Tsewang was detained on 6 December in Chengdu, south-west China, while travelling on business.

His lawyer said he is being held on suspicion of 'endangering state security', but what this relates to is unsure. This provision in Chinese law is frequently used to imprison peaceful critics of the government and curtail freedom of expression.

Karma Tsewang is currently detained in Changdu County, Tibet. He has been denied visits from his family and lawyers. He suffers from hepatitis and it is not known if he has been given his medication or is getting the treatment he requires.

Karma Tsewang is the highly regarded abbot (Khenpo) at the Gongya Monastery in Nangqian County. Aside from his preaching, he is known for his work on disaster relief, environmental protection and teaching youth the Tibetan language.

Over 600 people protested for his release, prompting the government to arrest 16 of his supporters, since released. His detention comes at a time when Tibetan monks continue to be the target of a crackdown by Chinese authorities following the mass protests of 2008.

TAKE ACTION

APPEAL Urge the authorities to ensure Karma Tsewang has regular access to his family, lawyers of his choosing and any medical treatment he requires. Call on the authorities to ensure he is not tortured or ill-treated.

Note: Please send appeals before 5 March 2014

► Director of Tibet Autonomous Region Public Security Bureau
Li Zhao Tingzhang
Xizang Zizhiqu Gong'anting
26 Linkuodonglu
Lasashi 850000
Xizang Zizhiqu
People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Director

► His Excellency Liu Xiaoming
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
49-51 Portland Place
London W1B 1JL
Fax: (020) 7636 2981

Salutation: Your Excellency

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 supplement to *Amnesty Magazine* is produced for readers and local groups wishing to write more letters in support of individuals at risk. It is also intended to implement the decision of the Annual General Meeting 2013 calling for nine Real Lives cases to be included in each issue of the magazine.

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

To order more copies, call **020 7033 1777** or email **sct@amnesty.org.uk**

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The Editor
Amnesty
HRAC
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

Norma Cruz
Guatemala



© AI
Protect human rights defender

Norma Cruz leads Fundación Sobrevivientes (Survivors' Foundation), which provides a crisis shelter and legal assistance for women who have suffered violence. Norma also campaigns for justice for women murder victims. Her work puts her in danger: she has received death threats, as have her relatives. The Sobrevivientes staff have been intimidated.

Guatemala has seen a notable increase in the number of women killed over the past decade, and the state has failed to investigate the majority of crimes. The state has also failed to respond adequately to many cases of activists threatened, harassed, or killed because of their work.

Norma recently told Amnesty that our support was important in ensuring her safety and that of her staff.

Postage: World

Liu Xia
China



© Private
A prisoner in her own home

Liu Xia, a poet, artist and human rights defender, has been under illegal house arrest in Beijing since 2010 – when her husband, prominent scholar Dr Liu Xiaobo, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He is currently serving an 11-year sentence for ‘inciting subversion of state power’ based on articles calling for reform in China published in 2008.

Liu Xia was prevented from attending her husband's trial and was repeatedly denied contact with him after his arrest. She is not even allowed to read the letters he writes her. She cannot leave her house freely – security guards stand outside – and is not allowed visitors or access to the telephone or internet.

Postage: World

Johan Teterissa
Indonesia



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Teacher tortured and ill-treated

Teacher Johan Teterissa is serving a 15-year prison sentence for leading a peaceful protest in 2007 in Maluku, Indonesia. During the protest, which took place in front of the Indonesian President, the Benang Raja, a banned regional flag, was raised.

Johan and 21 other activists, mainly teachers and farmers, were punched and beaten by police and presidential guards. The torture continued during detention and interrogation.

Johan has now endured nearly seven years of ill-treatment and torture. In December 2013, following unrest at Batu Prison where he is currently detained, troops and Mobile Brigade police ransacked the cells. Johan and other prisoners were stripped to their underwear, and personal belongings such as clothes were taken away. He was forced to sleep half naked on a cement floor. Although prison conditions have now improved, he is held in a prison far away from his family.

Postage: World

TAKE ACTION **APPEAL** Urge the authorities to maintain protection measures currently in place for Norma Cruz and Sobrevivientes staff, so that they can work without fear. Recognise some progress has been made but stress that violence against women and girls remains widespread in Guatemala. Such crimes should be investigated thoroughly and fairly.

▶ President Otto Perez Molina
Casa Presidencial
6ª Avenida 4-41, Zona 1,
Puera del Centro
Ciudad de Guatemala
Guatemala

Salutation: Dear President

▶ His Excellency Mr Acisclo Valladares Molina
Embassy of Guatemala
13a Fawcett Street
London SW10 9HN
Fax: (020) 7376 5708

Salutation: Your Excellency

TAKE ACTION **APPEAL** Urge the authorities to stop restricting Liu Xia's freedom. Call on them to allow her to work and earn an income; to receive independent medical treatment; and to allow Liu Xia and Liu Xiaobo to read the letters they write to each other.

Note: Leave messages and photos of support for Liu Xia at: [messagesforliuxia.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/messagesforliuxia)

▶ President Xi Jinping 习近平
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu
Beijingshi 100017
People's Republic of China

Salutation: Your Excellency

▶ His Excellency Mr Liu Xiaoming
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
49-51 Portland Place
London W1B 1JL
Fax: (020) 7636 2981

Salutation: Your Excellency

TAKE ACTION **APPEAL** Call on the authorities to release Johan Teterissa and all other Malukan prisoners of conscience. Ask that, pending his release, he be transferred to a prison closer to his family. Order an independent investigation into allegations of human rights violations by security personnel at Batu Prison.

▶ Minister of Justice and Human Rights
Amir Syamsuddin
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav No. 4-5
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan 12950
Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Minister

▶ His Excellency Teuku Mohammad Hamzah Thayeb
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
38 Grosvenor Square
London W1K 2HW
Fax: (020) 7491 4993

Salutation: Your Excellency

The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó
Colombia



© Private
In danger for demanding peace

The people of San José de Apartadó founded their Peace Community in order to assert their right not to be drawn into Colombia's armed conflict. But because they refuse to take sides, all the warring parties treat them as enemies.

Since the Peace Community's creation in 1997, over 170 members have been killed or subjected to enforced disappearance, with many more being threatened.

The community are in constant danger but the authorities have failed to take effective action to protect them. Despite numerous investigations launched into the abuses little progress has been made in bringing those responsible to account.

Postage: World

Hadidiya and Humsa Hamlets Israel (OPT)



© Private
Save their homes

Palestinian families living in Hadidiya and Humsa hamlets in the West Bank, part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), face a constant risk of forced eviction by the Israeli army. Their movement is restricted and they are denied access to the water and land they need for survival, in an effort to force them out of their homes.

Dozens of families have had their homes repeatedly destroyed by Israeli forces, causing them to move and rebuild their shelters nearby under threat that these too will be destroyed. Some are reduced to living in tents and shacks despite the harsh desert weather.

The most recent example of demolition was on 3 December 2013, when Israeli troops demolished a structure in the hamlet of Hadidiya belonging to Yusef Bani Odeh, a resident farmer.

Postage: World

Noxolo Nogwaza
South Africa



© Private
Murdered LGBTI activist needs justice

On 24 April 2014, it will be three years since Noxolo Nogwaza was raped and beaten to death – apparently for being a lesbian. The 24-year-old was walking home after a night out with friends in KwaThema, a township east of Johannesburg, when she was attacked and her body dumped in a ditch. Her death is yet to be properly investigated and her killer or killers remain at large.

As an activist, Noxolo knew the risk of living openly as a lesbian woman. Homophobia and hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals are widespread in South Africa. Sexual assault and other physical attacks against LGBTI people are also frighteningly common.

LGBTI people often experience further victimisation by police officers or medical personnel when they seek help after an attack. In Noxolo's case, the police apparently failed to take critical steps to gather vital evidence.

Postage: World

TAKE ACTION **APPEAL** Urge the government to implement protection measures agreed by the Community to guarantee their safety. Ask for all the human rights abuses against the community to be investigated with those responsible brought to justice. Call for the right of civilians – including members of the Peace Community – not to be drawn into the hostilities and to be respected by all parties in the conflict.

▶ Mr Juan Manuel Santos Calderón
President of the Republic of Colombia, Palacio de Nariño,
Carrera 8. No 7-26, Bogotá DC
Colombia

Salutation: Dear President

▶ Chargé d'Affaires Mr Juan Manuel Uribe-Robledo
Embassy of Colombia
3 Hans Crescent
London SW1X 0LN
Fax: (020) 7561 1829

Salutation: Dear Mr Uribe-Robledo

TAKE ACTION **APPEAL** Express concern that the residents of Hadidiya and Humsa face forced eviction. Call for demolition and expulsion orders to be rescinded, confiscated property to be returned and obstructions to access to water, electricity and other basic goods removed.

▶ Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street
Hakirya
Jerusalem 91950
Israel

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

▶ His Excellency Mr Daniel Taub
Embassy of Israel
2 Palace Green
London W8 4QB
Fax: (020) 7957 9555

Salutation: Your Excellency

TAKE ACTION **APPEAL** Express concern that the investigation into Noxolo Nogwaza's murder has made no progress, and that such impunity places others at risk of discrimination, harassment and violence on the grounds of their gender identity. Urge the Tsakane police to thoroughly and impartially investigate Noxolo's death, and report on their progress.

▶ Colonel Petros Shilane
Station Commander
Tsakane Police Station
PO Box 70364
Tsakane 1548
South Africa

Salutation: Dear Colonel

▶ Acting High Commissioner Ms B Qwabe
South African High Commission
Trafalgar Square
London WC2N 5DP
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Salutation: Dear Acting High Commissioner