**Amnesty International UK**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [INSERT DATE OR EMBARGO UNTIL SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1 2014]**

**[INSERT NAME OF LOCAL GROUP] CALLS ON LOCAL PEOPLE TO ‘WRITE FOR RIGHTS’ THIS WINTER**

Members of ***[insert name of local group]*** are encouraging local people to show their solidarity with victims of human rights abuses around the world this winter as part of Amnesty’s annual Write for Rights campaign. **[include here any event you are holding]**

The campaign, which runs throughout November and December, asks the UK public to send personal messages of support and solidarity to people behind bars, or whose lives are in serious danger, simply for exercising their human rights.

They are people like Saudi Arabian prisoner of conscience, Raif Badawi, imprisoned and sentenced to 1000 lashes for founding an online forum for political debate; Chelsea Manning, the American soldier who leaked classified government information to the website Wikileaks, currently serving a 35year sentence in military prison, and UK-educated Mohammed al-Roken, a human rights lawyer serving a ten year sentence in the United Arab Emirates for criticising his government.

**[Insert name of spokesperson]** from **[insert name of local group]** said:

“We tend to take human rights for granted here but in much of the world speaking your mind is a hazardous occupation and can land you in jail.

“Letters of solidarity can make a real difference to people imprisoned, or in danger, for exercising their human rights. It reminds them they are not alone, and by showing the authorities that the world knows what’s going on, it can help to secure a prisoner's release, stop the harassment or change an unjust law.

“It would be fantastic if as many people in **[insert name of area]** as possible could put pen to paper or log into their social network accounts and get writing. Together we are powerful and can make a real difference.”

For more information about Write for Rights, including details of the cases and how to send a message of solidarity, visit [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

For more information about Write for Rights visit [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)

[**Insert contact details for local group and further details of your event if applicable]**