

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Greetings card and  
letter writing campaign 2014



Amnesty International

# LETTER WRITING WORKS

All our words together make a difference

‘When I feel I am left with no hope, I’ll get a letter out and it will inspire me. The light of hope appears again, and confidence in myself and my ability to change things returns!’

Message from **Ihar Tsikhanyuk**, beaten by police in Belarus for being gay, speaking about the support he received from Write for Rights 2013.



## POSTAGE RATES

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10g	97p	97p
20g	97p	£1.28
60g	£1.47	£2.15

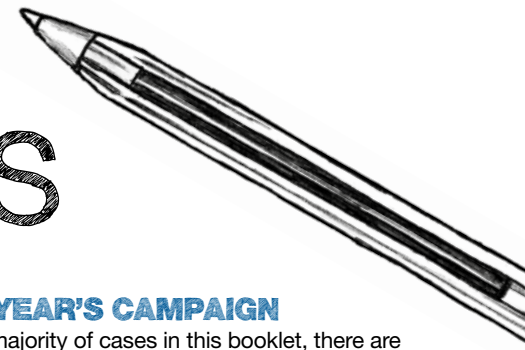
This booklet is suitable for audiences aged 14+. For younger supporters please download our youth casesheets. [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write) click on resources.

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# WRITE FOR RIGHTS



It only takes a few minutes to write a card or letter. But this simple act brings hope and comfort to people suffering human rights abuses.

For a prisoner wrongly detained, for families waiting for news of a relative who has ‘disappeared’, for survivors of abuse fighting for justice, messages of solidarity are a source of strength and inspiration.

Letters can pressure the authorities to address cruelty and injustice. Presidents, police chiefs and prison governors take note when they receive appeals to release a prisoner, stop the harassment of an activist or change an unjust law.

## CHANGE HAPPENS, HOPE GROWS

Three of the people featured in the campaign last year have been released from prison and one had his sentence reduced (see Updates, page 18). Even when we don’t immediately achieve the change we are hoping for, the powerful effect of these solidarity actions is evident in all the feedback we receive (see Feedback, page 22).

**‘I want to convey Eskinder’s gratitude and my own to everyone who has taken part, taken action or sent us letters. For him, it’s a huge source of encouragement and moral strength. The regime will be forced to release him and other prisoners of conscience. That kind of pressure, they can’t resist forever.’**

Message from Serkalem Fasil, whose husband is serving 18 years in jail in Ethiopia. The family received thousands of messages last year. You can still take action for Eskinder at [URL TK](http://URL.TK)

Read about the individuals we would like you to support this year, and how to take action. Then use your freedom to stand up for the freedom of others. A single letter can be brushed aside, but thousands of letters calling for change are harder to ignore.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

The Write for Rights Campaign runs from **1 November to 31 December**. International Human Rights Day is **10 December**.

## THIS YEAR’S CAMPAIGN

For the majority of cases in this booklet, there are two actions you can take:

- Send a solidarity message to the person or family suffering from human rights abuses
- Write an appeal letter targeting the authorities who have the power to remedy these abuses.

For some cases we ask you to make online solidarity actions or send tweets. We are featuring 12 stories of people who need your help this year, but if you want to do more we have seven additional cases. For details call **020 7033 1777** or go to [URL TK](http://URL.TK)

## GETTING STARTED

If you are new to this campaign, here are a few tips.

- Each page has all the information you need to act on one case. Just follow the advice given.
- Don’t feel you have to take action on all 12 cases – choose one or two if that is easier.
- Write your own personal message of support and solidarity. It’s always best to use your own words, but if you’re unsure, there is a suggested message as a guide.
- When writing to the authorities, include your name and address and country. This shows the letter is genuine and personal. Think about the people who read your letter. Write to them as one human being to another, but keep requests clear and polite.
- For more information, see Frequently Asked Questions on page 19.

## STAY INFORMED

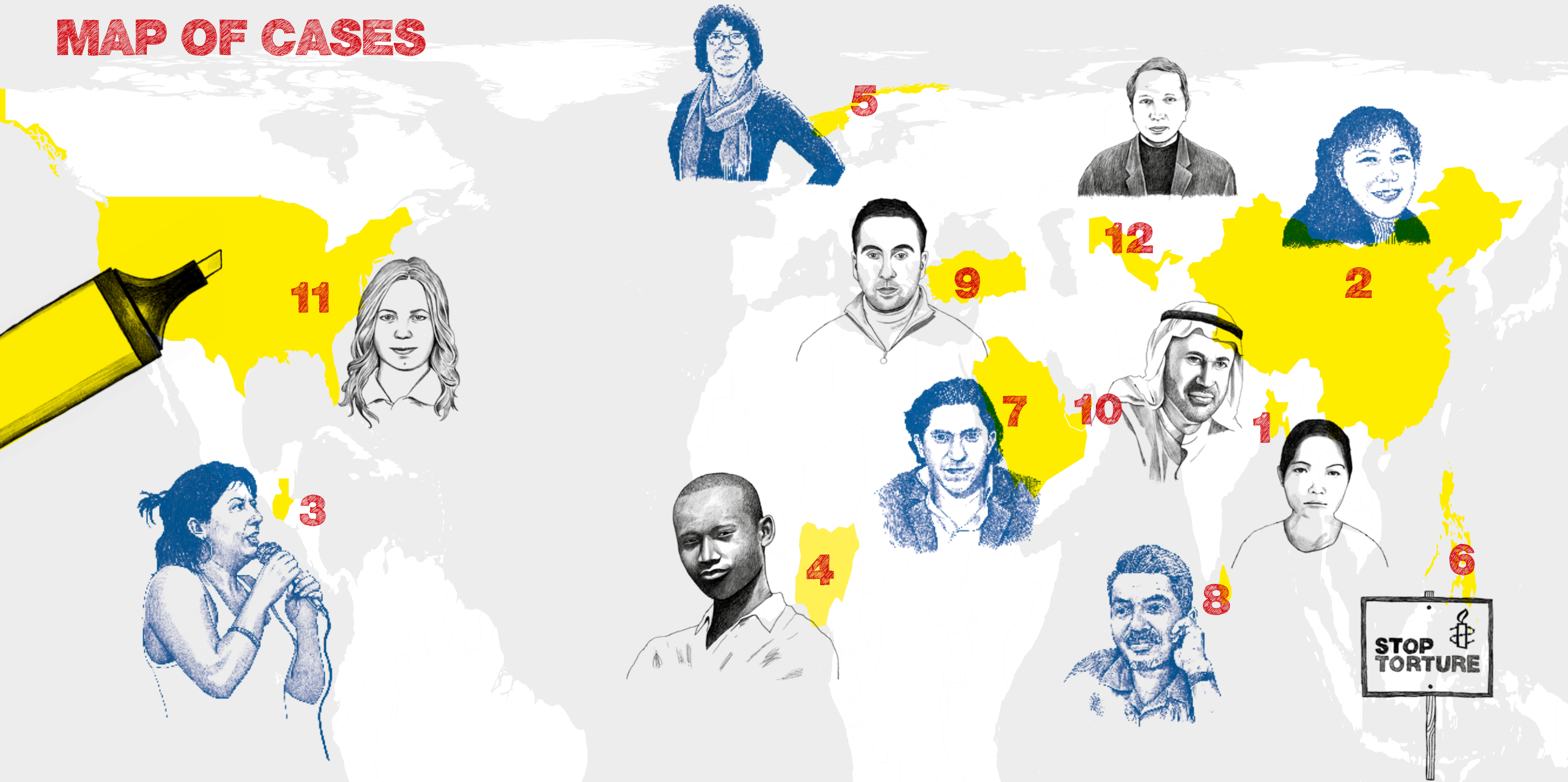
Our actions on behalf of the people featured in this booklet often need to change in response to new circumstances. For updates and new advice or actions on these cases check [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write) or contact:

Individuals at Risk programme  
Amnesty International UK  
Human Rights Action Centre  
17-25 New Inn Yard  
London EC2A 3EA  
**T: 020 7033 1777**  
**E: [sct@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:sct@amnesty.org.uk)**





# MAP OF CASES



**1** **BANGLADESH**  
Kalpana Chakma

**2** **CHINA**  
Liu Ping

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Raif Badawi

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Prageeth Eknaligoda

**9** **TURKEY**  
Hakan Yaman

**10** **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**  
Dr Mohammed al-Roken

**11** **USA**  
Chelsea Manning

**12** **UZBEKISTAN**  
Erkin Musaev

# BANGLADESH

## Kalpana Chakma

### 18 YEARS, NO JUSTICE

Kalpana Chakma was the organising secretary of the Hill Women's Federation, which campaigns for the rights of Indigenous peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh.

In the early hours of 12 June 1996, she and two of her brothers were abducted from their home by plain-clothed security officers. Her brothers Kalinda and Lal managed to escape and identified their three captors by name. However, the police failed to investigate. Kalpana Chakma, 23 at the time, was never seen again.

Despite an agreement signed 15 years ago, the Pahari Indigenous peoples are still waiting for the Bangladeshi government to restore traditional lands in the eastern Chittagong Hill Tracts. Tens of thousands are still landless and trapped in violent clashes with Bengali settlers.

In January 2013 a Bangladeshi court demanded a new investigation into the case but the police have yet to submit a report.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

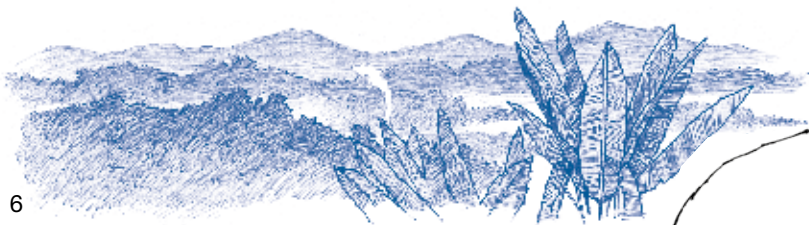
### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

**Kalicharan Chakma**  
c/o International CHT Commission  
Bangladesh Secretariat  
House # 1/3, Block-F Lalmatia  
Dhaka-1207  
Bangladesh

- **Preferred language** English or Bangla
- **Salutation** Dear Kalicharan
- **Suggested message** We stand with you in your struggle for justice.
- **Additional information** Kalicharan Chakma is Kalpana's brother.

### CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?**
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?**
- Include my name and address?**
- Download the message in another language?**



### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Urge Minister of Home Affairs Sheikh Hasina Wajed to ensure Kalpana Chakma's case is properly investigated and those responsible for her 'disappearance' brought to justice.**

**Write to:** Sheikh Hasina Wajed  
Minister of Home Affairs  
Prime Minister's Office  
Old Sangsad Bhaban  
Tejgaon  
Dhaka-1215  
Bangladesh

**Email:** [info@pmo.gov.bd](mailto:info@pmo.gov.bd)

**Salutation:** Dear Home Minister

### In your letter:

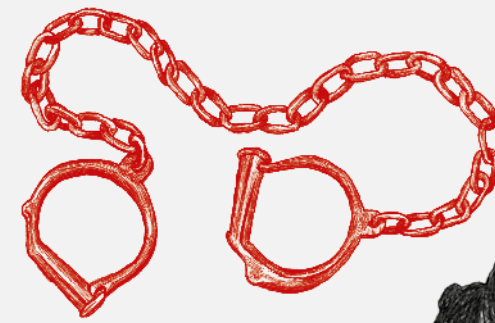
- Urge the Home Minister to give the Rangamati District police the resources needed to re-investigate Kalpana Chakma's 'disappearance' as demanded by the court order.
- Ask him to protect investigators and witnesses from the risk of reprisals.
- Call on him to ensure a thorough, independent re-investigation of the case, including interrogation of the three main suspects, and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

'I am very happy that young children across the world expressed their concerns for my family; at the same time, these letters remind me of my sister, whose fate remains unknown to us.' **Kalindi Kurmar Chakma**



# CHINA

## Liu Ping



### TORTURED AND IMPRISONED FOR FIGHTING CORRUPTION

In June 2014 activist Liu Ping was sentenced to six and a half years in jail.

She is one of many activists who have been harassed or detained for their links with the New Citizen's Movement, a peaceful network of activists which aims to promote government transparency, help the weak and expose corruption.

Liu Ping says she was tortured while in pre-trial detention, and remains at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. She is also being denied the medical care she needs and there are serious concerns for her health. Amnesty International considers Liu Ping to be a prisoner of conscience.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

**Liu Ping**  
Jiangxi Nanchang Women's Prison  
630 Changzheng Road  
Zhang Leng County  
Nanchang City  
Jiangxi Province  
330100  
People's Republic of China

- **Preferred language** Chinese
- **Salutation** Dear Liu Ping
- **Suggested message** We stand with you even when they all think you are defeated! Courage! Although you are in prison, you have inspired many others to defend human rights. We are thinking about you.
- **Additional information** 2 December is Liu Ping's 50th birthday.

### CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?**  
Liu Ping is a Christian
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?**
- Include my name and address?**
- Download the message in another language?**

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Urge President Xi Jinping to release Liu Ping.**

**Write to:** President Xi Jinping  
The State Council General Office  
2 Fuyoujie  
Xichengqu  
Beijingshi 100017  
People's Republic of China

*NB: Also send copies to the UK government calling on them to raise Liu Ping's case with the Chinese authorities.*

**Fax:** +86 10 6238 1025  
**Email:** [gov@govonline.cn](mailto:gov@govonline.cn)

**Salutation:** Dear President Xi Jinping

### In your letter:

- Call on the President to release Liu Ping immediately and unconditionally, because she was imprisoned solely for exercising her rights to freedom of expression and association.

'I am innocent; every step that I have taken, it has all been in the legitimate pursuit of equality, freedom and democracy. I have lived with what I believe in. History will declare my innocence.' **Liu Ping**



# GUATEMALA

## Yolanda Oquelí

### ACTIVIST INJURED IN SHOOTING

Yolanda Oquelí is the leader of the Frente Norte del Area Metropolitana (FRENAM), a group formed to protest against the damage caused by a gold mining project in their community. She and her fellow FRENAM members have been the victims of harassment, vandalism and death threats, simply for raising concerns about the lack of consultation from the state and mining company and how mining will affect local water sources.

On 13 June 2012, Yolanda was shot and seriously injured as she travelled home from a peaceful protest outside a mine site. No one was arrested for this attack. In July 2013 gun shots were fired near the protest site.

She has filed several complaints with the Public Prosecutor's Office, about the threats and harassment that she and her fellow activists have experienced, but they remain at risk.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

**Yolanda Oquelí (FRENAM)**  
**Colectivo Madreselva**  
**6 avenida "A"**  
**0-26 zona 2**  
**Ciudad de Guatemala**  
**Guatemala**

*NB: Include nature images, especially of streams and lakes, to reflect Yolanda and her colleagues' desire to protect the environment, because a vital part of their campaign is about protecting water sources.*

- **Preferred language** Spanish or English
- **Salutation** Dear Yolanda/Estimada Yolanda
- **Suggested message** I am sending this message of solidarity to you and all FRENAM activists to wish you success in your human rights work, and to let you know you are not alone, we are with you!
- **Additional information** 24 November is the anniversary of the issuing of the exploitation licence for the El Tambor mining project.

### CAN I

- ✓ Send a religious card or message?
- ✓ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✓ Include my name and address?
- ✓ Download the message in another language?

'Defending life, making heard the voice of the children who don't know the challenges they face – that's what gives me the strength to continue fighting, despite everything I have suffered.'  
**Yolanda Oquelí**

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Urge President Otto Perez Molina to thoroughly investigate the attack on Yolanda Oquelí and bring those responsible to justice.**

**Write to:** Otto Perez Molina  
 Presidente de la República  
 Casa Presidencial  
 6ª Avenida 4-41, Zona 1,  
 Puerta del Centro  
 Ciudad de Guatemala  
 Guatemala

**Fax:** +502 2221 4423  
**Online:** [www.facebook.com/ottoperezpp](http://www.facebook.com/ottoperezpp)  
[www.twitter.com/ottoperezmolina](http://www.twitter.com/ottoperezmolina)

**Salutation:** Dear President

### In your letter:

- Urge the President to open investigations into attacks on Yolanda Oquelí and her colleagues, and bring those responsible to justice.
- Call on him to provide protection measures for her and her family as long as they require them.
- Ensure the safety of all activists at the mine protest site so they can carry out their work without fear of further attacks or threats.



# NIGERIA

## Moses Akatugba



### TORTURED AND ON DEATH ROW

Moses Akatugba was 16 when he was arrested in November 2005 by the Nigerian army. He was accused of armed robbery, a crime he says he never committed.

After eight years in prison, he was sentenced to death by hanging and remains on death row. International law states that no one under the age of 18 at the time of the alleged crime should be sentenced to death.

Moses Akatugba says he was shot in the hand, beaten and hung for hours in interrogation rooms after his arrest. He claims police officers used pliers to extract his finger and toe nails and forced him to sign a 'confession'.

Since he was transferred to prison in March 2006, he sees his family only twice a month.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

**Human Rights, Social Development and Environmental Foundation (Moses Akatugba)**  
**PO Box 1800**  
**Diobu**  
**Port Harcourt**  
**Rivers State**  
**Nigeria**

- **Preferred language** English or Nigerian pidgin
- **Salutation** Dear Moses
- **Suggested message** You are not alone! I am thinking of you and send you my best wishes. Your friend from Amnesty International.
- **Additional information** 12 November is the anniversary of Moses Akatugba's death sentence.

### CAN I

- ✓ Send a religious card or message?
- ✓ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✓ Include my name and address?
- ✗ Download the message in another language?

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Urge the Governor of Delta State, Dr Emmanuel Uduaghan, to commute the death sentence and investigate the torture of Moses Akatugba.**

**Write to:** His Excellency Dr Emmanuel Uduaghan  
 Governor of Delta State  
 Office of the Governor  
 Government House  
 Asaba  
 Delta State  
 Nigeria

**Email:** [info@emmanueluduaghan.com.ng](mailto:info@emmanueluduaghan.com.ng)  
**Online:** [www.facebook.com/euduaghan](http://www.facebook.com/euduaghan)  
[www.twitter.com/Euduaghan](http://www.twitter.com/Euduaghan)

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

### In your letter:

- Urge the Governor to commute Moses Akatugba's death sentence.
- Ask him to ensure an independent investigation into allegations of torture by the police in Delta State.

'The pain of torture is unbearable. I never thought I would be alive till this day. The pain I went through in the hands of the officers was unimaginable. In my whole life, I have never been subjected to such inhuman treatment.'  
**Moses Akatugba**

# NORWAY

## John Jeanette Solstad Remø

### SEEKING LEGAL RECOGNITION OF HER GENDER

John Jeanette Solstad Remø is 65 years old and says 'I have been transgender all my life.' Sadly she had to hide and suppress this for many years.

In Norway, transgender people wishing to legally identify themselves by their chosen gender can only do so by completing a 'real sex conversion'. This involves psychiatric diagnosis and compulsory medical treatment, including surgery and mandatory sterilisation. John Jeanette does not want to go through this.

Her right to a private life is violated on a daily basis. Her identity documents indicate that she is male, so whenever she presents them – at the library or the pharmacy or staying at hotels – she faces lengthy questioning.

Legal gender recognition for John Jeanette would mean 'that I would be seen as the person that I feel on the inside.'

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

### SEND AN ONLINE SOLIDARITY MESSAGE:

[jsolstadreme@gmail.com](mailto:jsolstadreme@gmail.com)

- **Preferred language** Norwegian or English
- **Salutation** Dear John Jeanette
- **Suggested message** We support your campaign to be legally recognised as who you are
- **Additional information** Please tell John Jeanette about any actions taken and offer moral support.

### CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?
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- Include my name and address?
- Download the message in another language?

'When you have to spend your whole life trying to be who you really are but still get referred to as a man by public bodies and in everyday life, you never get to move on from that part of your past.'

**John Jeanette Solstad Remø**

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Urge the Minister of Health and Care services to allow John Jeanette Solstad Remø to have her gender legally recognised.**

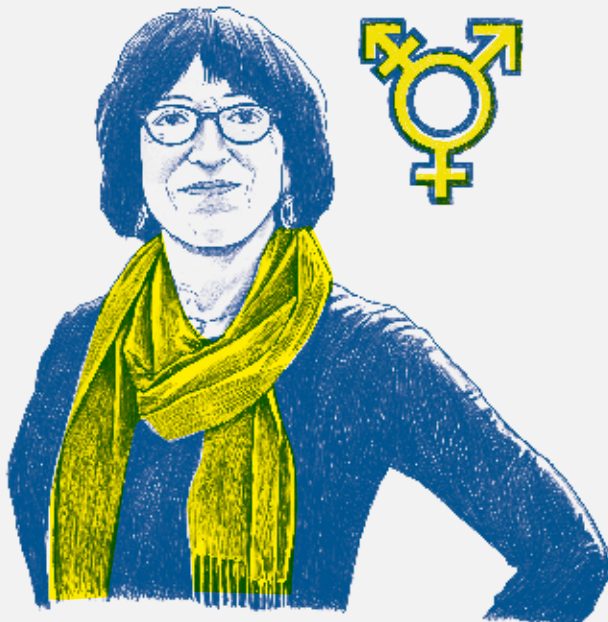
**Write to:** Bent Høie: Minister of Health and Care Services  
Ministry of Health and Care Services  
PO Box 8011 Dep  
0030 Oslo  
Norway

**Email:** [postmottak@hod.dep.no](mailto:postmottak@hod.dep.no)

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

### In your letter:

- Call on the Minister of Health and Care to allow John Jeanette Solstad Remø to change her legal gender on official documents issued by the state.
- Urge him to introduce a legislative proposal for enabling transgender people to obtain legal recognition in accordance with their own sense of gender identity.
- Ask him to abolish the requirement for transgender people to be sterilised before they can obtain legal gender recognition.



# PHILIPPINES

## Alfreda Disbarro



### PUNCHED IN THE FACE AND BEATEN WITH A CLUB

On 3 October 2013 Alfreda Disbarro was tortured by police in Parañaque City, Manila, Philippines, after being arrested at an internet café. She was kicked and beaten repeatedly, including with a police baton and a metal bar, suffering serious injuries as a result.

Over the following days, Alfreda Disbarro was in a lot of pain, had difficulty breathing and kept vomiting. During this period the police photographed her with three \$100 bills and a sachet of drugs.

Alfreda, who is a single mother is currently in detention, accused of selling and possessing illegal drugs, charges she strongly denies. She says that the police have fabricated evidence against her, and forced her to sign a blank piece of paper.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

**Alfreda Disbarro**  
**New Paranaque City Jail**  
**P. Dandan Street**  
**Brgy. La Huerta**  
**Paranaque City**  
**1700 Metro Manila**  
**Philippines**

- **Preferred language** English or Filipino
- **Salutation** Dear Alfreda
- **Suggested message** You are in our thoughts, and we hope that you are safe. You have been so brave to report your experience. Be strong and continue fighting for justice.
- **Additional information** 10 November is the anniversary of the Anti-Torture Act of 2009.

### CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?
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- Include my name and address?
- Download the message in another language?

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Urge the Acting Inspector General to investigate allegations of torture and other ill-treatment suffered by Alfreda Disbarro.**

**Write to:** Police Director Alexander Roldan  
Acting Inspector General  
Internal Affairs Service  
Philippine National Police Compound  
Camp General Crame  
Quezon City  
Metro Manila  
Philippines 1100

**Email:** [iaspd@pnp.gov.ph](mailto:iaspd@pnp.gov.ph)

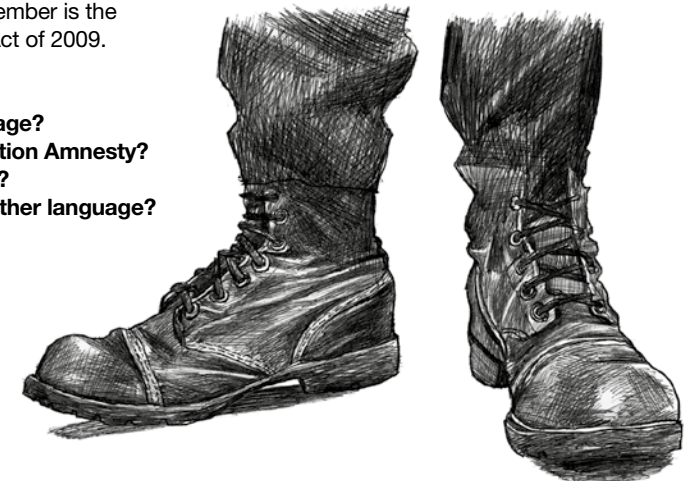
**Salutation:** Dear Inspector General

### In your letter:

- Call on the authorities to open a prompt and thorough investigation into Alfreda Disbarro's allegations of torture and other ill-treatment.
- Urge that if they are confirmed, the case is referred for public prosecution and immediate action is taken against police officers involved or complicit in the torture.

'He (the higher ranking police officer) asked, "Can you take my kicks?" I said, "No, sir." He then kicked me so hard that I fell against the wall. He punched me continuously and hit me with the wooden baton.'

**Alfreda Disbarro**





# SAUDI ARABIA

## Raif Badawi

### BLOGGER SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS AND 1,000 LASHES

On 7 May 2014 Raif Badawi was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for 'insulting Islam' and setting up a liberal web forum.

Raif Badawi, the co-founder of Saudi Arabian Liberals, an online forum for political and social debate, was arrested in June 2012 and detained in Briman prison, Jeddah.

He was charged with violating the country's information technology law and insulting Islamic religious figures through his online writing and hosting writing by others on his website.

Amnesty International considers Raif Badawi to be a prisoner of conscience held solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Ensaf Haidar  
c/o Amnistie Internationale Canada Francophone  
50 Rue Ste-Catherine Ouest  
Bureau 500  
Montréal  
Québec  
Canada H2X 3V4

You can also send a solidarity tweet to

@raif\_badawi

Hashtags # Raif\_Badawi #FreeRaif #Saudi

This Twitter account has been managed by his wife since his arrest.

- **Preferred language** Arabic or English
- **Salutation** Dear Raif
- **Suggested message** Our thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time. We admire your courage and hope you will be released soon.
- **Additional information** 13 January is Raif Badawi's birthday. Ensaf Haidar is Raif Badawi's wife.

### CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- Include my name and address?
- Download the message in another language?



### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the King of Saudi Arabia to release Raif Badawi immediately and unconditionally.

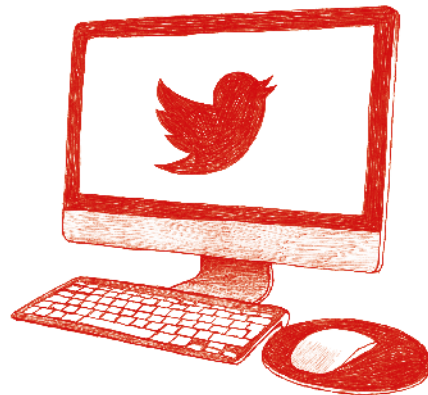
**Write to:** King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud  
Office of His Majesty the King  
Royal Court  
Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia

**Fax:** (via Ministry of the Interior)  
+966 11 403 3125 (please keep trying)

**Salutation:** Your Majesty

### In your letter:

- State that Raif Badawi is a prisoner of conscience and should be immediately and unconditionally released.
- Call on the authorities not to carry out any punishment of flogging, which would violate the prohibition on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in international law.



# SRI LANKA

## Prageeth Eknaligoda

### JOURNALIST 'DISAPPEARED' SINCE 2010

Sri Lankan journalist Prageeth Eknaligoda has been missing for nearly five years.

On 24 January 2010, he left work at the Lanka-e-News office but never arrived home. Amnesty believes he was subjected to enforced disappearance due to his work as a journalist and outspoken criticism of the authorities. He had declared his support for one of the main opposition candidates for the presidential elections, due to take place two days after he disappeared.

Since then his wife Sandya Eknaligoda has been campaigning for truth and justice for her husband, as well as other victims of enforced disappearance in Sri Lanka. However, official investigations have been ineffective and his whereabouts are still unknown.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Sandya Eknaligoda  
132/2  
Suhada Mawatha  
Hiripitya  
Pannipitiya  
Sri Lanka

- **Preferred language** English
- **Salutation** Dear Sandya
- **Suggested message** I am writing to you in solidarity with your campaign to seek justice for your husband Prageeth Eknaligoda. There are many others who support your struggle for truth and justice.
- **Additional information** 24 January is the fifth anniversary of Prageeth's disappearance.

### CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- Include my name and address?
- Download the message in another language?



### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the Inspector General of Police to urgently investigate the disappearance of Prageeth Eknaligoda.

**Write to:** N.K. Illangakoon  
Inspector General of Police (IGP)  
New Secretariat  
Colombo 1  
Sri Lanka

**Fax:** +94 11 2 440440  
**Email:** igp@police.lk

**Salutation:** Dear Inspector General

### In your letter:

- Call on the authorities to open a prompt and thorough investigation into the disappearance of Prageeth Eknaligoda.
- Ensure that attacks and abductions of journalists in Sri Lanka are properly investigated, and the perpetrators are brought to justice.

'Every time I come home and see all the cards and letters of support it reminds me that people are working on this. To be reminded of international solidarity every day gives me strength to keep going.' **Sandya Eknaligoda**



# TURKEY

## Hakan Yaman

### BEATEN, BURNED AND LEFT FOR DEAD

On 3 June 2013 Hakan Yaman 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 was sprayed by water cannon, repeatedly beaten in the head, and one officer gouged his eye out. He says: 'I heard one of them say "This one is finished, lets completely finish him off." They dragged me and threw me on to a fire.'

He has suffered severe and life changing injuries, including losing one eye and, as a result, his job as a mini bus driver.

Hakan Yaman has lodged a criminal complaint for attempted murder. However, no officers have yet been brought to justice despite video evidence captured by witnesses.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

C/o Hakan Yaman  
Amnesty International Turkey/Uluslararası  
Af Örgütü  
Hamalbaşı Cd. No 22  
Dükkan 2-D2-D3-D4  
34425 Beyoğlu/Istanbul  
Turkey

- **Preferred language** Turkish
- **Salutation** Dear Hakan
- **Suggested message** Dear Hakan. Wishing you a quick recovery and thinking of you.
- **Additional information** Hakan is a Formula 1 fan.

### CAN I

- ✓ **Send a religious card or message?**
- ✓ **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?**
- ✗ **Include my name and address?**
- ✓ **Download the message in another language?**

'They thought I was a protestor and they tried to kill me.' **Hakan Yaman**

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Urge the Minister of Interior to ensure an effective and impartial investigation of the attack on Hakan Yaman, so that those responsible can be prosecuted.**

**Write to:** Mr. Efkan Ala  
Minister of Interior  
İçişleri Bakanlığı  
Bakanlıklar  
Ankara, Turkey

**Fax:** +90 312 418 1795

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

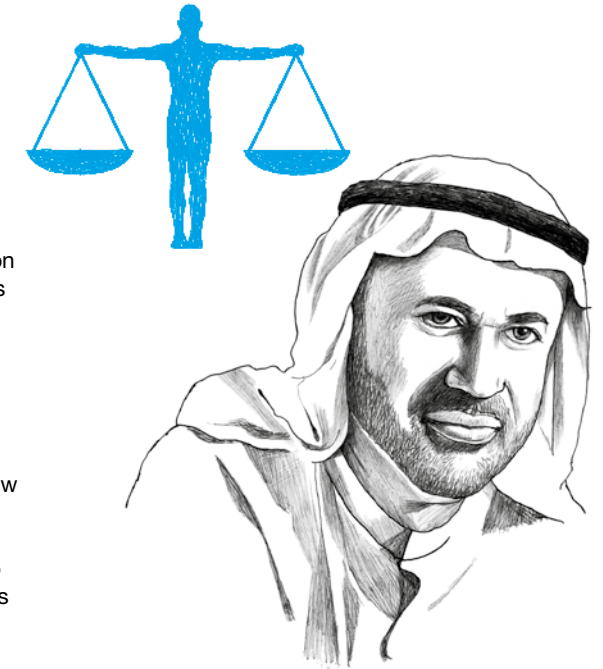
### In your letter:

- Briefly outline what happened to Hakan Yaman and the severity of his injuries.
- Express concern at delays in the prosecutor's investigation.
- Call on the Minister to ensure the full co-operation of the security directorates and individual police officers with the investigation, so that the officers responsible can be identified and brought to justice.



# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)

## Dr Mohammed al-Roken



### HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER JAILED FOR 10 YEARS

Mohammed al-Roken, a human rights lawyer and long-time Amnesty member, is serving a 10-year prison sentence in the UAE, following his conviction on 2 July 2013 in a mass trial of government critics and reform activists. He had previously been harassed for a number of years because of his human rights work.

In a crackdown on human rights defenders, this trial – known as 'UAE 94' – was an attempt to silence calls for reforms. He was among 69 out of 94 defendants convicted of attempting to overthrow the government.

The trial was politically motivated and grossly unfair, and the defendants were denied the right to appeal the court's verdict. Mohammed al-Roken is a prisoner of conscience.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Muna Mohammed Yousif AlRaees  
PO Box 60438  
Dubai  
United Arab Emirates

- **Preferred language** English or Arabic
- **Salutation** Dear Dr al-Roken and family
- **Suggested message** Our thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time. We admire your courage and hope that you will be released soon.
- **Additional information** Dr al-Roken likes travel and poetry. He studied at Warwick University.

### CAN I

- ✗ **Send a religious card or message?**
- ✓ **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?**
- ✓ **Include my name and address?**
- ✓ **Download the message in another language?**

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Urge President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to immediately and unconditionally release Dr Mohammed al-Roken.**

**Write to:** President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
Ministry of Presidential Affairs  
Corniche Road  
Abu Dhabi  
POB 280  
Abu Dhabi  
United Arab Emirates

**Fax:** +971 2 622 2228  
**Email:** ihtimam@mopa.ae

**Salutation:** Your Highness

### In your letter:

- Call on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Dr Mohammed Al-Roken.
- Urge them to ensure he has immediate and regular access to his family, lawyers and medical assistance, and protection from torture and other ill treatment.



## USA

### Chelsea Manning

**CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS**



#### 35-YEAR SENTENCE FOR BLOWING THE WHISTLE ON ABUSES

In July 2013 US Army Private Chelsea (then known as Bradley) Manning was sentenced to 35 years' imprisonment after leaking classified government material to the website WikiLeaks.

Some of this material pointed to potential human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law by US troops, among others, and by the CIA in its counter-terror operations.

Chelsea Manning claimed she acted in the public interest, hoping to spark a meaningful debate on the costs of war, specifically on the conduct of the US military in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, she was not permitted to present this as evidence at trial, only to explain her motives at the sentencing phase.

Before her conviction, she had already been held for three years in pre-trial detention, including 11 months in conditions which the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture described as cruel and inhumane.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

#### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Chelsea E Manning 89289  
1400 North Warehouse Road  
Fort Leavenworth  
Kansas 66027-2304  
USA

- Preferred language English
- Salutation Dear Chelsea
- Suggested message <<TO COME>>
- Additional information: 17 December is Chelsea Manning's birthday.

#### CAN I

- ✓ Send a religious card or message?
- ✓ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✓ Include my name and address?
- ✗ Download the message in another language?

'It was never my intention to hurt anyone. I only wanted to help people. When I chose to disclose classified information, I did so out of a love for my country and a sense of duty to others.' **Chelsea Manning**

#### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Call on the President to grant Chelsea Manning clemency and release her, and urgently investigate the potential human rights violations exposed by the leaks.**

**Write to:** President Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20500  
USA

**Email:** (via website comment page)  
[www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments)

**Salutation:** Dear President Obama

#### In your letter:

- Call on the President to commute Chelsea Manning's sentence to time served in pre-trial detention and to release her immediately, in view of her motivation, the treatment she endured in detention, and unfair aspects of her trial.
- Urge him to investigate the potential human rights violations Chelsea exposed.
- Urge him to strengthen protection for whistleblowers.

## UZBEKISTAN

### Erkin Musaev

#### JAILED AFTER UNFAIR TRIALS

Erkin Musaev, a former Ministry of Defence official, was working for the UN Development Programme in Uzbekistan when he was detained by the National Security Service (SNB) in January 2006.

He was charged with spying, held incommunicado for several weeks, and reportedly subjected to a month of daytime beatings, night-time interrogations and threats to harm his family.

He eventually signed a confession on condition that the SNB leave his family alone. Erkin Musaev was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for treason and abuse of office following three unfair trials in 2006 and 2007.

He is serving his sentence in north-western Uzbekistan and is in need of qualified medical care which he is not receiving.

■ [<<TO COME>>](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/)

#### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Erkin Musaev  
c/o Individuals at Risk programme  
Amnesty International UK  
17-25 New Inn Yard  
London EC2A 3EA

- Preferred language Uzbek or Russian (Erkin Musaev speaks English, however prison authorities will not pass messages if they are unable to read it).
- Salutation Dear Erkin
- Suggested message Uzbek: Siz doim bizning uilarimizda – Siz doim bizning uylarimizda (Our thoughts are with you).
- Additional information: 8 December is Constitution Day in Uzbekistan.

#### CAN I

- ✗ Send a religious card or message?
- ✗ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✗ Include my name and address?
- ✓ Download the message in another language?

'Erkin, although he had to endure a lot of terrible things, is not giving up. He lives in the hope of a better future... He wants to help others who need help and support and who have survived the horrors of injustice.' **Father of Erkin Musaev**

#### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Urge Prosecutor General Rashidzhon Kodirov to immediately and unconditionally release Erkin Musaev.**

**Write to:** Prosecutor General Rashidzhon Kodirov  
Prosecutor General's Office of  
Uzbekistan  
ul. Gulyamova 66  
Tashkent 700047  
Uzbekistan

**Fax:** +998 71 133 39 17  
**Email:** [prokuratura@lawyer.uz](mailto:prokuratura@lawyer.uz)

**Salutation:** Dear Prosecutor General

#### In your letter:

- Urge him to release Erkin Musaev on the grounds that repeated calls for a fair retrial have gone unheeded for eight years.
- Call for a prompt investigation into allegations that he was tortured in custody and to bring the perpetrators to justice.



# UPDATES

Last year's **Write for Rights** campaign led to the release of three prisoners featured and many more people at risk of human rights abuses felt safer and more hopeful. Worldwide people from 143 countries took a record-breaking 2.3 million actions. Here's an update from the twelve cases.

**AFGHANISTAN**  
**Afghan Women Skills Development Centre**  
**<<TO COME>>**

**BANGLADESH**  
**Kalpana Chakma**  
The family received over 5,000 solidarity cards.

**BELARUS**  
**Ihar Tsihanyuk**  
More than 172,000 people took action raising awareness of challenges faced by the LGBTI community. 'When I feel I am left with no hope, I'll get a letter out and it will inspire me. The confidence in myself returns!'

**BRAZIL**  
**Láisa Santos Sampaio**  
There were no further developments.

**BURMA**  
**Dr Tun Aung**  
More than 120,000 messages were sent to the authorities calling for his release. Dr Tun has had his 17-year sentence reduced, and is due to be released in 2015.

**CAMBODIA**  
**Yorm Bopha**  
She was released on bail in November 2013 and the authorities received nearly 253,000 appeals. She continues to campaign for her community. 'I am very happy now I know we are not alone.'

**ETHIOPIA**  
**Eskinder Nega**  
The journalist is still serving his 18 year prison sentence. His wife Serkalem was overwhelmed by the solidarity messages: 'I cannot emphasise enough the positive impact and encouragement we got from the campaign.'

**HONDURAS**  
**COFADEH**  
The human rights activists received 5,000 solidarity messages and more than 51,000 appeals called on the authorities to protect them. 'We were able to see the international support which is so necessary for us to be able to continue our risky work.'

**MEXICO**  
**Miriam López**  
She is still fighting for justice for her kidnap and torture by soldiers. 'Thank you for supporting me, even though you don't know me. For the cards, for the lanterns, for everything – thank you.'

**OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**  
**Nabi Saleh**  
The villagers continue to protest against an illegal Israeli settlement which has taken over their farmland, and said messages helped raise awareness of their struggle.

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**  
**The Bolotnaya 3**  
Vladimir Akimenkov was released in December 2013. After being sent for forcible psychiatric treatment in hospital, Mikhail Kosenko is now able to continue treatment at home with his family. Artiom Saviolov remains in prison.

**TUNISIA**  
**Jabeur Mejri**  
After more than 158,000 people petitioned the authorities, the blogger was released in March 2014. Sadly, after a confrontation with officials, he was arrested again a month later.

**ZIMBABWE**  
**WOZA**  
The members remain at risk due to their work.



# FAQ

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Why send cards to communities, organisations and families?

People working for organisations or community groups can often be under threat because they are defending human rights. Receiving a mass of cards can really boost morale. Sometimes it's not possible to write to an individual directly (for example where someone has been 'disappeared' or is in prison and unable to receive mail). The family can benefit from your support, however, and may be able to share your message with the individual, for example at prison visits.

### In some cases you advise not to send a religious card or to mention Amnesty. Why?

This is for the safety of the recipients. In some cases association with a particular faith or with Amnesty's human rights work could put them at greater risk.

### What counts as a non-religious card?

Cards illustrated with things like snowy scenes, fir trees or robins. The message 'Season's Greetings' is non-religious too.

### Can I send cards produced by other organisations?

This is generally fine, as long as their work cannot be considered 'political'.

### What if I receive a reply?

Please send a copy to the Individuals at Risk programme.

### Some of the addresses are long and complicated. Is there a way of making this easier?

You can download and print address labels for each case from [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)

### How do I know that sending a card will not put that person at risk?

We have checked with those featured in the campaign (or their families or other representatives) that they are happy to be part of the campaign and that it is safe for them to receive cards throughout the two months.

### I have the capacity to take action on more cases than the 12 included in this campaign. Can I have more?

The 12 cases have been carefully chosen and we would ask that people focus on them in the first instance. However we have seven extra cases requiring solidarity for people who want more. Contact [sct@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:sct@amnesty.org.uk)

### What can I do once the campaign ends?

We welcome your continued action for individuals at risk throughout the year. You can find the latest actions or sign up to be part of our Urgent Action network at [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)

### I'm running an event/stall. Do you have any materials to make this easier?

Yes. You can download casesheets specifically designed for stalls from our website. Each casesheet includes a solidarity action and a letter writing action. For individual casesheets, download from the web address at the bottom of each page in this booklet; or for a pack of all 12 download from [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)

## RESOURCES

### PRINT

To order more materials, call **01788 545553**. Or email [amnesty@tfstore.co.uk](mailto:amnesty@tfstore.co.uk) (put Write for Rights materials in the subject line of the email).

### WFR 018

Write for Rights Campaign Booklet 2014 with information on all cases

### WFR 019

Write for Rights Poster

### WFR 020

Map of cases

You can also download these at [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)



### ONLINE

Go to [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write) to keep up to date with the campaign and to download additional resources, including:

- Casesheets to download and print with solidarity and appeal actions (useful for events and stalls)
- Translations of suggested solidarity messages
- Address labels
- Any updates on cases
- Casesheets written for a younger audience
- Top tips for organising a Write for Rights event
- Good news from previous campaigns
- Photo gallery.

If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact our Supporter Care Team on **020 7033 1777**.



# CREATIVE IDEAS

## GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR MESSAGES OF SOLIDARITY

### PERSONALISED CARDS

- Design and make your own cards.
- Instead of a card, send a photo of yourself holding up a message of solidarity.



## GET OTHERS INVOLVED

### AT HOME

Invite friends and family round for coffee and mince pies and ask them to sign greetings cards. Or send them this booklet with your seasonal cards and ask them to send a card to someone featured in the campaign.

### AT WORK

Ask colleagues to sign cards over lunch or tea and cake – challenge teams to make the most creative one.

### IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Set up a stall – in a coffee shop, bookshop, library, place of worship or shopping centre – and ask passers-by to sign individual cards, or a giant card from the whole community. Ask people for a donation to help cover the postage cost. Invite the mayor or local MP to join in.

### IN SCHOOL

Casesheets written for a younger audience can be downloaded from [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write). See our code of conduct on working with young people at [www.amnesty.org.uk/youth](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/youth)

## TIPS FOR CARD-WRITING EVENTS

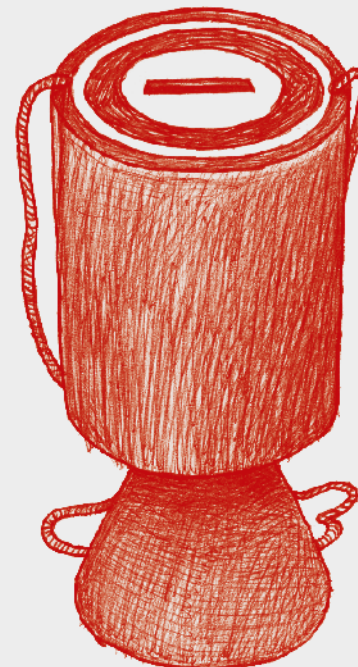
- Choose a few cases to focus on. Download and print individual casesheets and translated solidarity messages from [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write).
- Order posters, maps and booklets free of charge: call **01788 545553**.
- Stock up on envelopes, stamps, pens and cards, or materials to make your own cards.
- Address and stamp envelopes in advance.
- Have a tin available to collect donations towards postage.
- 'Amnestea parties' combine campaigning and fundraising – to order a kit call **020 7033 1682** or download from [www.amnesty.org.uk/tea](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/tea).
- Promote your event. Write to your local newspaper, or send a press release to your local radio. For a sample press release, call **020 7033 1552** or email [press@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:press@amnesty.org.uk).

## ONLINE ACTIONS AT EVENTS

- Take a group photo to upload. Ask everyone in the photo to sign their name on a letter to the authorities.
- Try to have a laptop available for people to add online solidarity messages.

## SHARE IDEAS WITH OTHERS

Send your photos to [iar@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:iar@amnesty.org.uk).





# FEEDBACK



© Jenny Holligan

'I would like to thank Amnesty International for helping and supporting my community as well as myself and thank all of the people who devoted their time to write petition letters to the government to request my release. I am very happy that we are not alone.'

**Yorm Bopha**, Cambodian housing rights activist – soon after her release and responding to last year's Write for Rights campaign.



'When we receive cards from Amnesty International activists... we read them with love, because we know they were made with love for us. And they mean recognition of our work. That is a big source of satisfaction for us as human rights defenders.'

**Kenia Oliva** of the Honduran Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH) – a case from last year's Write for Rights



'It's incredible that there is so much support from different countries and cultures, and that people who don't even know me feel solidarity with me and support my struggle. I truly thank you all.'

Mexican torture survivor **Miriam Lopez** sends a message back after the Write for Rights campaign 2013



© Agencia Reforma



© Private

'When I received the letters the first day I was debating with the delivery person "No these could not be mine, I could never receive so many letters!" I was elated. It was beyond my expectation. I received five huge packages of letters. There were far too many to count. Nafkot looks at the pictures in the letters. This is a huge resource of encouragement for me and for Eskinder.'

**Serkalem Fasil** on the support she and her son Nafkot received from Write for Rights 2013. Her journalist husband Eskinder is serving 18 years in jail for criticising the government in Ethiopia



## CREDITS

**Illustrations** Billie Jean  
**Design** Amnesty International UK



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today to defend human rights.

**amnesty.org.uk/join**

**020 7033 1777**



If you require this document in an  
alternative format please contact:

**Telephone 020 7033 1777**

**Textphone 020 7033 1664**

**Email [sct@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:sct@amnesty.org.uk)**

WFFR018



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