

TAKE ACTION FOR

BAYRAM AND GIYAS

Every November and December, Amnesty supporters take part in our global Write for Rights campaign and send messages to people who are being treated unfairly. This year we're asking junior supporters to help two students in Azerbaijan, Bayram and Giyas.

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



© Bayram Mammadov

Bayram Mammadov



© SANCAQ Production

Giyas Ibrahimov

'Help me bring the people who tortured me to justice.'

Bayram Mammadov

BAYRAM AND GIYAS' STORY

Bayram and Giyas are students in Azerbaijan. They are also 'human rights activists' – people who try to protect the human rights of themselves and others.

Bayram and Giyas are unhappy with the Azerbaijani government, which severely restricts people's freedoms. So they sprayed a graffiti message on a statue of the former president in protest.

But after posting a photo of the graffiti on Facebook, Bayram and Giyas were arrested. The police falsely accused them having illegal drugs and then beat them up until they 'confessed'. We believe they were actually arrested because of their graffiti.

If Bayram and Giyas are found guilty in court, they could be put in prison for up to 12 years.

HUMAN RIGHT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

After World War II, governments came together and drew up a list of human rights that belong to everyone in the world. They called it the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 11 of the declaration says nobody should be blamed for something until it has been proven. If someone says we've done something wrong, we have the right to show that we didn't. We shouldn't be punished for something we didn't do or for something that wasn't against the law when we did it.

TALKING POINTS:

- Bayram and Giyas were beaten up until they 'confessed' to possessing illegal drugs: if someone is scared of being hurt, would that affect what they might say?
- Why is it important that people accused of a crime have the right to show they are innocent?

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2016

CAMPAIGN FOR JUNIOR ACTIVISTS (AGED 7-11)

AZERBAIJAN

Population:

9.4 million

Capital:

Baku

Official languages:

Azerbaijani

Question:

Can you name two countries that share a border with Azerbaijan?



TAKE ACTION

Amnesty stands up for people whose human rights have been taken away, like Bayram and Giyas. We do this through solidarity actions and appeal actions:

- **Solidarity actions** are sent to people whose human rights have been taken away, and their family and friends. They show we support them and their struggle for justice.
- **Appeal actions** are sent to people in power to urge them to do something about an important issue.

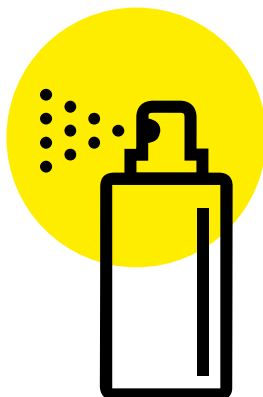
TAKE SOLIDARITY ACTION

Your messages show Bayram and Giyas that we are thinking about them. Even if the messages are not given to them, they may make the prison guards treat them better.

GET CREATIVE

Unlike in the UK, people in Azerbaijan are not allowed to express their dislike of the government – this is why Bayram and Giyas were arrested. Show your support for them by:

- Writing a graffiti-style message and sending a photo of it.
- Drawing a big chalk message on the pavement – though make sure you ask permission first.
- Creating your own graffiti-style postcards.
- Or covering a disposable table cloth with your graffiti art, and sending it or a photo of it to us.



TAKE APPEAL ACTION

We are writing appeal letters to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. We want him to immediately release Bayram and Giyas.



SAMPLE LETTER

Your Excellency,

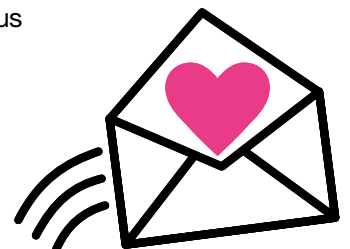
- Tell him what you have learnt about Bayram and Giyas and what happened to them.
- Demand that Bayram and Giyas are immediately released.
- Ask him to respect the human rights of everyone in Azerbaijan.

CAN I

- ✓ Send a religious card or message?
- ✓ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✓ Include my name and address?

Send your letters and cards to us and we will forward them on.

Alice Sims
Human Rights Education Unit
Freepost RLUU-XXEY-CTEE
Amnesty International UK
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA



Don't forget to include your completed Write for Rights cover letter, your name, and the name of your school with your cards and letters – but don't write them on the cards or letters themselves.

TAKE ACTION FOR

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE PEACE RIVER VALLEY

Every November and December, Amnesty supporters take part in our global Write for Rights campaign and send messages to people who are being treated unfairly. This year we're asking junior supporters to help indigenous peoples in Canada's Peace River Valley.

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



'This is my home. This is where I want to raise my children and my grandchildren. What will we have left?'

Helen Knott

THE STORY OF THE PEACE RIVER VALLEY

People like Helen Knott have lived in the beautiful Peace River Valley in Canada for thousands of years. They are known as 'indigenous peoples' and use the land to hunt, fish, farm, gather berries and natural medicines, hold ceremonies and bury their ancestors. This is known as their 'way of life'.

A hundred years ago, Helen's great-great grandfather signed a legal agreement with the Canadian government to protect his people's way of life. But the government has broken its promise. It plans to build a big electricity-producing dam in the valley, even though the indigenous peoples don't want it. The dam would flood their land, damage their way of life, and destroy important wildlife habitats.

HUMAN RIGHT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

After World War II, governments came together and drew up a list of human rights that belong to everyone in the world. They called it the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 22 of the declaration says that we should all have the right to a home.

TALKING POINTS:

- Why is it important for us to have the 'right to a home'?
- Should governments ever be able to take away someone's homes without their agreement?

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2016

CAMPAIGN FOR JUNIOR ACTIVISTS (AGED 7-11)

CANADA

Population:
36 million

Capital:
Ottawa

Official languages:
English and French

Question:
Can you name the three
oceans that surround
Canada?



TAKE ACTION

Amnesty stands up for people whose human rights have been taken away, like indigenous peoples in the Peace River Valley. We do this through solidarity actions and appeal actions:

- **Solidarity actions** are sent to people whose human rights have been taken away, and their family and friends. They show we support them and their struggle for justice.
- **Appeal actions** are sent to people in power to urge them to do something about an important issue.

TAKE SOLIDARITY ACTION

Your message helps to give indigenous peoples in the Peace River Valley the strength to fight for their home. We will display all the messages at a special event in Canada later this year.

GET CREATIVE

The Peace River Valley is a special place for the indigenous peoples who live there. Show them your support by making a short film, taking a photo or drawing a picture of your favourite place. Say why you like it so much and tell them why you support their fight to save their home.

GO DIGITAL

Ask your parent, guardian or teacher to share your messages on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Use the hashtag #WithThePeaceRiver and we will add them to our special solidarity website.



TAKE APPEAL ACTION

Write to Canadian Prime Minister
Justin Trudeau:

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Prime Minister,

- Tell him what you have learnt about the Peace River Valley and the indigenous peoples who live there.
- Let him know why you think their homes should not be destroyed.
- Urge him to uphold the law and not build the dam without the agreement of the indigenous peoples.

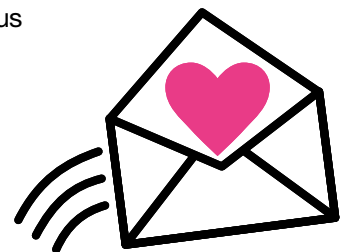
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