Amnesty International [group]

**PRESS RELEASE**

IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2016 [OR ANY DATE **AFTER** 1 NOV]

**“PHENOMENALLY SUCCESSFUL” LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES IN [TOWN]**

**“This is likely to be one of the most important letters you’ll ever write. Someone’s life could depend on it.” - Amnesty group chair [name]**

[**www.amnesty.org.uk/write**](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)

Now in its fifth year, Amnesty International [group] launches its flagship annual letter-writing campaign, *Write for Rights* across [area]. Local residents are encouraged to write a letter or send a card of support and encouragement to men and women around the world whose human rights and freedoms have been denied.

*Write for Rights* goes back to the roots of Amnesty, which began campaigning with supporters writing letters of support to those affected by human rights abuses, as well as letters of concern to governments globally.

[Option: Amnesty Group is hosting its letter writing event at [insert details]]

Amnesty International (GROUP) spokesperson, (NAME) said:

“Since its inception, Amnesty’s *Write for Rights* has been phenomenally successful. People who were unfairly imprisoned have been freed; human rights defenders who have been threatened and harassed by authorities have been able to live freely without intimidation, and forced evictions have been halted.

“Sending a message of support to those whose rights are being abused and also to the authorities on that person’s behalf is so powerful.

“Imagine drowning in thousands of letters of encouragement and solidarity – in fact, imagine the officials who will see and deliver thousands of cards to the victims and their families. The effect on both of them is priceless.

“It shows the authorities that that individual is not alone and that all over the world thousands of people are standing up with them, and for them.

“We encourage everyone to get involved. This is likely to be one of the most important letters you’ll ever write. Someone’s life could depend on it.”

Year after year Amnesty sees successes as a result of its letter-writing campaign. In 2015 thousands of people across the global wrote messages of support for Albert Woodfox – the longest-serving isolated prisoner in the USA. Albert had spent 43 years in solitary confinement. In February this year, Albert was finally freed.

People featured in this year’s campaign include Fomoseh Ivo Feh, a young man in Cameroon, who faces 20 years in prison for forwarding a sarcastic text message, and Máxima Acuña, a subsistence farmer in Peru, who is standing up to intimidation and threats of forced eviction.

Also featured is a photojournalist in Egypt called Shawkan, who was beaten, arrested and has been held without trial for three years for taking photos at a demonstration in Cairo, and British-Iranian charity worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, arrested in April this year at Tehran airport as she was about to board a return flight to London with her 22-month-old daughter Gabriella. She has reportedly been sentenced to five years in jail on unspecified “national security charges” after a short trial.

**Background information**

[www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)

**ENDS**

For more information contact:

(Name, number, email)

Sir / Madam,

Every year, thousands of people in the UK write letters in solidarity with those suffering human rights abuses around the world as part of Amnesty’s Write for Rights campaign.

As a result, people have been freed after being unfairly imprisoned, threats and harassment against human rights activists have reduced, and lives changed for the better overall.

We’re delighted to host another Write for Rights event again this year and invite everyone in [town] to come along.

Your letter can help to make a big difference to people’s lives. From Máxima Acuña, a farmer in Peru who is standing up to intimidation and threats of forced eviction, to Fomosoh Ivo Feh a young man in Cameroon facing 20 years in prison for forwarding a sarcastic text message, people around the world urgently need the support of others around the world including readers of [paper].

Come and get involved. By writing a letter, you can change a life.

www.amnesty.org.uk/write

Yours sincerely

[name]

[group]