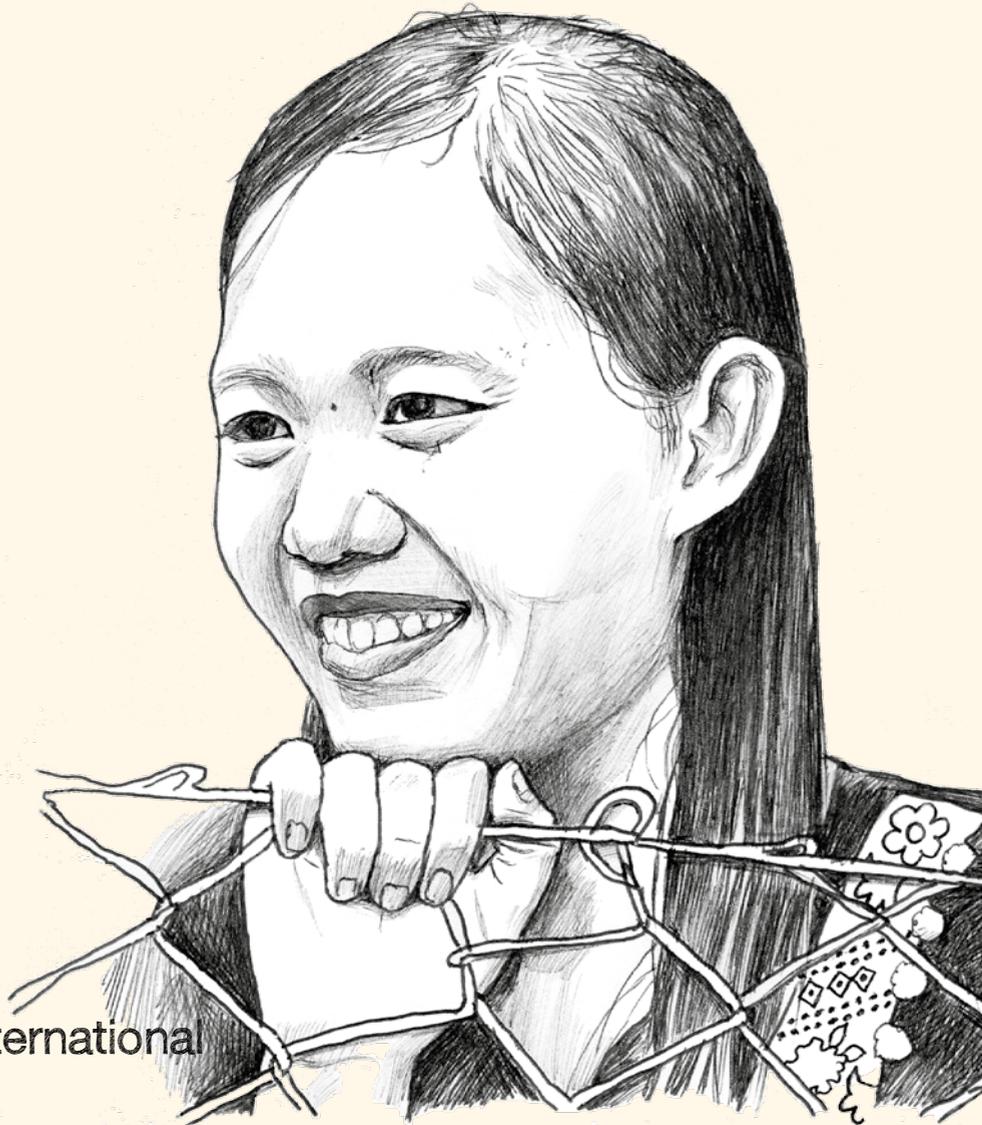




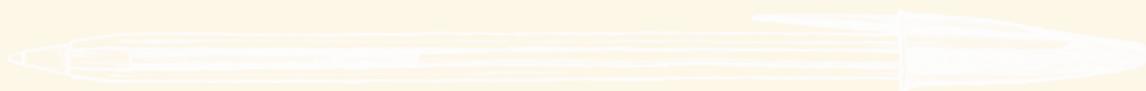
WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Greetings card and
letter writing campaign 2015



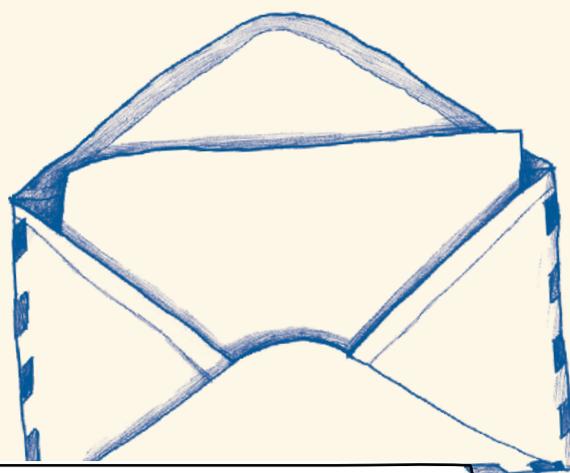
Amnesty International

All our words together make a difference



'I've never met these people but they used their time, money, energy and I received thousands of letters and cards from them...They are the reason I am free; they are my heroes.'

Moses Akatugba, who was tortured in prison and sentenced to death for a crime he says he never committed. In 2015 he was officially pardoned and released.



POSTAGE RATES

These costs were correct at time of print. For the latest guidance on pricing and to buy postage online go to www.royalmail.com or phone **03457 740 740**.

Weight not over	Europe	Rest of World
10g	£1	£1
20g	£1	£1.33
100g	£1.52	£2.25

This booklet is suitable for audiences aged 14+.

For younger supporters please download our youth casesheets.

www.amnesty.org.uk/write
click on resources.

INSIDE

Write for Rights	3
Map	4-5
Cases	6-17
Updates from last year	18
Frequently Asked Questions	19
Creative ideas	20
Feedback	22

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

It only takes a few minutes to write a card or letter. But this simple act means a lot to someone whose rights are being abused.

For a prisoner wrongly detained, for family members waiting for news of a relative who has 'disappeared', for a torture survivor fighting for justice, cards bearing messages of solidarity are a source of hope, 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.

Even when we don't immediately achieve the change we are hoping for, the powerful effect of cards and letters from people like you is evident in the feedback we receive (see page 22).

'I cannot describe my feeling, to wake up one day and find that the whole world is talking about Raif's case. It is a very beautiful feeling.'

Ensaf Heidar, wife of imprisoned Saudi blogger Raif Badawi

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 people suffering human rights abuses
- + Write a letter appealing to the authorities who have the power to remedy the abuses.

For some cases we ask you to make online solidarity actions or send tweets.

This booklet has 12 stories of people who need your help, but if you want to do more we have eight additional cases. For details call **020 7033 1777**, email **iar@amnesty.org.uk** or go to **amnesty.org.uk/write**

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. See Frequently Asked Questions, page 19, for explanations about the advice.
- + Don't feel you have to take action on all 12 cases: choose one or two if that's 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, 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.

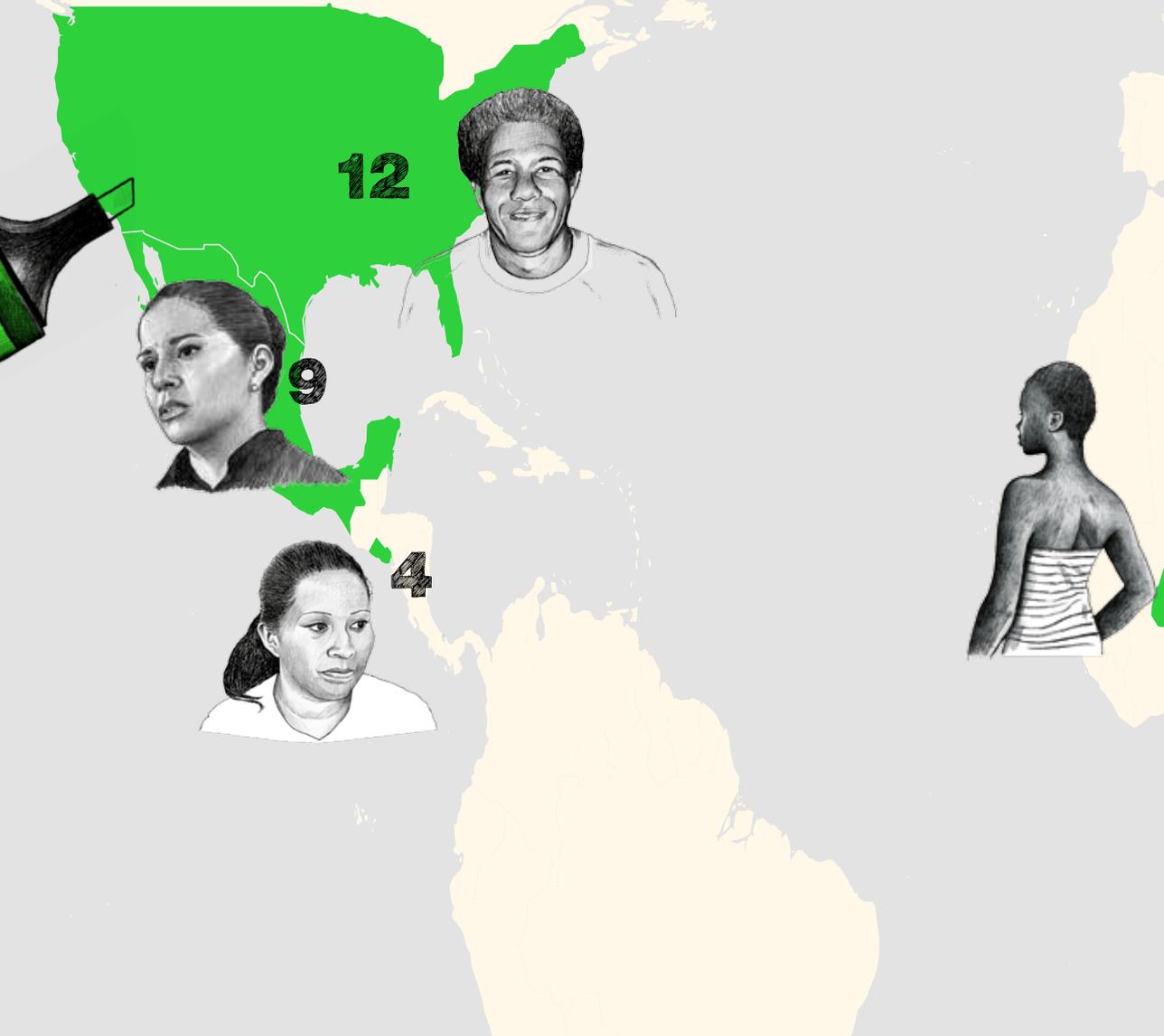
STAY INFORMED

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 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: iar@amnesty.org.uk

MAP OF CASES



1 BURKINA FASO
Girls forced into marriage

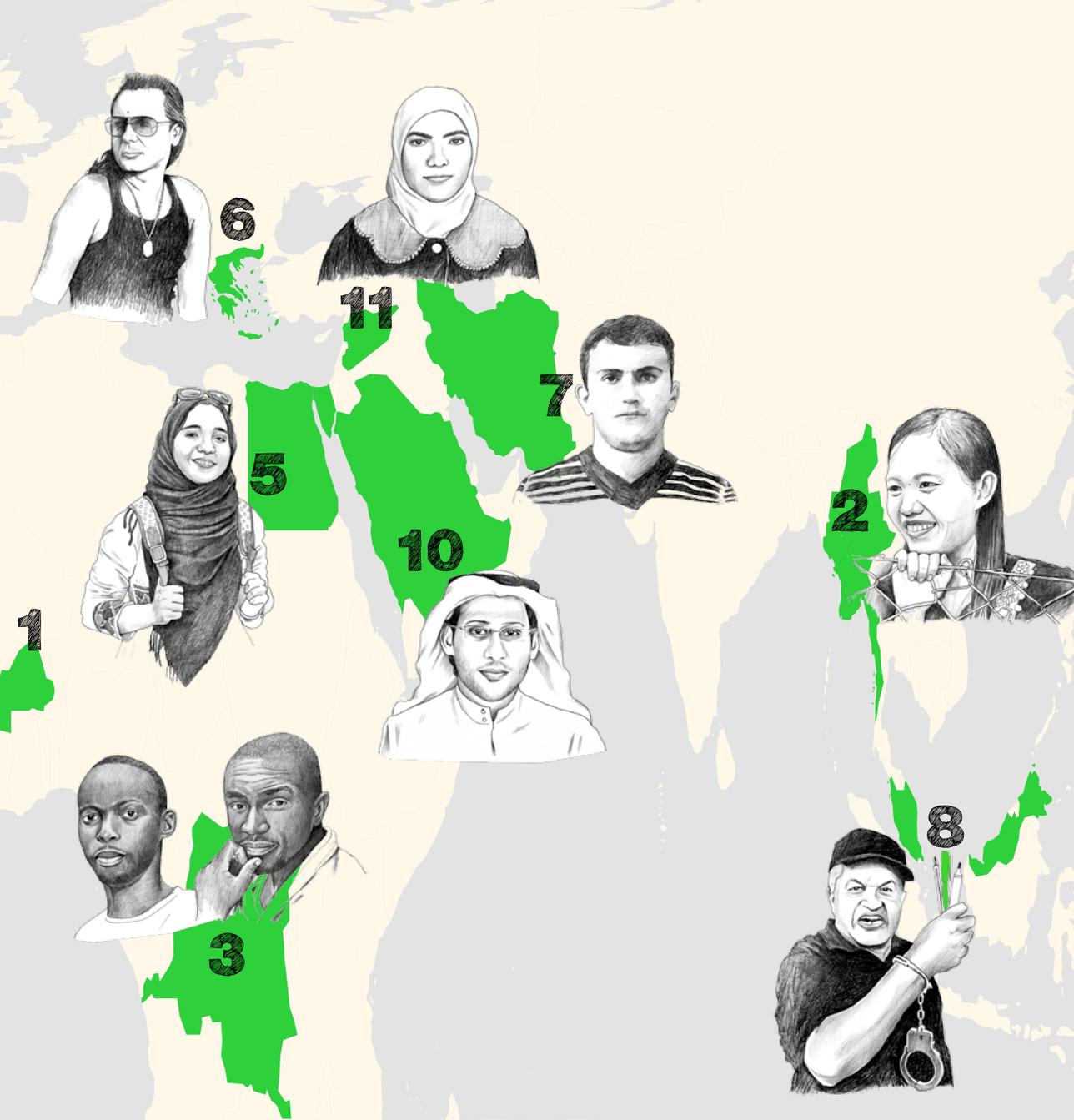
2 BURMA
Phyoe Phyoe Aung

3 DEM REP OF CONGO
Fred and Yves

4 EL SALVADOR
Teodora del Carmen Vásquez

5 EGYPT
Israa Al-Taweel

6 GREECE
Costas



7

IRAN

Saman Naseem

10

SAUDI ARABIA

Waleed Abu al-Khair

8

MALAYSIA

Zunar

11

SYRIA

Rania Alabbasi

9

MEXICO

Yecenia Armenta

12

USA

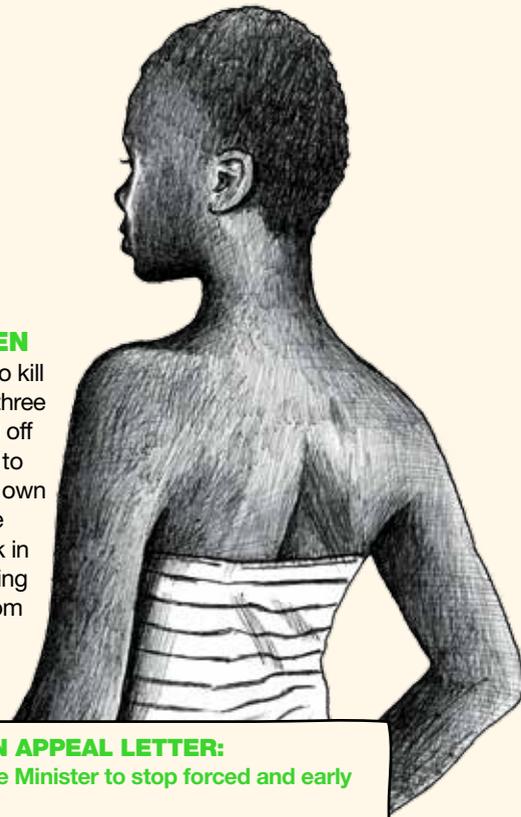
Albert Woodfox

BURKINA FASO

Forced marriages

ONE IN THREE GIRLS MADE TO MARRY OLDER MEN

Maria (not her real name) was just 13 when her father threatened to kill her if she refused to marry a 70-year-old man. She walked nearly three days to seek refuge. One in three girls in Burkina Faso are married off before they turn 18. Some are as young as 11. They are expected to have as many children as their husbands want, regardless of their own wishes or the health risks brought about by early pregnancy. Once married, many are compelled to cook, clean, fetch water and work in the fields, dawn to dusk. Very few go to school. Some girls are doing all they can to escape forced marriages, despite huge pressure from their families and wider society.



SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Burkina Faso Girls Solidarity
c/o Individuals at Risk
Amnesty International UK
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

We will send your messages to our section in Burkina Faso; they will re-direct them to the girls in shelters and shelter workers.

- + **Language:** French (preferred) or English
- + **Salutation:** Dear Young Women
- + **Suggested messages** (please keep the language simple):
'I support your right to choose if and when you want to marry.'
'You can and should be able to go to school!'
'I support your right to live free from discrimination, coercion and violence.'
- + **And to shelter workers:** 'You are very brave to help girls and young women to be free from forced marriage. You are helping to ensure their human rights are not violated and we support you. You are not alone!'

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Call on the Minister to stop forced and early marriage

Write to: Justice and Human Rights Minister
Burkina Faso
c/o Individuals at Risk
Amnesty International UK
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

Owing to political unrest in Burkina Faso, letters should be sent to our office. We will deliver your letter when a new minister is in post.

Salutation: Dear Minister

In your letter: Urge the government to enforce and ensure the application of national laws and international obligations prohibiting forced and early marriage. Call on the authorities to set up more shelters and guarantee support services for victims of early and forced marriages. Please DON'T mention abortion as this is a sensitive question in Burkina Faso.

BURMA

Phyoe Phyoe Aung

FACING JAIL FOR STUDENT PROTEST

Young activist Phyoe Phyoe Aung is secretary-general of the All Burma Federation Student Union, one of the largest student unions in Burma (Myanmar). She has been in prison since 10 March 2015 after being violently arrested during a protest against the newly adopted National Education Law. Phyoe Phyoe Aung and more than 100 student protesters have been charged with a range of criminal offences. Many face sentences of more than nine years' imprisonment. Despite what appears to be a systematic clampdown on the student movement, there is reason to believe that the authorities can be pressured into releasing Phyoe Phyoe Aung and the others.

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Phyoe Phyoe Aung
c/o Myanmar Team
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London, WC1X 0DW

- + **Language:** English or Burmese
- + **Salutation:** Dear Phyoe Phyoe and all detained students
- + **Suggested message:** Phyoe Phyoe Aung loves animals, so we recommend you send pictures or drawings of animals. You are encouraged to address solidarity messages to 'all detained students', not just her. You could include the unifying message: 'I support Myanmar students'.

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge President Thein Sein to release Phyoe Phyoe Aung

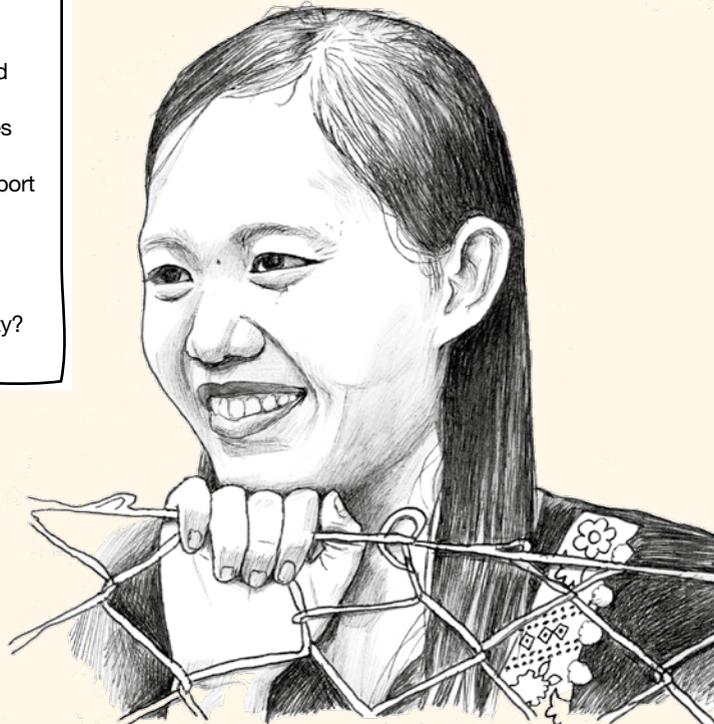
Write to: His Excellency Thein Sein
President of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
President Office, Office No.18
Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/myanmarpresidentoffice.gov.mm>

Fax: 0095 1 652 624

Salutation: Your Excellency

In your letter: Call for the immediate and unconditional release of Phyoe Phyoe Aung and all the detained peaceful student protesters. Urge the authorities to ensure that pending their release they are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated; that they have regular access to family members and lawyers and are provided with medical treatment as required.

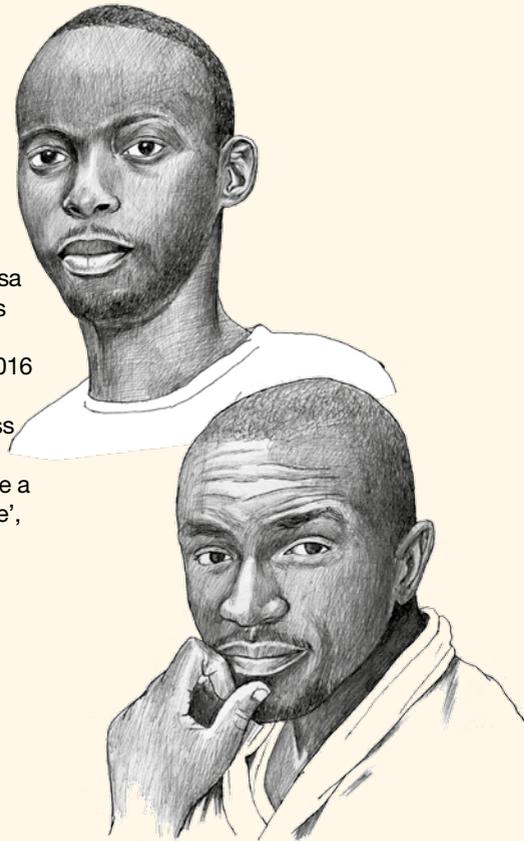


DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Fred and Yves

BEHIND BARS FOR PROMOTING DEMOCRACY

Congolese activists Yves Makwambala and Fred Bauma were arrested on 15 March 2015 during a press conference in Kinshasa at which three Democratic Republic of Congo youth movements launched a platform called Filimbi ('whistle'). Filimbi aims to strengthen civic education among young people ahead of the 2016 general elections. Fred and Yves were kept in secret detention for two weeks by the national intelligence service, without access to family or lawyers. Yves was transferred to Makala prison in Kinshasa after 40 days, followed by Fred 10 days later. They face a range of charges, including 'conspiracy against the head of state', which carries the death penalty.



SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Yves Makwambala and Fred Bauma
c/o Amnesty International – Regional Office for East Africa, the Horn and the Great Lakes,
PO Box 1527-00606,
Parkfield Place, 3rd Floor,
Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya

✦ **Language:** French (preferred) or English

✦ **Salutation:** Cher Yves, Fred

✦ **Suggested messages**

For example, you could write: 'Itawezekana' (Swahili), 'On va y arriver' (French) or 'Ekosimba' (Lingala) all meaning 'we will get there'.

Colleagues at Filimbi suggest the following: 'Fred, Yves, privés de liberté pour avoir exprimé la soif de liberté de toute la jeunesse congolaise. Votre courage nous inspire. (Fred, Yves, deprived of liberty for expressing the thirst for freedom of all Congolese youth. Your courage inspires us.)

✦ You can also post photos of yourself with the words #FreeFred #FreeYves on the palms of your hands to the Free Fred Free Yves Facebook page (search for Free Fred Free Yves on Facebook)

Date to remember:

December 15, 2015 is the nine-month anniversary of Fred's and Yves' arrests.

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Call on President Joseph Kabila to order the immediate release of Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala and drop all charges against them.

There is no functional postal service in DRC, so all letters should be sent to AIUK. We will then send them in bulk by courier.

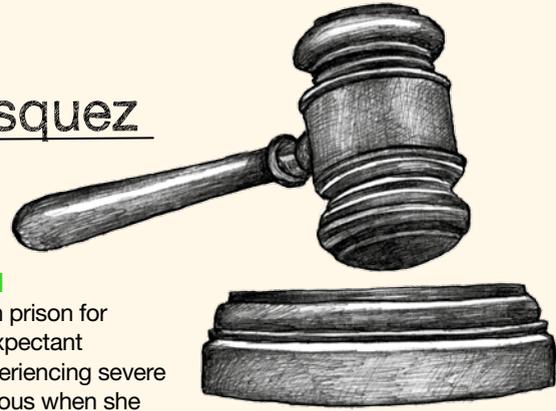
Write to: President Joseph Kabila
c/o Individuals at Risk
Amnesty International UK
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

Salutation: Your Excellency

In your letter: Focus on the violations of the rights of Fred and Yves. Please do not attack or abuse the President. Call on him to release Fred and Yves and urge him to uphold the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in DRC ahead of the 2016 elections.

EL SALVADOR

Teodora Del Carmen Vásquez



IMPRISONED FOR SUFFERING A STILL-BIRTH

Teodora del Carmen Vásquez was sentenced to 30 years in prison for 'aggravated homicide' in 2008 after suffering a still-birth. Expectant Teodora, already mother of an 11-year-old boy, started experiencing severe pain while at work. She went into labour and was unconscious when she gave birth to a still-born baby. When she came round, bleeding profusely, police handcuffed her and arrested her on suspicion of murder. Only then did they take her to hospital. In El Salvador, women who suffer still-births are often suspected of having had an abortion, which is considered a crime, under any circumstance. Teodora's trial was deeply flawed; she was presumed guilty and could not afford an effective legal team.

SHOW SOLIDARITY ONLINE:

Sending messages to Teodora or her family may put them at risk. Instead, please post a photo of yourself holding a solidarity message online. We plan to collect the images at the end of the campaign and make them into a newspaper which local partners, Agrupación Ciudadana, can show to Teodora's family. Her family or lawyer can then take the newspaper to show her when they visit.

- + Please use hashtags #TeodoraLibre and #W4R
- + If you use Twitter, tweet your photo to @AmnestyUKUrgent
- + If you use tumblr, upload your photo to <http://teodoralibre.tumblr.com/>
- + If you don't use social media, email your photo to iar@amnesty.org.uk
- + **Suggested message:** Teodora, estamos contigo #TeodoraLibre (Teodora, we are with you #TeodoraLibre)

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Call on justice minister Benito Antonio Lara Fernández to order Teodora's release.

Write to: Ministro de Justicia y Seguridad Pública
17 Avenida Norte, Complejo Plan Maestro, Edificio B1, nivel 1
Alameda Juan Pablo II
San Salvador, El Salvador

Fax: 00503 2281 5959
Email: benitolara@seguridad.gob.sv
Twitter: @MiSeguridad_SV (Use #TeodoraLibre)

Salutation: Dear Minister / Estimado Señor Ministro

In your letter: Call on the minister to ensure Teodora del Carmen Vásquez is immediately released. Urge the government to decriminalise abortion in El Salvador.

Suggested tweet: Free #TeodoraLibre and decriminalise abortion in El Salvador @MiSeguridad_SV



EGYPT

Israa Al-Taweel

STUDENT'S DISABILITY GETTING WORSE IN CUSTODY

Student Israa Al-Taweel was arrested on 1 June 2015 and taken to the National Security office in central Cairo, where she was blindfolded and interrogated about links to the Muslim Brotherhood. She had no chance to contact a lawyer or her family – who for 15 days were desperately looking for her in police stations, courts and prisons. She is now held in Al-Qanater prison, accused of 'belonging to a banned group' and 'broadcasting false news'. In January 2014, Israa was shot in the lower back at a protest. The injury left her unable to walk and she uses a wheelchair. Her condition had begun to improve with physiotherapy, but is deteriorating now that she is no longer receiving treatment.

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Israa Al-Taweel
c/o Doaa Al-Taweel
1 Abdo Gharib Street
Kafr Tahrims
Seventh Floor
Boulak Aldakroul
Giza
Egypt

- + **Language:** Arabic or English
- + **Salutation:** Dear Israa or Hi Israa
- + **Suggested message:** We know about your case and we are writing to the authorities on your behalf. We support your right to freedom of expression. We wish you a speedy recovery.

CAN I

- Send a religious card or message
- Mention Amnesty
- Include my name and address

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the State Security Prosecutor to either release Israa or give her a fair trial, and to ensure she has the medical treatment she needs.

Write to: Tamer Alforgany
General Attorney
State Security Prosecutor Office
New Cairo Court Complex
Fifth Settlement (Al Tagamo Al Khamis)
New Cairo
Egypt

Fax: 002 02 2638 1956

Salutation: Dear Counsellor

In your letter: Call on the prosecutor to free Israa Al-Taweel or charge her with a recognisable criminal offence based on legitimate evidence (and not on statements obtained while she was held incommunicado without her lawyer present). Urge him to ensure she has access to any medical attention she needs, including physiotherapy, and to give her lawyers access to her casefile so they can prepare her defence.

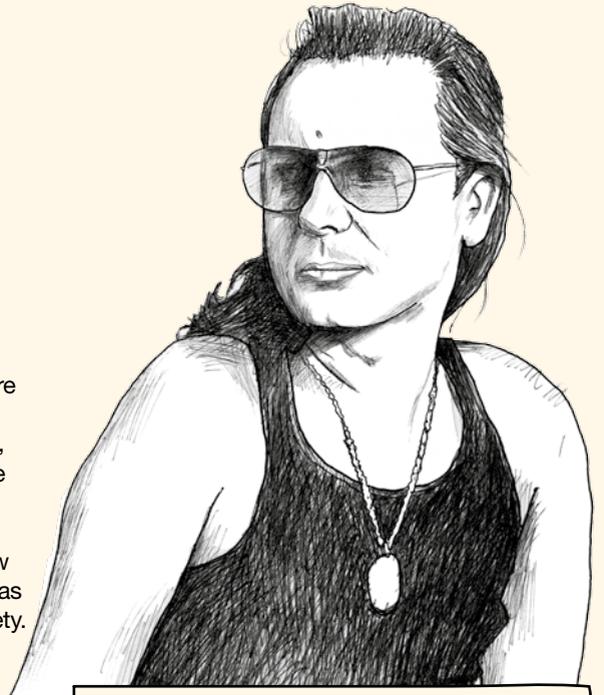


GREECE

Costas

ATTACKED FOR BEING IN LOVE

While sitting on a bench in central Athens in August 2014, Costas and his partner, who is a refugee, were badly beaten up by thugs in a homophobic and racist attack. No suspects were ever identified. Between 2014 and 2015, the number of reported attacks against gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) people in Greece has more than doubled. Police and the government have done little to discourage such racial and homophobic violence. Greek law doesn't recognise same-sex relationships. Costas and his partner live in constant fear for their safety. In March 2015, his partner was attacked again.



SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Costas
c/o Amnesty International Greek Section
Sina 30
Athens, 106 72
Greece

- + **Language:** English or Greek
- + **Salutation:** Dear Costas
- + **Suggested message:** 'You are not invisible, not alone. You have the right to love without fear. The Greek government must end hate crimes and recognise and protect same-sex relationships. Together we stand against homophobia & racism! Love is a Human Right!'

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Call on the justice minister to ensure justice for Costas and Zabi.

Write to: Nikos Paraskevopoulos,
Minister of Justice, Transparency
and Human Rights
Ministry of Justice, Transparency
and Human Rights
96 Mesogeion Avenue
115 27 Athens
Greece

Fax: 0030 775 5835
Email: grammateia@justice.gov.gr
Twitter: @govgr

Salutation: Dear Minister

In your letter: Urge the minister to carry out a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into the attack suffered by Costas and his partner with the intention that those responsible are convicted with a sentence that fully acknowledges the hate motive behind the attack. Urge the authorities to ensure that Costas and his partner get compensation for the injuries and trauma they have suffered.

Suggested tweet: End hate crimes and stand against racism, homophobia and transphobia @govgr #W4R



IRAN

Saman Naseem

TEENAGER TORTURED INTO TV 'CONFESSION'

Saman Naseem was 17 when he was arrested for allegedly taking part in armed activities against the state. He says he was tortured and forced to make a 'confession' on state television. He was sentenced to death. After a worldwide campaign to stop his execution in February 2015, Saman was transferred to an undisclosed location and held incommunicado for nearly five months. Following a judicial review the authorities quashed the death sentence imposed for 'enmity against God' and 'corruption on earth'. Saman now faces a full retrial. He deserves one without the use of torture-tainted evidence and without recourse to the death penalty.

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Saman Naseem Solidarity Action
FAO Iran Team
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

- + **Language:** Kurdish, Persian, or English
- + **Salutation:** Dear Saman
- + **Suggested message:** 'Our thoughts are with you and your family. We are thinking of you.'

CAN I

- 🚫 Send a religious card or message Please do not send any images of alcohol.
- 🚫 Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✅ Include my name and address?

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

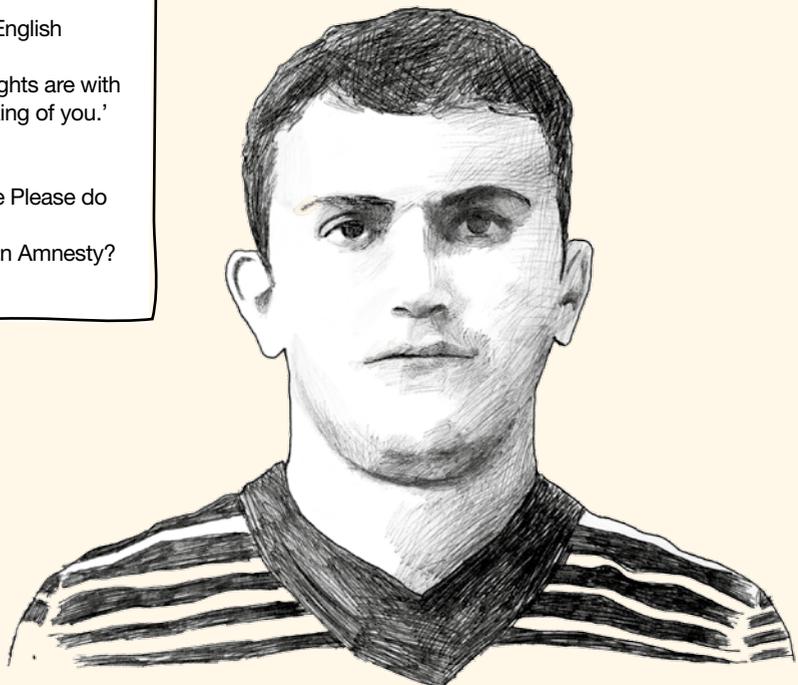
Urge the head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani, to ensure that Saman receives a fair trial.

Write to: Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
The Office of the Head of the Judiciary
Valiasr Street
Pastour Street (In front of 129 Jami
Police Station)
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: info@humanrights-iran.ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

In your letter: Don't call for Saman's release. Focus on the need for a fair trial. He is not a prisoner of conscience – this is an issue of juvenile detention and the execution of minors. Call on the authorities to ensure that Saman's new trial is in accordance with fair trial standards, in line with the principles of juvenile justice, and without recourse to the death penalty. Insist that confessions obtained under torture are not used as evidence of guilt.



MALAYSIA

Zunar



FACING JAIL FOR TWEETING CARTOONS

Political cartoonist Zulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque, aka 'Zunar', is facing a long prison sentence for cartoons he tweeted on 10 February 2015. They lampooned the decision to jail opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim on sodomy charges. Zunar is charged under the Sedition Act, a colonial-era law often used to clampdown on freedom of expression in the guise of protecting national security and deterring racial or religious unrest.

Zunar has been targeted numerous times for his political cartoons; he holds the record for the highest number of sedition charges in Malaysia. He was briefly detained in 2010 after the publication of his book Cartoon-O-Phobia. Five of his books have been banned for content allegedly 'detrimental to public order'.



SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Zulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque (Zunar)
c/o Amnesty International Malaysia
D-2, 33A 8 Avenue
Jalan Sungai Jernih 8/ 1
Section 8
46050 Petaling Jaya
Selangor, Malaysia

- + **Language:** English or Malay
- + **Salutation:** Dear Zunar
- + **Suggested message:** Zunar would rather receive cartoons, drawings or doodles than traditional messages. We therefore encourage you to draw an image or cartoon to show support for Zunar, or to express what freedom of expression means to you. If possible, please also take a photo of your creation and upload it, with a mention of your age and country and a message to Zunar if you wish, to Instagram and Twitter with the tags #Zunar and #W4R. Tweet images to him @zunarkartunis.

CAN I

- ✔ Send a religious card or message?
- ✔ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✔ Include your name and address?

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the Prime Minister to drop the charges against Zunar.

Write to: Prime Minister Najib Razak
Main Block, Perdana Putra Building
Federal Government Administrative
Centre, 62052
Putrajaya, Malaysia

Fax: 00 603 8888 3444
Email: ppm@pmo.gov.my

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

In your letter: Call on the Prime Minister immediately to drop the charges against Zunar. Urge him to ensure that Zunar and those working with him are not subjected to any form of restrictions or harassment. Ask for the repeal of the Sedition Act and other laws which restrict the right to freedom of expression, and that Malaysia comply with international human rights law and standards.

MEXICO

Yecenia Armenta



CONFESSED TO MURDER AFTER 15 HOURS OF TORTURE

In July 2012 Yecenia Armenta was arrested by plain clothed state police who accused her of ordering the murder of her husband, who had died a week previously. The officers took her to an unknown location where she was asphyxiated with a plastic bag, subjected to waterboarding and forced to strip naked. She was hung upside down, beaten and raped. Yecenia gave in to demands to confess after 15 hours of torture, when police officers threatened to bring her children in to rape and kill them. She was still blindfolded when she signed the confession. Independent medical experts have confirmed that she was tortured. Yecenia deserves to be free – and to see her torturers brought to justice.

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Yecenia Armenta
c/o Centro de Ejecución de las Consecuencias
Jurídicas del Delito de Culiacán (CECJUDE)
Carretera a Navolato Km. 9.5, Col. Aguaruto,
Culiacán, Sinaloa. C. P. 80370
México

- + **Language:** Spanish or English
- + **Salutation:** Estimada Yecenia
- + **Suggested message:** He conocido la terrible injusticia que se está cometiendo en tu contra. Deseo fervientemente que puedas recuperar tu libertad y que las personas que te torturaron sean llevadas ante la justicia. (I have learned of the terrible injustice that is being committed against you. I sincerely hope that you can regain your freedom and that the people who tortured you are brought to justice.)
NB Yecenia has been taking jewellery-making classes in prison so including necklaces or bracelets (made of paper or fabric only) would be a great way to show solidarity.

CAN I

- ☑ Send a religious card or message? (Yecenia is Christian, but not Catholic)
- ☑ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ☑ Include my name and address?

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Ask the Sinaloa state Attorney-General to free Yecenia.

Write to: Marco Antonio Higuera Gómez
Procurador General de Justicia del
Estado de Sinaloa
Procuraduría General de Justicia del
Estado de Sinaloa
Blvd. Enrique Sánchez Alonso No.
1833
Desarrollo Plan Tres Ríos, C.P. 80030,
Culiacán, Estado de Sinaloa
México

Twitter: @gobsinaloa Use the
hashtags #FreeYecenia or
#LibertadParaYecenia in your tweets

Email: PGJPG@Sinaloa.gob.mx

Salutation: Dear Attorney-General / Estimado
Señor Procurador

In your letter: Urge the attorney-general to drop charges and release Yecenia Armenta; ask for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the torture she suffered and for all those responsible to be brought to justice. Express concern at the persistent and generalised use of torture in Mexico, especially in the context of criminal investigation.

Suggested tweet: #FreeYecenia and bring her
torturers to justice! @gobsinaloa #W4R

SAUDI ARABIA

Waleed Abu al-Khair



JAILED FOR 'INSULTING THE JUDICIARY'

Waleed Abu al-Khair is a prominent human rights lawyer who has represented many victims of human rights violations, including his brother-in-law Raif Badawi, who was sentenced to 1,000 lashes for blogging about free speech. After being harassed and and interrogated on numerous occasions by the authorities, Waleed was sentenced on 6 July 2014 to 15 years in prison, plus a 15-year travel ban. He was found guilty of 'insulting the judiciary', 'disobeying the ruler' and 'harming the reputation of the Kingdom'. Waleed suffers from diabetes, and says he has been tortured. He has been regularly moved between prisons, making it difficult for his wife and child to visit him.

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Waleed Abu al-Khair
Al-Ha'ir prison
Al-Ha'ir
Riyadh 14765
Saudi Arabia

- + **Language:** Arabic or English
- + **Salutation:** Dear Waleed
- + **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.'

+ You can also email his wife Samar Badawi (Raif Badawi's sister and women's rights activist) at freewaleed57@gmail.com or send her letters of support at:

Samar Mohammad Badawi
Al-Nahda street, King Abdulaziz Road
Po Box: 117377
Postal Code: 21391
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

CAN I

- 🕒 Send a religious card or message? Islamic religious cards only, not containing images of people or animals.
- 🚫 Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Amnesty is illegal in Saudi Arabia and mentioning it could put Waleed at risk. Do not send Amnesty-branded Christmas cards.
- 👤 Include my name and address?

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Call on the King of Saudi Arabia to free Waleed Abu al-Khair.

Write to: His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
c/o Individuals at Risk
Amnesty International UK
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

Fax: (via Ministry of the Interior) 00966 11 403 3125 (please keep trying)

Twitter: @KingSalman

Salutation: Your Majesty

In your letter: Call on His Majesty to release Waleed Abu al-Khair immediately and unconditionally and quash his conviction and sentence. Urge the authorities to ensure Waleed is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and is given any medical attention he requires; call on them to stop the crackdown on activists and their use of social media. (*Appeals that reach us in time will be handed in to the Saudi Arabian Embassy on 10 December. Letters arriving later will be forwarded.*)

Suggested tweet: .@KingSalman .@WaleedAbulkhair must be released. He is a prisoner of conscience! #W4R

+ Special Action Cards are available for Waleed's case [amnesty.org.uk/write](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)

SYRIA

Rania Alabbasi and her children



ABDUCTED MOTHER AND SIX CHILDREN

Rania Alabbasi is a successful dentist in Damascus, Syria, and the busy mother of six children, Dima, Entisar, Najah, Alaa, Ahmad and Layan, aged between three and 15. On 9 March 2013, Syrian government agents came to her home and took away her husband. Two days later, they came for her and her children. None of them has been heard of since. The Syrian authorities have refused to give Rania's relatives any information about what happened, or where they are now. The Syrian government has ignored a 2014 UN resolution calling for an end to these 'enforced disappearances'.

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Rania Alabbasi
c/o FOA Syria Team
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW

- + **Language:** English or Arabic
- + **Salutation:** Dear Rania, Dima, Entisar, Najah, Alaa, Ahmad and Layan
- + **Suggested message:** Hand drawn cards by children are encouraged. You could also send a message via the UN address (right), and ask for it to be passed on to the family, thus highlighting the fact that they are missing and that we do not know where they are.

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge President Assad to free Rania and her children

Write to: President Bashar al-Assad
c/o His Excellency Bashar Ja'afari,
Ph.D.
Syria UN Permanent Representative
820 Second Avenue, 15th Floor, New
York, NY 10017
USA

Fax: 00 1 212 983 4439
Email: exexec.syria@gmail.com
Twitter: @Presidency_Sy

Salutation: Your Excellency

In your letter: Call for the unconditional release of the six children and ask that Rania Alabbasi be released unless she is charged promptly with an internationally recognisable offence and tried in accordance with international fair trial standards. Please do not use political symbols such as government or opposition flags. Rania is not a political activist.

Suggested tweet: Where are Rania and her 6 children? @Presidency-Sy #missingchildhood #W4R



USA

Albert Woodfox



IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR 43 YEARS

Albert Woodfox, 68, has been in solitary confinement in Louisiana since his conviction in 1972 for the murder of a prison guard. He has always maintained his innocence, claiming he was targeted because of his affiliation with the prison chapter of the Black Panthers. There is no physical evidence to link him to the crime; the conviction relied primarily on the testimony of an eye witness who received favours, including his release, for cooperation. Albert's conviction has been overturned three times yet he remains in prison as the state appeals every decision in his favour. In June 2015 a federal court ordered Albert's immediate release, but the state appealed again and he remains in jail pending a further ruling.

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Albert Woodfox #72148
West Feliciana Parish Detention Center
PO Box 2727
St. Francisville,
LA 70775, USA

- + **Language:** English
- + **Salutation:** Dear Albert,
- + **Suggested message:** You are Albert's window to the world, so a postcard of a landmark or striking architecture in your city or country or an image that gives him insight into how the world has changed since he was imprisoned would be inspirational. Albert is interested in current affairs, politics, nature, history, sociology, American football and music.

CAN I

- ☑ Send a religious card or message?
- ☑ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ☑ Include my name and address? But say there's no need to reply. Albert is sometimes overwhelmed by the amount of mail he gets and his inability to reply to it all.

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Call on the Attorney-General of Louisiana to free Albert Woodfox.

Write to: The Attorney General of Louisiana
1885 North Third Street
Baton Rouge
LA 70802
USA

Email: executive@ag.state.la.us

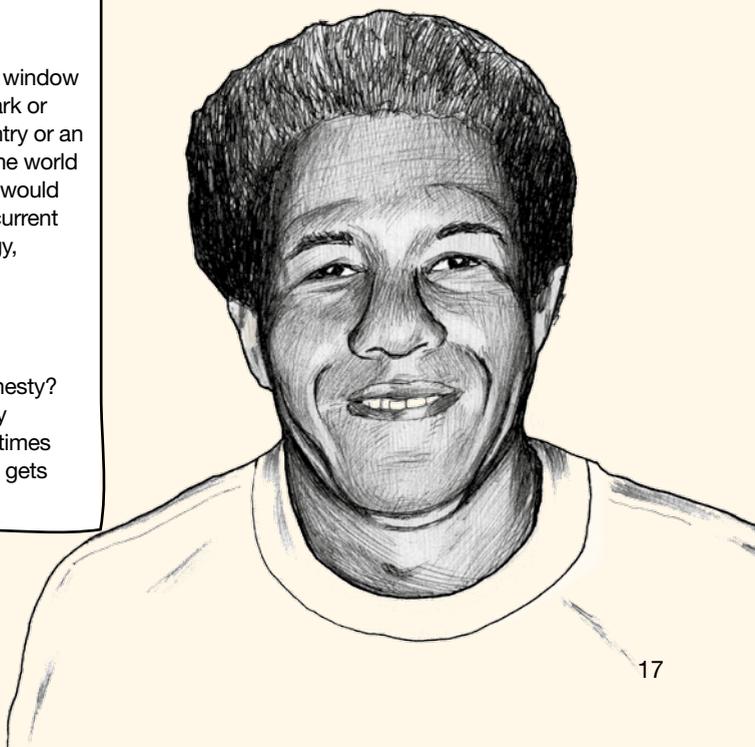
Fax: 00 1 225 326 6797

Twitter: @LouisianaAGO

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

In your letter: Ask that Albert Woodfox be immediately released from prison after decades of cruel and inhumane conditions in solitary confinement.

Suggested tweet: @LouisianaAGO must end the cruelty. Free #AlbertWoodfox after decades in solitary confinement! #FreeAlbertWoodfox



UPDATES

Last year, hundreds of thousands of people in more than 200 countries and territories took part in our global **Write for Rights** campaign, resulting in more than 3 million actions. Here's an updates on the 12 cases.

BANGLADESH

Kalpana Chakma

We are still waiting for the Police Superintendent of Rangamati Hill District to submit her report on the investigation of Kalpana Chakma's case.

CHINA

Liu Ping

For the first time, Liu Ping's daughter was allowed to visit her in prison at the end of 2014. We believe the international attention generated by Write for Rights contributed to this.

GUATEMALA

Yolanda Oquelí

On 15 July 2015 an appeal court ordered the suspension of construction work at the El Tambor mine until proper consultations are conducted with the affected communities of San Pedro Ayampuc and San José del Golfo. It's a huge victory for Yolanda and other activists campaigning against the damage caused by the mining project.

NIGERIA

Moses Akatugba

The Governor of the Niger Delta responded to pressure from Amnesty supporters and granted a full pardon to Moses, who had been sentenced to death aged 16 for allegedly stealing three phones.

NORWAY

John Jeanette Solstad Remø

Following our campaign in support of John Jeanette, the Norwegian government said it would change the law, so that people who want to change their legal gender can do so without undergoing compulsory medical treatment.

PHILIPPINES

Alfreda Disbaro

The two policemen identified by Alfreda as her torturers were found guilty of grave misconduct. Both received a one-rank demotion.

SAUDI ARABIA

Raif Badawi

He was flogged on 9 January 2015 – the first 50 lashes in his sentence of 1,000. The news quickly went around the world and boosted the campaign for his release. Although his sentence was upheld in June, he has yet to endure further flogging.

SRI LANKA

Prageeth Eknaligoda

There has been no further progress in the case, although the election of a new President of Sri Lanka in January 2015 brought hope of change to the country.

TURKEY

Hakan Yaman

The investigation into the police attack on him continues. Our campaign has ensured attention from the Ministry of Justice for the case.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dr Mohammed al-Roken

The human rights lawyer remains in prison, serving a 10-year sentence. However, our international campaign has helped human rights activists and prisoners' families in the UAE feel less isolated from the world.

USA

Chelsea Manning

Together, we took more than 240,000 actions for Chelsea Manning, serving 35 years in prison for leaking classified US government material. She remains in prison and is preparing a court-martial appeal. The US military have agreed to provide her with hormone therapy treatment.

UZBEKISTAN

Erkin Musaev

The family of Erkin Musaev, falsely accused of spying and jailed for 20 years after unfair trials, told us your letters gave him 'strength, optimism and faith'. Erkin thanks everyone who took action. He remains in prison.



QUESTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why can't I post a letter to all the people featured in this booklet?

We give a postal address wherever possible. But in some cases, it may not be safe for the person to receive mail, or the postal service in their country may be unreliable. In some prisons the authorities limit the amount of mail prisoners can receive.

Why can't I send religious cards to all the people featured?

If we ask you not to send a religious card, it is for the safety of the recipient/s. 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.

Can I send cards produced by other organisations?

That is fine, as long as their work cannot be considered 'political' as this might cause problems.

Why are there only 12 cases?

The 12 cases are carefully chosen, so please focus on those in the first instance. However, we have eight extra cases for people who want to do more. Contact sct@amnesty.org.uk

Why do we use drawings rather than photos?

We don't have good photos for all the cases. Drawings enable us to present them all in the same way.

What if the fax number or email address for the appeal letter doesn't work?

Please send a letter instead. The fax/email may have been switched off because the addressee has been overwhelmed by appeals.

What if I receive a reply?

Please send a copy to the Individuals at Risk programme. It will help us assess the impact of the campaign.

- IAR@amnesty.org.uk
- IAR Programme, AIUK, The Human Rights Action Centre, London EC2A 3EA

What can I do after this campaign?

If you enjoyed taking part in Write for Rights, why not consider joining Amnesty's Urgent Action network? All year round it protects people from torture, helps free men and women who are wrongly detained and secures access to medical treatment or legal counsel for prisoners. It has even saved lives.

As a member of the network, you will be sent requests – how many is up to you – to take urgent action on behalf of individuals at risk. Details will come directly to your inbox and you will be informed of the progress of cases you've helped campaign on. Go to amnesty.org.uk/urgent

RESOURCES

PRINT

Want to order more materials? Please call us on 01788 545553, or order via the form online: amnesty.org.uk/write

WFR 021 Write for Rights Campaign Booklet 2014 with information on all cases

WFR 022 A3 Write for Rights Poster

WFR 023 A2 Map of cases



ONLINE

Go to www.amnesty.org.uk/write for the latest information on the Write for Rights campaign. You can download pdf versions of the printed materials and additional resources, including:

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

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 See our code of conduct on working with young people at www.amnesty.org.uk/youth



TIPS FOR CARD-WRITING EVENTS

RESOURCES

- + Download and print individual casesheets and translated solidarity messages from amnesty.org.uk/write
- + Order posters, maps and booklets free of charge: call **01788 545553** or use the online order form at amnesty.org.uk/write
- + 'AmnesTea parties' combine campaigning and fundraising: to order a kit call **020 7033 1682** or download from amnesty.org.uk/tea

PLAN AHEAD

- + Choose a few cases to focus on.
- + Stock up on envelopes, stamps, pens and cards, or materials to make your own cards.
- + Address and stamp envelopes in advance.
- + Have a tin to collect donations towards postage.
- + 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
- + If your event is open to the public, we can help you to promote it: please register the details on our events page at amnesty.org.uk/write

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.



TOP TIPS FOR ONLINE

- + Encourage people to get involved by sharing your plans on Facebook and Twitter.
- + If people can't join you in person, ask them to choose a case from the Amnesty website, or to take action through one of our online petitions and actions.
- + Follow Amnesty at facebook.com/amnestyUK and twitter.com/AmnestyUK for inspiration on how to share our work online.



FEEDBACK



'I am so grateful for all the incredible and heartfelt support from the tens of thousands of people out there...who took the time to write to me and the President. The cards and letters literally flooded the mail room and my cell during my birthday, the holidays, and the Write for Rights campaign.'

Chelsea Manning, whistleblower imprisoned in the USA, writing after the 2014 Write for Rights campaign



'Activists and families of prisoners were very happy to see this support... We are very hopeful that these kinds of campaigns will bring about some sort of awareness in the public and might pressure the government into taking more positive steps in human rights.'

An Emirati activist sends a message about the campaign to free human rights lawyer **Dr Mohamed al-Roken**





‘I can’t thank you all enough for every word, every tweet and every letter that was sent to us. Because of you Raif and my family have felt supported at a time when we thought no one cared about our suffering.’

Ensaf Haidar, whose husband blogger **Raif Badawi** is in prison in Saudi Arabia, on the support she and her children received from Write for Rights 2014.



‘I was somehow prepared for what might happen during Write for Rights, but this massive support is really overwhelming. So many personal letters, so many warm and encouraging words, drawings and cards.’

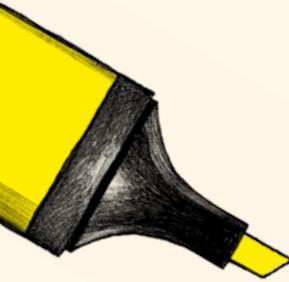
John Jeanette Solstad Remø, whose campaign for legal recognition for transgender people in Norway was boosted by Write for Rights 2014



CREDITS

Illustrations Billie Jean / agencyrush.com

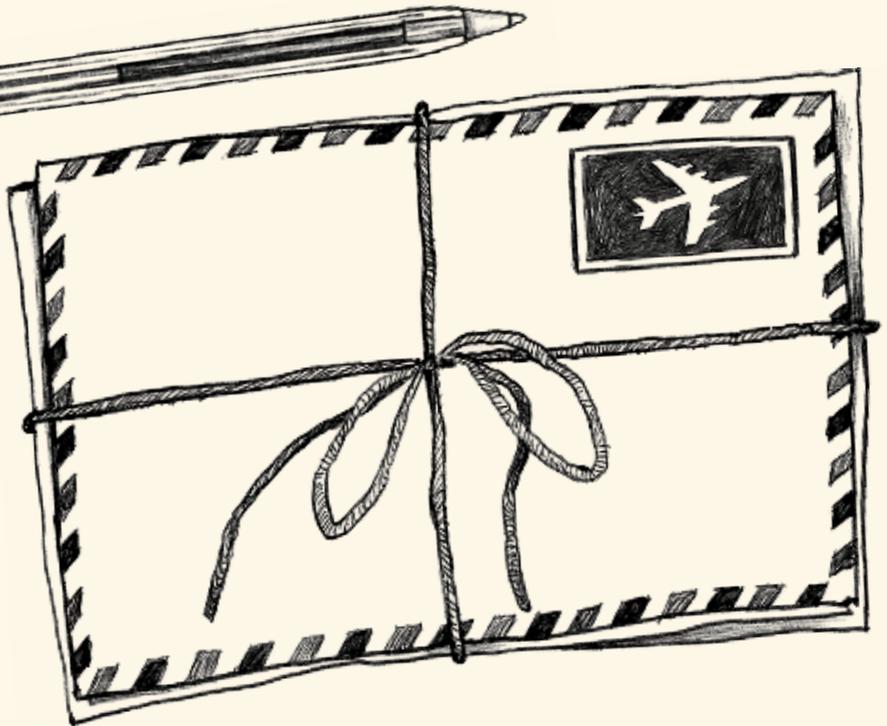
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Textphone 020 7033 1664

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