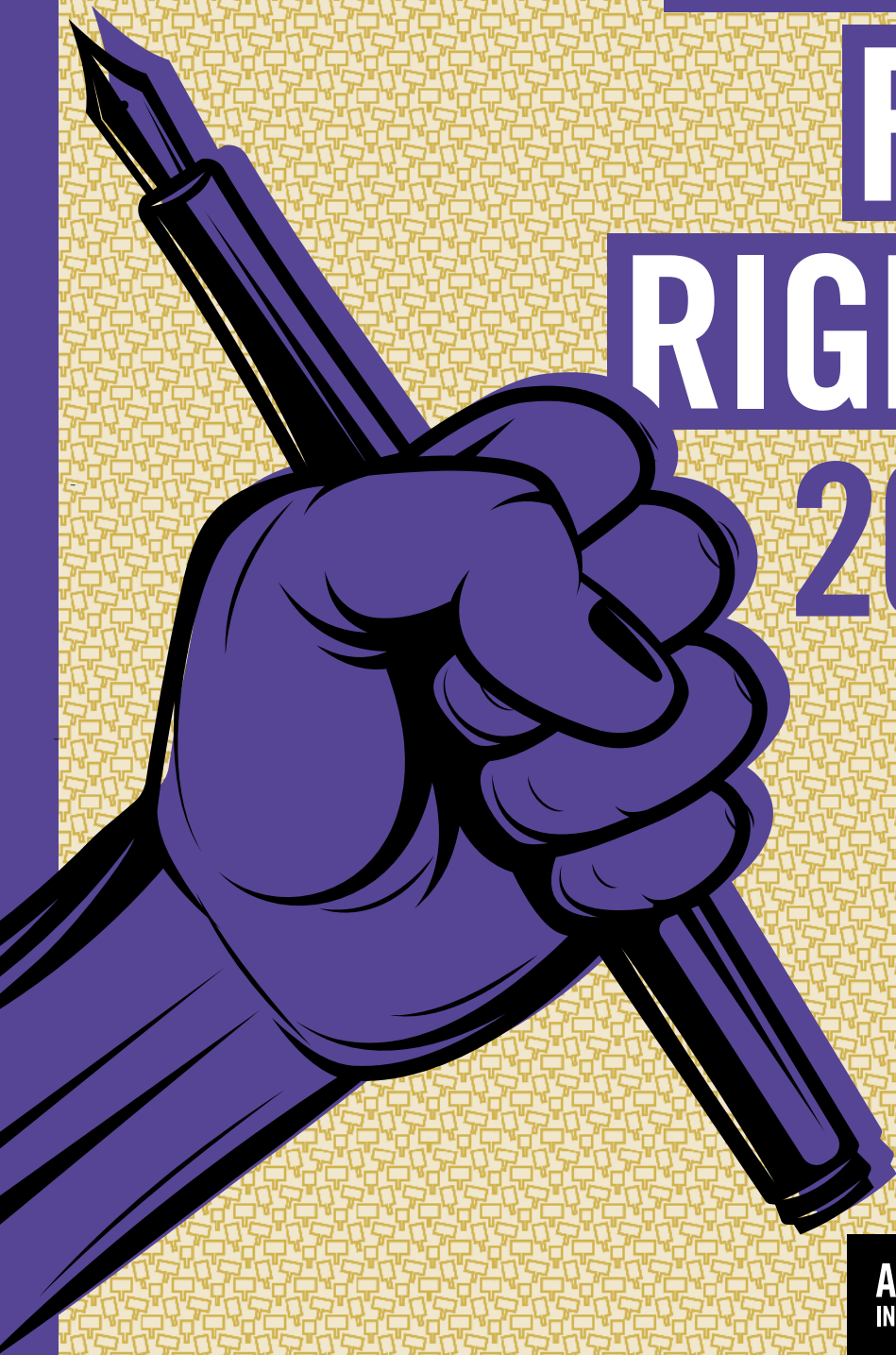


WRITE

FOR

RIGHTS

2024



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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‘This means a lot to me. All those letters melted my heart.’

Justyna Wydrzyńska,
Write for Rights 2023

SEND A MESSAGE CHANGE A LIFE

Join hundreds of thousands of Amnesty supporters around the world this winter by taking part in our annual Write for Rights campaign. Together, we can make our collective voice count.

In a world where our basic human rights are increasingly under threat, there couldn't be a more important time to act together to call out injustice and send messages of solidarity around the globe.

Your messages can bring about real change. As well as pressuring authorities to release prisoners, protect the vulnerable and stop abuses, your letters, cards, pictures, photos and other forms of creativity offer comfort and support to people facing, and resisting, human rights violations. You can also participate in local events hosted by Amnesty groups.

This booklet contains detailed information about the campaign and the nine cases, along with letter-writing tips and creative ideas to maximise the impact of your contributions. For more booklets, and more information about the campaign in general, visit [amnesty.org.uk/write](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write) or email activism@amnesty.org.uk

Thank you for supporting Write for Rights and your dedication to upholding human rights.

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY WORKS

Since Write for Rights started in 2001, millions of people have taken part, helping to change the lives of those whose human rights have been taken away.

Over the past 20 years, more than 56 million actions have been taken and over 100 people featured in the campaign have seen positive outcomes in their cases.

LETTER WRITING WORKS

THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN

This booklet shares the stories of people across the world whose rights have been abused and who urgently need your support. Global action and solidarity raise their profile and build momentum that can bring about many benefits, from protection to justice. You can take action on some or, if you have the time, all nine cases. For each, we have suggested actions to take, including:

- Sending a message of solidarity to let them know you're thinking of them.
- Writing a letter appealing to those with the power to stop the abuse.
- Getting creative to make your voice heard (we've included ideas to inspire you).
- Using social media to show your solidarity online or contact the authorities.
- Organising your own Write for Rights event to get more people involved.

Whatever you do, please tell us about it using the feedback form at [amnesty.org.uk/write-for-right](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-right)

PERSONALISED MESSAGES

Every year, the people featured in Write for Rights tell us the most powerful messages they receive are the personalised, handwritten cards from people around the world. Every action you take during the campaign is valuable, and we only ask you to act when we believe it will have a significant impact. Please do as many of the actions in this booklet as possible, but if you have the time, prioritise solidarity messages to individuals.

Reaching out to new MPs

Write for Rights provides a good opportunity to contact your local MP. You could:

- **Write to them** to introduce the local Amnesty group and the campaign.
- **Invite them** to a Write for Rights event (for example, one marking International Human Rights Day) to meet Amnesty activists. You could even ask them to take part in a photo action.
- **Ask them** to raise priority cases in parliament. This year Amnesty UK is prioritising three cases where we believe we can have a particularly positive impact: Oqba Hashad (Egypt), Neth Nahara (Angola) and Professor Şebnem Korur Fincanci (Türkiye).

Dates to remember

- **1 November-31 December:** Write for Rights 2024
- **20 November:** International Children's Day
- **25 November:** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- **29 November:** International Women Human Rights Defenders Day
- **9 December:** International Human Rights Defenders Day
- **10 December:** International Human Rights Day and the 76th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

NEW TO WRITE FOR RIGHTS?

Getting involved in our letter-writing campaign couldn't be easier, but we know the first time may seem a bit daunting. Here are some tips to get you started:

- In this booklet, you'll find all the information you need on the cases and how to take action.
- You don't have to take action on all nine cases – anything you do to support one or two people will make a difference.
- Try to personalise your messages of support, as this means a huge amount to recipients. If you're unsure what to write, we've provided suggested messages.
- When writing to the authorities, please include your name and country (but only if you feel comfortable doing so and if there are no risks for you or your family). This shows the letter is genuine and personal. Keep requests clear and polite.
- This year we've included the details of our volunteer country coordinators alongside each case. If you want to continue campaigning on issues impacting that country after Write for Rights 2024 has ended, please contact them.
- If you're unsure about anything, check the frequently asked questions section on page 20 or email us at activism@amnesty.org.uk

MATERIALS

Need more booklets? Please order via the online form at [amnesty.org.uk/write](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write) or contact us on activism@amnesty.org.uk

Visit [amnesty.org.uk/write](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write) for the latest information on this year's campaign. You can download PDF versions of this booklet and additional resources, including:

- Posters and images for social media (or to print for in-person events)
- Updates on cases
- Top tips for organising a Write for Rights event
- Good news from previous campaigns
- Feedback form [amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights)



1. ANGOLA
ANA DA SILVA MIGUEL
 (AKA NETH NAHARA)



© Private

2. ARGENTINA
VÍCTOR JOEL RODRIGO PAREDES
 (AKA JOEL)



© Amnesty International

3. BELARUS
MARYIA KALESNIKAVA



© Private

4. CANADA
WET'SUWET'EN NATION
 LAND DEFENDERS



© Amnesty International (Photo: Alii McCracken)

5. EGYPT
OQBA HASHAD



© Private

9. VIETNAM
DANG DINH BACH



© Private

8. TÜRKIYE
PROFESSOR ŞEBNEM KORUR FİNCANCI



© Private

7. SAUDI ARABIA
MANAHEL AL-OTAIBI

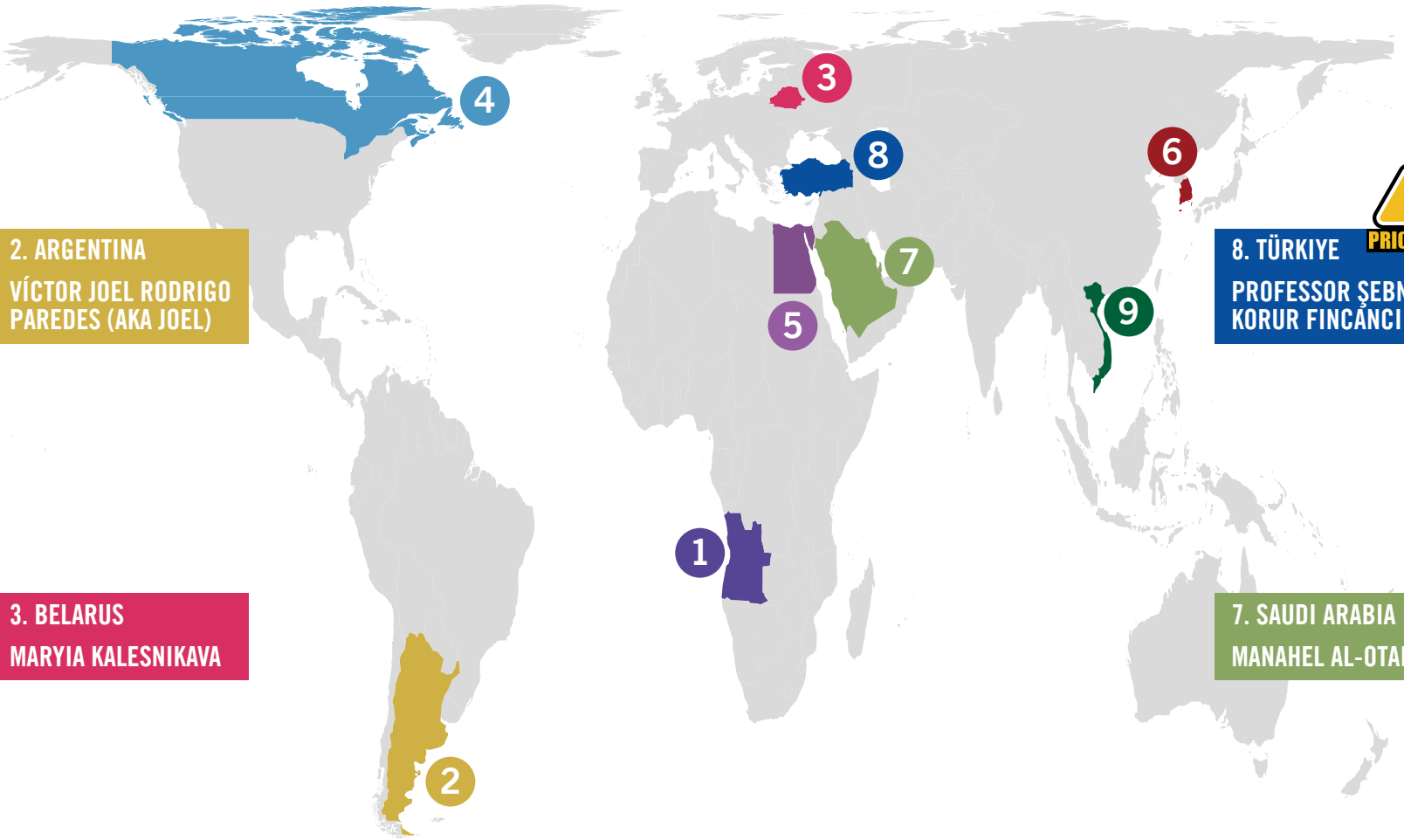


© Private

6. SOUTH KOREA
KYUNG SEOK PARK



© Amnesty International (Photo: Yoon Ra)



ANGOLA

Ana da Silva Miguel
(aka Neth Nahara)



'Let's use the constitution and technology, our own phones, to defend ourselves. Let's read books to know our rights, and then use our phones to film everything.'



TIKTOKER JAILED FOR POLITICAL VIEWS

Ana da Silva Miguel, also known as Neth Nahara, was arrested at her home in Luanda on 13 August 2023 after broadcasting a live video on TikTok criticising President João Lourenço.

The next day, Angola's first stage court convicted her of an 'outrage against the state, its symbols and bodies' under article 333 of the penal code. She was sentenced to six months in prison and fined one million kwanza (approximately \$1,200).

On 27 September, Angola's second stage court extended Neth's sentence to two years, following an appeal by the public prosecutor. The court did not allow her lawyers to counter-appeal as legally prescribed and has not responded to their complaint over the flawed process. During her imprisonment, authorities denied Neth her daily HIV medication for eight months, which severely impacted her health.

The Angolan authorities are abusing the penal code to try to silence peaceful dissent.

Send a message of support and solidarity

Ana da Silva Miguel (Neth Nahara)
Estabelecimento prisional feminino de Viana
Vila de Viana
Avenida 11 de Novembro
Rua Nzinga Mbande
Luanda
Angola
✉ darp@sp.minint.gov.ao

Language Portuguese, English

Pronouns She/her

Suggested message A lot of strength Neth. I wish you get out of prison as soon as possible. You were strong for exercising your right to freedom of expression and I wish you to continue expressing yourself without fear.

Can I

Send a religious card or message? Yes

Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes

Include my name and address? Yes

Creative solidarity ideas

- Emphasise her boldness for standing up for her rights.
- Draw a microphone to represent her passion for singing.
- Illustrate Neth with her son, 5, and daughter, 2.

Send an appeal letter

Urge the president to ensure Ana da Silva Miguel (Neth Nahara) is immediately released, as her conviction is solely due to the peaceful exercise of her human rights.

Write to President João Lourenço
Palácio Presidencial

Cidade Alta
Rua 17 de Setembro
Luanda
Angola
✉ secretariageral@oapr.gov.ao

Salutation Your Excellency
In your letter emphasise the urgent need for Neth to receive regular and unfettered access to her medication and adequate healthcare. Also highlight the arbitrary nature of her extended sentence and the constitutional violations in her trial.

Key dates

11 November: Angola's Independence Day

1 December: World Aids Day

ARGENTINA

Víctor Joel Rodrigo Paredes
(aka Joel)

'Our musical instruments are our weapons.'

© Amnesty International



BLINDED BY POLICE DURING A PROTEST

On 30 June 2023, Víctor Joel Rodrigo Paredes (aka Joel) joined peaceful protests in Humahuaca in the northwestern province of Jujuy.

The demonstration was against constitutional reforms in the province that threaten both freedom of assembly and the rights of Indigenous peoples. The police responded with unnecessary and excessive force, injuring many of the protesters, including Joel, who was blinded by a rubber bullet.

Joel subsequently underwent surgery but lost the sight in his right eye. Although he filed a complaint against the police, there has been no progress in the investigation and the officers responsible for his injury remained unidentified.

An Amnesty research mission to Jujuy found that the provincial police used practices such as arbitrary detentions and the illegal use of force to repress protests over the constitutional reforms.

Send a message of support and solidarity

Víctor Joel Rodrigo Paredes (Joel)
C/o Amnesty International
Argentina
Santos Dumont 3429, 2nd floor
Buenos Aires
Argentina 1427

Language Spanish, English

Pronouns He/him

Suggested message Stay strong Joel, we are fighting for justice.

Can I

Send a religious card or message? No

Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes

Include my name and address? Yes

Creative solidarity ideas

- Draw musical instruments (especially the bass drum) and/or ceramics to represent Joel's love of music and pottery.
- Share your hobbies and passions, especially if they relate to pottery.

Send an appeal letter

Urge the attorney general to bring those responsible for Víctor Joel Rodrigo Paredes's injuries, and all other violations against protesters, to justice in accordance with international law and standards.
Write to Dr Sergio E. Lello Sánchez
Attorney General of the Public Prosecutor's Office
Sarmiento 427
4600 San Salvador de Jujuy
Argentina
✉ stello@mpajujuy.gob.ar

Salutation Dear Sir

In your letter emphasise the urgent need for justice and reparation for Joel and other victims of police violence in Jujuy. Avoid mentioning Joel's eye injury directly to prevent re-victimisation.

Key dates

12 October: National Day of Indigenous Peoples

Amnesty country coordinator

David Rogers, country coordinator for Argentina, Chile and Angola
✉ david.rogers@amnesty.org.uk

BELARUS

Maryia Kalesnikava

‘This is not a struggle for power, this is a struggle for human dignity.’



IMPRISONED AFTER PEACEFUL PROTEST

Politician and musician Maryia Kalesnikava was arrested in September 2020 for protesting against human rights violations and the rigged presidential election.

Earlier in the year, Maryia joined the campaign of independent presidential candidate Svyatlana Tsikhanouskaya, calling for change amid severe restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly. Following Tsikhanouskaya’s forced exile on 10 August, Maryia emerged as the highest-profile opposition figure in Belarus. She appeared on the frontline of peaceful protests, repeatedly confronted abusive police officers, gave numerous media interviews and continued to support individuals who suffered arbitrary arrest and torture.

After being abducted by the authorities and resisting deportation, Maryia was charged with ‘undermining national security’ and later ‘conspiracy to seize power’. She is now serving an 11-year sentence for her activism. Despite being behind bars, Maryia’s courage and commitment to human rights remain an inspiration to people across Belarus.

CANADA

Wet’suwet’en Nation land defenders

‘Our medicines, our berries, our food, the animals, our water, our culture are all here since time immemorial. We are obligated to protect our ways of life for our babies unborn.’

Sleydo’ (Molly Wickham), Wet’suwet’en Nation land defender



DEFENDING ANCESTRAL LANDS AGAINST PIPELINES

For over a decade, the Wet’suwet’en Nation land defenders have exercised their rights to protect their territory in British Columbia from harmful projects.

Despite their opposition on human rights and environmental grounds, construction of a 416-mile gas pipeline began in their territory in 2019 without their consent, leading to legal and physical confrontations. If completed, the pipeline would divide the territory into two.

During Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) raids on Wet’suwet’en territory, land defenders and their supporters were arbitrarily detained for peacefully defending their land against the construction of the pipeline and exercising their Indigenous rights and their right to peaceful assembly.

In 2023 and 2024, several land defenders went on trial, including Sleydo’ (Molly Wickham), Shaylynn Sampson and Corey (Jayochee) Jocko, who were found guilty of criminal contempt. However, the trio filed abuse of process applications arguing their human rights were violated during their arrests and detention. The British Columbia Supreme Court started hearing their applications this summer.

Send a message of support and solidarity

Maryia Kalesnikava
Penal colony No. 4
vul. Antoshkina 3
246035, Homel
Republic of Belarus

Language Belarusian, Russian, English

Pronouns She/her

Suggested message Love is stronger than fear.

Can I

Send a religious card or message?

No

Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes

Include my name and address? Yes

Creative solidarity ideas

- Draw a red heart (a symbol Maryia used during protests) and/or musical notes (representing her

love of music).

- Use red lipstick to write messages or draw symbols to reflect Maryia’s characteristic look.

Send an appeal letter

Urge the minister to urgently take all necessary measures to ensure Maryia Kalesnikava is immediately released from prison and her unjust conviction overturned.

Write to Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

vul. Lenina 19
Minsk, 220030
Belarus

✉ mail@mfa.gov.by

✉ belarus.geneva@mfa.gov.by

✉ usaun@mfa.gov.by

✉ at.oscedel@mfa.by

Salutation Dear Minister

In your letter avoid references to

Ukraine, Crimea, the Wagner Group and Russia’s war in Ukraine. Do not use a red and white flag (the independent Belarusian flag) or a yellow and blue flag (the Ukrainian flag). Avoid expressions that could be interpreted as justifying violence, political topics and offensive language.

Key dates

28 November: Second anniversary of Maryia being sent to intensive care for surgery.

5 December: Two years since her father had the chance to visit her.

20 December: International Human Solidarity Day

Amnesty country coordinator

Barrie Hay, country coordinator for Belarus:

✉ barrie.hay@amnesty.org.uk

Send a message of support and solidarity

Wet’suwet’en Nation
C/o Amnesty International Canada
312 Laurier Avenue East
Ottawa ON K1N 1H9
Canada

Language English, Wet’suwet’en

Suggested message Thank you for protecting our Earth. Indigenous rights are human rights. We are with you. I stand in solidarity with Wet’suwet’en land defenders.

Can I

Send a religious card or message?

No

Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes

Include my name and address? Yes

Creative solidarity ideas

- Send pictures or postcards of your favourite places in nature and share why nature, land, water and animals are important to you.
- Wild salmon, berries, rivers, moose and deer all have special resonance for the Wet’suwet’en Nation.

Send an appeal letter

Urge the premier to stop the criminalisation of Wet’suwet’en and other Indigenous land defenders.

Write to Premier of British Columbia David Eby

PO Box 9041

STN Prov. Govt

Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Canada

Salutation

Dear Premier
In your letter do not refer to land defenders as ‘protesters’. Refer to the Wet’suwet’en as a nation, not a community, recognise their territory as ‘unceded’, and stick to the suggested messaging.

Key dates

- **18-21 November:** Fourth anniversary of the third large-scale RCMP raid.

Amnesty country coordinator

Lise Rossi, country coordinator for North America:

✉ lise.rossi@amnesty.org.uk

EGYPT

Oqba Hashad



'I don't understand why all this is happening to me, why I am being tormented, and my body can no longer bear it.'

© Private



STUDENT DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL

Oqba Hashad, an Egyptian business student, has been arbitrarily detained for nearly five years without trial solely because of his brother's human rights activism. Despite a court order for his release, he remains detained in horrific conditions, including being denied a proper prosthetic leg.

Prison authorities have interrogated Oqba on multiple occasions about his brother's activism and contact with his family in Egypt. They also questioned him about whether he had shared any information with his brother about his prison conditions.

Since 2013, the Egyptian authorities have violated the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. They use counter-terrorism laws to restrict these rights, have arbitrarily detained thousands of critics, and target relatives of dissidents in retaliation.

Egypt, as a state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, must ensure detainees with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodation and health services.

Send a message of support and solidarity

Oqba Hashad
C/o Amnesty International Tunis
Regional Office
24 Avenue de la livre Les Berges
du lac 2 1053
Tunis
Tunisia

Language Arabic, English

Pronouns He/him

Suggested message I am taking action in solidarity with you and to call for your immediate and unconditional release.

Can I

Send a religious card or message?
No

Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes

Include my name and address? Yes

Creative solidarity ideas

- Participants in solidarity actions can wear white clothes to show support for pre-trial detainees in Egypt.
- Actions can also be taken online: post messages of solidarity and friendship by using the hashtag #FreeOqba or tagging the @FreeOqba Twitter/X account.

Send an appeal letter

Urge the president to immediately and unconditionally release Oqba Hashad, as his detention is related solely to his brother's human rights activism.

Write to President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Office of the President Al-Ittihadiya
Palace Al Nadi
El-Montaza
Heliopolis

Cairo Governorate 4460210
Egypt

Salutation Your Excellency

Key dates

- 17 November:** International Student's Day
- 3 December:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 10 December:** Human Rights Day
- 10 January:** Oqba's birthday

Amnesty country coordinator

Diana Hysenaj, country coordinator for Egypt (Amnesty UK):

✉ diana.hysenaj@amnesty.org.uk

Note: Amnesty Israel should not campaign on the case as this might have a negative impact.

SOUTH KOREA

Kyung Seok Park

'As the world progresses, as society progresses, we [people with disabilities] were constantly left behind. Everyone told us to wait... We refuse to wait any longer. We demand a world where no one is left behind.'

© Amnesty International (Photo: Yoon Ra)



Send a message of support and solidarity

Kyung Seok Park
C/o Solidarity Against Disability
Discrimination
5F, 25, Dongsung-gil Jongno-gu
Seoul 03086
Republic of Korea

Language Korean, English

Pronouns He/him

Suggested message I'm standing in solidarity with you and your activism to achieve equal rights for people with disabilities. I hope the smear campaign against your work comes to an end. Please know we're riding the subway with you in spirit.

Can I

Send a religious card or message?
No

Send an Amnesty card or mention

Amnesty? Yes

Include my name and address? Yes

Creative solidarity ideas

Drawings or photos of public transport, wheelchairs, ladders, chains, musical instruments (such as a guitar) and maritime symbols (such as a boat or anchor) to represent Park's activism, struggle and personal interests.

Send an appeal letter

Urge the mayor to stop the use of unlawful force against Kyung Seok Park and SADD activists, drop all litigation and end the smear campaign against them.

Write to Mayor of Seoul
6F Seoul Metropolitan Government
110 Sejong-daero Jung-gu
Seoul 04524
Republic of Korea

DISABILITY RIGHTS ACTIVIST FACES LEGAL BATTLE

A disability rights activist and co-representative of Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination (SADD), Kyung Seok Park has advocated for accessible public transportation in South Korea for over 20 years. Even though his protests demanding an increased budget for disability rights are peaceful, he faces lawsuits and excessive police force.

Park, who uses a wheelchair, and SADD have conducted subway protests since 2021, highlighting the need for accessible public transportation. Despite promises, the Seoul metropolitan government has not fulfilled commitments to improve accessibility, and the protests have been met with force.

Park and SADD's protests began as a response to multiple incidents where people with disabilities were injured or killed due to inadequate infrastructure. Despite the peaceful nature of their demonstrations, Park and other activists face legal actions and media smear campaigns.

Salutation Dear Mayor of Seoul

In your letter do not use language that expresses pity towards Kyung Seok Park or people with disabilities. Their activism focuses on self-reliance and independence. Use supportive language that aligns with these values.

Key dates

- **29 September:** Kyung Seok Park's birthday

Amnesty country coordinator

Clara Candat Bazile and Kenny Latunde-Dada, country coordinators for North and South Korea:
✉ clara.candat-bazile@amnesty.org.uk
✉ kenny.latunde-dada@amnesty.org.uk

SAUDI ARABIA

Manahel al-Otaibi

'Last time we spoke to her she said she was being tortured [and] beaten. She said she can't speak openly and they took her phone away. My sister needs help, at least someone to check if she's alive or not. She has no access to a lawyer.'

Fawzia al-Otaibi, Manahel's sister



BEHIND BARS FOR CHAMPIONING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Fitness instructor and activist Manahel al-Otaibi is in prison because of her social media posts advocating for women's rights in Saudi Arabia. She faces severe mistreatment and health issues.

Manahel was arrested on 16 November 2022 for violating the Anti-Cyber Crime Law due to her tweets supporting women's rights and calling for the removal of repressive male guardianship laws, and for posting photos of herself in a mall without an abaya on Snapchat. She was forcibly disappeared and subjected to solitary confinement and torture.

Despite Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's claims of reform, Manahel's case highlights the ongoing repression of women's rights activists in Saudi Arabia. According to court documents reviewed by Amnesty, she was referred to the Specialised Criminal Court on the basis that her actions 'violate religious principles and social values and disrupt public order and undermine the security of the society'. Prosecutors specifically referenced posts of hers that used the hashtag #EndMaleGuardianship.

In a secret trial, the court sentenced her to 11 years in prison.

TÜRKİYE

Professor Şebnem Korur Fincancı



'I have never had the habit of bowing to any authority to this day.'



TARGETED FOR HER HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

Professor Şebnem Korur Fincancı, head of the Turkish Medical Association, faces more than seven years in prison after being targeted because of her human rights work.

Professor Fincancı is a prominent human rights defender, anti-torture advocate and forensic medicine expert. In October 2022, she was arrested by the police and put in pre-trial detention. A criminal investigation was launched against her after she called for an independent investigation into allegations that Turkish armed forces may have used chemical weapons in the Kurdistan region of Iraq in comments during a live TV interview.

Professor Fincancı was later convicted of trumped-up charges of 'making propaganda for a terrorist organisation'. She is currently awaiting the result of an appeal, but also faces additional charges linked to her human rights work.

Send a message of support and solidarity

Manahel al-Otaibi
C/o Saudi Arabia Team
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
UK

Language Arabic, English
Pronouns She/her

Note Please don't write directly to Manahel in prison, as it may put her at further risk of reprisals and ill-treatment, given the authorities' negative perception of Amnesty International.

Can I

Send a religious card or message?
No

Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes

Include my name and address? Yes

Creative solidarity ideas

- Drawings or photos of dumbbells, positive exercise photos, and any symbols representing fitness, self-empowerment and women's rights.
- Amplify Manahel's story through social media, using the hashtags #FreeManahel and #EndMaleGuardianship, and tagging relevant Saudi authorities.

Send an appeal letter

Urge the minister to immediately and unconditionally release Manahel al-Otaibi and drop all charges against her.

Write to Dr Waleed Mohammed Al-Samaani
Minister of Justice for Saudi Arabia
PO Box 7775
11472
Riyadh

Saudi Arabia

Salutation Your Excellency

Key dates

- **16 November:** Anniversary of Manahel's arrest
- **15-19 December:** Internet Governance Forum held in Saudi Arabia

Amnesty country coordinator

Paul Dawson, country Coordinator for Yemen, Iraq and Saudi Arabia:
✉ paul.dawson@amnesty.org.uk

Send a message of support and solidarity

Prof Şebnem Korur Fincancı
Türk Tabipleri Birliği
GMK Bulvarı
Şht. Daniş Tunalıgil Sk. No: 2/17-2
06570 Maltepe/Ankara
Türkiye

Language Turkish, English
Pronouns She/her

Suggested message I stand with you, Prof Şebnem Korur Fincancı. Defending human rights should never be a crime. Thank you for all your amazing work, we are in full solidarity with you.

Can I

Send a religious card or message?
No

Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes

Include my name and address? Yes

Creative solidarity ideas

- Draw a piano and reference Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata
- Share a positive story of a doctor helping you or a loved one.

Send an appeal letter

Urge the minister to stop using the criminal justice system to harass Professor Şebnem Korur Fincancı and drop all charges for her human rights work.

Write to Minister of Justice Yılmaz Tunç
The Ministry of Justice
T.C. Adalet Bakanlığı Kızılay
Milli Müdafı Cd. No:5
06420 Çankaya Ankara
Türkiye

Salutation Dear Minister

Key dates

- **29 November:** International Women Human Rights Defenders Day

Amnesty country coordinator

Chris Ramsey, country coordinator for Türkiye:
✉ chris.ramsey@amnesty.org.uk

Notes: Avoid using religious greetings and colours associated with the Kurdish movement (red, gold and green together).

VIETNAM

Dang Dinh Bach

'Bach is a climate champion and should not be punished for his participation in Vietnam's clean energy transition. It's crucial for human rights lawyers and environmental defenders to stand up worldwide for our colleague in Vietnam.'

Meena Jagannath, coordinator of the Global Network of Movement Lawyers at Movement Law Lab



TARGETED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

Dang Dinh Bach, a prominent environmental lawyer, was sentenced to five years in prison for 'tax evasion', a charge widely regarded as retaliation for his activism. He faces harsh prison conditions and has undertaken multiple hunger strikes in protest against his treatment.

Bach was held incommunicado for most of his pre-trial detention, denied adequate access to his lawyer, and refused access to his family before the trial. He is not the only activist targeted in this fashion. In recent years, the Vietnamese government has abused powers under vague tax laws and NGO regulations to arrest and prosecute several environment and climate leaders and frustrate NGO activities.

According to his family, Bach's health has deteriorated due to poor conditions and harassment from prison officers. Despite this, his commitment to justice remains unwavering.

Send a message of support and solidarity

Dang Dinh Bach
C/o Write for Rights
Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
London WC1X 0DW
Language Vietnamese, English
Pronouns He/him
Suggested message Supporters from around the world are sending you and your family messages of encouragement. Your work is making our planet safer and more liveable. Thank you for your efforts. We wish you continued health and steadfastness in your ideals.

Can I

Send a religious card or message? No
Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes

Include my name and address? Yes

Creative solidarity ideas

- Bach loves yoga and reading books. You could tell him how much you enjoy these activities and/or draw yoga or meditation scenes.
- Ask your embassy representative in Vietnam to request a visit to Bach in prison, which will show solidarity and alert the prison about international attention on him. British Embassy, Central Building, 4th floor, 31 Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, Vietnam

Send an appeal letter

Call for the immediate and unconditional release of Dang Dinh Bach. Pending his release, call for him to be protected from torture and provided with adequate healthcare.
Write to President Tô Lâm
President's Office

No 02 Hung Vuong street
Ba Dinh District
Hanoi
Vietnam 11100
Salutation Your Excellency

Key dates

- **9 December:** Human Rights Defender Day

Amnesty country coordinator

Malcolm Dingwall-Smith, country coordinator for Southeast Asia:
✉ malcolm.dingwall-smith@amnesty.org.uk

Notes: Avoid associations with Vietnamese diaspora events that use the South Vietnamese flag and terms such as 'communist regime' and 'dictatorship'. Emphasise Bach's international recognition and contributions to environmental justice.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT FROM PREVIOUS CAMPAIGNS

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world participated in Write for Rights 2023, taking at least 5.8 million actions. Here are some recent updates on people who have been featured in the campaign in the past.

KYRGYZSTAN

Rita Karasartova



Rita Karasartova is a human rights defender and expert in civic governance

who was featured in Write for Rights 2023. For over a decade, she has dedicated her life to providing independent legal advice, helping people whose rights had been violated.

Alongside 26 others, Rita was arrested for opposing a new border agreement giving control of a freshwater reservoir to Uzbekistan. Charged with attempting to 'violently overthrow the government', which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment, Rita and 21 other defendants were acquitted on 14 June 2024.

I would like to express my huge, huge gratitude. Your timely actions, these letters, petitions, signatures, and the huge number of letters that went to the court, that went to the prosecutor's office... [were] very empowering to us all...

'Of course, the acquittal was totally unexpected. I don't even know how to process it in my head. We had been playing with all sorts of scenarios, different outcomes in our heads, but we didn't think we would all be acquitted. I thank you all.'

Rita Karasartova

ESWATINI



Thulani Maseko

A loving father and husband, Thulani Maseko was a devout member of the Methodist Church, an activist and LGBTI+ ally. Thulani, who was featured in Write for Rights 2023, fought tirelessly against oppressive laws and state violence in a country ruled by an absolute monarchy. In January 2023, he was assassinated at home in front of his wife.

In August 2023, the police claimed there had been progress in their investigation into Thulani's death, but his family has received no updates since. Tanele Maseko, Thulani's wife, expressed gratitude for the support from Amnesty supporters, which has strengthened the call for justice. In June 2024, a memorial lecture attended by friends, activists and the deputy minister of justice highlighted the importance of continued support for the #JusticeForThulani campaign.



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via Getty Images

MYANMAR

Maung Sawyeddollah

In August 2017, Myanmar’s military unleashed a deadly crackdown on Rohingya Muslims, who have faced decades of severe state-sponsored discrimination. Thousands were killed, raped, tortured and had their villages burned down.

Over 620,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh, including the then 17-year-old Maung Sawyeddollah, who was featured in Write for Rights 2023. He and his family walked for 15 days until they reached the Cox’s Bazar refugee camps. Fuelled by a desire to become a lawyer, Sawyeddollah wanted to seek justice for the suffering around him.

Alongside his studies, he started a campaign calling for Facebook’s owner, Meta, to take responsibility for the way its algorithms amplified anti-Rohingya incitement, fuelling the Myanmar military’s violence. As part of his campaign, Sawyeddollah called on Meta to pay reparations to help his community rebuild their shattered lives.

In 2023, Sawyeddollah faced serious security risks. With partners Victim Advocates International and Dev.tv, Amnesty put together resources to help ensure his safety, including urgent financial support. This August, Sawyeddollah was granted a student visa and moved to the United States. He is now an international student at New York University.

May Carolan, Amnesty’s senior campaigner for Write for Rights, said: ‘Amnesty is at its best when we’re working alongside human rights defenders who are at risk, like Sawyeddollah, supporting them in their darkest moments and making sure their voices are heard.

‘Thank you so much to everyone who supported Sawyeddollah’s case through Write for Rights and ensured that the Rohingya cause is not forgotten by the international community. Since the campaign, Sawyeddollah has gone on to become the first Rohingya to be issued a student visa directly from the refugee camps in Bangladesh.’

I extend my heartfelt thanks to my parents, family, friends, relatives, and well-wishers who encouraged me to persevere. I am especially thankful to many individuals and organizations, including Amnesty International, without whose support this journey would not have been possible.

Maung Sawyeddollah



© Aleksandra Skochilenko

RUSSIA

Aleksandra (Sasha) Skochilenko

Artist and anti-war activist Aleksandra (Sasha) Skochilenko was arrested in April 2022 after she replaced price tags at a grocery shop with information about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. She was charged with disseminating ‘false information’ about the country’s military activities.

After huge public campaigning, including when she was featured in Write for Rights 2022, Sasha was freed in a historic prisoner swap in August 2024. The deal was brokered between Russia and Belarus on one side and Germany, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and the United States on the other.

I want to say a huge thank you to Amnesty International. It’s hard to put my gratitude into words, because, to a large extent, I am here thanks to you.

Aleksandra (Sasha) Skochilenko



© AI

JAPAN

Hakamada Iwao

In September 2024, Shizuoka District Court acquitted Hakamada Iwao, 88, who was described as the world’s longest-serving death row prisoner.

Hakamada had been convicted of murder, largely based on a forced ‘confession’, in a grossly unfair trial in 1968. He subsequently spent more than 45 years on death row.

His case was a long-standing Amnesty campaign and featured in Write for Rights 2012.

HOSTING AN EVENT

Every year, Amnesty groups across the UK organise a wide variety of Write for Rights events. Here are some ideas.

Write for Rights is a good way for people new to **human rights activism** to get involved. You could hold a lunchtime event at work and ask people to sign action cards or write letters in your school, library or community club.

Organise a writing event and invite a speaker. This could be a country coordinator, a rights-holder from the same country as one of the cases, someone with knowledge or experience of the right to protest, or a representative from a relevant organisation.

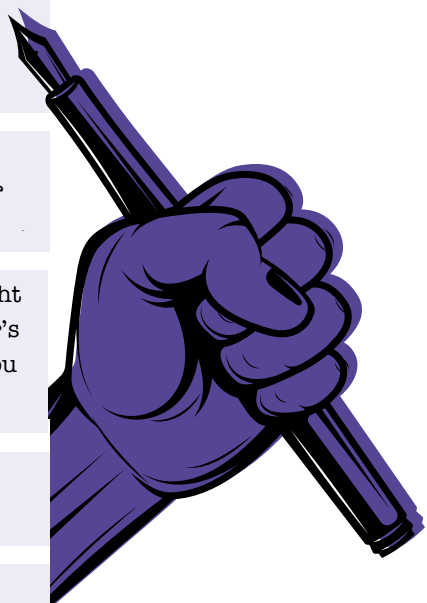
10 December 2024 is Human Rights Day and the **76th anniversary** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: a good time to hold your event.

The November-December period is the **season of goodwill**, so why not host a celebration with mulled wine and mince pies for your family, friends or housemates?

Build relationships with people in your community who might be interested in the individuals, countries or issues in this year's campaign - and invite them to your event, along with people you know.

Contact **local media** in advance - they may promote or cover your event.

Encourage others in your communities to set up their own letter-writing event at their school, workplace, sports club, community club or other venue.



FUNDRAISING AT YOUR EVENT

There are plenty of activities you can add onto your Write for Rights event to cover costs and raise funds for Amnesty UK. Here are some ideas.

- Team up with a local café, restaurant or food stall and ask them to donate a percentage of their takings on the day. You could hold your Write for Rights event there, which would bring in customers for them.
- Organise a tea party or bake sale to raise funds while you write. For tips and ideas, visit [amnesty.org.uk/tea](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/tea)
- Invite a local choir to sing carols outside your venue. Organise a collection while they perform.
- Set up a present-wrapping stall. Approach local shops and shopping centres as soon as possible to check if they have space. You could direct customers to your Write for Rights event or ask them to write a card while they wait.

Our Community and Events Fundraising team is on hand to offer advice and free materials for anyone raising money for Amnesty UK at their Write for Rights event. Visit [amnesty.org.uk/organise-event](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/organise-event) or email sct@amnesty.org.uk

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

In some cases, it may not be safe for the person to receive mail or the postal service in their country may be unreliable. Some prison authorities also limit the amount of post people can receive. In every case, we work with the individual to determine the safest and most effective way to share messages with them. If we suggest a method that you are unable to use – such as social media – please send a message to another individual in the campaign.

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

It is for the safety of the recipient. In some cases, association with a particular faith or 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 and robins, or a postcard of your local area. The message 'Season's Greetings' is not religious.

Can I send cards produced by other organisations?

Yes, as long as their work cannot be considered political and the card follows the general guidance on the case.

Why are there only nine cases?

The nine cases are carefully chosen to have the maximum impact: they have been selected after a long process that involved obtaining the informed consent of each person featured, planning each action, developing a strategy and assessing the risks.

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

Please send a letter instead. The email account may have been switched off because the addressee has been overwhelmed by appeals or the inbox is full.

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. Contact us on iar@amnesty.org.uk

What else can I do to campaign on the cases of individuals at risk?

You can join our Urgent Action Network, which protects people from torture, helps free people who are wrongly detained and secures access to medical treatment or legal counsel for prisoners. As a network member, you will be sent requests – how many is up to you – to take action urgently on behalf of individuals at risk. Find out more at [amnesty.org.uk/urgent](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent)

Why is feedback important?

Finding out how many people took part in the campaign, and on which cases, shows us whether our tactics are working or need to be adapted. It also enables us to provide updates about an individual's changing circumstances. Please use the feedback form at [amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights)

Does this campaign really work?

Yes, solidarity is effective. Thousands of letters arriving at a prison tells the authorities the world is watching. And people who have received solidarity messages have told us how it boosts their spirits and strength.

Sending cards and letters individually can be pricey, can I send them all in one go?

Yes, if it is cheaper and easier to send them in one envelope, please do so, unless otherwise stated in the case information.

Can I send my letters to the Amnesty UK office?

We ask that you send your letters directly to the target or the individuals. We do not have staff in the office full-time and are therefore unable to forward any letters.

Is it risky to sign my letters and give my address? Will that country refuse to let me visit it in the future?

We have no record of this happening. Thousands of Amnesty supporters sign their letters without experiencing any problems. However, if you have business or other close links with a country or have concerns, you may wish to choose another case or to not give your full name or address (for example, sign a letter 'from Jane, Manchester'). We have also stated in the case information in this booklet if we recommend you do not use your full details.

Join **Amnesty International** today to defend human rights

✉ sct@amnesty.org.uk
amnesty.org.uk/join

 [@amnestyUK](https://twitter.com/amnestyUK)  [/amnestyUK](https://facebook.com/amnestyUK)

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

✉ sct@amnesty.org.uk

Amnesty International UK
The Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

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