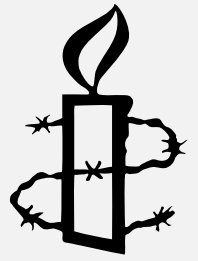


WRITE FOR RIGHTS



**GREETINGS CARD
AND LETTER-WRITING
CAMPAIGN 2013**



Amnesty International

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LETTER WRITING WORKS

I want to thank... Amnesty International, for the support they have shown me. I no longer have fear of being imprisoned, because after having seen all the letters and messages of support, I understood that we are stronger than they are.'

Mehman Huseynov, Human Rights Defender from Azerbaijan speaking about the support he received from Write for Rights 2012. Mehman could face up to five years in jail if convicted on bogus charges.

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 **08457 950950**.

Weight not over	Europe	Rest of World
10g	88p	88p
20g	88p	£1.28
40g	£1.28	£1.88

This booklet is suitable for audiences aged 14+.
For younger audiences please download our youth casesheets.
www.amnesty.org.uk/write
click on resources



WRITE FOR RIGHTS



It's such a simple thing, to write a postcard or drop a letter in the mailbox. It only takes a few minutes. Yet it can mean all the difference to a prisoner in a lonely cell, or to family members hoping for the return home of a relative who has 'disappeared'.

Messages of solidarity strengthen and cheer those suffering human rights abuses because of their work. They also give pause to their persecutors. Presidents, police chiefs and prison governors do take note when they receive hundreds of appeals to release a prisoner, stop the harassment of an activist or change an unjust law.

Please read about the individuals we would like you to support, and how to take action. Then use your freedom of expression to stand up for the freedom of others.

NEW FOR 2013

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

- Send a solidarity message
- Write an appeal letter targeting the authorities.

In two cases, we ask you to make an online solidarity action only. This is because the recipients cannot receive mail or a large number of cards would be overwhelming.

We are featuring 13 stories of people who need your help this year. But if you want to do more, we have eight additional cases. For details, call **020 7033 1777** or email **sct@amnesty.org.uk**.



With three of the cases in this booklet, you will see this symbol (left) and the campaign tagline '**Help get them home**'.

The three cases will be widely publicised to increase public awareness and attract new supporters for Amnesty's campaigns for individuals at risk. The highlighted cases are: Eskinder Nega (page 12), Yorm Bopha (page 11), and Jabeur Mejri (page 17). To get involved see:

#HelpGetThemHome
www.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.
- Don't feel you have to take action on all 13 cases – choose one or two if that is easier.
- Write your own personal message of support and solidarity. It's always best to use your own words, but if you're not sure, there is a suggested message as a guide.
- When writing a letter to the authorities, include your name, address and country. This shows the letter is genuine and personal. Think about the people who will read your letter. Write to them as one human being to another, but keep requests clear and polite.
- For more information, see *Frequently Asked Questions* on page 22.

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Write for Rights Campaign runs from

1 November to 31 December.

International Human Rights Day is **10 December.**

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: sct@amnesty.org.uk

MAP OF CASES

1 **AFGHANISTAN**
Afghan Women Skills Development Centre



2 **BANGLADESH**
Kalpana Chakma



3 **BELARUS**
Ihar Tsikhanyuk



4 **BRAZIL**
Laísa Santos Sampaio




5 **BURMA**
Dr Tun Aung



6 **CAMBODIA**
Yorm Bopha



9



8



4

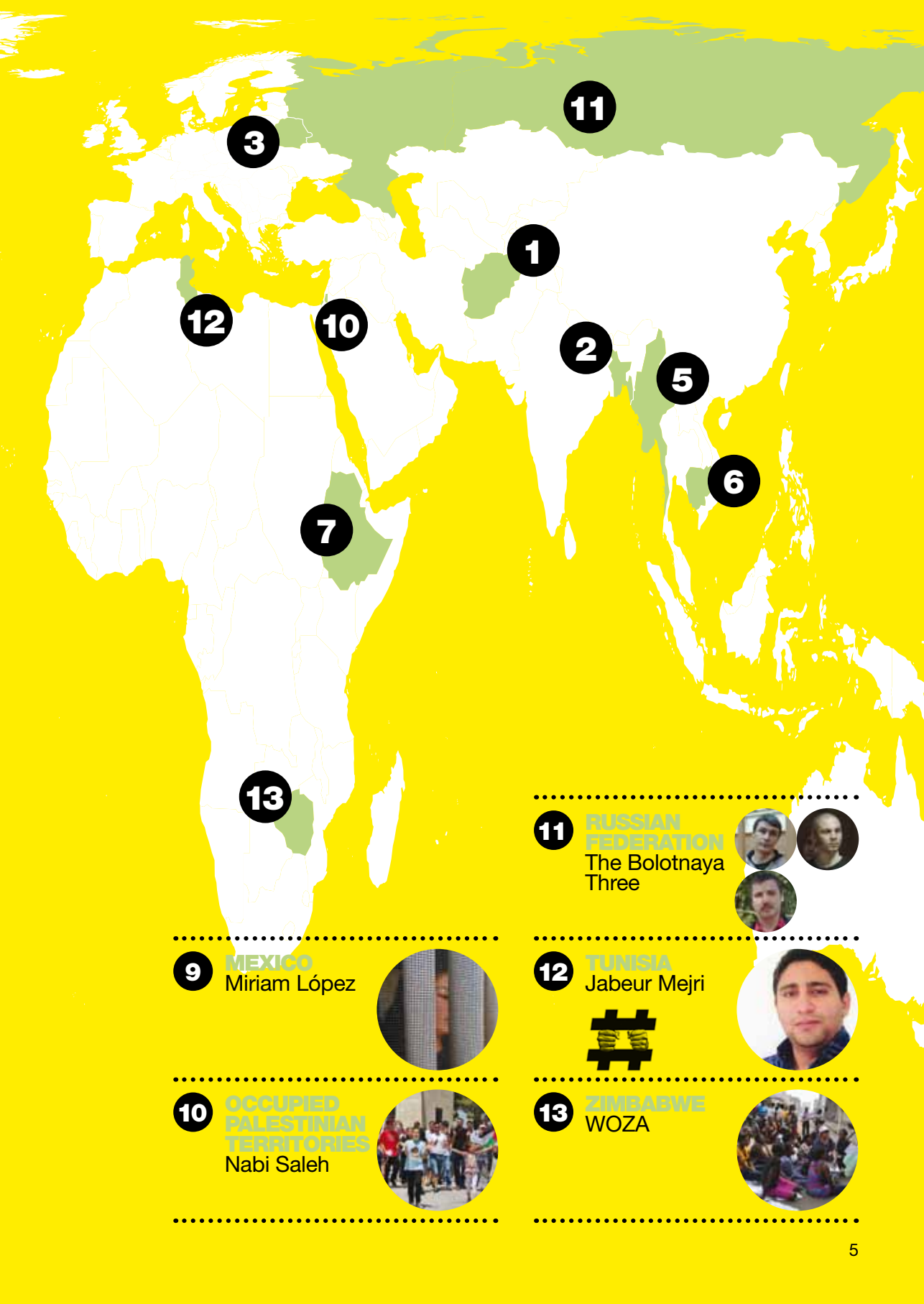


7 **ETHIOPIA**
Eskinder Nega



8 **HONDURAS**
COFADEH





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RUSSIAN FEDERATION
The Bolotnaya Three



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MEXICO
Miriam López



12

TUNISIA
Jabeur Mejri



10

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
Nabi Saleh



13

ZIMBABWE
WOZA



AFGHANISTAN

Afghan Women Skills Development Centre



© CARE/Puthupparambil

POSITIVE CHANGE FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

Fifteen years ago Mary Akrami and a group of pioneering women's rights activists set up the Afghan Women Skills Development Centre (AWSDC) to tackle violence and inequality and bring about positive change for women in Afghanistan.

AWSDC provides training for police officers to sensitise them to working with female survivors of violence, works with traditional and religious groups to raise awareness about women's rights issues in communities, and runs several shelters.

In a country where violence against women is endemic and those responsible rarely face justice, shelters like those run by AWSDC play a critical role in providing survivors with protection and support to help them rebuild their lives.

AWSDC staff carry out this important work at great personal risk and face threats, intimidation and attacks.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/awsdc

ONLINE ACTION

ADD YOUR SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO:

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/awsdc

■ **Preferred language** English

■ **Salutation** Dear Friends at AWSDC

■ **Suggested message** I stand with you in solidarity and wish you strength and courage.

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge President Hamid Karzai to improve support and protection for women human rights defenders

Write to: President Hamid Karzai
Gul Khana Palace
Presidential Palace
Kabul
Afghanistan

Email: president@afghanistangov.org

Salutation: Your Excellency

In your letter:

- State that women human rights defenders are among the most active agents for positive change in Afghanistan, but face frequent intimidation and attacks, including from members of the government and people allied to the Taliban and other armed opposition groups.
- Call for attacks and threats on women human rights defenders to be swiftly and fully investigated.
- Call for full implementation of the Elimination of Violence against Women Law and other legislation that protects and promotes women's human rights.

'It unsettles people to see a woman being strong and vocal – and they get more upset when they see I encourage other women to be strong and vocal too... there is no protection for human rights defenders like us. No one is thinking of us and what will happen to us.' **Mary Akrami**

BANGLADESH

Kalpana Chakma

INDIGENOUS WOMAN 'DISAPPEARED'

Kalpana Chakma was the organising secretary of the Hill Women's Federation, which campaigns for the rights of indigenous peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. In the early hours of 12 June 1996, Kalpana and two of her brothers were abducted from their home in Lallyagona village, Baghaichari, Rangamati district, by plain-clothed security officers.

Her brothers managed to escape and identified the three assailants. However, the police did not take note of the names of the assailants, and they were not investigated or added to the case files. Kalpana, 23 at the time of the incident, has never been found. It is believed that her abduction may have been linked to her support for a political candidate representing the interests of indigenous peoples.

A Bangladeshi court recently demanded a new investigation report into the case with vital information such as the names of the accused assailants included. However, the deadline has passed and no new report has been submitted.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/kalpana

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

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

- **Preferred language** English or Bangla
- **Salutation** Dear Kalicharan
- **Suggested message** We are thinking of you and your family. We and people around the world stand with you in your struggle for justice.
- **Additional information** Kalicharan Chakma is Kalpana's brother.

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge Minister of Home Affairs Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir to ensure Kalpana Chakma's case is properly investigated and those responsible for her 'disappearance' brought to justice.

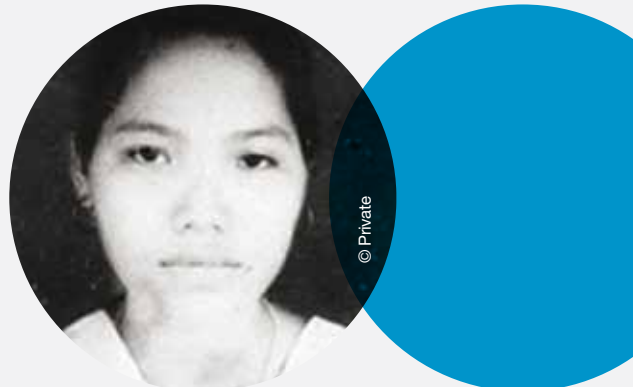
Write to: Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir
Ministry of Home Affairs
H-16, R-25, B-A, Banani
Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh

Fax: 00880 2 7164788
Email: mkalamgir@yahoo.com

Salutation: Dear Home Minister

In your letter:

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



BELARUS

Ihar Tsikhanyuk

BEATEN BY POLICE FOR BEING GAY

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals face negative stereotyping and prejudice in Belarus, where there are currently no registered LGBTI organisations.

In January, Ihar Tsikhanyuk, an openly gay drag performer and LGBTI rights activist, unsuccessfully attempted to register Human Rights Centre Lambda, with the authorities as an LGBTI organisation. He was subsequently questioned by police, who subjected him to physical and verbal abuse because of his sexuality.

No one has been held to account for Ihar's mistreatment. He and others connected to Human Rights Centre Lambda remain at risk of further threats and abuse because of their sexuality and LGBTI activism.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/ihar

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Ihar Tsikhanyuk
C/o Belarus Team
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW

- **Preferred language** Belarusian, Russian and English
- **Salutation** Dear Ihar Tsikhanyuk
- **Suggested message** We admire your work in such difficult circumstances and wish you success in it. (*Belarusian*: Мы захапляемся вашай працай у такіх цяжкіх умовах і жадаем Вам поспехаў у ёй. *Russian*: Мы восхищаемся вашей работой в таких тяжелых условиях и желаем Вам успехов в ней).

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge General Prosecutor Alyksandr Koniuk to investigate Ihar Tsikhanyuk's allegations and bring those responsible to justice.

Write to: Generalnaya Prokuratura
ul. Internatsionalnaya 22
220030 Minsk
Belarus

Fax: +375 17 226 42 52 (Please say 'fax' clearly if someone answers)

Email: info@prokuratura.gov.by

Salutation: Dear General Prosecutor

In your letter:

- Urge the General Prosecutor to start a thorough and independent investigation into Ihar Tsikhanyuk's allegations that he was beaten by police and targeted because of his sexual orientation.
- Call on him to ensure that the officers responsible face disciplinary and criminal proceedings.
- Ask him to end the obstruction, harassment and intimidation of non-governmental organisations involved in human rights in Belarus.

'I don't want to hide myself. I live openly. It is not easy in Belarus, but I want to show people that I am a person like everybody. Maybe with my example I want to show that it is possible to live openly.'

Ihar Tsikhanyuk



© Sergey Yagelo

BRAZIL

Laísa Santos Sampaio

DEATH THREATS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNER

Laísa Santos Sampaio, a member of a group that promotes sustainable development in Nova Ipixuna municipality in Pará state, has been the target of persistent death threats since 2011.

In May 2011 her sister and brother-in-law, both prominent environmental campaigners, were shot dead by contract killers. Two men were convicted in April 2013, but a third man who allegedly ordered the killings was acquitted and lives in the same community as Laísa. Other individuals closely associated with the three are also present in the community, and Laísa believes they are responsible for the threats she received.

Laísa is one of the most high-profile critics of illegal logging and charcoal burning in her region, but receives little or no protection from the authorities. She currently remains outside her community for safety reasons.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/laisa

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Laísa Santos Sampaio
C/o José Batista Gonçalves Afonso
Rua Barão do Triunfo, 3151
Bairro Marco
Belém, PA
CEP 66093-050

- **Preferred language** Portuguese or English
- **Salutation** Dear Laísa (Prezada Laísa)
- **Suggested message** We support your actions to defend the environment and your struggle to seek justice for your sister and brother-in-law (Nós apoiamos sua luta em defesa do meio ambiente e sua busca por justiça por sua irmã e cunhado).

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge Secretary of Human Rights Maria do Rosário to protect Laísa Santos Sampaio and investigate the threats she has received.

Write to: Sra. Ministra Maria do Rosário
Secretaria de Direitos Humanos
Setor Comercial Sul
Edifício Parque da Cidade Corporate
Quadra 9, Lote C, Torre A, 10º andar
CEP: 70.308-200
Brasília/DF
Brasil

Email: direitoshumanos@sdh.gov.br

Salutation: Dear Minister (Exma. Sra. Ministra)

In your letter:

- Urge the Secretary of Human Rights to ensure Laísa Santos Sampaio is protected and free to pursue her human and environmental rights work.
- Ask her to conduct a throughout and impartial investigation into the threats against Laísa.
- Call on her to tackle the endemic criminality behind the conflict over land and natural resources, and protect communities that are at risk.

'I live in fear. I am frightened by the slightest noise, but I have to continue my work.'

Laísa Santos Sampaio



© Esther Gillingham, CAFOD

BURMA

Dr Tun Aung

IMPRISONED FOR TRYING TO HELP

Dr Tun Aung, a community leader, has been sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment after an unfair trial.

He was arrested following riots between Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims in Maungdaw, a town in western Burma, in June 2012. Independent eyewitnesses confirm that Dr Aung actively tried to calm the crowd during the rioting and played no role in the violence. Nevertheless, he was convicted of inciting riots and various other criminal offences.

It is likely that the authorities were looking for people to blame in the aftermath of the violence and Dr Aung may have been targeted because he is a Muslim community leader. Amnesty International considers Dr Aung, who suffers from a pituitary tumour and may not be receiving the medical care he needs, to be a prisoner of conscience.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/drtun

ONLINE ACTION

POST A VIDEO OR PHOTO WITH A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT:

■ Go to www.myanmar-w4r.tumblr.com and click on 'submit' at the top of the page. You can then upload a message, photo or video. The family will be able to view this page, and Amnesty hopes to be able to share it with Dr Tun Aung on his release.

- **Preferred language** English or Burmese
- **Salutation** To the family of Dr Tun Aung

CAN I

- ✗ **Send a religious card or message?**
- ✓ **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty**
- ✗ **Include my name and address?** You can include your name but it is not advisable to make your address public on the internet.
- ✗ **Download the message in another language?**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge President Thein Sein to immediately and unconditionally release Dr Tun Aung.

Write to: President Thein Sein
President's Office
Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar

Email: Via an online contact form at
www.president-office.gov.mm/contact

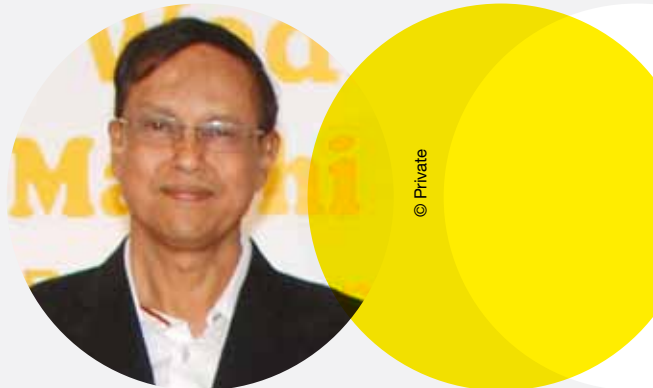
Salutation: Your Excellency

In your letter:

■ Urge him to immediately and unconditionally release Dr Tun Aung.

While the authorities are considering Dr Tun Aung for release:

- Urge him to move Dr Tun Aung from Sittwe prison to Insein prison so that he can have regular family visits ahead of his release.
- Call on him to ensure the prison authorities provide Dr Aung with the medical care and medication he requires to manage a serious health condition.



CAMBODIA

Yorm Bopha



Help get them home
Online action at
www.amnesty.org.uk/yorm

BRING YORM BOPHA HOME

Yorm Bopha, a passionate campaigner for her community at Boeung Kak Lake in Phnom Penh, has been imprisoned since September 2012 following an unfair trial.

Yorm and other local women had led a peaceful protest to mark the anniversary of a forced eviction in their community in which houses were destroyed. She was subsequently accused of planning an assault on two men and, despite the lack of any credible evidence, given a three-year sentence.

Amnesty International considers her a prisoner of conscience, jailed on fabricated charges because of her peaceful activism defending the right to housing and freedom of expression.

With her husband unable to work because of ill health, Yorm's family has financial problems and can no longer afford to send their son to school.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/yorm

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Yorm Bopha
C/o LICADHO
PO Box 499
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Alternatively by courier for bulk mail:

Yorm Bopha
C/o Naly Pilorge, Director, LICADHO
#16 St 99
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

- **Preferred language** Khmer or English
- **Salutation** Dear Yorm Bopha
- **Suggested message** We all support you and wish you good spirit and health.
- **Additional information** 27 December is the anniversary of Yorm Bopha's conviction.

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the Minister of Justice to immediately and unconditionally release Yorm Bopha

NB: At the time of publication the new Minister of Justice had not been named because of an ongoing dispute over the July general election result.

Write to: Ministry of Justice
No 240 Sothearos Blvd
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Fax: +855 23 364119
Email: moj@cambodia.gov.kh

Salutation: Your Excellency

In your letter:

- State that Yorm Bopha is a prisoner of conscience and should be immediately and unconditionally released.
- Call on the minister to publicly condemn harassment, violence and unwarranted legal action against human rights defenders, and order an end to it.

Yorm Bopha calls for the release of fellow human rights defenders from Boeung Kak Lake community

© Jenny Holligan



ETHIOPIA

Eskinder Nega



Help get them home
Online action at
www.amnesty.org.uk/eskinder

BRING ESKINDER NEGA HOME

Eskinder Nega, a 44-year-old journalist, is serving 18 years in prison for terrorism offences, after he criticised the Ethiopian government and called for freedom of expression in speeches and articles.

The Ethiopian authorities routinely use criminal charges and accusations of terrorism to silence dissenters.

Eskinder has long been a thorn in the side of the Ethiopian authorities. This is the eighth time he has been arrested and prosecuted because of his activities as a journalist. His wife, Serkalem Fasil, was also tried on treason and other charges. Their son, Nafkot, was born in prison. Amnesty International considers Eskinder to be a prisoner of conscience.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/eskinder

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Serkalem Fasil
C/o The Individuals and Communities
at Risk Program
Amnesty International USA
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE 5th floor
Washington, DC 20003
USA

- **Preferred language** Amharic or English
- **Salutation** Dear Eskinder and Serkalem
- **Suggested message** We are thinking of you both and campaigning for Eskinder's freedom.
- **Additional information** Eskinder's birthday is on 6 November. The Ethiopian (Orthodox) Christmas is celebrated on 6 January.

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn to immediately and unconditionally release Eskinder Nega.

Write to: Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn
P.O. Box 1031
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Fax: +251 11 551 1244

Email: (via Ministry of Justice)
mojmo@ethionet.et

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

In your letter:

- Urge him to immediately and unconditionally release Eskinder Nega.
- Call for the authorities to stop using criminal proceedings to silence their critics, and end harassment of journalists and members of civil society, including human rights activists.

'I will live to see the light at the end of the tunnel. It may or may not be a long wait. Whichever way events may go, I shall persevere.' **Eskinder Nega**

Serkalem Fasil, son Nafkot and husband Eskinder Nega,
2007 © Private



HONDURAS

COFADEH

ACTIVISTS UNDER INCREASING THREAT

The Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH) is one of the country's main human rights organisations. Its work includes seeking justice for current human rights abuses by the security forces and 'disappearances' in the 1980s, and training local human rights activists.

COFADEH's brave staff members are at great risk and since 2011 the number and severity of incidents against them has intensified, with death threats, harassment and attacks. Female COFADEH members have also been threatened with sexual violence.

Despite an order from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Honduran authorities have failed to adequately protect COFADEH staff members and their families. Despite the danger, COFADEH continues its crucial work.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/cofadeh

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH)

Barrio La Plazuela

Avenida Cervantes, Casa 1301

Tegucigalpa

Honduras

- **Preferred language** Spanish or English
- **Salutation** Dear Friends (Estimad@s amigas y amigos del COFADEH)
- **Suggested message** We stand in solidarity with you and admire all of your important work promoting and protecting human rights in Honduras. Best wishes (Les mandamos este mensaje en solidaridad y con mucha admiración por su valiosa labor de promover y proteger los derechos humanos en Honduras. Cordialmente).
- **Additional information** 30 November is COFADEH's 31st anniversary. Try to send cards with pictures of doves, COFADEH's symbol. Download a dove template from www.amnesty.org.uk/cofadeh.

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the President-Elect to endorse COFADEH's work, investigate the harassment and threats against COFADEH staff members, and fully comply with the orders of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

NB: Presidential elections take place in Honduras on 24 November, with the new President taking office in January 2014. Amnesty will forward your letter after the election result is known.

Write to: President-Elect of Honduras
C/o Central America Team
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW

Salutation: Dear President-Elect

In your letter:

- Urge the President-Elect to publicly pledge her/his support for COFADEH and other human rights defenders in Honduras, and condemn all attacks against them.
- Call on her/him to ensure progress in investigating the threats and harassment against COFADEH members, that the results are made public and those responsible brought to justice.
- Urge her/him to fully comply with the protective measures ordered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in consultation with COFADEH members.



'Even though they want to cut off our wings, they won't be able to.'
Bertha Oliva,
COFADEH founding member and coordinator

MEXICO

Miriam López

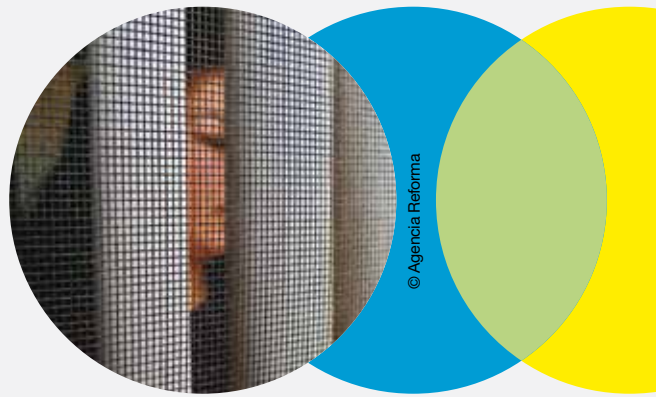
TORTURE SURVIVOR FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE

In February 2011, moments after dropping off her children at school, Miriam Isaura López Vargas was grabbed by two men wearing balaclavas. She was tied up, blindfolded and driven to a military barracks in the city of Tijuana.

For the following week she was raped repeatedly by soldiers, who tortured her until she signed a statement falsely implicating herself in drug offences. She was sent to prison to await trial, but was released without charge seven months later.

Although Miriam has identified some of the perpetrators and their accomplices, no-one has been brought to justice for the torture and sexual violence she suffered.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/miriam



'They put a wet cloth over my face, when I tried to breathe I felt the wet cloth, it became difficult to breathe, I then felt a stream of water up my nose, I tried to get up but couldn't because they had me held down by my shoulders and legs... someone was pressing down on my stomach, they did this repeatedly as they kept on asking the same questions.' **Miriam Lopez**

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Miriam López
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
Tehuantepec 142
Col. Roma Sur, C.P. 06760
Mexico City
Mexico

- **Preferred language** Spanish or English
- **Salutation** Dear Miriam (Estimada Miriam)
- **Suggested message** I support you wholeheartedly. Please keep up the struggle. In solidarity (Te envío todo mi apoyo y mi solidaridad. Fuerza, sigue adelante).
- **Additional information** You can also show solidarity with Miriam by 'liking' and leaving a message, photo or short video on her Facebook page: bit.ly/miriamlopez

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge Federal Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam to urgently investigate the torture of Miriam López and bring those responsible to justice.

Write to: Jesús Murillo Karam
Federal Attorney General
Procuraduría General de la República
Paseo de la Reforma 211-213
Col. Cuauhtémoc, C.P. 06500
Mexico City
Mexico

Email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx

Salutation: Dear Attorney General
(Estimado Señor Procurador)

In your letter:

- Express concern about the torture suffered by Miriam López at the hands of soldiers and federal officials in February 2011.
- Urge the Attorney General to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into Miriam's torture, make the results public, and bring those responsible to justice.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Nabi Saleh

VILLAGERS FACING VIOLENCE

The 550 people living in Nabi Saleh village face frequent violent repression from the Israeli army.

Since 2009 the villagers have held weekly peaceful protests against Israel's military occupation and the illegal settlement of Haramish, which has taken over most of their farmland. Despite court orders, the settlers have also turned the village water spring into a tourist attraction, which Nabi Saleh residents are prevented from using.

The Israeli army responds to the villagers' peaceful protests with excessive and unnecessary force. They have killed two protesters and injured hundreds, including women and children, by firing live ammunition, stun grenades and tear gas canisters. The Israeli security forces regularly raid the village, searching houses and arresting people, including children, late at night.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/nabisaleh

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Residents of the village of Nabi Saleh
c/o Naji Tamimi
Nabi Saleh
Birzeit/Ramallah
Palestine

You can also add a solidarity message at:

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/nabisolidarity

- **Preferred language** English or Arabic
- **Suggested message** We stand by you in dignity and for freedom and justice.
- **Additional information:** 29 November is International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

CAN I

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

'We see it as part of our struggle; the presence of internationals and international media reduces Israeli violence. International and Israeli activists who join us are ambassadors for [our case].' **Naji Tamimi, Nabi Saleh villager**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge Israeli Minister of Defence Moshe Ya'alon to stop the use of excessive and unnecessary force against demonstrators in Nabi Saleh and bring to justice those responsible for human rights abuses.

Write to: Minister of Defence Moshe Ya'alon
Ministry of Defence
37 Kaplan Street
Hakiryia
Tel Aviv 61909, Israel

Fax: +972 3 691 6940
Email: minister@mod.gov.il

Salutation: Dear Minister

In your letter:

- Urge the Minister of Defence to stop the use of excessive and unnecessary force against demonstrators in Nabi Saleh, who must be guaranteed their rights to freedom of expression and assembly.
- Ask him to hold to account the security officers responsible for the killing of Mustafa Tamimi and Rushdi Tamimi and injury of others in the village.

Demonstration in Nabi Saleh, 2 August 2013
© Tamimi Press



RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Bolotnaya Three

PROTESTERS HELD FOR OVER A YEAR

Vladimir Georgievich Akimenkov, Artiom Victorovich Saviolov and Mikhail Aleksandrovich Kosenko were detained during the protest against Vladimir Putin's rule in Bolotnaya Square, Moscow, on 6 May 2012. Although they were briefly released, the trio were arrested again the following month and charged with participating in a 'mass riot'; Artiom and Mikhail are also accused of using force against police officers.

Since then the men have been held in custody, which is taking a toll on their health. All three firmly deny the charges and video footage supports their claims. The police statements against Vladimir and Artiom have changed substantially since the protests, and the officer allegedly beaten by Mikhail later said he had never seen him before.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/bolotnaya

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Pre-trial detention facility

SIZO-2 'Butyrka'

ul. Novoslobodskaya, 45

Moscow

127055

Russian Federation

■ **Preferred language** Russian or English.

Sometimes prison officials will not deliver mail in foreign languages. If possible we recommend you send your own, personalised message in Russian.

■ **Salutation** Dear Vladimir/Artiom/Mikhail

■ **Suggested message** We are thinking of you and fighting for your freedom (Мы думаем о Вас и боремся за Вашу свободу).

■ **Additional information** Please send cards separately to the three men. Add their full name to the address above.

CAN I

✗ **Send a religious card or message?**

✓ **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?** but please do not include any statements critical of the Russian authorities as this would only harm the detainees

✓ **Include my name and address?**

✗ **Download the message in another language?**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge Prosecutor General Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika to ensure prompt and fair trials for Vladimir Georgievich Akimenkov, Artiom Victorovich Saviolov and Mikhail Aleksandrovich Kosenko.

Write to: Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation
Prosecutor General's Office
ul. B. Dmitrovka, d.15a
125993 Moscow GSP- 3
Russian Federation

Tel: + 7 495 987 57 08
(if you speak Russian)

Fax: +7 495 987 58 41 or +7 495 692 17 25
(if someone picks up, say 'Fax')

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

In your letter:

■ Urge him to ensure prompt and fair trials for Vladimir Georgievich Akimenkov, Artiom Victorovich Saviolov and Mikhail Aleksandrovich Kosenko. They should be released on bail for the duration of their trials.



Vladimir Akimenkov,
Artiom Saviolov and
Mikhail Kosenko
© Dmitry Borko/Private

TUNISIA

Jabeur Mejri



Help get them home
Online action at
www.amnesty.org.uk/jabeur

BRING JABEUR MEJRI HOME

Jabeur Mejri is serving a seven-and-a-half-year prison sentence for publishing articles on, and pictures of, the Prophet Mohamed on his Facebook page.

He was arrested after two lawyers saw the posts and filed a complaint. According to legal documents, Jabeur told interrogators that the images were from a friend, Ghazi Beji, a self-proclaimed atheist.

In March 2012, a court ruled the posts the two had made on their Facebook pages were 'insulting to Islam and Muslims' under the Tunisian Penal and Telecommunications Code. Ghazi fled the country to avoid being arrested, and was tried in absentia.

Amnesty International considers Jabeur to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of opinion and expression.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/jabeur

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Jabeur Mejri
Prison civile de Mahdia
Route de Chiba 5100
Mahdia
Tunisie

- **Preferred language** English or Arabic
- **Salutation** Dear Jabeur
- **Suggested message** I stand in solidarity with you Jabeur, and for your freedom as a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for exercising your right to freedom of expression.

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge President Moncef Marzouki to immediately and unconditionally release Jabeur Mejri, and quash his and Ghazi Beji's convictions.

Write to: President Moncef Marzouki
Palais Pr sidentiel
Tunis
Tunisia

Fax: + 216 71 744 721
Email: boc@pm.gov.tn

Salutation: Your Excellency

In your letter:

- Call on the Tunisian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Jabeur Mejri, who is a prisoner of conscience held solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression.
- Urge them to quash the conviction and prison sentence against Jabeur Mejri and Ghazi Beji.
- Ask them to respect the right to freedom of expression and meet their international human rights obligations.

'Jabeur is tired and worried. Every time we see him he is even more tired and more depressed. He is a good boy and doesn't deserve what's happened to him. What has happened has affected him and it has affected all of us.' **Sayeda Mejri, Jabeur's mother**



ZIMBABWE

WOZA



WOZA National Coordinator, Jenni Williams demonstrates the 'L is for Love' sign

'THE POWER OF LOVE CAN CONQUER THE LOVE OF POWER'

Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) was formed in 2003 to provide women with a united voice against the social, economic and human rights conditions in Zimbabwe. Since then WOZA members have been arrested, harassed and severely beaten by the police on many occasions simply for exercising their right to peaceful protest.

Pregnant women and mothers with babies and young children have been among those detained. Jenni Williams, WOZA's founder and national coordinator, has been arrested over 50 times.

Despite the risks, WOZA members continue to stand up for human rights. Every Valentine's Day they hand out roses with a message that sums up their ethos: 'The power of love can conquer the love of power'

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/woza

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Families of WOZA Activists

C/o WOZA
PO Box FM701
Famona
Bulawayo
Zimbabwe

- **Preferred language** English, Shona or Ndebele
- **Salutation** Dear family members of a WOZA activist
- **Suggested message** I stand in solidarity with WOZA's human rights work.
- **Additional information** 29 November is Women Human Rights Defenders Day.

CAN I

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

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Raise your concerns with Ambassador Gabriel Mharadze Machinga about the arbitrary arrest, intimidation, harassment and ill-treatment of WOZA activists.

Write to: Gabriel Mharadze Machinga
Ambassador Extraordinary &
Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe House
429 Strand
London WC2E 0JE

Fax: 020 7379 1167

Email: zimlondon@yahoo.co.uk

Salutation: Your Excellency

In your letter:

- Express concern at the repeated arbitrary arrest, intimidation, harassment and ill-treatment of WOZA activists.
- Urge the authorities to respect the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly.
- Urge the authorities to open investigations into all reports of harassment of human rights defenders.

'Amnesty is our big sister. When I'm in prison, if I know that someone, my big sister, is shouting for me, telling people about me, then I feel less distressed, less frightened, less alone.' **Jenni Williams**

UPDATES

FROM LAST YEAR'S WRITE FOR RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

AFGHANISTAN

Young Women For Change (YWC)

Anita from YWC said: 'I want to thank you and all the other activists at Amnesty UK for putting effort in to making Afghan women's voice stronger.'

AZERBAIJAN

Mehman Huseynov

Mehman's case has not yet been resolved. Order the additional (see page 3) Write for Rights cases to continue to show support for Mehman.

CHINA

Gao Zhisheng

Family members were able to visit Gao Zhisheng in prison on 12 January 2013 for the first time in nine months.

EGYPT

Azza Hilal Ahmad Suleiman

The investigation into the attack on Azza is still pending. She said she received so many letters last year that the Post Office was surprised and it felt like 'all the English wrote to me'.

HONDURAS

COFADEH

COFADEH members greatly appreciated the solidarity messages they received through last year's campaign, displaying the cards and paper doves in their office. To continue to show support for them, see page 13.

IRAQ

Ramze Shihab Ahmed

Ramze's case is ongoing. His wife said: 'I would like to express my great thanks to Amnesty. My husband has received messages of support from across the world and I've been made to feel we are all part of the same family.'

JAPAN

Hakamada Iwao

Hakamada was officially certified in April 2013 as the longest serving death row inmate. His appeal for a retrial has been slowly progressing.

KENYA

Deep Sea Settlement

Over a thousand Amnesty UK members wrote to the Kenyan Ambassador and many more sent solidarity messages, which have had a huge impact on both the residents and the authorities.

LIBYA

Displaced People of Tawargha

A governmental meeting in February 2013 recommended that the displaced people of Tawargha be allowed to return to their homes. However, representatives of the community say that they have yet to see any action taken.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Pussy Riot

Both Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alekhina were denied parole at a hearing in July 2013. They both remain in penal colonies.

SOUTH AFRICA

Noxolo Nogwaza

Noxolo's case remains with the Director of Public Prosecutions, and a prosecutor has been appointed to work with the investigating officer to take the investigation forward. The family's lawyer continues to monitor its progress.

SYRIA

Anas al-Shogre

There are no further developments on Anas' case. His whereabouts remain unknown.

USA

Reggie Clemons

In August, the judge reviewing Reggie Clemons' case submitted his findings to the Missouri Supreme Court, and it appears that allegations of misconduct by prosecutors and police have been confirmed. It is now up to the Missouri Supreme Court to determine the course of justice and rule on the judge's findings.

USA

Jacqueline Montanez

Jacqueline's campaign for clemency continues.

ZIMBABWE

WOZA

After a disputed election in 2013, the role of human rights defenders, such as WOZA, will be as critical as ever. Amnesty will continue to monitor developments closely. To continue to show support for WOZA see page 18.

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

- Choose a few cases to focus on. Download and print individual casesheets and translated solidarity messages from www.amnesty.org.uk/write.
- Order posters, maps and booklets free of charge: call **01788 545553**.
- Stock up on envelopes, stamps, pens and cards, or materials to make your own cards.
- Address and stamp envelopes in advance.
- Have a tin available to collect donations towards postage.
- 'Amnestea parties' combine campaigning and fundraising – to order a kit call **020 7033 1682** or download from www.amnesty.org.uk/tea.
- 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.

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.



IDEAS FOR SOME OF THIS YEAR'S CASES



BRAZIL

Laísa Santos Sampaio (p9)

Laísa campaigns on environmental issues, so send a card featuring an image of nature from the UK. Or use a photo of nature close to where you live as the basis for your message.

CAMBODIA Yorm Bopha

 (p11)

The campaign for the Boeung Kak community and Yorm Bopha has a lotus flower as its symbol. Send a card with a picture of lotus flowers on it, or send a solidarity photo with you holding your favourite flower.



HONDURAS

COFADEH (p13)

COFADEH's symbol of a white dove symbolises their commitment to peace and human rights and their determination to never give up. Send cards with pictures of doves, or visit www.amnesty.org.uk/cofadeh to download a template paper dove shape with Spanish solidarity message.



RUSSIA

Bolotnaya Three (p16)

People in detention, deprived of fresh air and sunlight, appreciate glimpses of freedom and the beautiful world beyond the prison gates. Bright and beautiful cards, perhaps with pictures of nature and animals might cheer them up. Or you could paint your own!

- If you speak Russian or can translate your message with Google Translate, please do, as sometimes prison officials delay mail written in foreign languages.

ZIMBABWE

WOZA activists (p19)

WOZA use roses as a symbol. You could ask people to sign a solidarity petal and create a rose from your local area. Or make your own rose to send to WOZA.



FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why send cards to communities, organisations and families?

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

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

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

What counts as a non-religious card?

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

Can I send cards produced by other organisations?

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

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

You can download and print address labels for each case from www.amnesty.org.uk/write

What if I receive a reply?

Please send a copy to the Individuals at Risk programme.

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

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

I have the capacity to take action on more cases than the 13 included in this campaign. Can I have more?

The 13 cases have been carefully chosen and we would ask that people focus on them in the first instance. However we have eight extra cases requiring solidarity for people who want more. Contact sct@amnesty.org.uk

What can I do once the campaign ends?

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

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

Yes. You can download casesheets specifically designed for stalls from our website. Each casesheet includes a solidarity action and a letter writing action. For individual casesheets, download from the web address at the bottom of each page in this booklet; or for a pack of all 13 download from www.amnesty.org.uk/write

RESOURCES

PRINT

To order more materials, go to www.amnesty.org.uk/write Call **01788 545553**. Or email amnesty@tfstore.co.uk (put Write for Rights materials in the subject line of the email).

WFR 015

Write for Rights Campaign Booklet – with information on all cases

WFR 016

Write for Rights Poster

WFR 017

Map of cases 2013

ONLINE

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

- Casesheets to download and print with solidarity and appeal actions (useful for events and stalls).
- Translations of suggested solidarity messages.
- Address labels.
- Any updates on cases.
- Casesheets written for a younger audience.

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

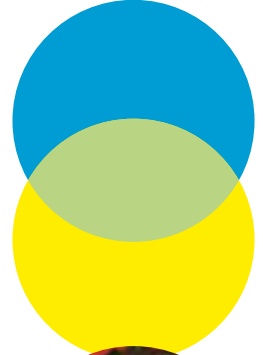
FEEDBACK

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‘Most of all I was touched by the messages and letters I received from children, which gave me even more strength. It’s impossible to imagine children in this country being encouraged by parents to write in support of activists abroad.’

Mehman Huseynov



‘Amnesty members have spoken for us when we could not speak. They have helped send a clear message to the individuals and institutions that oppress us to respect human rights and those human rights are women’s rights.’

Jenni Williams of WOZA (see page 18)

© AI



‘Dear Amnesty International friends, we have received beautiful cards and letters through the post with messages for COFADEH’s 30th anniversary on 30 November. Thank you so much, we feel truly accompanied by wonderful people like you.’

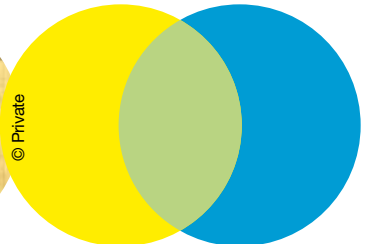
COFADEH

‘People are the only impetus for change. Government will not improve or do anything unless there is pressure from people... The amount of messages I received from Amnesty activists gives me a lot of hope despite all the challenges.’

Azza Hilal Ahmad Suleiman

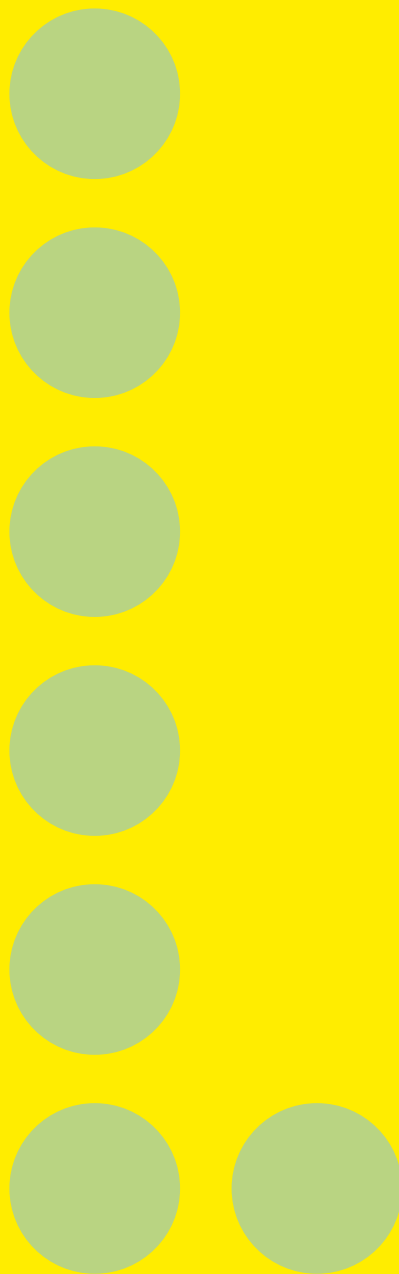


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alternative format please contact:
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Textphone 020 7033 1664
Email sct@amnesty.org.uk



WFR015



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