



WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2015

STRATEGY AND PLANNING
TOOLKIT

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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JOHN JEANETTE SOLSTAD-REMO

"To all my new supportive Amnesty friends: I wish to meet every one of you to express my gratitude! You are wonderful people.

You are absolutely marvellous! You have given lots of people, including me, hope of a better future.

A future where people's human rights, dignity, equality and welfare are promoted. Your work really makes me believe in better lives for future generations...!

IT'S WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2015!

2014's Write for Rights was the biggest ever, with over 3 million actions taken worldwide. Even more important, we also saw loads of amazing human rights change!

In May **Moses Akatugba** was granted a total pardon to his death sentence. In December **Liu Ping's** daughter was able to visit her for the first time. In January this year, Amsterdam Clinic in **Mkhondo Municipality** increased the frequency of their antenatal care services from two days a week to seven days a week. On 6 March **Paraskevi Kokoni** met with the Greek Minister of Justice to hand over letters and signatures collected during the campaign. The Minister stated that the "current anti-racist legislation insufficient" and proposed measures to enhance the relevant provisions of the Greek Penal Code. On 27 March it was announced that an investigation would be opened regarding the torture of **Jerry Corre** and on 6 April, it was confirmed that this was initiated because of letters received "by a human rights organisation" (which we can confidently say is Amnesty International). On 10 April a press conference was held in Norway, attended by **John Jeanette Solstad Remø**, where the Health Minister promised a legal proposal that will establish an open and accessible process for legal gender recognition in accordance with an individual's sense of gender identity.

This strategy and planning toolkit is based on many meetings and interviews with regional researchers and campaigners here at the IS, and indeed with the individuals (and/or their representatives) themselves. Each case has its own strategy, with ideas for all kinds of actions including lobbying and advocacy. It contains all the information you should need to start your planning for 2015.

As and when any new information comes in, or there are any changes to the strategy, this document will be updated and the changes shared on Podio.

Good luck with your work and if you have any questions please contact me on may.carolan@amnesty.org

HAVE A GREAT WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2015!

Last year 3, 245,565 actions were taken by hundreds of thousands of people in over 200 countries and territories around the world breaking records for any Amnesty international action ever!

LET'S DO EVEN BETTER THIS YEAR!



ENSAF HAIDER, WIFE OF RAIIF BADAWI

"I cannot describe my feeling, to wake up one day and find that the whole world is talking about Raif's case. It is a very beautiful feeling. At times when Raif called me I conveyed to him the activities of Amnesty International's campaign. I even remember that suddenly he started to cry out of joy, and he said to me: 'Ensaf how can I thank all those people who supported me; I want to thank them one by one.'

THE FINAL 12 – SELECTION PROCESS

This year we have another 12 really strong and interesting cases. As in previous years we used a specific set of criteria for the cases that feature in the campaign. The criteria was written using information gained from the survey following Write for Rights in 2014 and the in-depth interviews with the regional research and campaign teams and importantly also feedback from individuals who had previously featured in the campaign.

In naming the cases as early as possible this year, we have had to change two of them after the announcement. This is part of the risk we face by announcing cases early. But we were ready and set to go with other cases to replace them, as having ‘back-up’ cases is a part of the selection process.

THE CASES: AN OVERVIEW

Case Name	Gender	Country	Key Words
Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala	M	DRC	Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Assembly, Youth, Prisoners of Conscience
Girls Forced into Marriage in Burkina Faso	F	Burkina Faso	Forced and Early Marriage, Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Violence Against Women
Teodora del Carmen Vasquez	F	El Salvador	Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Abortion
Yecenia Armenta Graciano	F	Mexico	Torture, Police violence
Albert Woodfox	M	USA	Unfair Trial, Solidarity Confinement
Phyoe Phyoe Aung	F	Myanmar	Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Assembly, Prisoners of Conscience, Students
Zulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque a.k.a. “Zunar”	M	Malaysia	Freedom of Expression, Prisoners of Conscience
Muhammad Bekzhanov	M	Uzbekistan	Torture, Forced Confession
Costas	M	Greece	LGBTI Rights, Hate Crimes, Impunity
Waleed Abu Al-Khair	M	Saudi Arabia	Freedom of Expression, Freedom Online,
Rania Alabbasi and her children Dima, Entisar, Najah, Alaa, Ahmad and Layan	Both	Syria	Civilians in Conflict, Enforced Disappearance
Saman Naseem	M	Iran	Juvenile Detention, Torture, Unfair Trial, Ending Abuses in the Criminal Justice System

THE FINAL 12 – IN DETAIL

The following pages contain information on all 12 cases. At the beginning of each case there is a box that will enable you to see 'at a glance' the basic details, such as name, gender, country, fundraising consent and a link to the Individuals at Risk portfolio.

In addition to this there is lots of other information that will enable you to take your campaigning to a further level. Year upon year we continue to increase the numbers of actions taken and this is fantastic. So what can we do to keep increasing our level of impact and deepen activists' involvement with Amnesty International...?

CONTINUE TO INCREASE THE **QUALITY** AS WELL AS THE QUANTITY OF OUR WORK!

We hope these strategies will help you to engage your activists beyond signing a petition and encourage them to write lots of letters and maybe even set up meetings with influencers in their own country. We hope to provide you with tools and guidance to run fantastic events however big or small you are.

As previously stated, this is live document and as we receive approved information we will update you immediately. If you do not see all the details you need you need please contact the relevant member of the Individuals at Risk team, details below. They should be your first point of contact as it is likely they will know the answer to your questions.

INDIVIDUALS AT RISK TEAM

OVERALL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN:

May Carolan, Global Campaigner – Write for Rights campaign manager (London): may.carolan@amnesty.org

FOR INFORMATION ON CASES FROM:

AFRICA: Stephanie Wambui (Nairobi Regional Office) – stephanie.wambui@amnesty.org

AMERICAS: Karen Javorski (Mexico Regional Office) – karen.javorski@amnesty.org

ASIA PACIFIC: Claire Jacob (Hong Kong Regional Office) – claire.jacob@amnesty.org

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: Leonor Rebasa (London) – Leonor.rebasa@amnesty.org

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA: May Carolan (London) – may.carolan@amnesty.org

Please be aware that you should only contact May for MENA cases in Write for Rights. For general MENA individuals work, please contact James Urquhart (London) – james.urquhart@amnesty.org



FRED & YVES

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

AT A GLANCE

In March 2015, Congolese security forces stormed a press conference organised by Filimbi (“whistle” in Swahili), a youth movement that encourages people to get involved in peaceful political debate and action. Filimbi members Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala were among 30 arrested.

Others included youth activists from Senegal and Burkina Faso, international journalists and an American diplomat, who have since been released or deported. But Fred and Yves are still behind bars, facing serious charges.

After their arrest, they were held at a secret location for two weeks. They were also interrogated in secret – Yves for 40 days, Fred for 50 – and denied visits by friends or lawyers. They are now awaiting trial in a Kinshasa jail, accused of forming a criminal gang and attempting to overthrow the regime of president Kabila.

According to their lawyers, there is simply no criminal evidence against them. But this case is politically motivated and, if convicted, they could face the death penalty. The authorities have sought to label Fred and Yves as “terrorists and plotters”. They are quite the opposite: prisoners of conscience, locked up for promoting democracy and trying to hold the government to account.

Gender: male

Link to casefile:

To be added

Keywords:

Freedom of Expression
Freedom of Association
Prisoner of Conscience

Fundraising consent: TBC

(photo: Yves Makwambala – left and Fred Bauma – Right)

Primary Target

President Joseph Kabila

Contact Details

Cabinet du President de la République,
Palais de la Nation,
Av. De Lemera,
Kinshasa-Gombe

presidence.de.la.rdcongo@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE

As there is no functional postal service in DRC, all letters should be sent by courier companies. Sections could collect and send in bunches.

Secondary target

Minister of Justice and Human Rights
Alexis Tambwe Mwamba
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
P.O Box 3137
Kinshasa/Gombe, DRC
Email: info@minjustice.cd
Fax: +243 8805521

Salutation: Dear Minister

Main calls

Immediately and unconditionally release Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala and drop all charges against them.

Secondary calls

Release and drop charges against other activists, opposition party members, and others detained solely for their political views or having participated in peaceful activities.

Solidarity action instructions

There is a facebook page for the campaign <https://web.facebook.com/pages/Free-Fred-Free-Yves/444969695681264?fref=ts>, where people can share their solidarity messages and post photos of themselves with the writings #FreeFred #FreeYves on the palm of their hands.

We will also have a Thunderclap targeted at the DRC authorities asking for the immediate release of Fred and Yves. The Thunderclap will be released on 15 December, nine months after the arrest of Fred and Yves.

Download a solidarity post card template from <https://adam.amnesty.org/asset-bank/action/viewAsset?id=214728&index=0&total=331&view=viewSearchItem> and/or send solidarity the post card or letters to Fred and Yves to show them support.

Preferred language

French

Address for solidarity action

Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala: C/O Amnesty International - Regional Office for East Africa, the Horn and the Great Lakes, P.O. Box 1527-00606, Nairobi, Kenya

Additional information about solidarity actions

Solidarity cards can have messages such as **'Itawezekana'** (Swahili), **'On va y arriver'** (French) or **'Ekosimba'** (Lingala), which means 'we will get there'. This is in reference to the release of Fred and Yves and also for a better Congo. Fred and Yves have told friends that have visited them that they do not regret any of their activism and they will continue to fight for their dream of a different, better Congo. Any solidarity message which shows support for their vision of their country is likely to mean a lot to them.

Fred and his friends often toast **'A la Lucha'** (to the struggle) as they drink after an action or a meeting. They later decided to call their movement 'Lucha' and used it as an acronym for 'Lutte pour le Changement' (Struggle for Change). Another message they often say to each other is **'Le Congo PEUT changer, il DOIT changer, il VA changer'** (Congo can change, Congo has to change, Congo will change).

The colleagues of Filimbi suggested the following solidarity message;

Fred, Yves : privés de liberté pour avoir exprimé la soif de liberté de toute la jeunesse congolaise. Vous êtes nos héros. Votre courage nous inspire. Nous sommes LUCHA. Nous sommes FILIMBI. Avec nous, le monde entier réclame votre liberté. Ekosimba (On va y arriver) ! "

Translated: Fred, Yves: deprived of their liberty for having expressed the thirst for freedom of the entire Congolese youth. You are our heroes. Your courage inspires us. We are Lucha. We are Filimbi. With us, the entire world is campaigning for your release. We will get there.

Ideas for bigger actions/events/stunts

Speaking Tours

S/s especially in Europe and West and Central Africa are encouraged to organise Speaking Tours to promote the case during Write for Rights 2015.

Some of the youth leaders from Filimbi, who fled the DR Congo are currently living in Europe. The team would also like West African sections to organise Speaking Tours with activists from Y'en a Marre and Balai Citoyen. The team recommends that this tours to be held at universities due to the fact that the Filimbi and LUCHA movement are led by students and young professionals. We also seek support from S/s in organizing Speaking Tours events at the AU, EU and Human Rights Council. Sections targeted for this action are: AI Belgium, AI Spain, AI France, AI Burkina, AI Senegal, and AI Italy.

Please contact the DRC team drcteam@amnesty.org if you are planning to organise a speaking tour and they can help facilitate contact with the Filimbi activists within your region.

The team will keep the movement updated on any new bigger actions/events for this.

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

S/s are asked to organise meetings with Congolese Diplomatic Representatives in their countries on the case of Fred and Yves. S/s should call for the release of the two activists and the need for the Congolese government to uphold freedom of expression and due process of law.

Petition letters: S/s can also write letters to DRC embassies in their countries petitioning for the immediate and unconditional release of Fred and Yves detained in Kinshasa

The DRC team can provide talking points for these meetings. Please contact christian.rumu@amnesty.org and evie.francq@amnesty.org

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

All African sections: because this case is symbolic for human rights violations perpetuated around elections throughout the continent it is important all African S/s campaign on the case. It is also important to build solidarity between African youth movements that fight for better governance and the respect of human rights

AI Burkina Faso, AI Senegal, in particular, where the youth movements Balai Citoyen and Y'en a Marre who members were also arrested during the 15 March incident in Kinshasa hail from.

All European sections: because the European Parliament issued a resolution calling for the release of Fred and Yves we encourage European S.s to take up the case. The EU is also financing the elections in DRC and has the option to put strong conditions on the financing.

AI Belgium, AI France, AI USA because their respective countries have a certain level of influence on the DRC Government.

In all the above mentioned countries pressure on the Congolese diplomat missions could also be very effective.

Possibilities for working with partners

We have previously been working with and continue working the following partners on the case;

Filimbi (scattered around the globe since the March 15 arrests)

Lucha (Goma based)

Y'en a marre (Senegal)

Balai Citoyen (Burkina Faso)

There are at least 3 or 4 individuals who can be available for speaker tours:

Micheline Mwendike (currently in Italy): she founded Lucha together with Fred and was supposed to be the person speaking at the Kinshasa press conference. Fred was replacing her as she could not travel to Kinshasa herself.

Yangu Kiakwama (currently in Brussels): he is the cousin of Yves and escaped arrest on 15 March. He is one of persons who created FILIMBI. He managed to flee the DRC, but is facing the same charges as Fred and Yves.

Floribert Anzuluni (currently in Brussels): escaped arrest on 15 March. He is one of persons who created FILIMBI. He managed to flee the DRC, but is facing the same charges as Fred and Yves.

Ben Kabamba (hiding outside of DRC): escaped arrest on 15 March. He is one of persons who created FILIMBI. He managed to flee the DRC, but is facing the same charges as Fred and Yves.

Risks or sensitive Issues and what not to do!

We would like to ask people to keep messaging focussed on the violations of the rights of Fred and Yves. Any messages related to democratic change in DRC should be formulated in a positive and open way, not negatively targeting the president. We recommend all supporters of Fred and Yves in DRC who take part in actions for their release to be cautious and to avoid public gatherings or actions which could lead to their arrest.



Fred (left) Yves (right)



GIRLS FORCED INTO MARRIAGE

BURKINA FASO

Primary Target

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Contact Details

Ministry of Justice and Human Rights

Avenue de l'Indépendance, Ouagadougou, 01 BP 526 Burkina Faso

Tel: +226 25 32 48 33 /+ 226 25 32 48 34 / /+ 226 25 32 48 35 //+ 226 25 32 48 48

PLEASE NOTE

All letters addressed to both the primary and secondary target need to be sent to Amnesty International Burkina Faso Section. The messages will be re-directed from there to the relevant ministries. We are aware that this is not ideal, but due to the nature of the case and the situation in Burkina Faso, this is the only way. Please be sure to send by courier.

Amnesty International Burkina Faso
08 Av. Houari Boumedienne, Ouagadougou 08 BP 11344 Burkina Faso

Secondary target

Minister of Social Action and National Solidarity
Avenue Kwame Nkrumah Ouagadougou 01 BP 515 Burkina Faso

Tel: +226 25 30 68 80 or +226 25 33 53 89 or +226 25 31 09 60

Main calls

Government enforces and ensures the application of national laws and international obligations prohibiting forced and early marriage.

Secondary calls

Government sets up more shelters and guarantees other support services for victims of early and forced marriages.

Solidarity action instructions

Please remember that you can be as creative as you like with these, it doesn't just have to be letters.

If the individual or their families do not want to receive physical letters, look into what you could do online – perhaps set up a Tumblr page where activists can post pictures of themselves holding supportive messages.

If the individual or their families do not want to receive solidarity messages at all, please try and think of a way that activists can do something more than just sending a message to the target.

AT A GLANCE

One in three girls in Burkina Faso is married off before they turn 18.

Some are as young as 11.

They're expected to have as many children as their husbands want, regardless of their own wishes or the threat that early pregnancy poses to their health and life.

Once married, many are set to cook, clean, fetch water and work in the fields, dawn to dusk. Very few have the chance to go to school.

Some girls are doing all they can to escaped forced marriages, despite huge pressure from their families and wider society. Maria walked nearly 170km over three days to seek refuge at a shelter for young girls.

Gender: Female

Link to casefile:

To be added

Keywords:

My Body My Rights

Sexual reproductive rights

Children's rights

Fundraising consent: Yes

IMPORTANT: The girls who escape from forced marriage are living in shelters with nuns. There are some cases where the nuns were attacked for keeping these girls. -The question of abortion is very sensitive in Burkina Faso, please don't not link our campaign to the issue of abortion.

Key contact:

Kine Fatim Diop: kinefatim.diop@amnesty.org

Template letter:

Dear Minister of Justice / Dear Minister of Social Action

I am writing to you in your capacity as Minister of Justice/ Social Action in Burkina Faso.

I am deeply concerned about the risks faced by girls in relation to their human rights and sexual and reproductive rights in Burkina Faso, and in particular in the Sahel region as a result of early and forced marriage.

Early and forced marriage is a serious human rights violation in Burkina Faso where one in three girls is married off before the age of 18. Many of these girls are having to run away from their homes and those of their designated husband to escape forced and early marriage. In one shelter that Amnesty International visited in 2015, some 60 girls escaping forced and early marriage had sought refuge in a period of two years.

It is a matter of urgency for thousands of girls that the laws prohibiting forced and early marriage in Burkina Faso are enforced and strengthened.

Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Burkina Faso's Constitution, women and girls are entitled to the same human rights as men and boys. But in practice, they are discriminated against and denied their rights. They are frequently denied their right to decide if and when they marry, and to whom they get married, and whether to have children and if so when and how many.

This situation must be urgently addressed. The violation of these girls' human rights are serious and have far-reaching negative consequences for them. Girls' rights to non-discrimination, education, health, to be free from violence and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and torture, to physical and mental integrity, and even life, are all at stake.

Government authorities, including at national, provincial and municipal levels, have the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil girls' human rights.

I urge you, as Minister of Justice/Social Action to ensure that the Burkina Faso complies with its international legal obligations and that the government enforces the existing laws against forced and early marriage as well as reform and introduce laws and policies in line with international human rights standards to prevent and eradicate forced and early marriage. I also urge you to declare publically zero tolerance of child marriage and to conduct a nationwide campaign in communities, schools and health centres, providing information about the laws on forced and early marriage, raising awareness about the negative impact on girls' human rights, as well as disseminating information about how to access support services if girls find themselves at risk.

Solidarity messages

There are lots of ways you can do solidarity work. Here are some ideas:

- Postcard with sexual reproductive rights messages on one side and the space to write solidarity messages on the other. Please note that the recipients of these messages may not understand English or French (and speak a local dialect instead), so please make sure that the language is simple.
- Solidarity messages will be aimed towards two different target audiences:
 - **GIRLS' LIVING IN SHELTERS AND SHELTER WORKERS.**
Messages for girls will include messages of encouragement and information about their rights – such as:
 - “I support your right to choose if and when you want to marry”
 - “You can and should be able to go to school!”
 - “I support your right to live free from discrimination, coercion and violence, no one should ever commit sexual violence against you”
 - **MESSAGES FOR SHELTERS WORKERS WILL ENCOURAGE THEM IN THEIR WORK.**
 - “You are very brave to help girls and young women to be free from forced marriage. You are helping to ensure their human rights are not violated and we support you. You are not alone!”
- **Symbolic action** Supporters can organize human chains to show their solidarity. The supporters in the human chains can wear padlocks on their ring fingers in the place of a wedding ring symbolic of forced marriage. Please do take photos of yourselves in the human chains and share online and with the IS via ADAM.

Preferred language

French

Address for solidarity action

All solidarity messages should be sent to Amnesty International's Burkina Faso Section. The messages will be re-directed from there to the girls in shelters and shelter workers.

Amnesty International Burkina
08 Av. Houari Boumediene,
Ouagadougou 08 BP 11344 Burkina Faso

Additional information about solidarity actions

Here are the suggested messages for the girls and shelter workers translated in French.

For girls

Je vous soutiens, vous avez le droit de choisir librement si vous voulez ou non vous marier et avec qui. Vous n'êtes pas seules!

Je vous soutiens ! Vous avez le droit d'aller et de rester à l'école.

For shelters workers

Nous vous remercions pour le travail important que vous faites et vous encourage à protéger les filles contre le mariage des enfants dans votre centre.

Je vous remercie pour le travail important fait pour briser les barrières pour l'éducation des filles

Media work

Sections can do media work on the campaign if there is an opportunity. Media tools and talking points can be provided to sections. Kindly contact kinefatim.diop@amnesty.org

Ideas for bigger actions/events/stunts

Supporters can organize human chains to show their solidarity. The supporters in the human chains can wear padlocks on their ring fingers in the place of a wedding ring symbolic of forced marriage. Please do take photos of yourselves in the human chains and share online.

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

Sections with the capacity to do so – particularly those identified as strategic below – are encouraged to seek meetings with their Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Burkina Faso embassy their country between July 2015 and March 2016.

For meetings with their own country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, each section should research any strategic link between Burkina Faso and their national government including the aid development, human rights/ women's rights/ health rights. This information should help establish what their governments can leverage or the basis under which they can get the Burkina Faso government to listen to them.

The letter template below can be used when seeking meetings with your country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/ or Burkina Faso embassy in your country. Please feel free to amend it to fit your national context.

If your section has the capacity to arrange such a meeting, please get in touch with us, so we can discuss key points in advance and also share with us any feedback after the meeting.

[LETTER]

Dear Ambassador

I am writing to you to inform you that Amnesty International has launched a campaign on child marriage in Burkina Faso.

I would like to request a meeting with you or embassy staff to set out our concerns and invite your response. Our delegation will be composed of [includes names of section director/staff/lobbyist as appropriate, and also any women rights defender who have agreed to join you].

I am deeply concerned about the risks faced girls in relation to their human rights and sexual and reproductive rights in Burkina Faso, and in particular in the Sahel region as a result of early and forced marriage.

Early and forced marriage is a serious human rights violation in Burkina Faso where one in three girls is married off before the age of 18. Many of these girls have had to run away from their homes and those of their designated husband to escape forced and early marriage. In one shelter that Amnesty International visited in 2015, some 60 girls escaping forced and early marriage had sought refuge in a period of two years.

It is a matter of urgency for thousands of girls that the laws prohibiting forced and early marriage in Burkina Faso are enforced and strengthened.

Women and girls are entitled to the same human rights as men and boys. But in practice, they are discriminated against and denied their rights. They are frequently denied their right to decide if and when they marry, and to whom they get married to, and whether or not to have children and if so when and how many.

This situation must be urgently addressed. The violation of these girls' human rights as a result of forced or early marriage are serious and have far-reaching negative consequences for them. Girls' rights to non-discrimination, education, health, to be free from violence and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and torture, to physical and mental integrity, and even life, are all at stake.

I look forward to your response regarding our request for a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Note: Sections can further lobby their Ministry of Foreign Affairs Burkina Faso embassies in their own country using an Amnesty International sexual and reproductive rights report on Burkina Faso and the recommendations contained within after its launch in March 2016.

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

- Sections from Donor countries to Burkina Faso: USA, France, Germany, Canada, Luxembourg, Spain, Denmark, Netherland, Taiwan, Switzerland. These countries send significant amounts of official development assistance to Burkina Faso, including for support of sexual and reproductive rights
- Sections from Countries with political influence over the Burkinabe government: France, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) countries, USA, all EU members, countries of the "Groupe de contact pour le Suivi de la Transition" (countries group in charge of follow up of the transition) Senegal, Zimbabwe, Togo.
- Sections from African Countries where has been progress in recent years and sexual and reproductive rights is also a key issue: Senegal, Togo and Cote d'Ivoire

Possibilities for working with partners

Please provide details of any NGOs, family members of individuals or members of the community/group cases who could go on speakers tours, contribute to blogs etc. Also provide any guidance for who they could approach in their own countries related to the case – such as student's unions, legal or medical bodies etc.

Please contact My Body My Rights or kinefatim.diop@amnesty.org for local NGOs contacts and members of community who could contribute for this campaign.

Risks or sensitive Issues and what not to do!

Please be sure to think this through and make sure you include guidance. If there are reasons why activists should be careful to use specific language, make sure to say why here.

- The girls who escapes from forced marriage are living in shelters with nuns. There are some cases where the nuns were attacked for keeping girls. Recently, the case of a girl of 13 years old who take refuge in a shelter, the priest of her village has been the object of attacks for preventing marriage.
- The question of abortion is very sensitive in Burkina Faso, please don't not link our campaign to the question of abortion





TEODORA DEL CARMEN VÁSQUEZ EL SALVADOR

Primary Target

Benito Antonio Lara Fernández, Minister of Justice

Contact Details

Benito Antonio Lara Fernández
Ministro de Justicia y Seguridad Pública
17 Avenida Norte, Complejo Plan Maestro, Edificio B1, nivel 1
Alamenda Juan Pablo II
San Salvador, El Salvador

Fax: +503 2281 5959

Email: benitolara@seguridad.gob.sv

Twitter: @MiSeguridad_SV

Salutation: Dear Minister of Justice / Estimado Señor Ministro

Main calls

Call on the Minister of Justice to take action to ensure Teodora del Carmen Vásquez is immediately released, as are all other women incarcerated for pregnancy-related complications who have exhausted other legal remedies;

Secondary target

Legislative Assembly

Contact Details

Miembros de la Asamblea Legislativa
c/o Agrupación Ciudadana
P.O. Box address to be confirmed
San Salvador, El Salvador

**Salutation: Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly / Estimados/as
Miembros/as de la Asamblea Legislativa**

Secondary calls

Call on the Legislative Assembly to decriminalize abortion in El Salvador;

Urge them to free all women imprisoned on pregnancy-related complications charges who request pardons;

Urge them to ensure access to abortion in cases of rape or incest, where the woman's health or life is at risk, and in severe cases of foetal impairment.

AT A GLANCE

Teodora del Carmen Vásquez is a Salvadoran woman convicted in 2008 under charges of 'aggravated homicide' and sentenced to thirty years in prison after suffering a still-birth while at work. She has spent more than eight years in jail. In January 2015 the Supreme Court released an unfavourable briefing document which denied her appeal for pardon. On 13 July 2007, Teodora was at work when she began experiencing a significant amount of pain. As the pain increased, she called the emergency services to ask for assistance and transportation to the hospital. She felt an urgent need to use the toilet and fell to the floor when suddenly her water broke. Teodora fainted and was unconscious when she delivered her child, who was still-born. She woke up momentarily without seeing her baby and then fainted again. One of Teodora's co-workers called the police, who arrived and arrested her at the scene on suspicion of murder. They handcuffed her and only then took her to the hospital where she could get the urgent treatment she needed. Teodora was bleeding profusely and fainted once more at the hospital. Teodora is from a rural area of El Salvador. She has an 11-year-old son, who is currently being cared for by her parents. Due to extremely limited financial resources her mother struggles to visit her and Teodora has not seen her son for over a year.

Link to casefile:

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/x/tAHPB>

Keywords:

Sexual and reproductive rights, women

Fundraising consent: TBC

PLEASE NOTE

Please note that the main call is only relevant for the primary target (Minister of Justice), as he has the power to commute Teodora's sentence, allowing for her release from prison. Similarly, the secondary calls are only relevant for the secondary target (Legislative Assembly), as they do not have the power to commute Teodora's sentence but are able to create more systemic change in regards to the criminalization of abortion in El Salvador, as well as to free women imprisoned on pregnancy-related charges who have not yet requested pardons before the Legislative Assembly.

Instructions for petition delivery

We encourage sections to send appeals to the primary target (Minister of Justice) consistently throughout the campaign period. Regarding the secondary target (Legislative Assembly), we plan to hand over the petitions to them in January 2016 (TBC) in order to align our campaign with the strategy of our local partner, Agrupación Ciudadana. We therefore ask that appeals be sent to a P.O. Box in El Salvador consistently throughout the campaign period as well. Agrupación Ciudadana will then collect the petitions and carry out the handover.

Solidarity action instructions

We are planning to focus on **online solidarity action** for Teodora's case and creating a Tumblr (link TBC) for activists to upload photos and other messages of support for her. Although Teodora will not be able to see the messages online from prison, we plan to collect the images at the end of the campaign and design a sort of newspaper of the images and messages, which local partners Agrupación Ciudadana will bring to her family. Teodora's family or lawyer can then show the newspaper to her when they visit.

There are a number of reasons why we feel it is not strategic to send physical solidarity letters, which are:

- Sending letters to Teodora in prison could put her at risk, as she could receive negative attention from fellow inmates for being seen as 'favoured'.
- Sending letters to Teodora's family could also put them at risk, as they could be targeted or publicly defamed if their profile becomes public, due to the stigma around the issue and the overall public security situation in El Salvador.
- As local partner Agrupación Ciudadana are already collecting the appeals toward the Legislative Assembly, we felt that they would not have the capacity to also receive and process physical solidarity letters for Teodora as well.

Preferred language

Spanish

Suggested messaging for solidarity actions

Sections can upload messages to the Tumblr page (link TBC), or take photos of activists holding signs with the following messages:

Spanish:

- Fuerza, #TeodoraLibre. Desde [PAÍS] estamos luchando por tu liberación.
- Teodora, estamos contigo #TeodoraLibre
- Libertad para Teodora y las 17+ #TeodoraLibre

English:

- Stay strong, #TeodoraLibre. From [COUNTRY] we are fighting for your freedom
- Teodora, we are with you #TeodoraLibre
- Freedom for Teodora and the 17+ #TeodoraLibre

Digital actions

In addition to the online solidarity action, the Minister of Justice can also be targeted on Twitter with our calls on the case. However, as we are collecting petitions to then target members of the Legislative Assembly in early 2016, it would not be strategic to send online appeals to them during the campaign period.

You can tweet in Spanish, English, or your own language, to call on the Minister of Justice to take action to ensure Teodora is immediately released from prison. Using Spanish is preferred, however using your own language will show worldwide support for the case.

Please include the Minister of Justice's Twitter handle @MiSeguridad_SV and the hashtag #TeodoraLibre in your tweets.

Suggested tweets:

Spanish:

- Queremos a #TeodoraLibre @MiSeguridad_SV tome acción para asegurar su liberación
- @MiSeguridad_SV acabe con la injusticia y la discriminación y ponga a #TeodoraLibre
- #TeodoraLibre no merece ni un día más en prisión @MiSeguridad_SV libérela ya
- Por los derechos de las mujeres en El Salvador @MiSeguridad_SV ponga a #TeodoraLibre
- @MiSeguridad_SV poner a #TeodoraLibre es hacer justicia

English:

- We want #TeodoraLibre @MiSeguridad_SV take action to ensure her freedom
- @MiSeguridad_SV stop the injustice and discrimination! Set #TeodoraLibre
- #TeodoraLibre doesn't deserve to spend another day in prison @MiSeguridad_SV Free her now!
- For all women's rights in El Salvador @MiSeguridad_SV free #TeodoraLibre
- @MiSeguridad_SV ensure the immediate release of #TeodoraLibre so justice is served

Ideas for bigger actions/events/stunts

Teodora's case is also featured in the My Body My Rights campaign and a solidarity action involving different events will take place from September to November 2015 on this (for more information, please see the My Body My Rights Strategy Circular for 28 September 2015 Campaign peak (DOC 10/1919/2015)). We encourage Sections/structures with capacity to do so to check if activities of this magnitude could be replicated in your countries. For example, a replica of the statue can be built in towns or during letter-writing parties.

- Small "pocket calendars" are a popular gift given out in El Salvador around December each year. We can connect the idea of the calendar with the call for Teodora's freedom, as everyday she has spent in prison is an injustice. For example, sections could:
- Set up big calendars where people can actually remove days off of Teodora's sentence (a possible target for a section is to obtain 8,395 actions, each one symbolizing one day less for Teodora in prison). Or similarly, symbolizing that each action could stop Teodora from spending another day in prison, starting at seven years and from December 2014 onward each action blocks another day in prison. You can use the hashtag #TeodoraLibre in your calendars.
- Tie the idea of the calendar into any large public demonstrations or mobilizations you are holding.

"Pocket Calendars" could also be used in smaller materials, such as postcards, stickers, t-shirts, etc. They could also be used in fundraising initiatives (note: fundraising consent is still TBC for this case), for example, having calendars for sale.

We also plan to prepare a strategy for early 2016 (including offline action and social media strategy) when Agrupación Ciudadana does the petition handover to the Legislative Assembly. More details on this will be shared later in the year.

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

We are still discussing with local partner Agrupación Ciudadana whether or not sections should approach Salvadoran embassies in their countries to speak about Teodora's case and the wider issue of the criminalization of abortion in El Salvador. However, some key talking points to bring up would include:

Facts and figures on the criminalization of abortion in El Salvador:

- El Salvador has one of the most draconian abortion laws in the world, criminalizing abortion on all grounds, even when the woman or girl's life or health is in danger and even in cases of rape and incest. Women suspected of having had an illegal abortion, a miscarriage, or pregnancy-related complications such as Teodora, are also often cruelly and deliberately charged with homicide. The ban on abortion not only denies women and girls their human rights, it also imposes an environment of suspicion and discrimination on women and girls.
- El Salvador banned abortion in all circumstances in 1998. Previously, El Salvador's penal code of 1973 allowed abortions if the pregnancy posed a risk to the woman's life, in cases of rape and when the foetus carried severe abnormalities.
- El Salvador's total abortion ban is killing women and girls and destroying the lives of others. In 2011, the WHO found that 11% of women and girls who sought an illegal abortion in El Salvador died as a result.
- Despite the ban, clandestine abortions are common. According to the Ministry of Health, There were 19,290 abortions in El Salvador between 2005 and 2008. More than a quarter of them were undergone by girls. Amnesty International notes, however, due to the criminalization of the procedure, this figure is likely much higher.
- In 2013, the National Civil Police recorded that, 16 women and girls were charged with the crime of abortion, six of them were under 17 years old at the time of the alleged offence.

Recent progress on the issue:

- On 21 January 2015, history was made in El Salvador when Carmen Guadalupe Vasquez Aldana, one of 'Las 17' imprisoned on pregnancy-related charges, was finally granted a pardon. El Salvador's Legislative Assembly approved a recommendation by the country's high court that she be exonerated (she was initially denied a pardon on 16 January and had been in prison for seven years.) Guadalupe was 18 years old when she was sentenced to 30 years for having a miscarriage.
- On 21 April the Inter-American Commission responded to a petition filed in March 2010 regarding the case of "Manuela", a woman who miscarried, was wrongfully accused of seeking an unsafe abortion, was sent to prison and died less than a year later behind bars from untreated Hodgkins lymphoma. The Inter-American Commission ordered the Salvadoran government to respond to human rights violations and its role in the death of "Manuela".
- On 23 April at a local court in El Salvador, our partners Agrupación Ciudadana were again successful with an appeal to free a woman imprisoned on abortion related charges. The woman was released that day

Amnesty International's calls:

- The Minister of Justice to take action to ensure Teodora del Carmen Vásquez's and all other women incarcerated for pregnancy-related complications who have exhausted other legal remedies are immediately released;
- The Salvadoran authorities must repeal laws criminalizing abortion; ensuring the elimination of punitive measures for women and girls seeking abortion, and for health care providers and others performing abortions or assisting in obtaining such services where consent is fully given;
- The authorities must ensure access to abortion both in law and in practice, at a minimum, in cases where pregnancy poses a risk to the life or to the physical or mental health of a pregnant woman or girl, in cases of severe foetal impairment, and in cases where the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest;
- The authorities must ensure that all laws and practices clearly establish the duty of health providers to respect patient confidentiality, including by not reporting women suspected of undergoing abortions and those who have had miscarriages to law enforcement authorities. Ensure that all staff working in the health care system are aware of this legal obligation and impose sanctions on those failing to comply;
- They must immediately and unconditionally release all women and girls who have been imprisoned in relation to undergoing abortions, having miscarriages, still-births or other pregnancy-related complications including those convicted of abortion, homicide, aggravated homicide or any other crimes. Ensure that such women and girls, as well as those serving non-custodial sentences, are not left with a criminal record and that they have access to effective remedies for violations of their human rights;

- The authorities must drop charges against women and girls whose cases are pending trial in relation to undergoing an abortion, having a miscarriage, still-births or other pregnancy-related complications and immediately and unconditionally release any of them who are detained.

Useful documents that sections can refer to include:

- *On the brink of death: Violence against women and the abortion ban in El Salvador* (AMR 29/003/2014), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr29/003/2014/en/>
- *Amnesty International calls on El Salvador to decriminalize abortion and immediately release all women imprisoned for pregnancy-related complications: Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on El Salvador* (AMR 29/1254/2015), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr29/1254/2015/en/>
- *My Body My Rights Strategy Circular for 28 September 2015 Campaign peak* (DOC 10/1919/2015) and other My Body My Rights strategic documents (see My Body My Rights Basecamp)

Media work

The following AI staff are available for interviews on Teodora's case in English or Spanish: Astrid Valencia, Researcher on Central America; Carolina Jimenez, Deputy Director for Research; Juliana Cano Nieto, Deputy Director for Campaigns. Members of Agrupación Ciudadana may be available for interview, however they are a very small organization working on a large number of cases, so they will not be able to accommodate every request we send. Please coordinate with us if you would like to Agrupación to participate in any international media work.

Audiovisual material

As this is a new casefile we do not yet have audiovisual material to share, but this will be made available shortly. We are working to obtain consent to use a video of Teodora recorded by an independent agency some months ago, and a photographer will soon be visiting Teodora in prison. We will share these images on ADAM as soon as they become available. In the meantime, there currently exists a variety of audiovisual materials on our wider work on decriminalization of abortion in El Salvador. This includes:

- Photos of Morena Herrera, Director of Agrupación Ciudadana: 203920, 203921, 203922, 193197
- Stills from the video *End the total ban on abortion in El Salvador*: 203378, 203379
- Photos from the High Level Mission to El Salvador: 201636-201642
- Photos from *United together with women and girls in El Salvador: Festival of Choice at the IS, September 2014*: 201121-201155
- All photos on El Salvador My Body My Rights missions, HLMS, and actions are available on ADAM [here](#) (please log into ADAM before clicking the link)
- Video animation: *End the total ban on abortion in El Salvador* on ADAM (202970) and Youtube [here](#)

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

Donor countries to El Salvador: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Spain and United States. These countries send significant amounts of official development assistance (more than \$1m USD) to El Salvador, including support to the health and justice sectors.

Countries with political influence over the Salvadoran government: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay, United Kingdom, USA, Venezuela.

Countries with restrictive abortion legislation, or where there has been progress in recent years and SRR is also a key issue: Chile, Ireland, Mexico, Poland, Spain.

Possibilities for working with partners

Members of local partner, Agrupación Ciudadana, may be available to participate in campaign activities or outputs, however as we have mentioned above, they are a small organization who work on many other cases, so they do not have the capacity to accommodate every request they receive. Teodora's sister, Cecilia Vásquez, gave her consent to take part in the campaign. We have her consent to use her name publicly and to share the information she gives us, but she is still considering whether she will be willing to be photographed or filmed. Both Agrupación and Cecilia Vásquez will consider requests as they come in. Please coordinate with us if you are interested in getting them involved.

Sections can consider participating with local women's rights groups in public events, and thus creating and strengthening alliances with them and increasing the audience for our calls on Teodora's case and on the decriminalization of abortion in El Salvador.

Risks or sensitive issues and what not to do!

Agrupación Ciudadana in San Salvador has identified that the most likely risk to Teodora and her family is negative publicity and defamation. Therefore, her family members may not be willing to be photographed or filmed and, as mentioned above, we cannot send solidarity messages directly to the family in order to maintain their safety.

As with all of Amnesty International's My Body My Rights campaign activities that focus on decriminalizing abortion, there is also the risk of criticism from anti-choice groups and other actors who oppose our calls.

Please note that Amnesty may not be able to sign some of the public statements that women's coalitions may make with regard to calling for access to safe and legal abortion that goes beyond our policy position. Amnesty International's policy states that governments must provide access to abortion services for all women and girls, at a minimum, when: a woman or girl becomes pregnant as the result of rape, sexual assault or incest, or where a pregnancy poses a risk to a woman or girl's life or a risk to her physical or mental health and in cases of severe foetal impairment (including fatal foetal impairment). However, Amnesty International can sign statements that call for the decriminalization of abortion on all grounds.

If you receive criticism or requests regarding Amnesty International's position on access to safe and legal abortion and are not sure how to respond, please contact the My Body My Rights team (mbmrteam@amnesty.org)



YECENIA ARMENTA

MEXICO

Primary Target

Marco Antonio Higuera Gómez, Sinaloa State Attorney General

Contact Details

Marco Antonio Higuera Gómez
Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Sinaloa
Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado de Sinaloa
Blvd. Enrique Sánchez Alonso No. 1833
Desarrollo Plan Tres Ríos, C.P. 80030
Culiacán, Sinaloa, México
Email: pgispart@sinaloa.gob.mx
Twitter: @gobsinaloa

Salutation: Dear Attorney General / Estimado Señor Procurador

Main calls (for primary target only)

Call on the Sinaloa State Attorney General to drop the charges against Yecenia Armenta, allowing for her release from prison;

Call on him to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the torture suffered by Yecenia Armenta and bring all those responsible to justice.

Secondary target

Arelly Gómez González, Federal Attorney General

Contact Details

Arelly Gómez González
Procuradora General de la República
Procuraduría General de la República (PGR)
Reforma 211-213, Col. Cuauhtémoc, C.P. 06500
México D.F., México
Fax: +52 55 5346 0908 (keep trying, ask for 'fax')
Email: arely.gomez@pgr.gob.mx
Twitter: @ArellyGomezGlz

Salutation: Dear Attorney General / Estimada Señora Procuradora

Secondary calls (for secondary target only)

Express concern at the persistent and generalized use of torture in Mexico, especially in the context of criminal investigation, as demonstrated by Yecenia Armenta's case (summarize the case).

AT A GLANCE

Yecenia Armenta has spent almost three years in prison while the men who brutally tortured her remain free. On 10 July 2012 while Yecenia was driving relatives to the airport in Culiacán, Sinaloa, state plain-clothed policemen pulled her car over, forced her out, blindfolded her and drove her away. They tied her up, hung her upside down, beat her and raped her. After almost 15 hours of torture, her aggressors threatened to bring in her children to rape and kill them. It was then that she succumbed to their demands to sign a confession, all while still blindfolded. In detention, doctors from the same prosecutor's office whose staff had tortured her examined Yecenia's injuries but failed to document them. Months later, medical forensic staff from the Federal Attorney General's Office examined Yecenia, only to conclude that she had not been tortured because the previous official doctors had not found any signs. Since then, independent medical experts have examined her twice (in line with international standards) and both times concluded that she was indeed tortured. Yecenia deserves to be free and to see her torturers brought to justice.

Gender: Female

Link to casefile:

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/x/shzDB>

Keywords: Torture, Arbitrary arrest, Impunity, Violence against women

Fundraising consent: Yes

IMPORTANT: Although Yecenia has been accused of killing her husband, we must not focus on the relationship between them. Neither should we focus on the fact that she has remarried since.

Key contact:

Karen Javorski
Individuals at Risk Campaigner for the Americas
karen.javorski@amnesty.org

Urge the Federal Attorney General to implement the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture's recommendations, also highlighted in Amnesty International's report, in order to overhaul the investigation of torture complaints.

In particular, she must ensure that all alleged victims have access to medical forensic examinations which fully comply with international human rights standards, such as the Istanbul Protocol, which Mexico has promised to uphold for many years.

In addition, she must ensure that official medical forensic experts are independent of the Federal Attorney General's Office.

PLEASE NOTE

The main call is only relevant for the main target (Sinaloa State Attorney General), as he has the power to drop the charges against Yecenia, allowing for her release from prison, as well as carry out the investigation into the torture she suffered. Similarly, the secondary calls are only relevant for the secondary target (Federal Attorney General), as she does not have the power to release Yecenia but is able to create more systemic change in regards to torture in Mexico at the national level.

Instructions for petition delivery

Please send appeals to the targets as they become available. If possible, keep copies and samples of those appeals for additional potential use in early 2016. For example, scan petitions, take pictures of activists writing letters, keep tables with names and country of residence, etc. We will use these materials in our campaigning in the New Year.

Solidarity action instructions

1. We encourage sections to send physical letters of solidarity to Yecenia in prison. For ideas on what to include and suggested messaging, please see 'Additional information about solidarity actions' below.
2. We are planning to set up a Facebook page (link TBC) for Yecenia to receive online solidarity messages. Activists can 'like' the page and post messages of support to Yecenia, and photos of their activism on her case. Yecenia's partner can print out images and messages from the Facebook page and show her when he visits her. He can also show her solidarity videos on his phone. Any messages Yecenia wants to share with activists in response will also be posted on the page.
3. Demonstrating solidarity with the *Rompiendo el Silencio* campaign would be useful too, because it would support other victims of sexual torture as well. The campaign, entitled "Breaking the silence: Together against sexual torture" (*Rompiendo el Silencio: Todas juntas contra la tortura sexual*) aims to speak out against the systematic pattern of sexual torture that Mexican women who are detained by police, military officials and marines face, under the alleged policy of state security. Yecenia, [Claudia Medina](#), [the women of Atenco](#) and [Valentina Rosendo](#) are part of this group.

Preferred language

Spanish

Address for solidarity action

Physical letters to Yecenia can be sent by post to:

Yecenia Armenta c/o Centro de Ejecución de las Consecuencias Jurídicas del Delito de Culiacán (CECJUDE)
Carretera a Navolato Km. 95, Col. Aguaruto, C.P. 80370, Culiacán, Sinaloa, México

Online messages, photos and videos can be posted onto Yecenia's Facebook page (link TBC).

Physical letters for Yecenia and the women of *Rompiendo el Silencio* can be sent by post to:
Campaña "Rompiendo el Silencio", Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez, Serapio Rendón 57-B,
Col. San Rafael, México, D.F., C.P. 06470, México

Additional information about solidarity actions

Yecenia is a devout Christian (but not Catholic). Receiving Christmas cards from a range of countries could be interesting to her. She has also been attending jewelry-making classes in prison, as well as beauty classes. We think sending handmade jewelry such as paper chains, necklaces or bracelets (made of paper or fabric, not beaded) would be a great way to show solidarity with Yecenia and are checking to see if there are any restrictions to sending such materials to Yecenia in prison. Photos of the jewelry you have made can also be shared on Yecenia's Facebook page.

Suggested solidarity messages:

Spanish:

Estimada Yecenia,

He conocido la terrible injusticia que se está cometiendo en tu contra. Deseo fervientemente que puedas recuperar tu libertad y que las personas que te torturaron sean llevadas ante la justicia.

English:

Dear Yecenia,

I have learned of the terrible injustice that is being committed against you. I sincerely hope that you can regain your freedom and that the people who tortured you are brought to justice.

Digital actions

You can tweet in Spanish, English, or your own language, calling on the Sinaloa State Attorney General to drop the charges against Yecenia Armenta, allowing for her release. Call on him to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the torture she suffered and bring all those responsible to justice.

Please include the Sinaloa State Attorney General's Twitter handle @gobsinaloa and the hashtags #FreeYecenia (English) and #LibertadParaYecenia (Spanish) in your tweets.

Suggested tweets:

Spanish:

- .@gobsinaloa Torturaron a Yecenia Armenta para que confesara un crimen que dice que no cometió. ¡Retire los cargos y libérela ahora!
- .@gobsinaloa Yecenia Armenta sigue en prisión mientras los que la torturaron brutalmente están libres. ¡Investigue la tortura que sufrió! ¡Basta de impunidad!

English:

- .@gobsinaloa Yecenia Armenta was tortured into confessing to a crime she says she didn't commit. Drop the charges and free her now!
- .@gobsinaloa Yecenia Armenta remains in prison while those who brutally tortured her walk free. Investigate the torture she suffered now!

Ideas for bigger actions/events/stunts

Big demonstrations, events or stunts will work provided they are picked up by the Mexican ambassador or by international media. Sections are encouraged to do some research about the Mexican embassy in their country to find out what kind of activities they are organizing, promoting or sponsoring. If you are able to plan your demonstrations or events to work around the embassies' activities, you are more likely to be seen.

Please be sure to film and photograph any actions you take on behalf of Yecenia Armenta as we would like to be able to share these with her and her partner after Write for Rights. If you have capacity to film, please interview people taking action for Yecenia asking why they are taking action for her. Ask them to say something to the camera to Yecenia, and to say something to the Mexican authorities. Please ensure they say their name and where they are from on camera.

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

Sections are encouraged to undertake lobbying activities with Mexican embassy officials in their own countries. The main talking points to bring up in terms of Yecenia's case include:

- Torture is widespread in Mexico, as the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture has recently established. Attempts by the Mexican authorities to criticize his findings demonstrate lack of political will to acknowledge the gravity of the situation and to take measures to correct it.
- Yecenia's experience is emblematic of many others. She was tortured by investigative police in order to get her to confess to a crime that they haven't been able to prove otherwise. The authorities must drop the charges against her, release her, and bring all those responsible to account.
- Yecenia's torturers haven't been brought to justice, as is all too common in Mexico. Investigations are normally flawed. Most torture victims are never seen by official forensic doctors, or seen with excessive delay, depriving them from useful evidence that they have been tortured. If examined in a timely manner, forensic reports normally fail to document torture, as in Yecenia's case. International standards such as the UN-backed Istanbul Protocol are rarely observed.
- The Federal Attorney General's Office, as well as all state-level prosecution services, must comply with the Istanbul Protocol and guarantee that all alleged victims have adequate access to official medical forensic examinations, as part of wider and prompt investigation into torture and other forms of ill-treatment. The authorities must also ensure that official forensic doctors are independent from prosecution services. In addition, forensic examinations carried out by non-governmental doctors are assessed on their own merits, ending with the automatic preeminence of official forensic examinations.

Other useful documents that sections can refer to for talking points on the issue of widespread torture in Mexico and the need for an overhaul of the application of medical forensic examinations for torture victims include:

- *Out of Control: Torture and other ill-treatment in Mexico* (4 September 2014 report), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr41/020/2014/en/>
- *International Day in Support of Victims of Torture Action Circular* (ACT 40/1654/2015) on AIDAN [here](#) (log into the intranet before clicking the link)
- *Stop Torture – Mexico Strategy Circular Update* (ACT 40/2181/2015) on AIDAN [here](#) (log into the intranet before clicking the link)

Media work

The following AI staff are available for interviews on Yecenia's case in English or Spanish: Madeleine Penman, Researcher on Mexico; Mariano Machain, Campaigner on Mexico; Juliana Cano Nieto, Deputy Director for Campaigns. Claudia Medina is also available for media work in Spanish. Sections are encouraged to promote the case amongst women's groups and medical professionals in their media work.

Audiovisual material

A number of images of Yecenia are available on ADAM. Please log into ADAM and search 'Yecenia Armenta' for all available images.

A video of Yecenia speaking out from prison about her torture is also available in English, Spanish and International versions. It is on ADAM under ID 211895 [here](#) (please log into ADAM before clicking on the link) and on Youtube (English version) [here](#). Sections who have already translated and subtitled the video into other languages are encouraged to upload them to ADAM.

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

AI USA, AI Canada, AI Brazil and S/s in European countries would be particularly strategic to work on this case. They are influential on Mexico on many levels (political relations, trade, arts, entertainment, etc.)

Possibilities for working with partners

Claudia Medina has met Yecenia and can travel to present Yecenia's case and her own case. It would also be particularly useful for S/s to approach medical bodies in their countries with this case, because they can relate to structural as well as individual calls.

Risks or sensitive issues and what not to do!

Although Yecenia has been accused of killing her husband, we must not focus on the relationship between them. Neither should we focus on the fact that Yecenia has remarried since then.



Yecenia Armenta



ALBERT WOODFOX

USA

Primary Target

Attorney General of Louisiana

Contact Details

Attorney General of Louisiana
Office of the Attorney General
1885 North Third Street
Baton Rouge
LA 70802
USA
Email: executive@ag.state.la.us
Fax: +1 225-326-6793
Twitter: @LouisianaAGO
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Main calls

Albert Woodfox should be immediately released from prison;

Following decades of cruel and inhumane conditions in solitary confinement, and no remedy for serious legal flaws in his case, Albert Woodfox must be freed.

Secondary target

James Le Blanc
Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections Secretary
504 Mayflower Street
Baton Rouge
LA 70802
USA

Email: jmleblanc@corrections.state.la.us
Fax: +1 225-342-3095
Salutation: Dear Secretary Le Blanc

Secondary calls

Louisiana Department of Corrections should take steps to reduce the number of people held in conditions of solitary confinement in Closed Cell Restriction (CCR) units. It must ensure that only prisoners who are a severe, continuing threat whose behaviour cannot be managed in less restrictive settings are held in these units.

All prisoners in CCR should have access to adequate out of cell time and exercise, as well as meaningful programs including education, recreational and rehabilitation programs.

All prisoners in CCR should receive adequate medical and mental health care.

AT A GLANCE

Albert Woodfox is a prisoner in Louisiana who was placed in solitary confinement over 43 years ago following the murder of a prison guard. Albert has always maintained his innocence, claiming he was targeted by the state because of his political organizing in prison as a founder of the first prison chapter of the Black Panther Party. There is no physical evidence to link him to the crime, and the conviction relied primarily on the testimony of an eye witness who received favours – including his release by pardon – for his cooperation. For over 40 years, he has spent 23 hours a day alone in a small cell with little natural light, few personal possessions and reading materials and no meaningful communication with others. Denied access to rehabilitative or educational programs as well as work opportunities, Albert is currently allowed out of his cell for just three hours a week to exercise alone. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture has described Albert's decades in solitary confinement as torture. Albert's conviction has been overturned three times yet he remains in prison as the state continues to appeal every legal decision in his favour. In June 2015 a federal judge granted Albert immediate release from prison and barred the State from retrying him for a third time. Yet still he remains behind bars. Were it not for the Attorney General pursuing what AI has called a 'campaign of vengeance' against him, Albert would be a free man.

Gender: Male

Link to casefile:

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/x/KSgrAw>

Keywords: Fair trial concerns, long-term solitary confinement

Fundraising consent: Yes

All placements in CCR should be made only after an impartial hearing with regular, meaningful review of their CCR assignment through a similar impartial proceeding.

Louisiana should report on the breakdown of prisoners held in CCR, including age, race, mental and medical health status, reason for placement, and length of time in the unit.

Louisiana should issue an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading treatment to visit its prisons, particularly its CCR units.

Tertiary target

US Secretary of State
John F. Kerry
US State Department
USA
Twitter: @JohnKerry
Salutation: Dear Secretary of State

Tertiary calls

Call on the US State Department to extend an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, to carry out a fact-finding visit to both state and federal prisons where individuals are held in long term isolation.

PLEASE NOTE

Sending letters by post is an effective way of getting a message to the authorities to mitigate against them switching off faxes and changing email addresses.

Solidarity action instructions

1. Please send an inspirational post card to Albert. You are the window to the world for him. A postcard of a landmark in your city/country; or striking architecture; or an image that gives me insight into how world has changed since the 1960's when he was imprisoned. Albert's interests are current affairs, politics and nature, history and sociology. He loves animals, nature and American football and music, too!
2. Online solidarity with Albert Woodfox. Please take a photograph of yourself holding a sign saying, 'Free Albert Woodfox'. Upload these onto an AI Tumblr page (details to follow). We will use the photographs to create an image of Albert's face that can be used in further campaigning.

Preferred language

English preferred. A short template will be provided for this as soon as possible.

Address for solidarity action

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

Additional information about solidarity actions

Please note in your communication to Albert that you do not expect a reply as we have been told by his friends that he puts himself under pressure to try to reply to all correspondence. In addition to providing support to Albert, sending cards to the prison will demonstrate to the authorities that people worldwide support him.

Digital actions

Twitter actions: You can tweet in English, or your own language, to call on the Attorney General to free Albert. Using your own language will show worldwide support.

Please include the Louisiana Attorney General's Twitter handle @LouisianaAGO and the hashtags #FreeAlbertWoodfox and #AlbertWoodfox in all your tweets.

Suggested tweets:

- [@LouisianaAGO](#) must end the cruelty. Freedom for #AlbertWoodfox after decades in solitary confinement! #FreeAlbertWoodfox
- Decades of injustice and cruelty. @LouisianaAGO must release #AlbertWoodfox
- Inhumane, cruel and definitely unusual. End decades of isolation. It's time for @LouisianaAGO to #FreeAlbertWoodfox
- [@LouisianaAGO](#) Enough is enough. #FreeAlbertWoodfox

Media work

The US team from the IS is available for interviews. Also available for interview will be Robert King, freed 'Angola 3' member, and a member of Albert's legal team. Sections can also encourage the law societies in their countries with an open letter to the Attorney General calling for the release of Albert Woodfox.

Ideas for bigger actions/events/stunts

Project images of Albert Woodfox on buildings or screens at sports events, especially football matches/events, is encouraged. Albert is a supporter of the American football teams the New Orleans Saints and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Create a DIY cell (materials will be circulated in August). Either construct cell, or use tape to mark out cell dimensions, including bed, toilet. This is particularly effective when working with schools, or in communities.

Commission an artist to create an Albert specific art.

Propose that street artists paint Albert's face on public spaces. This was recently done in New Orleans, Louisiana, through Art for Amnesty (more information and photos can be found in the following article:

http://www.nola.com/arts/index.ssf/2015/07/albert_woodfox_brandan_odums_m.html).

Ask your cities or towns to make a public gesture of support, for example:

- Holding a banner with Albert's photo and the message 'Free Albert' on the townhall
- Declare Albert Woodfox a citizen of honour
- Name a street, building or public space after him
- Any other public sign of support

Hold public vigils or demonstrations outside of the US embassy in your country.

Screen the documentary, *In the Land of the Free* (the story of the 'Angola 3') available in English and also with French and Spanish subtitles followed by a panel discussion or Q & A with various members of Albert's team, including Robert King, or the director of the film, Vadim Jean. Please note that for those sections who have previously screened the film, there is now an updated version available that has new developments in case included. Please contact Tessa Murphy in the USA team if you are interested in receiving a physical copy, as the licensing does not permit us to upload or download it from the web.

Opportunity to premiere the updated documentary which has new footage of Herman Wallace's release and updated interviews.

Organize flash mobs. The Attorney General is an enthusiastic Elvis supporter. In a respectful manner, you could organize an 'Elvis' flash mob to draw attention to the case.

Please be sure to film and photograph any actions you take on behalf of Albert Woodfox as we would like to be able to share these with his family after Write for Rights. If you have capacity to film, please interview people taking action for Albert Woodfox asking why they are taking action for Albert Woodfox. Ask them to say something to the camera to Albert Woodfox, and to say something to the Attorney General. Please ensure they say their name and where they are from on camera.

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

Embassy visits: S/s can carry out lobbying visits to U.S. embassies in their own countries to register our concerns with Albert's case.

Approaches to own Government/Politicians: In coordination with your section office and country coordinator, please try to set up a meeting with relevant government officials in your country to brief them about the case. These could include:

- The Americas desk in your Foreign Ministry
- The parliamentary committee on human rights or foreign affairs in your country
- Members of the European Parliament (if your country is a member of the EU). See EU section below

EU: Ask S/s in member states to press national governments to:

- Engage US themselves (as per above)
- Ask MEPs to raise this case in European Parliament and to engage their counterparts in US congress on this.
- To support and encourage work of EU to make sure Albert's case stays on the EU agenda, including raising the case (and solitary issue) at all high level meetings between EU or member state officials and US officials.

Please note, that on back of AI lobbying, the European External Action Service and EU delegation to the US have previously made demarches on Albert's case, and wider issue of US use of solitary confinement so further lobbying is important to keep up interest and pressure.

Religious leaders: Lobby religious leaders within your own country to send letters to faith leaders within Louisiana, urging them to speak out against Albert's continued incarceration. This is particularly important in the period of September to December. The US team is developing a letter template for this which should be made available in August. The USA team are planning an op-ed in a Louisiana newspaper on 10 December to be signed by religious leaders. If you are interested in taking part in this action, please contact Tessa Murphy in the USA team and Karen Javorski in the Individuals at Risk team.

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

All S/s are invited to take action and should carry out as many activities as possible according to their capacity. AI USA is the most influential section, however because of trade ties, S/s in European Union countries are also particularly important.

Possibilities for working with partners

Robert King, the third and free member of the Angola 3, is available for speakers' tours.

Also available for op-eds, or media quotes, media (included via telephone or skype where possible) are various individuals who have been involved in this campaign including Teenie Rogers (wife of the murdered prison guard), Michael Mable (Albert's brother) and legal liaison.

Sections can also encourage the law societies, or bar associations, in their countries with an open letter to the Attorney General calling for the release of Albert Woodfox.

Audiovisual materials and other resources

Amnesty International-produced audiovisual materials include:

- Images of Albert Woodfox, the Angola 3, and actions that AI has taken on the case over the years are available on ADAM. Please log into ADAM and search for 'Albert Woodfox', 'Angola 3' or 'Angola 2'.
- Videos available of AI's work on this case, including an interview between Robert King and Teenie Rogers (clips on ADAM [here](#) and [here](#), please log into ADAM before clicking the links), an interview with Juan Mendez, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, and CID.
- AI France produced a comic book telling the story of the Angola 3 (currently only in French) is available [here](#). They have also created a Storify page on the case, which is available [here](#).

Additional non-Amnesty International audiovisual materials include:

- A song by Swedish singer Meja Kullersten was written about Albert's case, inspired by an article in AI Sweden's magazine. It is available for use and can be found on Youtube [here](#). Meja may also make herself available to sections to perform the song.
- Robert King's autobiography *From the Bottom of the Heap* (available for purchase on Amazon) could be used for book readings and Robert may be available for book signings.
- Access to a number of artists and their work, including Emory Douglas, a revolutionary artist of the Black Panther Party, and Rigo 23, a Black Panther artist who has made an installation about the Angola 3.





PHYOE PHYOE AUNG

MYANMAR

Primary Target

As the Write for Rights action is likely to result in a high volume of appeals, we have identified the President as the primary target. He is the person with the power to order the release of Phyo Phyo Aung and the other peaceful students, and we believe he can be influenced by large-scale global pressure.

It is unclear whether Thein Sein will seek a second term in office, but regardless of his decision and the outcome of the general elections on 8 November, he will remain in post until March 2016. If he decides to stand, he may want to make a significant 'gesture' to show that reforms under his reign will continue. If he chooses not to stand, he is likely to be concerned about his legacy as outgoing President, so will still be a strategic target.

For any actions prior to Write for Rights, our primary target is the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC). They are more likely to be influenced by lower-level, on-going appeals, and we feel the President is best targeted in one big burst.

Contact Details

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Thein Sein
President Office, Office No.18
Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
<https://www.facebook.com/myanmarpresidentoffice.gov.mm>
Fax: +95 1 652 624

Salutation: Your Excellency

PLEASE NOTE

We are currently trying to identify an email address for the President. In the event that we are unable to do so, any online actions can target the MNHRC.

Secondary target

Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Win Mra
27 Pyay Road, Hline Township,
Yangon,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Fax: +95 1 659 668
Email: chmyanmarnhrc@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Chairman

AT A GLANCE

Phyo Phyo Aung is a young activist and Secretary General of the All Burma Federation Student Union (ABFSU) – one of the largest students unions in Myanmar. She has been in prison along with scores of other students and protesters since 10 March 2015 after being violently arrested during a student protest against the newly adopted National Education Law. Phyo Phyo Aung and over 100 student protestors, leaders and their supporters have been charged with a range of criminal offences in connection with the protest, and many are facing sentences of over nine years' imprisonment.

Gender: Female

Link to casefile:

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/x/44LRB>

Keywords: Freedom of expression, Prisoner of Conscience

Fundraising consent: Yes

Key contact:

Elise Tillet and Laura Haigh:
myanmarindividuals@amnesty.org

Main calls

Immediately and unconditionally release Phyoe Phyoe Aung and all the detained peaceful student protesters.

Secondary calls

Ensure that pending their release, Phyoe Phyoe Aung and all other detained student protesters are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated; that they have regular access to family members and lawyers of their choosing; and are provided with any medical treatment which they may require.

Solidarity action instructions

For solidarity messages to Phyoe Phyoe Aung, she loves animals, so we recommend activists send pictures or drawings of animals. However, please note that Phyoe Phyoe Aung's family have requested that solidarity actions are also sent to the other students in detention and facing charges, and not solely to her. Activists are therefore encouraged to address solidarity actions not just to Phyoe Phyoe Aung but to "all detained students". Activists are encouraged to include the slogan 'I support Myanmar students', in their messages, as this is the message already used in the country (see the Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/pages/We-Support-Myanmar-Students/1617301761814639?fref=ts&ref=br_tf)

Due to security concerns, and to ensure the solidarity messages can be received by Phyoe Phyoe Aung and the other detained students, they should all be sent via the Myanmar Team at the IS in London. They will then identify the best way of delivering them to the students.

Preferred language

English or Burmese

Address for solidarity action

c/o Myanmar team
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London, WC1X 0DW
UK

Additional information about solidarity actions

See here for a message in English and Burmese:
<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/download/attachments/80839395/AI+Greetings+.pdf>

Instructions for petition delivery

We ask for all offline actions and petitions to be sent to the President at the address above as soon as possible after they are collected. A physical delivery in-country is unlikely to be possible, and our analysis is that it will be more effective for him to receive all the appeals in a short space of time.

Digital actions

The President has an active Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/myanmarpresidentoffice.gov.mm>, and Facebook is widely used in Myanmar. There is also a Facebook page supporting the students: https://www.facebook.com/pages/We-Support-Myanmar-Students/1617301761814639?fref=ts&ref=br_tf. We will be considering whether and how best to use these channels to pressure the President and show solidarity with the students.

Ideas for bigger actions/events/stunts

Visible activities for Phyo Phyo Aung and the other detained peaceful student protesters are an important element of the campaign, in terms of raising awareness of their case and pressuring the authorities. We therefore encourage public actions, for example outside the Myanmar embassy in your country. As students in Myanmar were trying to march as her arrest took place, solidarity actions could also take the form of solidarity marches.

Sections are also encouraged to identify celebrities or high-profile individuals who might want to speak out about her case. As a leading member of the ABFSU in Myanmar and a former prisoner of conscience, Phyo Phyo Aung has met with many high profile members of the international community such as George W. Bush [who issued a statement calling for her release]. As such she already has a profile at the international level and we could try to build on this by gathering support from other key figures to publicly call for her release and take solidarity action.

It would be useful to have any photos of actions that are organised for them, so that we can share with groups and activists in Myanmar.

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

Myanmar's government is now responsive to international pressure. Foreign governments have used the release of prisoners of conscience as a bargaining chip for further international engagement. Second governments also want to sell Myanmar as a success story of their foreign policy – this might prompt them to encourage the authorities to make significant “gestures” ahead of the elections. The UN General Assembly and the UPR are additional opportunities for foreign governments to raise the issue of prisoners of conscience and the case of Phyo Phyo Aung and the other detained peaceful student protesters with the Myanmar authorities.

As such we believe that for our main calls in the case – the immediate and unconditional release of Phyo Phyo Aung and the other detained peaceful student protesters - pressure needs to come from concerted advocacy and lobbying as well as letter writing. We encourage all sections/structures/national offices and coordinators to speak with their advocacy departments/staff to try and coordinate as much as possible both letter writing and advocacy activities such as sending letters to their own government or scheduling meetings around key events and opportunities.

A report on 'new' prisoners of conscience in Myanmar is planned for the end of September, so this can be used to engage your own governments. Please remember to let us know if any meetings are planned or if you receive any responses regarding the case.

Media work

Local and international media will play a crucial role in engaging both the Myanmar government and foreign governments on the issue of prisoners of conscience in the lead up to the elections. The fact that there are so many students in detention and that it is an election year also offers increased opportunities for international and regional media coverage.

Phyo Phyo Aung's family have been outspoken about her case in Myanmar, and might be prepared to take part in media work. However, we would need to consider security and logistical implications.

Audiovisual material

There are several photos of Phyo Phyo Aung available on ADAM, including during the protests before her arrest. There is also an audio message from her to Amnesty members which is currently being translated into English and will be available soon.

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

AIUSA: The US government is one of the main donors of aid to Myanmar. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and President Obama were the first American high officials to visit Myanmar in more than 50 years. In the past couple of years, visits of US officials have always triggered the release of prisoners of conscience.

The US government continues to raise human rights concerns in the country.

Obama's administration has been selling Myanmar as a foreign policy success. It is in his interest to ensure it remains a success story.

George W Bush has already called for her release.

European sections: The European Union is an important donor of aid to Myanmar. The European Union is in charge of drafting the resolution on the situation of human rights in Myanmar at the UN General Assembly.

The EU is now officially engaged in a Human Rights Dialogue with Myanmar. Within the EU key countries are: **the UK, France, and Germany**. In addition, **the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, and Sweden** have always been supporters of former prisoners of conscience and political activists in Myanmar. Outside of the EU, the section in **Switzerland** could play an important role targeting diplomatic missions in Geneva ahead of the UPR and **Norway** is one of the biggest donors in aid in Myanmar.

Asian sections: Regional sections and structures have an important role to play in influencing Phyo Phyo Aung's case, as they are not seen as "external" critics. They can also use regional forums and dialogues to raise their case. ASEAN sections in **Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines** are encouraged to take action on this case as well as **India** as a neighbouring country. **Japan and Australia** are important donor countries and have high level of engagement with the Myanmar authorities.

Possibilities for working with partners

We strongly encourage involving youth and student groups in your activities as well as other key networks such as academics and women's groups.

Phyo Phyo Aung's parents are very happy that AI has taken up the case, if sections are interested we may ask them if they would be interested in being involved in our activities.



Phyo Phyo Aung during protests against the National Education Law in March 2015, before the police crackdown.



ZUNAR MALAYSIA

Primary Target

Prime Minister Najib Razak

Contact Details

Main Block, Perdana Putra Building,
Federal Government Administrative Centre, 62502
Putrajaya, Malaysia Fax: +603 8888 3444 Email: ppm@pmo.gov.my
Twitter: @NajibRazak

AT A GLANCE

Political cartoonist Zulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque, also known as “Zunar”, is facing a long prison sentence as a result of tweets he posted on 10 February. The tweets criticized the judiciary after opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim was jailed on sodomy charges. Zunar is facing nine charges under the Sedition Act, a colonial-era law that has been used to clampdown on freedom of expression under the guise of protecting national security and deterring racial or religious unrest.

Zunar has been targeted numerous times as a result of his political cartoons, and currently holds the record for the highest number of sedition charges in Malaysia. He was previously detained for two days under the Sedition Act in September 2010 after the publication of his book *Cartoon-O-Phobia*. Five of his cartoon books have been banned by the Malaysian government for allegedly having content that is “detrimental to public order.” His office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia’s capital, has been raided several times and thousands of his cartoon books have been confiscated.

Gender: Male

Link to casefile:
<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/display/IAR/Casefile+of+Zunar>

Keywords: Freedom of Expression

Fundraising consent: Yes

Main call

Calling on him to immediately drop the charges against Zunar, brought against him for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression;

Secondary calls

Urging him to ensure that Zunar and those working with him are not subjected to any form of restrictions or harassment in connection to their peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression;

Calling on him to repeal the Sedition Act and other laws which restrict the right to freedom of expression, and to comply with international human rights law and standards.

Secondary targets

The Prime Minister is the primary target as he is the key decision-maker, who has the mandate to act on all our calls. In addition however, sections and structures are also encouraged to target the Attorney General and Inspector General of Police when possible:

Target the Attorney General:

Calling on him to immediately drop the charges against Zunar, brought against him for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression;

Calling on him to repeal the Sedition Act and other laws which restrict the right to freedom of expression, and to comply with international human rights law and standards.

And the Inspector General of Police:

Urging him to ensure that Zunar and those working with him are not subjected to any form of restrictions or harassment in connection to their peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression.

Contact Details

Attorney General Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali

Block C3, Jabatan Peguam Negara
Persiaran Sultan Sallahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, Presint 1, 62000
Putrajaya, Malaysia Fax: +603 8872 2000, Email: pro@agc.gov.my

Inspector General of Police Tan Sri Dato' Sri Khalid bin Abu Bakar

Ibu Pejabat Polis Diraja Malaysia
Bukit Aman, 50560, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Twitter: @KBAB51, Fax: +603 2070 7500

Pressure from second governments, especially those that are particularly influential (listed below), is an important part of the campaign. Appeals to foreign ministries, calling on them to raise Zunar's case with the Malaysian authorities, is therefore also encouraged.

Solidarity action instructions

Zunar has told us that he would rather receive cartoons, drawings or doodles than traditional messages. We would therefore like activists to draw an image or cartoon to show support for Zunar, or to express what freedom of expression means to them. Please ask activists to take a photo of their creation, and upload it to Instagram with the tags #Zunar and #w4r. They should also add their age/country as a caption and a message to Zunar if they wish. This action will be launched on 24 September, which is the anniversary of the first time he was ever detained under the Sedition Act.

Alternatively, drawings can be sent via our team in Malaysia at the address below, and we'll post a selection online.

We are planning to encourage well-known artists and cartoonists to contribute to the initiative, and hope the action will generate discussion about Zunar's case and freedom of expression in Malaysia.

Preferred language

English, Malay

Address for solidarity action

Instagram: #Zunar and #w4r

c/o AI Malaysia
D-2,33A 8 Avenue
Jalan Sungai Jernih 8/ 1
Section 8
46050 Petaling Jaya
Selangor, MALAYSIA

Instructions for petition deliveries (or ideas for creative deliveries)

Our analysis is that it would be better for any petitions or physical appeals to be sent to the Prime Minister as soon as possible after Write for Rights activities. As the Malaysian socio-political climate is quite volatile at the moment, it is difficult to plan a delivery strategy for early 2016, and we think it would be more effective for the targets to receive as many appeals as possible in a short space of time.

Ideas for bigger actions/events/stunts

We encourage public, visible actions for Zunar, both to raise awareness of his case in your country, but also so that we can capture this activism and share with audiences in Malaysia. A key part of our strategy is to highlight the global concern for Zunar, as we believe this could increase the pressure on the Prime Minister over the issue. Please therefore make sure you send us photos of any activities you undertake on his behalf, so that we can promote these through social media. Photos can be sent to Rhea in the Malaysia team (rhea.alba@amnesty.org) and Claire in the Individuals team (claire.jacob@amnesty.org).

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

We would like there to be a pressure from within Malaysia and also internationally, as we feel this combination is most likely to make the Prime Minister decide to act. We therefore encourage advocacy towards foreign ministries, especially those highlighted as particularly influential, calling on them to raise the case with the Malaysian authorities. Please let us know of any bilateral meetings or visits that are taking place, as these could be excellent opportunities for targeted lobbying.

Digital actions

The Prime Minister, Attorney General's Chamber, and the Inspector General of Police all have twitter accounts, and are also active on Facebook. As Zunar is facing charges due to tweets he sent, we will be encouraging a big push on twitter around Write for Rights. In addition, we will be highlighting his case on social media in the months before Write for Rights, to put pressure on the authorities and increase the awareness of his case among the public.

Media work

Generating media coverage of Zunar's case both domestically and internationally is a key component of the Theory of Change. Our analysis is that both domestic coverage and an international spotlight on Zunar's case could increase pressure on the Prime Minister from the public and other influential actors in Malaysia. This could help convince him of the need to make a significant gesture, such as dropping the charges against Zunar, in order to improve his popularity.

We believe Zunar's case could appeal to many different types of media, with potential interest from bloggers and online news sites, as well as traditional media. Zunar might also be prepared to be interviewed, depending on the nature of the request. Please let us know if you are able to get any media coverage of his case, as we would then like to promote this to a Malaysian audience.

Audiovisual material

Photos of Zunar are available on ADAM (ID 212247 and 212248). We are also hoping that some of Zunar's cartoons will be available for us to use in the campaign.

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

US – The country has significant political influence on the country. The relation between the two countries has improved significantly and has led to US President Barack Obama's visit to the country in April 2014---the first from a current US President since 1966. President Obama and current Malaysian PM Najib Razak also issued a joint statement elevating their countries' relationship; Malaysia is also pursuing the Trans-Pacific Partnership treaty with the US' support.

UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand – Aside from being global powers, their long-standing historical links with Malaysia make them significant influencers. (Note that Zunar had previously met up with the UK Foreign Office in May 2015, but as of writing, there has been no follow--up after the meeting).

Hong Kong and India – These countries are also similarly linked to Malaysia as Commonwealth countries with Sedition Act. (Note the difference that in India, Sedition Act is punishable under the penal code, with the requirement of establishing intention).

China – Despite slight tensions because both China and Malaysia are claimants in the South China Sea dispute, political, cultural and economic connections are considerable. Both are full members of APEC and are co-members of the UN Security Council, and a significant Chinese population reside in Malaysia.

European Union – Bound by the 1980 EC-ASEAN agreement, dialogue, policy interaction and cooperation and links between Malaysia and the EU's business community and civil society has been increasing progressively. Malaysia is the European Union's second largest trading partner in Southeast Asia, and the 23rd largest trading partner for the European Union in the world. The European Union is Malaysia's 4th largest trading partner. (Note that the EU sent Zunar an invitation for him to visit Paris).

European sections:

- **Austria** - Malaysia is one of the country's key trading partners in Southeast Asia.
- **Netherlands** – The country has historical links with Malaysia, when the Dutch established relations with the Sultanate of Johor and captured Malacca, on the south-eastern coast of Malaysia. The Dutch Malacca era lasted until 1824;
- **France** – Co-member in UN Security Council
- **Germany** – The Embassy in Malaysia recently invited Zunar to learn more about his case, but no follow-up has been made yet. The country is also among Malaysia's top trading partners.
- **Spain** - Co-member in UN Security Council
- **Sweden** – In May 2015, Zunar facilitated two sessions in a global media conference co-sponsored by the Swedish Government, which signifies their interest in the theme.
- **Switzerland** – Zunar presented his story upon the invitation of a UN Human Rights Desk Officer in Geneva.

Asian Sections:

- **Indonesia, Thailand and Philippines** - Close ties with Malaysia in Southeast Asia because of ASEAN.
- **Japan, South Korea, Taiwan** - Among Malaysia's top trading partners

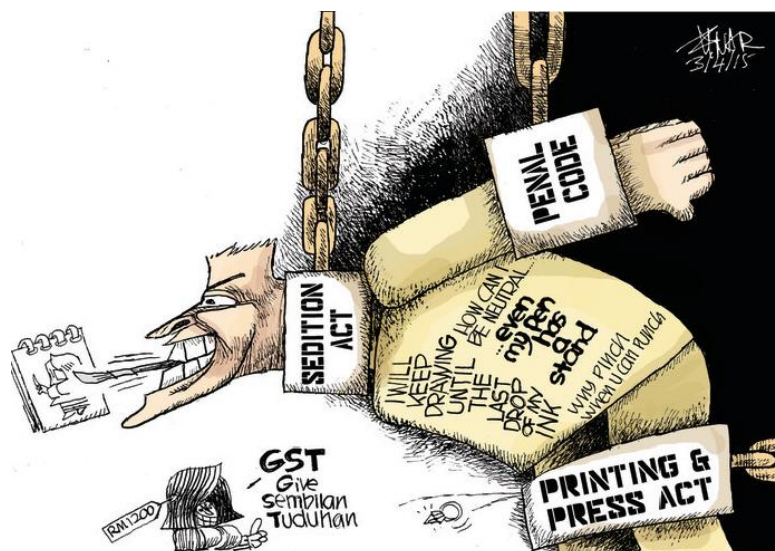
All Israel should not work on this case – Malaysia does not have diplomatic ties with the country.

Possibilities for working with partners

There is the possibility for sections/structures to engage with Zunar as part of their campaign. Other representatives available for engagement include Latheefa Koya (counsel); Malaysia-based cartoonist group, where Zunar currently serves as advisor; Dr. Robert Russell (director of Washington, DC-based group Cartoonist Rights Network International, who had previously written to the Prime Minister of Malaysia about Zunar's case). Please contact Rhea in the Malaysia team (rhea.alba@amnesty.org) for any inquiries.

Sections/structures are also encouraged to engage with other organisations that work on freedom of expression in their country, and any well-known celebrities who might be prepared to speak out about his case.

Note: Zunar's family is unavailable for engagement. His wife is a government employee. Since our targets are from the government, her involvement should be avoided to ensure there is no possible conflict of interest.



Cartoon by Zunar.



MUHAMMAD BEKZHANOV

Uzbekistan

Primary Target

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Contact Details

President Islam Karimov
Rezidentsia prezidenta
ul. Uzbekistanskaia 43
Tashkent 700163
Uzbekistan

Secondary target

Prosecutor General Ihtior Abdullaev
Prosecutor General's Office of Uzbekistan
ul. Gulyamova 66
Tashkent 700047
Uzbekistan

AT A GLANCE

Muhammad Bekzhanov is one of the world's longest-imprisoned journalists. A former editor of the banned opposition newspaper Erk (Freedom), he has spent the last 16 years in prison for allegedly committing "anti-state" offences. Muhammad was tortured by security forces, they beat him with rubber truncheons, suffocated him and gave him electric shocks, all with the aim of forcing him to make a false confession.

At his trial, the court ignored the confession him when he said that he had been tortured into making a confession. No effective investigation into any of the allegations of torture has been conducted despite numerous complaints lodged with the competent authorities by Muhammad Bekzhanov, his lawyer and his family over the years.

Muhammad was due to be released in February 2012, but shortly before his release date he was sentenced to an additional four years and eight months for allegedly violating prison rules.

Gender: Male

Link to casefile:

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/display/IAR/Casefile+of+Muhammad+Bekzhanov>

Keywords:

Torture, impunity, unfair trial
Freedom of expression

Fundraising consent: YES

PLEASE NOTE

Sending letters by post is the most effective way of getting a message to the Uzbekistani authorities, because it is more difficult to hide or ignore large numbers of letters. If letters are sent recorded or via a courier service, officials have to acknowledge receipt and it leads to them noticing our campaigning on the case. In previous campaigns where emails and faxes were used, the authorities switched off faxes and changed email addresses.

Main calls

To ensure the prompt release of Muhammad Bekzhanov on the grounds that repeated calls for a fair retrial in his case have been ignored for more than 15 years;

To ensure a prompt, impartial and effective investigation into the allegations that Muhammad Bekzhanov was tortured in custody.

Secondary calls

To issue a Presidential Decree requiring the Criminal Procedure Code to be amended to include an absolute and explicit prohibition of the use of torture to obtain testimony or confessions and the use of torture tainted evidence in court;

To ensure that an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to undertake a fact-finding visit to Uzbekistan is issued without delay.

Solidarity action instructions

Sending letters and postcards to prison is still the best way to express solidarity with prisoners in Uzbekistan.

Aigul Bekzhanova, daughter of Muhammad Bekzhanov, wrote to Amnesty International:

“He would be absolutely happy to receive solidarity notes from Amnesty members! He gets mail from around the world once in a while and he cherishes every single letter like a priceless possession. It is a very important tool of moral support for him, so we and he would be very thankful if such letters would be mailed to him”.

We can never be sure that Muhammad will receive the letters, as the authorities are notoriously reluctant to give prisoners letters in foreign languages. As such we have provided suggested messaging in Uzbek and Russian below, so please try and include some messaging in those languages if possible. If that is not possible, perhaps you could send him drawings or images that do not need to be translated. You could even use tools such as Google Translate.

Messages and pictures need to be neutral – as far as possible they should avoid anything that could be perceived as culturally insensitive and anti-Islamic or religious. Messages and cards should not mention Amnesty International, as it is likely that they won't be allowed through customs. Postcards can be of different cities around the world or works of art, with a little description, to brighten Muhammad Bekzhanov's days in prison.

Sending photos of Amnesty International letters and actions to family members provides a good opportunity to show the family what exactly is being done on behalf of their relative. So please be sure to photograph what you send. Families always feel supported and encouraged by such photos. Perhaps you could share the images via social media, maybe set up a Tumblr page where activists can post pictures of themselves holding supportive messages. In addition, photos can be sent to the uzbekistan@amnesty.org email address, and the team will forward them to Muhammad Bekzhanov's family. In addition, sharing photos of Amnesty International activism on behalf of Uzbekistani cases is important not only for family members but for all Uzbekistani human rights defenders in exile and inside the country. Mass activism around the world seems to have inspired greater confidence among human rights organizations in Uzbekistan and human rights defenders in exile that Amnesty International is fully engaging with the Uzbekistani situation and that concrete action to address human rights violations is being taken.

Preferred language

Uzbek or Russian (Prison authorities will not pass messages if they will not be able to read them).

Address for solidarity action

Muhammad Bekzhanov
Otryad 12
KIN 6448
Navoi region
Uzbekistan

Additional information about solidarity actions

Suggested messages:

- “Siz doim bizning uilarimizda” – **“Сиз доим бизнинг ўйларимизда”** (“our thoughts are with you”)
- “Biz doim siz hakingizda uilaimiz” – **“Биз доим сиз хақингизда ўйлаймиз”** (“we are thinking of you”)
- Hold on! **Держитесь!**

Ideas for bigger actions/events/stunts

The Uzbekistani authorities are very sensitive to international criticism. Exposing human rights violations in Uzbekistan through public actions and distributing Amnesty International materials among your media contacts can be very effective.

DEMONSTRATIONS:

Activists could hold demonstrations outside Uzbekistani embassies and deliver petitions to embassies in a creative way. Several Uzbekistani cases that are available on the individuals at risk portfolio can be combined together and a public action can be conducted on behalf of all individuals. A demonstration or any other form of action can be taken on Constitution Day, 8 December, and the slogans can be connected to Article 26 (“... No one may be subject to torture...”) of the Uzbekistani Constitution.

Examples of the slogan can be:

Make Article 26 of the Uzbekistani Constitution real!

Let's fight for Article 26! Confessions under torture are not evidence in court!

Visuals can also have a positive effect, for example, sections can organise an action with the concept of a door with a key, with the message for Uzbekistani authorities to open the door to Muhammad Bekzhanov's cell and open their country and themselves up to effective scrutiny, or sections can demonstrate tools of torture used in Uzbekistan during their action. The more visual and bigger the action in front of the embassy is, the better.

Ongoing pressure might also work, for example, sections could also organize an action, even a small one, over a period of time, for example every day of one week, or on a particular day of the week for a month.

Security concern: before holding any public event in front of the Uzbekistani embassy please notify activists who are planning to attend that they will very likely be filmed and identified by the employees of the embassy.

If there are media articles about Amnesty International events and/or about Muhammad Bekzhanov's case, please send copies to the Uzbekistani embassy together with your letters.

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

26 March 2015, **Strategy circular:** SECRETS AND LIES: FORCED CONFESSIONS UNDER TORTURE IN UZBEKISTAN, Index: EUR 62/1301/2015, available at

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/isearch/details.php?AlindexnumberOWSTEXT=EUR%2062/1301/2015&AILanguageOWSCHCS=English&SInfo=JnBhZ2U9MiZBSUxhbmd1YWdIT1dTQ0hDUz1FbmdsaXNoJm93c3RheElkQUIISZWdpb25hbD1VemJJa2lzdGFu>

27 February 2015, **Lead-in circular:** Uzbekistan: Stop torture, Index: EUR 62/0001/2015, available at

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/isearch/details.php?AlindexnumberOWSTEXT=EUR%2062/0001/2015&AILanguageOWSCHCS=English&SInfo=JnBhZ2U9MiZBSUxhbmd1YWdIT1dTQ0hDUz1FbmdsaXNoJm93c3RheElkQUIISZWdpb25hbD1VemJJa2lzdGFu>

LOBBY: YOUR COUNTRY'S EMBASSY IN UZBEKISTAN

Write letters to your country's Ambassador or other embassy officials in Uzbekistan, urging them to take an active part in the case of Muhammad Bekzhanov by, in particular, conveying your demands to the government of Uzbekistan. Ask them to raise the case with the authorities in Uzbekistan and seek permission to visit Muhammad Bekzhanov in prison.

Please check <http://mfa.uz/en/cooperation/corps/299/> to see if your country has a representative in Tashkent.

EU LOBBYING

Sections in EU countries should encourage their activists to write letters to their Ministries of Foreign Affairs, their embassies in Uzbekistan and the EU delegation in Uzbekistan (http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/uzbekistan/index_en.htm) raising Muhammad Bekzhanov's case and calling for implementation of EU Guidelines on torture and other cruel treatment (see here: http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/human_rights/human_rights_in_third_countries/r10109_en.htm).

ADVOCACY TOWARDS TO YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT/POLITICIANS

In coordination with your section and country coordinator, please try to set up a meeting with relevant government officials in your country to brief them about our concerns in Uzbekistan.

During such a meeting, present them with the Amnesty International report *Secrets and lies: Forced confessions under torture in Uzbekistan* (Index: EUR 62/1086/2015) or its executive summary (Index: EUR 62/1119/2015) and the campaign digest *Stop the secrets and lies. The campaign to stop torture in Uzbekistan* (Index: EUR 62/1333/2015).

You should proceed to ask the official to communicate Amnesty International's concerns to the Uzbekistani authorities or their diplomatic representatives. Alternatively, you could send a copy of the report/executive summary/campaign digest via post to each of the officials along with a cover letter outlining our key recommendations.

You can approach:

- The Central Asia desk in your Foreign Ministry;
- The Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights in your country;
- The Parliamentary Committee on Central Asia;
- Members of the European Parliament (if your country is a member of the EU), please see part on EU lobbying;

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

All sections are encouraged to work on this case. Some sections enjoy a more strategic position due to internal or external reasons. For example, some have more resources and more experience on Uzbekistan-related work than others; some third governments are more influential on Uzbekistan than others.

Sections in EU countries and Amnesty USA have traditionally been considered as having more power to influence human rights in Uzbekistan.

Muhammad Bekzhanov's family lives in the USA and participated in Amnesty International events in April 2015 that accompanied the launch of the *Secrets and lies* report, including a panel discussion and advocacy meetings with the State Department. It is important to build on this momentum and continue work on Muhammad Bekzhanov's case in the US.

Action by sections in Non-EU countries which host Uzbekistani embassies - such as India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Russia - is important to demonstrate to the Uzbekistani authorities that concerns for the human rights situation in Uzbekistan are not confined merely to the EU, but are shared globally.

Possibilities for working with partners

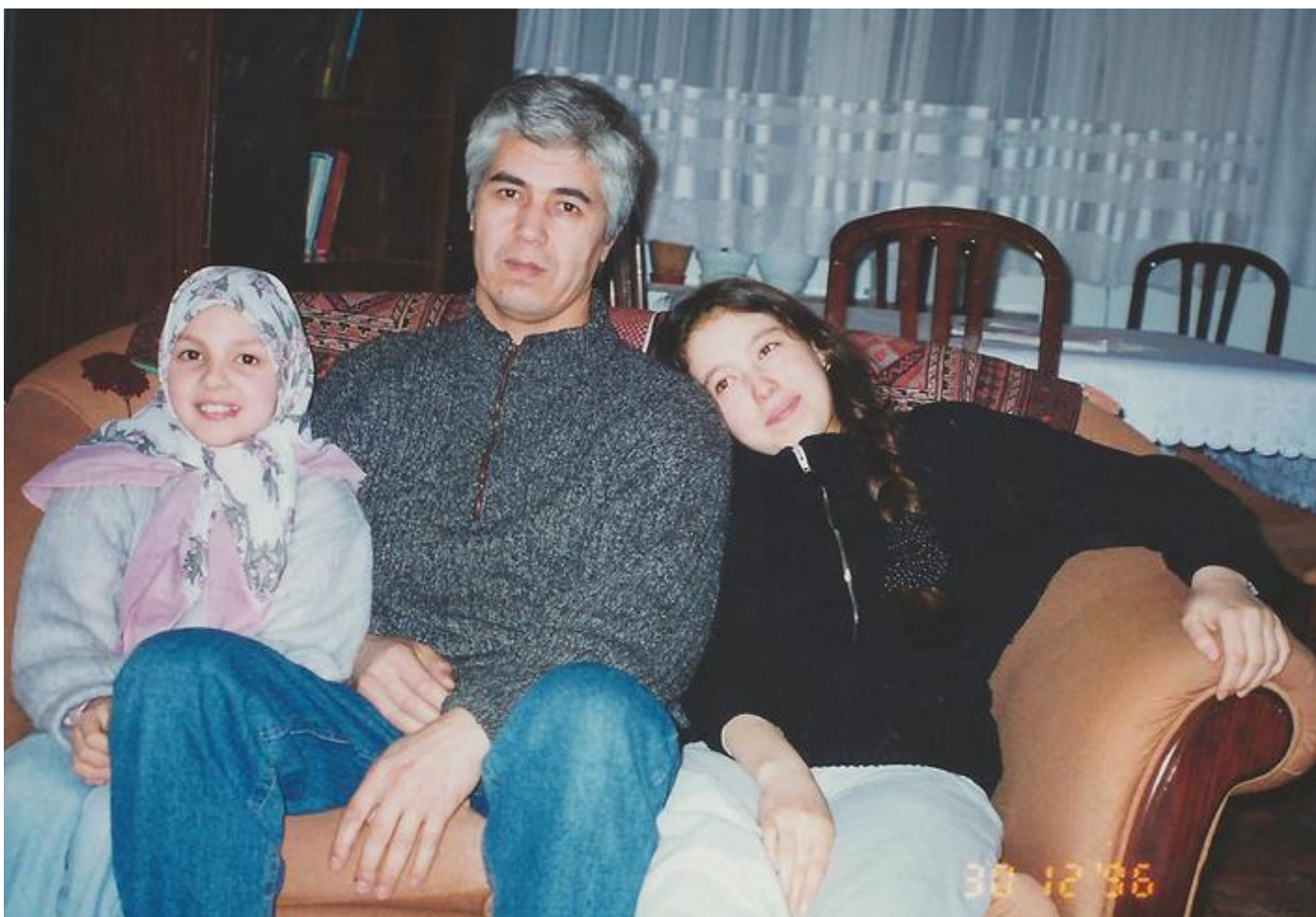
The wife and daughters of Muhammad Bekzhanov, who live in the USA, are willing to be contacted for interviews and talk about their experience via phone or skype. They will also be available to travel and visit sections around the world. In addition, we have very good contact with Uzbekistani human rights defenders living in exile and they will be willing to talk about Muhammad Bekzhanov's case and more in general about human rights violations in Uzbekistan. Sections can set up meetings for them with activists, journalists, their governments and organize press conferences.

Sections could also partner up with other international organizations and send open letters to the targets, as these can also be a useful tool. Try to think of who in your local community might have an interest in, or have a link to Uzbekistan or case-related issues, for example try to engage media organizations to highlight that Muhammad Bekzhanov is one of the world's longest imprisoned journalists.

Risks or sensitive Issues and what not to do!

Before holding any public event in front of the Uzbekistani embassy please notify activists who are planning to attend that they will very likely be filmed and identified by the employees of the embassy.

Solidarity messages to Muhammad Bekzhanov in prison need to be neutral (nothing that could be perceived as culturally insensitive and anti/or religious) and they should not mention Amnesty International.



Muhammad and his family.



AT A GLANCE

Costas and his partner, who is a refugee, were badly beaten up by thugs in a homophobic and racist attack in central Athens on 23 August 2014. No suspects were ever identified, let alone punished.

Between 2014 and 2015, the number of reported attacks against gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) people in Greece has more than doubled.

Police and the government have done little to discourage this climate of racial and homophobic violence. Greek law doesn't recognise same-sex relationships.

Both Costas and his partner live in constant fear for their safety. In March 2015, Costas' partner was attacked again.

Gender: male

Link to casefile:

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/x/QxfDB>

Keywords: LGBTI, discrimination, racism, homophobia, impunity, hate crimes

Fundraising consent: TBC

IMPORTANT: Any really important things, such as risks or sensitivities.

COSTAS

GREECE

Primary Target

Nikos Paraskevopoulos

Minister of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights

Contact Details

Nikos Paraskevopoulos

Minister of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights

Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights

96 Mesogeion Avenue

115 27 Athens

Greece

Fax: 0030 775 5835

Email: grammateia@justice.gov.gr

Salutation: Dear Minister

Secondary target

This information will be shared at a later stage.

Main calls

Urge the Minister of Justice to carry out a prompt, independent and impartial investigation on the attack suffered by Costas and his partner and that those responsible are convicted with a sentence that fully acknowledges the hate motive behind the attack.

Urge the authorities to ensure that Costas and his partner get compensation for the injuries and trauma they have suffered.

Secondary calls

Call on the Greek government to ensure recognition and protection to relationships of all gender combinations.

Solidarity action instructions

The couple explained that although they were just sitting on a bench, discussing and laughing, they believe the attackers targeted them because of their sexual orientation and Costas's partner being a foreigner: "I think they could tell we are a couple, and they targeted us because of that, and because my partner is a migrant," said Costas.

Solidarity messages, cards or letters:

Use social media and the hashtag #CostasW4R to send messages of solidarity to the couple, tell the Greek government (@govgr) to end hate crimes, and stand against homophobia and racism.

Solidarity photo:

Sit on a bench with your partner or another activist and hold hands and/or kiss in public and tweet the photo using #CostasW4R.

Take the photo in an iconic part of your city to show the international dimension of the action.

Note: We encourage you to feature gay/lesbian/trans/queer and/or interracial couples in the photos but all combinations of genders are welcomed.

If your photo features a heterosexual couple, you could accompany the photo with a message explaining how difficult such a normal act is for same sex couples and express solidarity. You could use something along the lines of: "We can kiss in public with no fear. Everyone should. #CostasW4R"

Suggested messages:

English:

- #CostasW4R: not invisible, not alone. You have the #righttolove without fear. @govgr must end #HateCrimes and recognise and protect same-sex relationships!
- #CostasW4R: @govgr must end #HateCrimes & stand against racism, homophobia & transphobia!
- #CostasW4R: @govgr must recognise & protect same-sex relationships & End #HateCrimes!
- #CostasW4R united against #HateCrimes. We stand against homophobia, transphobia & racism!

Greek translations of the suggested messages will be shared at a later stage.

Preferred language

English and Greek

Address for solidarity action

Amnesty International - Greek Section
Sina 30
Athens, 106 72
Greece

Additional information about solidarity actions

Campaigning on social media on LGBTI cases usually leads to very lively debates and unfortunately hate speech can occur, therefore if you consider the possibility of creating any online platform for solidarity, it is very important that the necessary mechanisms to moderate comments and posts are put in place.

Nevertheless, we should encourage debate and be open to criticism and people not agreeing with Amnesty's stance on the issue. We have to be ready to engage in a constructive and educational way, respect freedom of expression and limit censorship to instances of hate speech and personal attacks.

We do not advise you to delete comments unless they advocate violence and/or violate the rules of the particular form of social media you are using.

The Individuals at Risk team will be available throughout the campaign to provide guidance on moderating and replying to comments and questions. We will also be supplying guidance and talking points that will help sections to deal with specific LGBTIQ queries.

Ideas for bigger actions/events/stunts

“Kiss-in” protest

Costas and his partner were attacked when they were sitting on a bench, discussing and laughing. The couple believe the attackers targeted them because of their sexual orientation and Costas's partner being a foreigner.

You can organise a “kiss-in” protest to highlight the absurdity of being attacked for such a normal thing as sitting on a bench with your partner.

Activists can hold hands with and/or kiss their partners or other activists in public, ideally in an iconic part of their city (to show the international dimension of the action) holding posters with the suggested solidarity messages and calls on the authorities to take action.

Activists are encouraged to use social media and the hashtag #CostasW4R to promote the action and also tell the Greek government (@govgr) to end hate crimes, and stand against homophobia and racism.

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

This information will be provided at a later date.

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

This information will be provided at a later date.

Possibilities for working with partners

This information will be provided at a later date.

Risks or sensitive issues and what not to do!

Campaigning on LGBTIQ cases, especially on social media, usually leads to very lively debates and unfortunately hate speech could occur. We should encourage debate and be open to criticism and people not agreeing with Amnesty's stance on the issue. We have to be ready to engage in a constructive and educational way, respect freedom of expression and limit censorship to instances of hate speech and personal attacks. We do not advise you to delete comments unless they advocate violence and/or violate the rules of the particular form of social media you are using.

It is crucial that sections are conscious about this risk and that all necessary mechanisms to mitigate and moderate hate speech are put in place. The Individuals at Risk team will be available throughout the campaign to provide guidance on moderating and replying to comments and questions.



WALEED ABU AL-KHAIR

Saudi Arabia

Primary Target

King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques

Salutation: Your Majesty

Contact Details

Office of His Majesty the King
Royal Court, Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: (via Ministry of the Interior)
+966 11 403 3125 (please keep trying)

PLEASE NOTE

Sending hard copy letters to the authorities is really important. We know that the Saudi Arabian authorities have the tendency to ignore physical letters, but we also know that they do get embarrassed into action. As such, it would be great if at all stages of any actions for Waleed, you could take photographs and post them on social media. This could include everything from photos of activists writing the letters, photos of the letters themselves, or bigger events such as demonstrations etc. Uploading these photos will not go unnoticed and the message will reach those in power very quickly.

Any messaging that you do with the images should focus on the fact that Waleed is a respected human rights defender who is supported internationally, as this will directly oppose the image of “terrorist” the authorities are trying to portray him as.

The King and the Minister of Interior, in addition to other influential figures, are present on social media, and this is a great opportunity to make them hear our voices and show the amount of support Waleed is receiving from around the world.

Please see below for information on all Twitter handles etc.

Secondary target

Minister of Interior

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Naif bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud

Ministry of the Interior, P.O. Box 2933, Airport Road, Riyadh 11134, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fax: +966 11 403 3125 (please keep trying)

Salutation: Your Excellency.

AT A GLANCE

Waleed Abu al-Khair is a prominent lawyer and human rights defender. He has provided legal representation to many victims of human rights violations in Saudi Arabia, including to Raif Badawi, and had founded an independent human rights organization before his imprisonment.

He is currently serving a 15-year prison sentence followed by a 15-year travel ban and a fine for his peaceful activism. He is the first human rights defender sentenced as a “terrorist” under the new counter-terror law.

Gender: Male

Link to casefile:

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/display/IAR/Casefile+of+Waleed+Abu+al-Khair>

Keywords: POC, HRD, freedom of expression, association and assembly, unfair trial, arbitrary detention, ill-treatment, security and human rights.

Fundraising consent: Yes. But please be aware that being a member of an organisation like AI is illegal in Saudi Arabia under new counter-terror laws. As such any direct-ask fundraising on the case, especially anything written in the first place, should be consulted with the Saudi Arabia team:

saudiarabiateam@amnesty.org

IMPORTANT: While it is useful to link the case of Waleed Abu al-Khair to Raif Badawi, please be sure that references to Raif do not overshadow the situation of Waleed.

Key contact:

May Romanos: may.romanos@amnesty.org

Main calls

Waleed Abu al-Khair is released immediately and unconditionally as a prisoner of conscience so that he is reunited with his wife and young child;

Waleed Abu al-Khair is protected from torture and other ill-treatment;

All charges against Waleed Abu al-Khair are dropped and his sentence quashed;

Secondary calls

Stop harassing, intimidating and detaining peaceful activists and human rights defenders;

Stop treating human rights defenders as terrorists, and trying them under the counter-terror law and before the counter-terror court;

Legalise independent human rights organizations;

Respect the right to freedom of expression and assembly;

Stop criminalizing peaceful activities, such as those expressing opinions or calling for reforms, taking part in peaceful protests and creating and/or joining human rights organizations.

Actions to targets and solidarity action

Social media such as Twitter is very popular in Saudi Arabia. Any form of campaigning using these means will ensure greater visibility and potential positive impact on the case.

TWITTER ACTION

Activists are asked to show solidarity with Waleed by re-tweeting some of the inspirational tweets he wrote before he was imprisoned, and posting them online with supporting messages during the campaign. Ideally, these tweets will be targeting not only Waleed's account but also the authorities' accounts. All Twitter handles can be found below.

TWEET HIS TWEETS

Waleed Abu al-Khair was famous in Saudi Arabia for his powerful tweets, which advocated for peaceful change and human rights. He has over 80K followers and he had been tweeting extensively and openly until his arrest. His friends are managing his account and have been retweeting some of his old tweets in order to ensure that his words, calls and beliefs are not forgotten, and to spread their reach in different languages. Activists are asked to tweet some of them with a mention of his account. Ideally, you can also target the Saudi Arabian officials' accounts when retweeting Waleed's tweets.

Examples of Waleed's Tweets in Arabic	English translation
من لم يعيش حراً في زمانه فلن يعيش حراً في أي زمان آخر	<i>The person who will not live free in his time will never live free.</i>
كلنا يريد الحرية لذاته أما ضمان حرية الآخرين فهي المميز بين المؤمن بكل الحقوق والمؤمن بها لنفسه	<i>We all want freedom for ourselves, but guaranteeing freedoms for others is what distinguishes a believer in all freedoms from a believer in freedom for oneself.</i>
الدولة الهشة تلجأ للقمع سبيلاً لفرض سيطرتها والدول القوية هي التي يكون الفرد فيها محترماً	<i>Fragile states resort to repression to exert control, strong states are where individuals are respected.</i>
أه على وطن تبذل موارده على القمع والفساد	<i>Pity a nation whose resources are spent on repression and corruption.</i>
ثمة أحرار لم يسكتهم النفط ولن يكسرهم القهر	<i>There are free people who are not silenced by oil and will not be broken by oppression.</i>
يموت الظالم وينساه الناس... ويسجن الحرّ فينتشر ذكره	<i>The oppressor dies and he is forgotten, the free man is jailed and he is mentioned everywhere.</i>

SOLIDARITY TWEETS

Activists can also post solidarity messages in support of Waleed Abu al-Khair through their own Twitter accounts and Facebook pages and ask their own followers to retweet and post the messages. They should also target Waleed's account, although Waleed will not be able to see them, people close to him are managing his account and can see the tweets.

Another advantage of these tweets will be to target the authorities in addition to Waleed's account, so it will add more pressure.

TARGET THE AUTHORITIES

Activists are asked to target the authorities in *all* their tweets. When targeting the authorities it is very important to mention two things:

Waleed Abu al-Khair is not a terrorist. Advocating for a greater respect of human rights is not an act of terror.

It is important to repeat what Waleed was calling for and why he was sentenced to 15-years in prison. All he was asking for was respect for human rights, a constitutional monarchy, an elected parliament and an independent judiciary. Try to highlight these causes in any social media messaging.

SOLIDARITY LETTERS TO WALEED IN PRISON

Activists can send solidarity letters to Waleed in al-Ha'ir prison. These letters can be sent either directly to him at the address below, or via post or email to his wife Samar who can share them with Waleed. Addresses and details are below. It is likely that the authorities will not let Waleed receive his letters, but it is still really important that you send them and, again, that you take pictures of the process and the letters themselves and share them on social media, using Waleed's Twitter handle and that of the authorities.

You can also fax letters to al-Ha'ir prison, using the number below. Although he might not receive them they will put pressure on the prison authorities and the news will spread that Waleed has wide support from activists around the world and that he is a prisoner of conscience who should be respected.

According to his wife, sending solidarity letters will not only make him happy but will also add a layer of protection, potentially providing better treatment in prison. It could also improve his status and recognition among other prisoners.

SOLIDARITY VIDEOS

Waleed's wife, Samar would also like activists to record solidarity videos in support of Waleed. Try to record video messages with high-profile people such as government officials, politicians, and celebrities showing their support for and to Waleed. You can organise a group video, with a few activists standing in solidarity with Waleed and recording their message. All they need to do is simply record a solidarity message for him, no longer than 15 seconds, and post it on Twitter tagging Waleed and officials' accounts, or send them to the IS team (saudiarabiateam@amnesty.org). The IS team can then forward the videos to his wife, who in turn will post them on Waleed's official accounts on social media and also on his blog.

Social media such as Twitter is very popular in Saudi Arabia. Any form of campaigning using these means will ensure greater visibility and potential positive impact on the case. Therefore, we highly encourage you to use creative ideas to make these videos more appealing. For instance creating a flash mob for Waleed.

SOLIDARITY LETTERS AND EMAILS TO HIS WIFE

You can also send solidarity letters to his wife, women's rights activist Samar Badawi. Samar is also Raif badawi's sister. You can send them these letters either via post to the below address or via email to his wife's account (address below).

Preferred language

Arabic and English

Twitter handles

Twitter accounts:

- [@WaleedAbulkhair](#): Official twitter account of Waleed Abu al-Khair
- King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud [@KingSalman](#)
- Ministry of Interior (headed by Prince Mohammad bin Nayef Al Saudi – Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia) [@MOISaudiArabia](#)
- Ministry of Justice official account [@MojKsa](#)
- National Society for Human Rights: [@NSHRSA](#)
- Saudi Arabian Human Rights Commission: [@Human_Rights_SA](#)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs official account [@KSAMOFA](#)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs: [@Adelaljubeir](#)
- Mr Badr Asaker is the special advisor of Prince Mohamad bin Salman Al Saud (Deputy Crown Prince, Minister of Defence, son of the current King and the head of the King's Royal Court). S/s are asked to target Badr Asaker's account and through it reach the Deputy Crown Prince. His account is: [@Badermasaker](#)
- Khaled al-Fakhry, Secretary General of the National Society for Human Rights: [@nshr1](#)

Postal addresses, fax numbers and email addresses

Al-Ha'ir prison address:

Al-Ha'ir Prison
Al-Ha'ir
Riyadh 14765
Saudi Arabia

Phone number: +966114934252

Fax Number: +966 11 49 00 864

Samar Badawi, wife of Waleed Abu al-Khair and sister of Raif Badawi:

Email: freewaleed57@gmail.com

DHL: Samar Mohammad Badawi
al-Nahda street, King Abdulaziz Road, Po Box: 117377, Postal code: 21391
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Suggested tweets

- *Waleed Abu al-Khair, you are an example to follow, even from behind bars your words are still resonating*
وليد أبو الخير أنت مثال يحتذى به، حتى من خلف القضبان ما زالت كلماتك تصدع عالياً
- *Waleed Abu al-Khair is not a terrorist and he has committed no crime, jailing him is the crime*
وليد أبو الخير ليس إرهابي، سجنه يعتبر جريمة
- *Thank you Waleed for standing up for human rights, it is people like you who will change the world for the better*
شكراً لك وليد لدعمك حقوق الإنسان، أن أشخاص أمثالك هم الذين يصنعون التغيير
- *Even if they jail him for 15 years, Waleed Abu al-Khair's courage and words will never be forgotten. We will keep the fight until you are free again*
حتى ولو سجن 15 عاماً، شجاعة وكلمات وليد أبو الخير لن تنسى أبداً. سنواصل النضال إلى أن نراك حراً من جديد.

Bigger actions/events/stunts

You are encouraged to organise large events and activities. Waleed's picture can be used for projections or large format posters. Think about ways that you could incorporate Waleed's own words into your actions.

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

In 2013, Saudi Arabia was elected to a seat in the UN Human Rights Council. Since then, the Saudi Arabia team at the IS has increased its engagement with the Human Rights Council to raise the issues and cases of human rights violations in Saudi Arabia. In addition to submitting written statements, submissions to Working Groups and Special Procedures, and making oral interventions during the March and June sessions in 2015, both Raif Badawi and Waleed Abu al-Khair have been used as emblematic cases to highlight the issue of attacks on freedom of expression, association and assembly in the Kingdom, and attacks on human rights defenders.

Waleed Abu al-Khair represents the perfect example of a Saudi Arabian human rights defender, treated as a terrorist for calling for the respect of human rights. At least dozens more HRDs are currently being detained and serving long-term prison sentences on similar security charges as Waleed's. Waleed's case can and should be used to raise the situation of others and our wider concerns related to freedom of expression, association and assembly, as well as unfair trials, arbitrary detention, ill-treatment, and security and human rights in Saudi Arabia.

Sections are asked to target their own Ministers of Foreign Affairs or other relevant authorities and parliamentarians in their country. Call on them to raise Waleed's case and those of other Saudi Arabian HRDs with the Saudi Arabian authorities. Draw attention to the fact that Waleed and others are prisoners of conscience. Urge them to:

1. Publicly call for Waleed Abu al-Khair's immediate and unconditional release;
2. Raise Waleed's case with the Saudi Arabian authorities and demand that they release him and all other POCs immediately and unconditionally.

It is important to remember that while Amnesty International would welcome a pardon, it cannot call for a pardon alone. Any pardon should be followed by steps to quash his conviction and sentencing, as a pardon alone would mean that he is still guilty.

TALKING POINTS

As well as discussing Waleed's case in particular, be sure to raise the systemic issues that brought about Waleed's situation:

- Since 2012 the Saudi Arabian authorities have cracked down on all forms of criticism directed at them. This includes anything that points to their involvement in serious human rights violations. Those who have found themselves facing repercussions from the authorities include: leading human rights defenders, women's rights activists, online activists, dissident Saudi Arabian Shi'a Muslims criticizing discrimination against members of their community, and even the families of those who have suffered human rights violations. In addition, anyone found to be communicating with international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, have also been targeted.
- Human rights defenders have been the most adversely affected by this crackdown. Arbitrary measures (both within and outside of the judiciary) have been used systematically by the authorities. These measures range from the handing out of random travel bans and unfair trials, to harassment, intimidation, detention, and prison sentences for many of Saudi Arabia's most prominent human rights defenders.
- Of the human rights defenders who have been detained, most were held incommunicado before being brought to trial. Periods of incommunicado detention have ranged from a few days to several months, there have also been reports of torture and ill-treatment. Treatment such as this has meant that independent activists are being frightened into submission and so they remain silent or leave the country.

- The creation and use of a new counter-terror law and a number of amendments to the penal code that fall far short of international standards illustrate the authorities' attempt to legitimise the crackdown. In addition to prosecuting and sentencing human rights defenders under this new law – as Waleed Abu al-Khair was – the authorities have also used the new law to reconvict and resentence human rights defenders nearing the end of their current sentences and who were tried before its introduction.

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

AIUSA, AIUK and AI France are asked to target their governments on this case, as all are close allies of Saudi Arabia due to their strong economic and diplomatic ties. While these governments have been outspoken on people's right to protest in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, they continue to remain mostly silent on the human rights abuses in Saudi Arabia.

Other EU Sections are also asked to target their governments. The EU has a significant influence over Saudi Arabia, but it is unlikely to take any action unless a number of EU member states agree that the case should be raised. The work that has already been done by some Sections and our Brussels office on Raif Badawi has been invaluable and it is highly recommended that more EU Sections engage with their governments using Waleed Abu al-Khair's case.

Possibilities for working with partners

Samar Badawi, Waleed Abu al-Khair's wife and a women's rights activist in her own right, has been very vocal about her husband's situation and has taken part in several lobbying trips to raise the profile of his case, including by speaking at the Human Rights Council in September 2014. However, a travel ban was imposed on her in December 2014, and she has received several threats in an attempt to get her to stop her work. She remains willing to join events or actions via Skype for example. Therefore, if Sections are willing to lobby their governments or are planning any public activities regarding Waleed Abu al-Khair please do get in touch with the Saudi Arabia team at the IS and we might explore the possibility of Samar taking part in such activities.

Risks or sensitive Issues and what not to do!

The team consulted his wife who seemed confident that such a campaign will not have any potential risks, on the contrary it will raise the profile of his case positively. However, in terms of direct fundraising, she asked to be consulted to ensure that such activities undertaken will not cause any potential harm to his case, especially under the provisions of the new counter-terror law.



Waleed's wife Ssmar and their baby daughter



RANIA ALABBASI & HER CHILDREN

Syria

Primary Target

President Bashar al-Assad, to be reached through the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations in New York

Contact Details

His Excellency Bashar Ja'afari, Ph.D.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations

820 Second Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Phone: (212) 661-1313

Fax: (212) 983-4439

Email: exesec.syria@gmail.com;

AT A GLANCE

Rania Alabbasi and her six children aged between three and 15-years-old were arrested by the Syrian authorities in March 2013. None of the family has been heard from since.

Despite requests from their relatives, the Syrian authorities have given no information about what has happened to them, where they are or why they were arrested.

Gender:

Rania: female

Dima: female

Entisar: female

Najah: female

Alaa: female

Ahmad: male

Layan: female

Link to casefile:

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/display/IA/R/Rania+Alabbasi>

Keywords:

Enforced Disappearances, Arbitrary Detention

Fundraising consent: Yes

IMPORTANT: Please note that we are not campaigning for Rania's husband as we have not been able to obtain consent from his family.

This case is not suitable for Al Israel.

Please avoid using political symbols such as government or opposition flags. Rania is not a political activist so her case should not be associated with opposition-related memorabilia.

PLEASE NOTE

There are no reliable ways to communicate with the Syrian authorities in Syria, so please go through the UN PR in New York and ask him to forward the communications to the Syrian authorities.

Secondary target

All UN Security Council members

Main calls

The six children are released unconditionally and Rania Alabbasi is released unless she is charged promptly with an internationally recognizable offence and tried in accordance with international fair trial standards.

Secondary calls

The Syrian authorities reveal the fate and whereabouts of Rania Alabbasi and her children and grant them access to their family and lawyer.

The Syrian authorities ensure that Rania Alabbasi and her children are protected from any torture and other ill-treatment and receive any medical attention they may require.

The government and non-state armed groups provide independent monitors, especially the UN-mandated Commission of Inquiry (CoI), unfettered access to all persons deprived of their liberty across Syria.

Solidarity action instructions

As the family has been subjected to enforced disappearances, it is impossible for us to provide an address to send solidarity cards to. However, we believe that creating solidarity cards and symbolically delivering them to the Syria UN Permanent Representative would help Rania's extended family (who cannot receive solidarity messages for various reasons) to see that they are not alone. In addition, if activists can make an event of delivering the cards in a creative manner and invite media to attend, this will help push the case and raise awareness.

If it is not possible for S/S to consider a personal delivery of solidarity actions to the Permanent Representative of Syria to the UN in New York, they may wish to consider the Permanent Representative for Syria in Geneva or consult with AI USA or AI Switzerland to consider joint activities. We have not previously handed a petition or similar campaigning documents over to the Permanent Representative in Geneva but are looking into doing a 'practice handover' with the UN office in Geneva to gain further insights.

Any kind of cards can be sent and hand drawn cards by children are encouraged. Cards can be sent directly to the UN permanent representative, via post, fax or email or collated and then presented altogether.

If you wish to take part in a coordinated delivery, please contact the Syria Team on Syria.team@amnesty.org

PHOTO SOLIDARITY SOCIAL MEDIA ACTION:

Ask activists (especially children and young people) to take a photo themselves doing their favourite activity, or something meaningful to them, over the course of a week and then post on social media every day, linking to your S/s action for Rania and her children and drawing attention to the fact the children are missing out on their childhood, using the hashtag #missingchildhood and the general campaign hashtag #w4r, as well as the Twitter handle of the Syrian authorities: @Presidency_Sy

Preferred language

English or Arabic

Address for solidarity action

You can either send directly to the UN Syria Permanent Representative (address above), asking them to be sent to the family – always drawing attention to the fact that we do not know where the family are and this is why we want him to send them. Or you can send to the Syria team at the IS and they will send them on.

FOA Claudia Scheufler - Syria Team
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

Ideas for bigger actions/events/stunts

All S/s are encouraged to participate in large actions and/or stunts, with those from the 15 Security Council states especially encouraged. It is appropriate to feature the case during music festivals or other events.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ALL, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN SECURITY COUNCIL STATES:

Light a candle for every day that the family has been missing.

School-age children could do something to mark all the days of school the children have missed.

We really encourage you to have children and/or young people to take action on this case.

STUNTS NEAR THE SYRIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE MISSION IN NEW YORK:

Hand-over of petitions and solidarity cards, perhaps involving children and young people, possibly featuring drawings done by children. Please contact the Syria Team if you wish to do a coordinated handover on Syria.team@amnesty.org

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

An Action Circular on detention conditions by government and armed groups can be found here:

<https://docs.amnesty.org/Documents/MDE2421542015ENGLISH.DOCX>

OWN GOVERNMENT, IF SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER:

Request meetings with your government where you can share the materials and our calls and ask them to speak out at the Security Council, during official and unofficial meetings as well as bilateral conversations with other Security Council members to ensure that the Council prioritises pressuring the Syrian authorities on this case, and for access of independent monitors, such as the Commission of Inquiry, to all persons deprived of their liberty

OWN GOVERNMENT, IF NOT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER:

This case can be raised with own governments before any international meetings where they would engage with members of the Security Council (summits, General Assembly etc.) or before any bilateral meetings with members of the Security Council or Iran.

Talking points should include: the Syrian authorities continue to subject people to enforced disappearances, including children – explain Rania’s and her children’s case and ask national government to request Security Council states to speak out on their behalf in the Council and remind them that these practices are contrary to the provisions in resolution 2139 and that independent monitors are needed to access detention facilities.

If talking to Iran, outline the case and ask for their assistance in raising this case with the Syrian authorities.

Rania’s family, who is based outside of Syria, may be willing to attend such meetings for increased impact.

Please contact Claudia Scheufler in the Syria team claudia.scheufler@amnesty.org

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

In 2014 the Security Council passed resolution 2139, which, among other points has called for an end to enforced disappearances and the release of all those who are arbitrarily detained. However, the resolution is not being enforced. Sections of particular importance are therefore sections whose governments are represented on the Security Council this year, and who will join in 2016.

Elections will take place in October, but as of now AI S/s from countries on the council are:

AI France, AI UK, AI US, AI Chile, AI Malaysia, AI New Zealand, AI Nigeria, AI Spain, AI Venezuela

2016 Candidates:

AI Kenya, AI Thailand, AI Italy, AI Netherlands, AI Sweden

Possibilities for working with partners

Rania's family would be willing to go on speaker tours and contribute to outputs and meetings where possible but they all have full-time jobs so would need a bit of time in advance if required to take time off work and of course would not be able to travel for an extended amount of time.

OTHER GROUPS THAT YOU COULD APPROACH INCLUDE:

Schools or any other children's groups

Medical associations

Bloggers / vloggers in their late teens / early twenties (the two eldest daughters, Dima and Entisar are 16 and 15 years old respectively)

Risks or sensitive Issues and what not to do!

This case is not suitable for Al Israel.

Please avoid using political symbols such as government or opposition flags. Rania is not a political activist so her case should not be associated with opposition-related memorabilia.



Rania Alabbasi



SAMAN NASEEM

IRAN

Primary Target

Head of Judiciary Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani

Contact Details

Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
The Office of the Head of the Judiciary
Valiasr Street
Pastour Street (In front of 129 Jami Police Station)
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info@humanrights-iran.ir

Please note that this is the email address of the Council for Human Rights of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, headed by Mohammad Javad Larijani. Though he does not have direct authority over the case, he is in a position to influence the case and communicate to the head of the judiciary the high level of international attention that the case will be receiving.

PLEASE NOTE

Letters should be sent to the postal address listed above in stacks no larger than 25 sheets, as packages in excess of 25 sheets may be confiscated by the authorities prior to delivery. Please include a cover sheet noting total number of petitions and/or signatures sent so that officials know of the volume they are receiving in total.

Secondary target

Leader of the Islamic Republic
Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street – End of Shahid
Keshvar Doust Street,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: via website <http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/index.php?p=letter>

Social Media accounts:

Twitter: @khamenei_ir (English-language account), @Khamenei_fa (Persian-language account), @Khamenei_ar (Arabic-language account), and @Khamenei_es (Spanish-language account).

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/www.Khamenei.ir>

Instagram: https://instagram.com/khamenei_ir/

AT A GLANCE

Saman Naseem was 17 when he was arrested for taking part in armed activities against the state. He has described how he was tortured and forced to make a “confession”, which was used to sentence him to death. After worldwide campaigning to stop his 19 February 2015 execution, Saman Naseem was transferred to an undisclosed location and held incommunicado. After nearly five months of not knowing what happened to Saman Naseem, the Iranian authorities granted him judicial review, thus quashing his death sentence imposed on him for “enmity against God” and “corruption on earth.” Saman Naseem now faces a full retrial. Now let’s use our power to ensure he gets a fair retrial – this time free from torture and the death penalty.

Gender: Male

Link to casefile:

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/display/IAR/Saman+Naseem>

Keywords: Juvenile offender, Torture, Unfair Trial, Death Penalty, Ethnic Minority

Fundraising consent: No

IMPORTANT: Activists should be careful to **NOT** use language calling for Saman Naseem’s release. Please see the rest of this document for further information.

Main calls

Calling on the Iranian authorities to ensure that Saman Naseem's retrial is in accordance with fair trial standards, in line with the principles of juvenile justice, and without recourse to the death penalty, and ensure that "confessions" obtained under torture are not used as evidence in court as evidence of guilt.

Secondary calls

Urging the Iranian authorities to permit Saman Naseem to meet with his lawyer and to allow his family to visit him, and provide him with any medical attention he may require;

Reminding the Iranian authorities that executing anyone for crimes committed while they were under 18 is strictly prohibited by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both of which Iran has ratified;

Calling on them to investigate Saman Naseem's enforced disappearance and the allegations that he was tortured or otherwise ill-treated and bring those responsible to justice in a fair trial and without recourse to the death penalty.

Solidarity action instructions

Please send solidarity messages to the Iran team at the IS. We will then send messages to Saman Naseem's family. Please do not send messages with images of alcohol.

Preferred language

Kurdish, Persian, or English

Address for solidarity action

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

Suggested messaging for solidarity actions

Our thoughts are with you and your family

شما و خانواده تان در یاد ما هستید

We are thinking of you

به یاد شما هستیم [Persian]

تۆ له بیرمانی [Kurdish]

I am thinking of you

به یاد شما هستم

May you have a flame of hope to provide light and encouragement

شمع امیدتان پرفروغ و شعله ور باد

Ideas for bigger actions/events/stunts

It would be fine for sections and structures to undertake larger scale actions for Saman Naseem such as creating large scale posters, projecting his image on to a wall, or on a lantern.

Please do not feature him in events like music concerts or parades as this may have an adverse effect on his case in Iran.

Creative petition/letter/solidarity delivery ideas

Activists should consider delivering petitions and/or letters to Iranian Embassies in their home countries (if there is an embassy). Please hand-deliver the petitions where possible, taking pictures and inviting local and national media for interviews. If delivering petitions in such a manner, please take photographs and share them via Twitter and/or Facebook. Promoting deliveries in such a manner will create greater pressure on the Iranian authorities on Saman Naseem's case. If such a plan is made, please contact the Iran team (intiran@amnesty.org) in advance of such petition deliveries so that we can promote them via our networks, including via our @AmnestyIran Twitter handle.

Lobbying activities - with specific talking points

A key point in this case is that it is still possible that following a retrial, Saman Naseem may be again sentenced to death. While we hope this does not happen, this is precisely why we must continue campaigning on this case and keep up the pressure on the Iranian authorities. Therefore, a key talking point is for Saman Naseem's retrial to be in accordance with international fair trial standards, without recourse to the death penalty, and that "confessions" obtained under torture are not used as evidence in court.

HOME GOVERNMENT LOBBYING: Please target parliamentary representatives and/or Ministry of Foreign Affairs in your home country to call on them to raise this case with their counterparts in Iran. We suggest that you ask your government to apply pressure via diplomatic channels (both in private and in public) to call for a full retrial for Saman Naseem to be implemented in line with international fair trial standards, without recourse to the death penalty, and to condemn the use of the death penalty against juvenile offenders. In lobbying home governments, please use the specific calls listed above, and emphasize that Iran has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child – both of which ban the imposition of death sentences on juvenile offenders.

AI USA IS CAUTIONED TO BE CAREFUL IN CAMPAIGNING ON THIS CASE AND SHOULD NOT TAKE STEPS TO PUBLICLY LOBBY US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

EU LOBBYING: Sections in the EU are asked to target their governments and Members of the European Parliament. In February 2015, ahead of Saman Naseem's scheduled 19 February execution date, EU embassies, led by the Netherlands in Tehran, organized EU advocacy efforts to prevent the execution of Saman Naseem. These efforts came about in large part after Sections lobbied their home government to take action to prevent Saman Naseem's execution. The death penalty is banned in the EU and the EU guidelines on the death penalty state the EU's long-standing commitment to campaigning against the death penalty worldwide.

EMBASSY VISITS: If sections manage to obtain meetings with the Iranian Embassy in their country, please contact the Iran team (intiran@amnesty.org) for updated information. If such a meeting is obtained, the Iran team requests that as well as raising the case of Saman Naseem, you also draw attention to Amnesty International's overall concerns about sentencing juvenile offenders to death, the use of torture and other ill-treatment in detention, enforced disappearances, and also include the case of one of two other juvenile offenders. If you need help selecting appropriate cases please contact the Iran team.

As a result of the negotiations between the P5 +1 (China, France, Russia, USA, and UK + Germany) and Iran, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was signed ("nuclear agreement") on 14 July 2015 and many EU states have either begun to send their foreign or finance ministers to begin the process of expanding economic and diplomatic ties with Iran or plan to do so in the near future. As sections become aware of visits, we suggest contacting these officials in order to offer to brief them on Saman Naseem's case and other key human rights concerns.

ACTION CIRCULARS AND ACTIONS: Ahead of Saman Naseem's scheduled execution in February 2015, 9 Days to Save Saman Naseem was issued (MDE 13/005/2015); and the action launched by the Stop Torture Campaign on behalf of Saman Naseem (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/action-saman-naseem-must-be-given-a-fair-trial/>)

Which S/s should particularly work on the case and why?

S/s in the European Union are encouraged to work on this case because diplomatic pressure from these countries has proven effective in previous cases. Sections in Latin America are also encouraged to campaign on this case due to their economic ties and influence on Iran, which has reached out to Latin America more extensively since 2013.

AI Canada and AI USA are also encouraged to do letter-writing and solidarity actions. Both sections are home to countries with a large Iranian diaspora population, which provides for interest on Iran issues.

AI CANADA AND AI USA ARE CAUTIONED NOT TAKE STEPS TO PUBLICLY LOBBY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

Possibilities for working with partners

Due to security issues and the dangers of working on issues such as this in Iran, we are unable to have the family or others publically work with us on this case. We are looking into who could talk about this case and will update as soon as we can.

Risks or sensitive Issues and what not to do!

Activists should be careful to **NOT** use language calling for Saman Naseem's release. He is **not** a prisoner of conscience and this call is not appropriate based on the facts of this case. Saman Naseem was arrested for taking part in armed activities against the state, which led to the death of a member of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), while he was under the age of 18. This is an issue of juvenile detention and the execution of juveniles and this should be the focus.

PLANNED GLOBAL OUTPUTS: MATERIALS

The global meeting in Poland led to a great amount of feedback and discussion regarding how we work here at the IS and how that affects you at Section level. We have taken a lot of the learnings into account with the way we are working this year and have shared the written content a lot earlier than usual. This should enable you to begin your work earlier.

We also listened to you about the 'look and feel' of the previous year and have changed the way we present the images. This year we are using the artist Nick Chaffe to create brighter, more appealing versions of the case images that will be especially appropriate for a youth audience, which make up the predominant audience for the campaign.

List of outputs (please note order forms will be sent out, with further details of the products, in early September):

WORDS

Case summaries, long and short – **17 August**

Previous case successes, short summaries and long versions – **11 September**

Copy explaining how Write for Rights works – **11 September**

Template letters to targets and individuals – **11 September**

Feature / blog for each case with more quotes, background information – **25 September**

TBC Global Day of Action text - **TBC**

DESIGN

We will provide artwork as Indesign files, and PSD files where appropriate

Styled images, large and small versions e.g. for use on large formats, such as posters and also for use on small formats, such as social media – **15 September**

1 x social media graphic for each case – **17 September**

2 or 3 general graphics to promote Write for Rights – **21 September**

Case cards – **18 September**

Leaflet – **25 September**

Graphic explaining how Write for Rights works – **3 September**

Wordmark (as last year) – **24 August**

Posters (cases) – **22 September**

Artwork for Stickers – **24 August**

Artwork for Pen – **24 August**

Artwork for Lantern – **18 September**

Artwork for T-shirt – **28 August**

TBC Global Day of Action graphics - **TBC**

PLEASE NOTE: THE ABOVE DATES ARE FOR ENGLISH.

AS SOON AS WE HAVE A TRANSLATION TIMELINE WE WILL LET YOU KNOW THE DATES.

GLOBAL OBJECTIVES FOR WRITE FOR RIGHTS



GOAL ONE: CREATE CHANGE

1A: Amnesty International's public activism during Write for Rights contributes to positive change in the lives of the 12 cases, for example perhaps:

- the release of a prisoner or improvement of prison conditions
- reduction of harassment
- commutation of a death sentence
- government accepting responsibility for a violation
- initiation of an investigation into a violation or progress made in a current investigation
- compensation for violations
- Individual given access to vital healthcare

1B: There are indications that our actions are registered by the campaign targets, for example:

- acknowledgement from the target regarding our campaigning for the individual
- response from the target regarding the issue or situation
- change in behaviour or rhetoric by the target regarding the individual, issue or situation

1C: Being part of Write for Rights is established as having a positive psychological impact on all of the individuals, families and communities featured. Where possible the individual/s (or their representative) provides feedback indicating that they:

- received solidarity messages (if appropriate) and felt these were valuable personally and/or helpful for further activism
- individual/s fully understand how their case will be used and are informed after the fact of what has been done on their behalf
- individual/s feel they have been involved in how their stories are used in materials and campaigning actions
-

1D: Pressure applied through the individual/s' cases have a positive impact for the ongoing thematic campaigns related to the cases, for example by:

- creating media coverage on the issue in the country of the violation, and/or internationally
- making targets aware that the cases fit into a broader context with international significance
- encouraging future campaigning by engaging and informing audiences of the thematic campaigns via the inclusion of an appropriate emblematic case

GOAL TWO: POSITION AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL POSITIVELY TO NEW AUDIENCES

2A: Write for Rights is used as a tool to introduce new audiences to Amnesty International, for example via:

- new partnerships with schools, universities associations and organisations
- outreach projects – taking Write for Rights to areas where Amnesty International has not been previously visible
- connecting with new target audiences via online activism, Facebook, Twitter, Public art installations, coverage in different media outlets, events in different types of public places

2B: Interactions with new audiences provide a positive impression of Amnesty International by highlighting:

- Amnesty International's demonstrable legacy of impact
- materials and events that clearly explain how Amnesty International works with individuals at risk and the global nature of Write for Rights activities
- easy and defined ways of taking action on behalf of real people

GOAL THREE: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT WITH EXISTING AUDIENCES

3A: Existing Amnesty International audiences deepen their involvement with Amnesty International, through for example:

- activists and groups take part in Write for Rights for the first time
- more actions are taken by S/s existing members than have been taken in previous Write for Rights events
- current members join an individuals at risk network in their country
- non-financial contributing members start to give money
- existing financial contributors increase their donations

3B: Sections and structures use Write for Rights as a hook to reaffirm with existing groups, networks, members and supporters the value of being part of Amnesty International and taking part in such a global human rights activity.

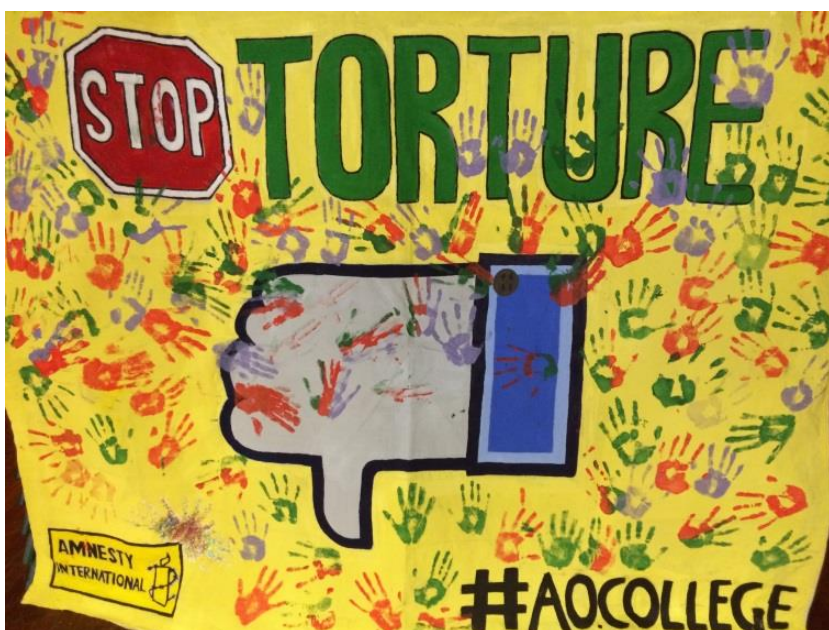


HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Write for Rights provides an excellent opportunity to integrate Human Rights Education (HRE) and campaigning more closely by working with youth and school/university constituencies on the campaign, as well as reaching out to new audiences to engage them through human rights education. Integrating HRE activities into your Write for Rights plans can foster participants' knowledge, skills and attitudes on campaign themes and empower and inspire them to take action on the cases.

WHAT HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

Within the movement we know there exists a wide range of human rights education resources on various themes, for different target groups, and in various languages. These materials can be adapted to local contexts and used by teachers, educators, trainers, peer educators, activists or anyone who is interested in carrying out human rights education to deepen their work on Write for Rights. **Some examples include:**



POWER OF THE PEN

Power of the Pen is a human rights education resource developed by AI UK that lets pupils discover the impact their words can have as they write letters in support of individuals at risk. The resource pack is a compelling way for pupils to explore global issues and build skills in literacy, persuasive writing and self-expression by writing for a real purpose. Separate resource packs are available for both [primary](#) and [secondary schools](#) students and each pack includes lessons plans, powerpoints, activity sheets, teachers' notes and case sheets. The current case sheet is for Mohammed al-Roken, but this can be substituted for any Write for Rights 2015 case.

Students at Aorere College New Zealand produced this Stop Torture banner for Freedom Challenge Week 2014. Male teachers at the college volunteered to have their legs waxed as a form of 'torture' to raise money and awareness for the Stop Torture campaign.

EMPOWER AGAINST TORTURE

An online human rights education guide, [Empower against Torture](#), has been developed by a group of youth activists around the world to educate and engage S/s and other youth activists on the **Stop Torture campaign**. The guide contains a series of workshops exploring different aspects of the campaign, an overview of previously developed resources on the theme of torture, and basic HRE advice on how young activists can become multipliers for the campaign. Sections are encouraged to run three workshops that specifically tackle how to work on individual cases: [Torture: What is it?](#), [Torture: What are the consequences?](#), and [Preventing torture: What can be done?](#) These workshops can support your activism on the two Write for Rights Stop Torture cases: **Yecenia Armenta** and **Muhammed Bekzhanov**.



Secondary school students posting their letters to support cases of injustice worldwide caused by violations of sexual and reproductive rights on Write for Rights Free Day October 2014, Belgium.

RESPECT MY RIGHTS, RESPECT MY DIGNITY: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

A human rights education resource on sexual and reproductive rights called [Respect My Rights, Respect My Dignity: Module Three – Sexual and reproductive rights are human rights](#) is also available in English, French and Spanish. This module is designed to be used by and with young people and youth activists as they support their peers through individual and collective journeys of reflection, critical analysis, and action on the **My Body My Rights campaign**. This

includes having the knowledge and skills to engage in difficult conversations on a taboo subject and to stand up for sexual and reproductive rights. It enables young people to understand and identify barriers that prevent the access of sexual and reproductive rights; such as access to information, access to health services, and gender discrimination. Young people will be able to use this module to develop activities with their peers and take action on the MBMR campaign, including on the two Write for Rights MBMR cases: **Teodora del Carmen Vásquez** and the **Girl victims of forced marriage in Burkina Faso**.

FACILITATION MANUAL: A GUIDE TO USING PARTICIPATORY METHODOLOGIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

This [Facilitation Manual](#) was developed specifically for those who train or educate others in both formal and non-formal educational settings, and who are committed to facilitating human rights education that seeks to engage, inspire and empower participants to take action. It can be used to facilitate HRE activities related to any of this year's Write for Rights cases. It is available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Italian, Polish, Slovenian, German and Chinese, and contains resources and tools that draw on experiences, expertise and case studies from both the global North and South.

WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2015?

SHARE YOUR OWN RESOURCES!



If you have a human rights education resource that can be used for Write for Rights, **please send it to heidi.ramberg@amnesty.no** so that it can be shared with everyone on the Write for Rights Podio space. We encourage sections to share their materials even if they are in draft form or in non-core languages, because they can still be adapted and used by sections and activists in other countries.

If you are sharing a resource that is in a language other than English, please include a short paragraph describing the resource, its objectives and its audience when you send it to write4rights@amnesty.org so that this basic information can easily be added when it is uploaded to Podio.

Activists at the International Human Rights Education Centre in Oslo in May 2014 developing the *Empower against Torture* resource, empowering young people to take action to stop torture.

DEVELOPMENT OF A GUIDE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN WRITE FOR RIGHTS

We are working on creating a **Guide for Human Rights Education in Write for Rights**, which we aim to share with S/s in late September. The resource will be aimed at teachers, students and young people, and will be adaptable so that sections can tailor it to their needs and audiences. More information and potential timeline will be shared as soon as possible.

WEBINAR TO SHARE HRE MATERIALS AND PLANS

Together with the IS HRE Team, we will be holding a **webinar in October** (date TBC) for members of the International HRE Network and Campaign Coordinators to share their materials and plans for Write for Rights 2015. Confirmation of the date and time, and details on how to sign up for the webinar will be shared as soon as possible.

We encourage Campaign Coordinators to collaborate with the Human Rights Education Coordinators in their sections to better integrate their Write for Rights activities and strengthen communications across the two networks.

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

[Amnesty International and edX have partnered together](http://bit.ly/HumanRightsMOOCs) (<http://bit.ly/HumanRightsMOOCs>) to offer a series of **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on human rights**. The online courses will provide a social learning environment where thousands of participants from around the world (including youth leaders, activists and human rights experts) can participate simultaneously. The MOOCs aim to empower young people by providing them with the leadership skills and the human rights expertise that they need to defend and promote human rights for all.

Amnesty International is planning to run the first MOOC on Freedom of Expression from **Friday 13 November to Friday 4 December** 2015. This pilot course will be delivered in English only, targeting native English speakers and those who speak English as a second language. It will feature Write for Rights cases to bring the Right to Freedom of Expression to life as an educational experience for participants, to make use of strong story-telling techniques and to shape an action-oriented course that will feed into the Write for Rights global moment of action.

More information will follow on how to make the course available to your networks, members and activists. The main contact for this is Emilie White, Education Technology & Communications Adviser (emilie.white@amnesty.org).

For more information or any other queries about Human Rights Education in Write for Rights, please contact **Annette Schneider** at the International HRE Centre (aschneider@amnesty.no), **Melody Ross** in the IS HRE Team (melody.ross@amnesty.org) and **Karen Javorski** in the Individuals at Risk Team (karen.javorski@amnesty.org).

CHOOSING YOUR CASES AND LETTING US KNOW

It will help us in our work if you could let us know as soon as possible which cases you have decided to work in your Section or structure. To make this easy we have created a survey where you can just tick the relevant box and we will know: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TYYWHV8>

Please could all Sections and structures complete this survey by 11 September 2015

If you have not made your decision by this date, please could you email the Write for Rights campaign manager on the email below. Also if you have any other questions or queries or if you wish to join Podio (where all communications about the campaign are now shared) please do not hesitate to get in touch.

May Carolan

Global Campaigner

Individuals at Risk

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GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!