

LETTER-WRITING KIT

**WRITE  
A LETTER  
CHANGE  
A LIFE**

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



# WRITE A LETTER

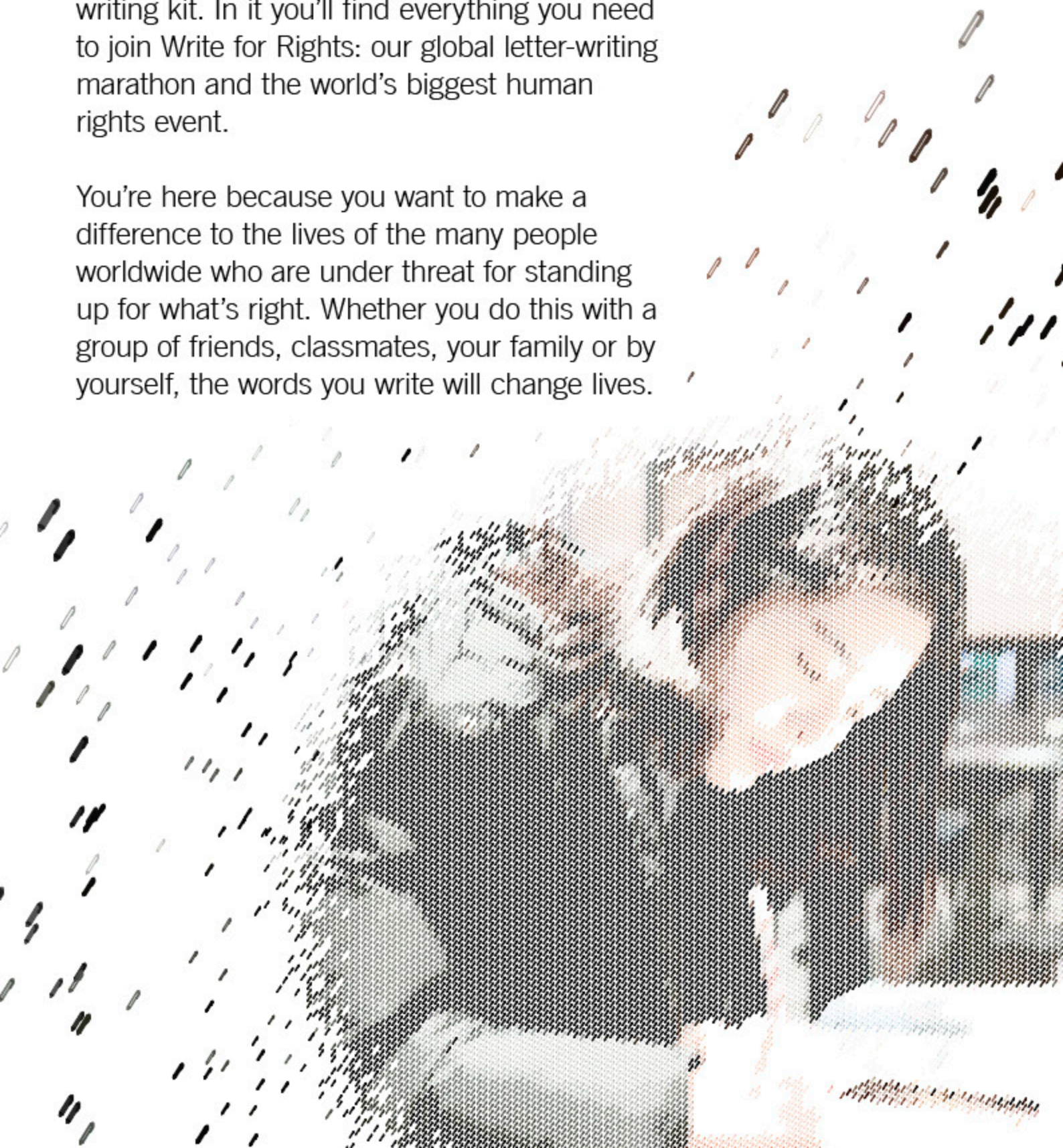
# CHANGE A LIFE

WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS

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Welcome to Amnesty's Write for Rights letter-writing kit. In it you'll find everything you need to join Write for Rights: our global letter-writing marathon and the world's biggest human rights event.

You're here because you want to make a difference to the lives of the many people worldwide who are under threat for standing up for what's right. Whether you do this with a group of friends, classmates, your family or by yourself, the words you write will change lives.

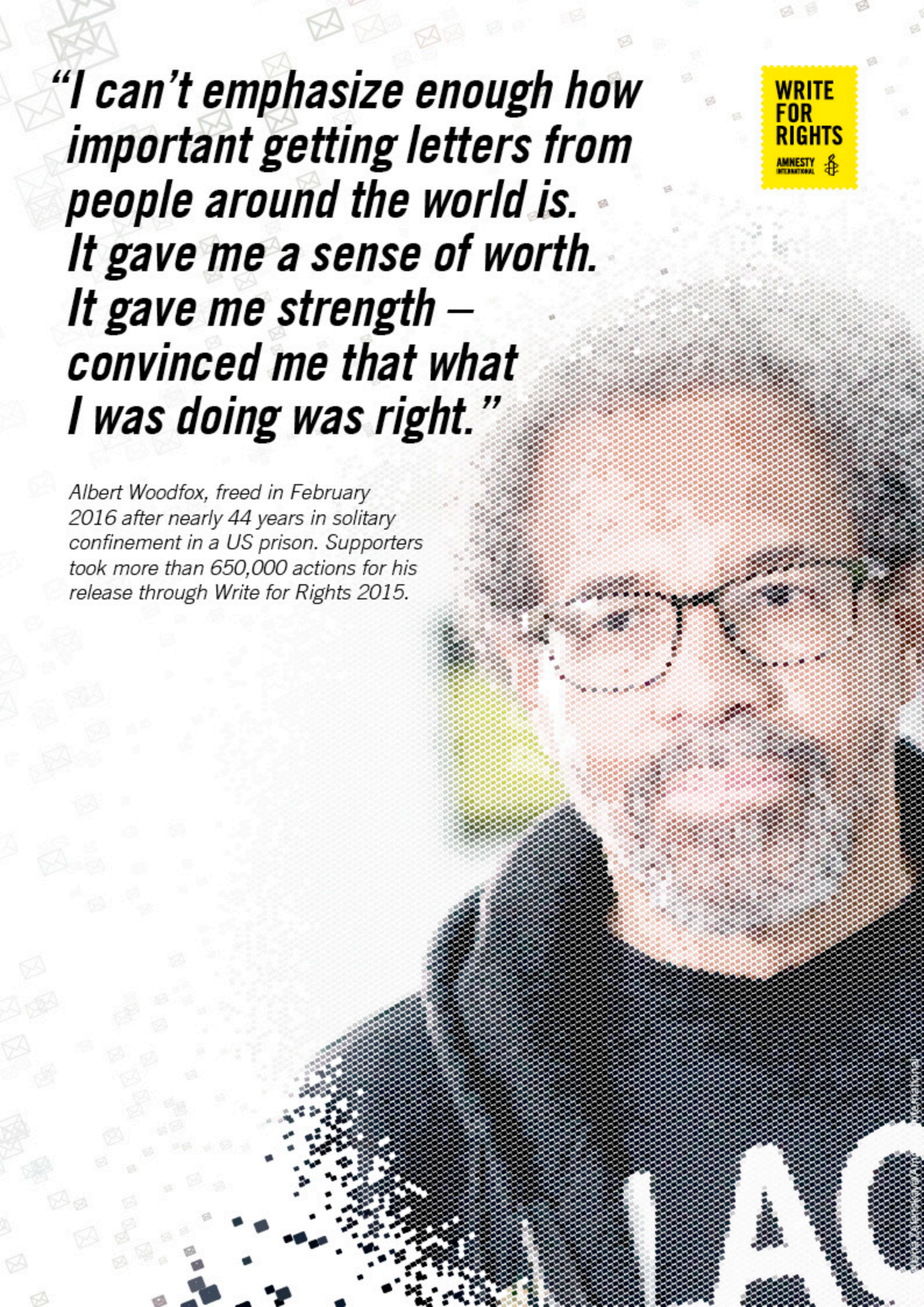


***“I can’t emphasize enough how important getting letters from people around the world is. It gave me a sense of worth. It gave me strength – convinced me that what I was doing was right.”***

*Albert Woodfox, freed in February 2016 after nearly 44 years in solitary confinement in a US prison. Supporters took more than 650,000 actions for his release through Write for Rights 2015.*

**WRITE  
FOR  
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# WHAT IS

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS?

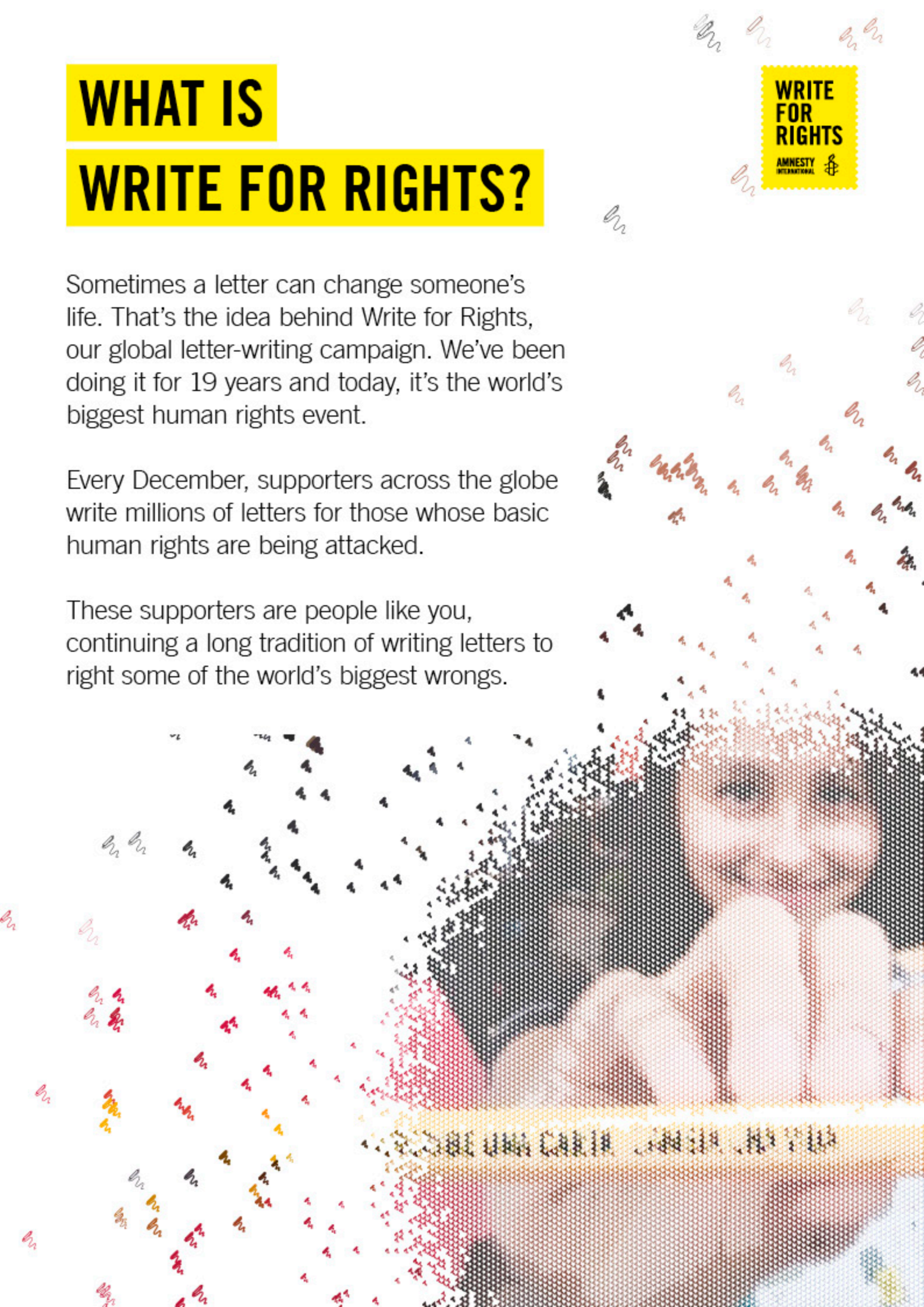
**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

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Sometimes a letter can change someone's life. That's the idea behind Write for Rights, our global letter-writing campaign. We've been doing it for 19 years and today, it's the world's biggest human rights event.

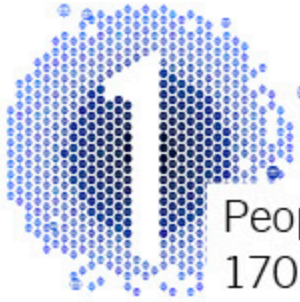
Every December, supporters across the globe write millions of letters for those whose basic human rights are being attacked.

These supporters are people like you, continuing a long tradition of writing letters to right some of the world's biggest wrongs.



# HOW DOES WRITE FOR RIGHTS WORK?

WRITE  
FOR  
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People in more than 170 countries and territories take part in all kinds of events



Putting pressure on governments, leaders and decision-makers



Writing millions of letters, emails, tweets and petitions



Showing love and support for the people and their families



Supporting people who've been harassed, threatened and unjustly jailed



And making change happen – releasing activists, securing justice for those whose rights have been wronged and protecting people who stand up for change

# WHY DO WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION?

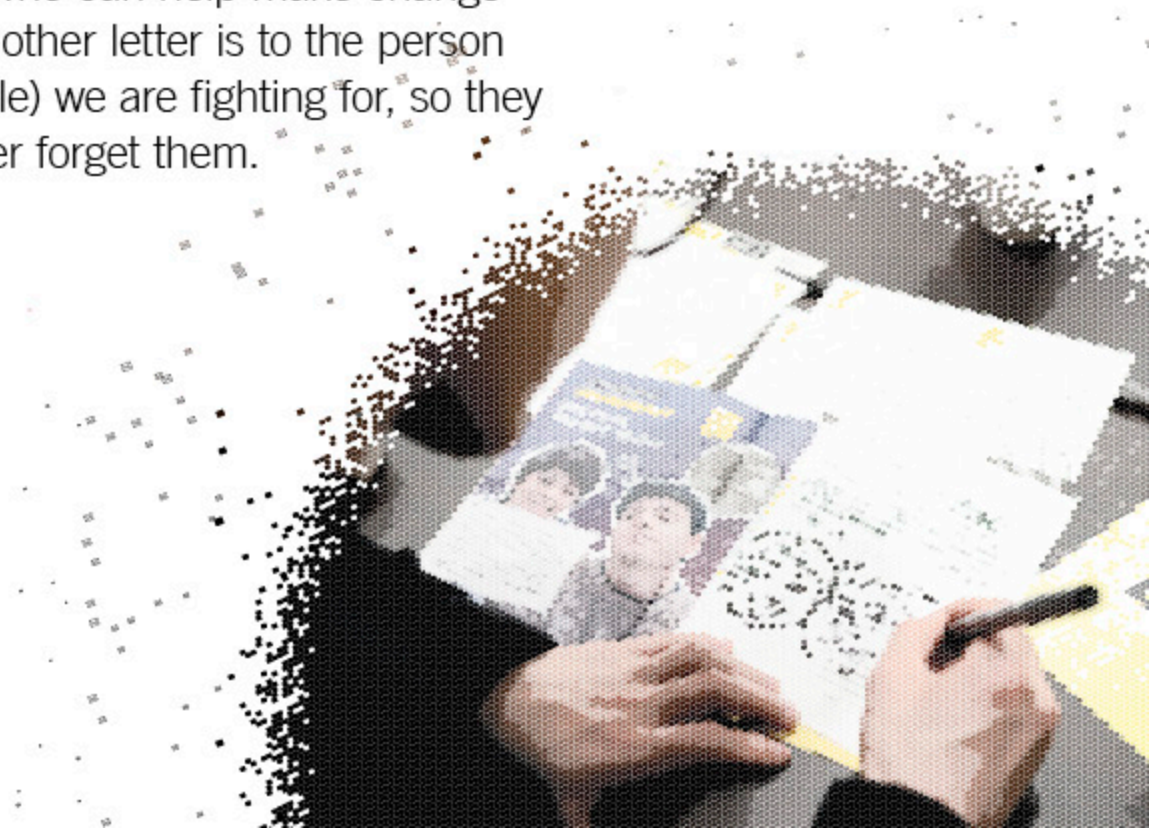
WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS

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In country after country, people's freedom – to speak out against injustice, to not be discriminated against – is under threat. Your letters, words and actions will put pressure on authorities to take immediate action, so that those who abuse will be brought to justice. And those unjustly imprisoned will taste freedom once again.

## WHO DO WE WRITE TO?

Every year, we ask supporters to write two types of letters. One is to the person in authority – it could be a queen, president or head of police – who can help make change happen. And the other letter is to the person (or group of people) we are fighting for, so they know we will never forget them.



# DOES IT WORK?

Yes! Every year, real change happens because of your letters and actions. People wrongfully imprisoned are released. Abusers are brought to justice. And people in prison are treated more humanely.

WRITE  
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# WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN?

While Human Rights Day on 10 December remains a key moment, this year's campaign runs from 2 November until 31 December. Write your letters during this period.

***“Write for Rights made a huge difference to the way I see my activism. It boosts me to believe more in myself. I have realized that, indeed, there is power in numbers.”***

*Climate change activist Marinel Sumook Ubaldo, who featured in Write for Rights 2019. Marinel testified at an inquiry launched by a human rights body which eventually declared that fossil fuel companies could be held responsible for human rights harms linked to climate change – a world first.*



# HOW TO WRITE FOR RIGHTS

WRITE FOR RIGHTS  
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



## 1. READ THE STORIES

From poets to journalists, our cases this year feature a range of people, young and old, all of whom have had their freedoms abused.

They are from 10 countries, and you will find 10 case sheets enclosed at the end of this kit, summarizing their stories. Take a look.

## 2. PRINT OUT OUR SPECIALLY DESIGNED STATIONERY

We've created some special stationery which you can download and print. You can use it for any of your Write for Rights letters.

## 3. WRITE YOUR LETTERS

At the back of each case sheet are two addresses.

One is to a government or similar authority: that's the target address. This is the person in authority we are trying to persuade to help the person or people featured in that case. (To make things easier, we've put these addresses on the sample target letters as well: see point 4 for more.)

The second is for a solidarity letter to the person we want to help, or someone they are close to. This is your chance to write them a personal message of friendship or support. Feel free to draw pictures – be creative.



# HOW TO WRITE FOR RIGHTS

WRITE  
FOR  
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## 4. USE THE SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS IF YOU NEED THEM

This kit contains 10 sample letters to your target. You can either copy these out in your own handwriting (great!), or rewrite them, adding your own words (even better!).

You can do as few or as many as you like.

## 5. POST YOUR LETTER ONLINE AND TAG US

Once you've written your letter, please take a photo of it (or a part of it) and post it on your social media channels, tagging it #W4R20. Please also tag @amnesty in your posts on Twitter and Instagram so we can find you.

We'll try to re-tweet and post the best letters during Write for Rights.

## 6. POST YOUR LETTER OFFLINE!

You've written to an authority or to someone who really needs your support right now. Please remember to put that letter in an envelope, stamp it and send it on its way. Your words will change someone's life. Thank you!

**SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS**

**IANI SENA, COLOMBIA**

Dear Mr President

Iani Sena has been standing alongside the campesino farmers in the Putumayo region for decades. She has dedicated her life to defending the environment and natural resources.

However, Iani's work has put her in danger. She has been harassed, intimidated by unknown people with guns and threatened with death.

As a protector of resources that the world depends on for its survival, Iani and the campesino farmers she stands with should be defended.

I call on you to protect Iani and all members of ACOFIA, an organization she founded along with her colleagues to pressure the peasant Agrarian Front *Reserva Zona*. In doing so, you will be safeguarding her job, but a whole ecosystem providing the planet.

Yours sincerely

President of the Republic of Colombia  
Wáñez Diego  
Palacio de Nariño  
Carrera 8 No. 7-26  
Bogotá, Colombia



**SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS**

**GERMAIN KENZIE, BURUNDI**

Dear Mr President

I call on you to immediately free Germain Kenzie. Germain has dedicated his life to defending the environment and natural resources. He has been harassed, intimidated by unknown people with guns and threatened with death.

As a protector of resources that the world depends on for its survival, Germain and the campesino farmers he stands with should be defended.

I call on you to protect Germain and all members of ACOFIA, an organization she founded along with her colleagues to pressure the peasant Agrarian Front *Reserva Zona*. In doing so, you will be safeguarding her job, but a whole ecosystem providing the planet.

Yours sincerely

President of the Republic of Colombia  
Wáñez Diego  
Palacio de Nariño  
Carrera 8 No. 7-26  
Bogotá, Colombia

**POPI OKHSE & BONGKA PRINGOLA, SOUTH AFRICA**

Dear Minister

It has been three years since Popi Okhse and Bongka Pringola were shot and killed. At that time, they were 17 and 15 years old. They were shot and killed while protesting against the government's plan to build a dam on the Orange River. Their deaths were not an isolated incident. They were part of a broader struggle for justice and human rights in South Africa.

But their deaths were not the end of the struggle. In May 2017, when they were still in school, they were shot and killed. The police investigation that followed was riddled with mistakes. A discredited law firm was used to investigate the deaths and no charges were ever published. As a result, key suspects were released due to a lack of evidence.

Popi and Bongka's families were arrested and detained. You can help them by ensuring a prompt, thorough, fair and impartial investigation into the murders.

Impunity for acts of gender-based violence cannot continue.

Yours sincerely

Minister of Police  
Private Bag 5463  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa



**SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS**

**PAUNG PYO MIN, MYANMAR**

Dear Excellency

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Paung Pyo Min, a 27-year-old peace and student leader serving six years in prison solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

In April and May 2016, Paung Pyo Min and other members of the Myanmar Generation, a national youth group, performed *Thangyat* critical of the military. The military took offense at their performance and brought charges against them.

Paung Pyo Min should not be in prison simply for criticizing the military. Everyone must be free to express their views in Myanmar, even if these are critical of the authorities. I urge you to release Paung Pyo Min immediately and unconditionally, and your government to report a record of human rights.

Yours sincerely

H.E. Aung Tun Sun Myr  
State Counsellor  
Ministry of the State Counsellor  
Office  
Office No. 25, Nay Pyi Taw  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar



**SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS**

**ESTIVIO GARCIA, CHILE**


Dear Mr National Prosecutor, Jorge Alberto Chumbe

Photography student Estivio Garcia was a victim of a protest in the capital, Santiago, when police shot ammunition into the crowd in rage. They shouldn't have. Estivio was struck in both eyes and was blinded. Commissioners in charge didn't stop these officers. They let this violence continue unchecked for weeks.

I call on you to investigate those responsible for Estivio's shooting, especially commissioners. They had a duty to avoid the release of those, but failed in both. I demand that the authorities take the consequences of their failure before the domestic justice, truth and reparation.

Yours sincerely

Jorge Alberto Chumbe  
National Prosecutor  
Fiscalía Nacional  
Calle 5425 1414  
Santiago de Chile  
Chile



**NASSIMA AL-SADA, SAUDI ARABIA**


Dear Ministry

Nassima al-Sada is a woman whose Saudi Arabia should take great pride in. Her shining journey has been one dedicated to the empowerment of women's freedoms and her vision of them being a true member of an open, vibrant society.

But instead of embracing her, at Sada, the authorities arrested her in July 2019 and placed her in solitary confinement for one year. Today, she is still behind bars. I respectfully call on you to release Ms. al-Sada and all other detained women human rights defenders, immediately and without conditions.

Yours sincerely

H.E. Nayef bin Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud  
Minister of the Interior  
Office of the Minister of the Interior  
Riyadh  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



# WHY DOES

# SOLIDARITY MATTER?

WRITE  
FOR  
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You might think that writing to someone you don't know will make no difference, or that they won't want to hear from you. But when you're locked up or in fear for your life for calling out injustice, having someone tell you they believe in you matters a lot. Whoever you choose to write to, remember that they will love to hear from you. They may feel anxious and alone, and your words will bring comfort and hope to them.

In 2019, our messages to Emil Ostrovko and his mother, Yulia, were a lifeline. Emil was sentenced to 10 years in prison for drug trafficking, later reduced to six years. He was hired by an anonymous online company who told him he was delivering legal smoking mixtures. Emil is among many young people jailed on inflated charges for minor drug offences in Belarus.

Yulia wrote this message:

***“This campaign has made a huge difference in Emil’s life and in the lives of many other children – 328 who are imprisoned together with Emil. They all excitedly waited for your letters and read them all together. I don’t have enough words to express my gratitude to Amnesty International and its supporters – just tears of joy. I didn’t expect that so many people in the world would support us in this terrible situation and I remain strong because of all of you and your solidarity.”***

Yulia, 2019



# SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS

WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS  
AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL

There are 10 sample target letters. Feel free to either copy these out in your own handwriting or, even better, rewrite them, adding your own words. You can use the special printable stationery we've provided, or your own paper. You can do as few or as many as you like. If you've already taken action online, please write a solidarity letter instead. If you only want to write a solidarity letter, that's brilliant, too!



# SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS

WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL

## JANI SILVA, COLOMBIA

*Dear Mr President*

*Jani Silva has been standing alongside the campesino farmers in the Putumayo region for decades. She has dedicated her life to defending the environment and natural resources.*

*However, Jani's work has put her in danger. She has been followed, intimidated by unknown people with guns and threatened with death.*

*As protectors of resources that the world depends on for its survival, Jani and the campesino farmers she stands with should be defended.*

*I call on you to protect Jani and all members of ADISPA, an organization she founded along with her colleagues to preserve the peasant Amazon Pearl Reserve Zone. In doing so, you will be safeguarding not just them, but a whole ecosystem powering the planet.*

*Yours sincerely*



**President of the Republic  
of Colombia  
Mr Iván Duque  
Palacio de Nariño  
Carrera 8 No.7-26  
Bogotá, Colombia**

## GERMAIN RUKUKI, BURUNDI

*Dear Mr President*

*I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Germain Rukuki. Germain has dedicated his life and work to truth and justice. He is also a dedicated father, yet because of his commitment to what's fair, he has never seen his own three-year-old son.*

*Germain is serving a 32-year prison sentence for defending human rights, after a court found him guilty on three charges, including "rebellion", in an unfair trial.*

*In your inaugural speech you made a commitment to respect human rights. I urge you to honour that pledge.*

*Germain's little boy wants his father back home. Please, free Germain today.*

*Yours sincerely*



**Evariste Ndayishimiye  
President of the Republic  
Ntare Rushatsi House  
Bujumbura, Burundi**

# SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS

WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL

## POPI QWABE & BONGEKA PHUNGULA, SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Minister

*It has been three years since Popi Qwabe and Bongeka Phungula were shot dead. Both aged in their twenties, the two young women were talented drama students with brilliant futures ahead of them.*

*But their dreams were cut short one night in May 2017 when they were killed, and dumped by the side of a road. The police investigation that followed was riddled with mistakes: a bloodstained taxi was recovered but the forensics and autopsies were never published. As a result, key suspects were released due to lack of evidence.*

*Popi and Bongeka's families want answers and demand justice. You can help them by ensuring a prompt, thorough, fair and impartial investigation into the murders.*

*Impunity for acts of gender-based violence cannot continue.*

Yours sincerely



Minister of Police  
Private Bag X463  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa

## PAING PHYO MIN, MYANMAR

Your Excellency

*I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Paing Phyo Min, a 22-year-old poet and student leader serving six years in prison solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.*

*In April and May 2019, Paing Phyo Min and other members of the Peacock Generation, a satirical poetry troupe, performed Thangyat critical of the military. The military took offence at their performances and brought charges against them.*

*Paing Phyo Min should not be in prison simply for criticising the military. Everyone must be free to express their views in Myanmar, even if these are critical of the authorities. I urge you to release Paing Phyo Min immediately and unconditionally, and your government to repeal or amend all repressive laws that violate the right to freedom of expression.*

Yours sincerely



H.E. Aung San Suu Kyi  
State Counsellor  
Ministry of the State Counsellor  
Office  
Office No. 20, Nay Pyi Taw  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

# SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS

WRITE  
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RIGHTS

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL

## GUSTAVO GATICA, CHILE

*Dear Mr National Prosecutor, Jorge Abbott Charme*

*Psychology student Gustavo Gatica was at a protest in the capital, Santiago, when police shot ammunition into the crowd in ways they shouldn't have. Gustavo was struck in both eyes and was blinded. Commanders in charge didn't stop these officers. They let this violence continue unchecked for weeks.*

*I call on you to investigate all those responsible for Gustavo's shooting, especially commanders. They had a duty to avoid the misuse of force, but failed to fulfil it. Gustavo must live with the consequences of their failure forever. He deserves justice, truth and reparation.*

*Yours sincerely*



**Jorge Abbott Charme**  
National Prosecutor  
Fiscalía Nacional  
Catedral 1421-1453  
Santiago de Chile  
Chile

## NASSIMA AL-SADA, SAUDI ARABIA

*Your Majesty*

*Nassima al-Sada is a woman whom Saudi Arabia should take great pride in. Her lifelong journey has been one dedicated to the improvement of women's freedoms and her vision of them being active members of an open, vibrant society.*

*But instead of embracing Ms. al-Sada, the authorities arrested her in July 2018 and placed her in solitary confinement for one year. Today, she is still behind bars. I respectfully call on you to release Ms. al-Sada and all other detained women human rights defenders, immediately and without conditions.*

*Yours sincerely*



**His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul  
Aziz Al Saud**  
Saudi Arabian embassy  
in your country

# SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS

WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL

## KHALED DRARENI, ALGERIA

*Your excellency*

*I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Khaled Drareni, an independent journalist, sentenced to prison simply for doing his job. He was reporting on a Hirak demonstration on 27 March when he was arrested. He has been detained ever since.*

*Khaled just wants a fairer, better Algeria that cares for and benefits everyone. He is held on the sham charge of inciting an unarmed gathering and "harming the integrity of the national territory".*

*Khaled should be back on the streets, reporting the news, not locked up for his principled journalism.*

*Please, release him without delay.*

*Yours sincerely*



**Abdelmadjid Tebboune**  
President of the Republic  
El-Mouradia – B.P  
16000 Algiers  
Algeria

## EL HIBLU 3, MALTA

*Your Excellency*

*I urge you to drop all charges against the El Hiblu 3 and close the case.*

*These youths, two of whom were just 15 and 16 years old at the time of the alleged incident, could be jailed for life for opposing their return to suffering and torture in Libya. Yet there is little to no evidence to support the serious charges against them.*

*The youths had acted as interpreters on the El Hiblu, an oil transporter, to help preserve their lives and those of their fellow passengers after they were rescued at sea.*

*They have been through grave hardship and trauma. Deliver justice: drop the charges, close the case.*

*Yours sincerely*



**Attorney General**  
The Palace  
VLT 1115 – Valletta  
Malta

# SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS

WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS  
AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL

## MELIKE BALKAN & ÖZGÜR GÜR, TURKEY

*Dear Minister of Justice*

*Biology students Melike Balkan and Özgür Gür are among a group of 19 people facing up to three years in prison for exercising their right to peaceful assembly.*

*On 10 May 2019, a Pride sit-in at Middle East Technical University was violently broken up by police. Melike, Özgür and 21 others were detained; they and 17 among the detained are now on trial.*

*As Minister of Justice, you know that participating in a peaceful gathering is not a crime. I call on you to monitor the case to ensure they are acquitted of all charges.*

*Yours sincerely*



**Mr Abdülhamit Gül**  
Minister of Justice  
Adalet Bakanlığı  
06659 Ankara  
Turkey

## IDRIS KHATTAK, PAKISTAN

*Your Excellency*

*I urge you to release Idris Khattak, Pakistan's expert on enforced disappearances, who has himself been subjected to enforced disappearance.*

*If there is credible and admissible evidence that he has committed an internationally recognized crime, then please try him promptly and fairly in a civilian ordinary court, without recourse to the death penalty. If not, release him immediately and unconditionally.*

*His daughters have not seen Idris since he was abducted in November 2019. They don't know where he is or whether he can take his medication. They just want their father back home safe with them.*

*You once made a promise to make enforced disappearance a crime under national law. Now is your chance to honour that pledge.*

*Yours sincerely*



**Prime Minister Imran Khan**  
Prime Minister's Office  
Constitution Avenue G-5/2  
Islamabad, Pakistan



**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



A large white rectangular area with horizontal blue lines, intended for writing.





**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL** 

**JANI SILVA, COLOMBIA**

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**PROTECTING  
THE AMAZON  
COULD GET  
HER KILLED**

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## JANI SILVA, COLOMBIA

Born in the heart of the Colombian Amazon, Jani Silva has dedicated her life to defending the trees and land that are everyone's lifeblood. From the age of 16, she's been standing with the *campesino* farmers of Putumayo, a region nestled in the south of the country and brimming with unique biodiversity.

Jani co-founded the Association for the Integral and Sustainable Development of the Amazonian Pearl (ADISPA) in 2008. Through it, she protects the environment and rights of those living in the Amazonian Pearl, a *campesino* reserve in Putumayo.

Her work placed her at loggerheads with the Ecopetrol oil company, which won a license to operate in areas overlapping with the reserve in 2006. In 2009 the license was transferred to the Amerisur oil company. Since then, at least two oil spills have poisoned the water sources that local communities depend on.



Defending the territory has had terrifying consequences for Jani. She's been followed, intimidated by unknown aggressors, and threatened with death. COVID-19 has made matters worse, confining activists to their homes and limiting their protection.

**Still, Jani remains undaunted. "Because I defend my territory, people have put a gun to my head to kill me", she says. "However, I stay ... because ... we cannot run away or let ourselves be won over by fear."**

## WRITE TO THE PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA

Tell him to protect Jani and all ADISPA members so that they can safely defend the natural resources we all depend on.

President of the Republic  
of Colombia

Mr Iván Duque

Carrera 8 No.7-26

Bogotá, Colombia

Email: [contacto@presidencia.gov.co](mailto:contacto@presidencia.gov.co)

Twitter: @IvanDuque

Salutation: Dear Mr President

## SHOW JANI YOU'RE WITH HER

Tell her and fellow ADISPA members how much you admire their courage. Include one of these lines, and draw a picture that represents the one you've chosen.

Nature is \_\_\_\_\_ to me.

Thanks for taking care of it.

Water means \_\_\_\_\_ to me.

Thanks for fighting for it.

Oficina Comisión Intereclesial  
de Justicia y Paz

Carrera 37ª #25B – 42

Bogotá, Colombia.

December 2020

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**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**GERMAIN RUKUKI, BURUNDI**

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**JAILED FOR  
32 YEARS  
FOR DEFENDING  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

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# GERMAIN RUKUKI, BURUNDI

In better times, Germain Rukuki liked nothing more than playing with his sons, now aged six and seven. He also loved music, Bob Marley's "Redemption Song" being a favourite – an apt choice, as it would later turn out.

It was early one morning in July 2017 when Germain and his wife, Emelyne Mupfasoni, were woken by heavy footfall and banging on their door. Dozens of members of the security forces had piled into their compound. Emelyne was just weeks away from giving birth to their third child.

Officers interrogated the couple, both NGO workers, in their home. They arrested Germain, later transferring him to Ngozi prison, northern Burundi, where he remains to this day.



On 26 April 2018, Germain was found guilty of a slew of sham charges, including "rebellion" and "threatening State security". His previous association with the NGO Action by Christians for Abolition of Torture (ACAT-Burundi) was used against him. ACAT-Burundi had been shut down in 2016 for allegedly "tarnishing the image of the country". But one of the prosecution's pieces of "evidence" during the trial included an email Germain had written to them when they were still legal.

Germain was sentenced to 32 years in prison. He and his three-year-old son have never laid eyes on each other. "For how long must my husband suffer this injustice?" asks Emelyne.

**Tell Burundi to free Germain now.**

## WRITE TO THE PRESIDENT OF BURUNDI

Ask him to release Germain immediately and unconditionally.

President of the Republic  
Ntare Rushatsi House  
Bujumbura  
Burundi

Email: [presidence@burundi.gov.bi](mailto:presidence@burundi.gov.bi)  
@GeneralNeva – Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

Salutation: Dear Mr President

## HELP KEEP GERMAIN'S SPIRIT STRONG

Send your messages of support to Germain or his wife Emelyne, including the Kirundi words: Komera Turikumwe! ("Stay strong, we are together!").

Amnesty International  
c/o Burundi Team  
Regional Office for East Africa, the  
Horn and Great Lakes  
Riverside Studios, Riverside Lane,  
Off Riverside Drive  
P.O. Box 1527-00606  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Email: [burunditeam@amnesty.org](mailto:burunditeam@amnesty.org)

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**WRITE  
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INTERNATIONAL**



**POPI QWABE & BONGEKA PHUNGULA,  
SOUTH AFRICA**

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**THEIR KILLERS  
MUST BE  
BROUGHT  
TO JUSTICE**

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# POPI QWABE & BONGEKA PHUNGULA, SOUTH AFRICA

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It was a Friday night in May 2017 and like many 20-somethings, Popi Qwabe and Bongeka Phungula were heading for a night out. The friends had met while studying drama in Durban, KwaZulu Natal. Both were talented young women, chasing a dream to make it big as actors.

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At some point that evening, the pair hailed a minibus taxi. They were not heard from again.

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Following a frantic search at hospitals and police stations, Bongeka's cousin Mdu and Popi's sister Thembelihle discovered the terrible truth. Popi and Bongeka had been shot dead and dumped by the side of a road. They may also have been raped.

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According to the families, the police failed to properly investigate the murders. A taxi containing the women's bloodstains and belongings was found. While the blood was apparently analysed, the forensic department never released the results. The families say the police did not check for fingerprints and that the phones belonging to the two girls were never traced.

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Two taxi operators were arrested. They had some of the women's belongings, including a cellphone and lipstick, which they claimed they found in the taxi. But the police released the men citing lack of evidence and the case was withdrawn pending further investigation.

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In the three years since the murder, no thorough investigation has taken place.

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**Demand justice for Popi and Bongeka.**

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## WRITE TO THE MINISTER OF POLICE

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Demand a thorough, fair and impartial investigation into the deaths of Popi and Bongeka.

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Minister of Police  
Private Bag X463  
Pretoria, 0001  
South Africa  
Email: [PhokaneN@saps.gov.za](mailto:PhokaneN@saps.gov.za)  
Twitter: @SAPoliceService /  
Salutation: Dear Minister Bheki  
Cele, Gen.

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## SHOW POPI AND BONGEKA'S FAMILIES THE WORLD IS WITH THEM

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Send them messages of solidarity and hope to help them keep strong in their battle for justice.

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Amnesty International South Africa  
97 Oxford Road, Rosebank  
Johannesburg 2196  
South Africa

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INTERNATIONAL



PAING PHYTO MIN, MYANMAR

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**LOCKED UP  
FOR SLAMMING  
THE MILITARY  
WITH POETRY**

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## PAING PHYO MIN, MYANMAR

Paing Phyto Min (aka De Yay) loves singing, playing the guitar and Taylor Swift. The 22-year-old student leader is also a member of the Peacock Generation, a poetry troupe dedicated to Thangyat – a traditional version of slam poetry. Fusing verse with comedy and music, Thangyat is usually performed in April during Myanmar's New Year Water Festival.

In April and May 2019, Paing Phyto Min and other Peacock Generation members were arrested after performing Thangyat dressed as soldiers. They made fun of the military, saying it couldn't take criticism, was desperate to hang on to power, and was bankrupting the country while its generals accumulated wealth.



Paing Phyto Min was convicted and sentenced to six years in prison. The charges against him include "incitement", that is, encouraging military officers to abandon their duties; and "online defamation" for sharing photographs and videos of their performances online. A shared image of a dog in military uniform seemed particularly upsetting to authorities.

"We have been performing Thangyat every year since 2013," says Paing Phyto Min. "We have been directly communicating with the public, expressing... what is wrong in our society... including criticisms of the government. But in 2019, the military targeted us. They are undermining Myanmar's democratic transition. We may be imprisoned, but we will not be deterred from speaking our minds."

Support Paing Phyto Min.

**Tell Myanmar to release him immediately and unconditionally.**

### WRITE TO MYANMAR'S STATE COUNSELLOR

Tell her to immediately release Paing Phyto Min and other members of the Peacock Generation.

H.E. Aung San Suu Kyi  
State Counsellor  
Ministry of the State Counsellor Office  
Office No. 20, Nay Pyi Taw  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Twitter: @MyanmarSC  
Salutation: Your Excellency

### STAND WITH PAING PHYO MIN

Send him your messages of friendship and hope to help lift his spirits in prison.

President of the Student Union  
Dagon University Students'  
Union Office  
Theater (1), Cherry Street,  
Dagon University  
North Dagon Township, Yangon  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
11422

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GUSTAVO GATICA, CHILE

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**BLINDED BY  
POLICE FOR  
DEMANDING  
DIGNITY AND  
EQUALITY**

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# GUSTAVO GATICA, CHILE

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When protests broke out across Chile over rising prices and inequality, Gustavo Gatica was studying psychology in the capital, Santiago. Like millions of others, he, too, took to the streets.

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Demonstrations lasted for weeks, capturing imaginations around the world. This was people power in action and it was awe-inspiring. The authorities, however, took a different view.

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At one fateful protest in November, police loaded their shotguns with rubber-coated buckshot and fired into the gathered crowds. It was no different from other protests where hundreds were hurt and dozens suffered eye injuries almost every day. Those in charge didn't stop the police. Instead, they allowed the violence to continue.

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Gustavo was among the crowds that November. He was shot in both eyes and permanently blinded. The attack made global headlines.

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An internal police investigation following the shooting found that no one could be held responsible. It even suggested that demonstrators themselves injured Gustavo. The National Prosecutor's Office is now investigating. Still, those who allowed the attack on Gustavo remain unpunished.

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"I gave my eyes so people would wake up," says Gustavo. As demonstrations continued, protestors wore eye patches and chanted his name at police. They want justice. So do we.

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**Demand justice for Gustavo.**

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## WRITE TO CHILE'S NATIONAL PROSECUTOR

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Tell him to investigate the commanders involved in Gustavo's shooting. They had a duty to avoid the misuse of dangerous shotguns and ammunition, but they failed to fulfil it.

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**Jorge Abbott Charme**

National Prosecutor

Fiscalía Nacional

Catedral 1421-1453

Santiago de Chile

Chile

**Email:** [jabbott@minpublico.cl](mailto:jabbott@minpublico.cl)

**Twitter:** @FiscaliadeChile

**Salutation:** Dear Mr National Prosecutor, Jorge Abbott Charme

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## TELL GUSTAVO HIS LOSS IS NOT IN VAIN

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Send him recordings of your messages of hope and solidarity.

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**Email:** [justiciaparagustavo@amnistia.cl](mailto:justiciaparagustavo@amnistia.cl)

---

Send physical braille letters, drawings or any physical show of solidarity to:

---

**Diego Martínez**

Director de Crecimiento

Amnistía Internacional Chile

Av. Rojas Magallanes 1869,  
departamento 104

La Florida, Santiago, Chile

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**NASSIMA AL-SADA, SAUDI ARABIA**

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**LOCKED UP  
FOR DEMANDING  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

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# NASSIMA AL-SADA, SAUDI ARABIA

Nassima al-Sada loves animals and cherishes her garden back home. Even in her prison cell, she has a carefully tended plant. It is her only link to the outside world she must sorely miss.

For much of her life, Nassima campaigned for women's freedom in Saudi Arabia. In doing so, she's lost her own. She was one of several prominent activists demanding women's right to drive and the right to carry out their daily business without the permission of a male "guardian".

Saudi Arabia's guardianship laws required women to seek a man's permission to go out, and other basic needs. While these laws have been eased in recent months, the women who have campaigned to end the guardianship system remain behind bars. "Why should an under-age boy be the guardian of a woman who is an adult?" Nassima wrote in 2016. "Why isn't there an age at which a woman becomes an adult, responsible for her decisions and her life? Why should there be a man responsible for her life?"



Nassima was arrested for her peaceful human rights work in July 2018. While in jail, she was ill-treated. She was placed in a cell alone, in complete isolation from other detainees from February 2019 to February 2020. She is allowed one weekly phone call with her family, but no visits, not even from her lawyer.

Still, Nassima and her family aren't giving up. Nor should we.

**Tell Saudi Arabia to free Nassima now.**

## WRITE TO THE KING OF SAUDI ARABIA

Tell him to free Nassima and other women's rights activists immediately and unconditionally.

His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud  
Saudi Arabian embassy in your country  
Twitter: @KingSalman  
Salutation: Your Majesty

## HELP KEEP NASSIMA'S SPIRIT STRONG

Post a photo of yourself gardening or simply enjoying the sun on your social media channels. Include a personal message to Nassima. Remember to tag her @nasema33, as well as @KingSalman, and use the hashtag #FreeNassima.

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**KHALED DRARENI, ALGERIA**

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**JAILED  
FOR HIS  
JOURNALISM**

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# KHALED DRARENI, ALGERIA

Journalist Khaled Drareni shares a common dream of freedom and equality with many Algerians. When people took to the streets in February 2019 to demand these principles, Khaled joined in.



He made sure the world knew what was happening inside Algeria. Through his journalism, he made a point of covering the Hirak protest movement, which embraces freedom and respect for rights and liberties. Like many young Algerians, Khaled sees the Hirak movement as a chance to build a fairer, better Algeria.

When the Hirak movement first emerged, Khaled was one of the first independent journalists to cover the weekly protests and made sure to document police violence when it occurred. This placed him at odds with the authorities who targeted him, detaining him many times.

On 27 March 2020, Khaled was arrested while covering a demonstration. He was charged with inciting an unarmed gathering – despite the fact that he was simply doing his job as a journalist. He has been sentenced to prison.

“Why should anyone refrain from telling the truth?” Khaled has often told his friend, Nabila. Why indeed. Khaled is a journalist determined to keep reporting on the realities the country is facing. Let’s make sure he can.

**Tell Algeria to free Khaled now.**

## WRITE TO THE PRESIDENT OF ALGERIA

Tell him to free Khaled immediately and unconditionally, and drop all charges against him.

Abdelmadjid Tebboune  
Présidence de la République  
El-Mouradia – B.P  
16000 Algiers  
Algeria  
Email: [President@el-mouradia.dz](mailto:President@el-mouradia.dz)  
Fax: +213 21 69 15 95  
Twitter: @TebbouneAmadjid  
Salutation: Your Excellency

## SHOW KHALED YOU'RE WITH HIM

Post a photo of yourself with the message #FreeKhaledDrareni on your Twitter and Instagram channels. Remember to tag @khaleddrareni on Twitter and @Khaled.Drareni on Instagram.

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EL HIBLU 3, MALTA

**THEY OPPOSED  
TORTURE, NOW  
THEY FACE  
PRISON**



## EL HIBLU 3, MALTA

Before they were known as the El Hiblu 3, they were three teenagers with a passion for football and basketball. Aged 15, 16 and 19 at the time, they wanted what we all do: a safer, better life.

That common goal brought them from Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire to Libya. Desperate to escape the violence and torture cells reserved for refugees and migrants there, they boarded a dinghy with over 100 others bound for Europe.



The dinghy soon ran into trouble and was rescued by the El Hiblu, an oil transporter. The El Hiblu's crew then tried to return those rescued to Libya – which was unlawful – despite promising that they wouldn't.

A protest broke out. The three youths were asked to help calm the situation. Acting as interpreters, they defended the right of those rescued not to face torture again in Libya. The crew turned the ship towards Europe.

However, as it entered Malta's waters, the Maltese authorities stormed the ship, claiming the three had taken it by force. They charged the youths with offences so serious that they could be jailed for life.

The three youths had simply tried to defend their safety and to protect those rescued with them. Now they're in the dock.

**Demand justice for the El Hiblu 3.**

## WRITE TO MALTA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL

Tell the Attorney General to drop all charges against the El Hiblu 3 and close the case.

### Attorney General

The Palace

VLT 1115 – Valletta

Malta

Email: [ag@gov.mt](mailto:ag@gov.mt)

Tel: (+356) 21 225 841

Fax: (+356) 21 240 738

Salutation: Your Excellency

## STAND WITH THE EL HIBLU 3

Send them your messages of solidarity and hope. Be sure to take a photograph of your message and post it on your social media channels, tagging it #ElHiblu3.

El Hiblu 3

P.O. Box 39,

Hamrun,

Malta

December 2020

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Joanna Demarco

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Joanna Demarco



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**METU PRIDE DEFENDERS, TURKEY**

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**PROSECUTED  
FOR CELEBRATING  
LGBTI RIGHTS**

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# METU PRIDE DEFENDERS, TURKEY

From day one, biology students Melike Balkan and Özgür Gür dedicated themselves to defending lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI+) rights at their university.

As prominent members of the LGBTI+ Solidarity Group at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, they've organized numerous marches, meetings and other events. They've engaged with an ever-growing number of students, against a backdrop of increasing homophobia and restrictions on freedom of expression in Turkey.

Founded in 1996, METU LGBTI+ Solidarity Group have organised an annual Pride march on campus since 2011. Over the years, Pride on METU campus grew in size and visibility. However, in 2019, the university's management told the students the Pride march planned for 10 May could not go ahead on campus.



Undeterred, the Solidarity Group staged a Pride sit-in instead. In response, the university called the police who used excessive force, including tear gas, against the peaceful protestors. Police arrested at least 22 students – including Melike and Özgür – and an academic. Some of those detained hadn't even taken part in the protest. Despite simply exercising their right to peaceful protest, 18 students and the academic are on trial.

If found guilty, they face up to three years in prison.

**Tell Turkey they must be acquitted of all charges.**

## WRITE TO TURKEY'S MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Remind him that the students and the academic were exercising their right to peaceful assembly and should therefore be acquitted of all charges against them.

**Mr Abdülhamit Gül**

Minister of Justice

Adalet Bakanlığı

06659 Ankara,

Turkey

**Twitter:** @abdulhamitgul

**Email:** info@adalet.gov.tr

**Salutation:** Dear Minister of Justice

## SHARE YOUR PRIDE IN MELIKE & ÖZGÜR

Visit METU LGBTI+ Solidarity Group's Twitter & Instagram feed @odtulgbti. Take a photo of yourself with a Pride flag and share on your social media channels, tagging @odtulgbti, and adding a message of support in the caption.

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**IDRIS KHATTAK, PAKISTAN**

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**ABDUCTED  
FOR EXPOSING  
DISAPPEARANCES**

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# IDRIS KHATTAK, PAKISTAN

Described by his daughters as an “enthusiastic but terrible” cook, Idris Khattak is a man of many interests. He speaks Russian, reads voraciously, and breeds chickens that he loves to chat to.

Idris is also Pakistan’s expert on enforced disappearances. He’s spent years documenting this crime under international law for Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. But in a cruel twist Idris, too, disappeared.



It was 13 November 2019 and Idris was on his way home from the capital, Islamabad, when his rented car was intercepted. He hasn’t been seen since. In Pakistan, the authorities use enforced disappearance to silence human rights defenders like Idris, and other critics.

With Amnesty’s help, Idris’ 20-year-old daughter, Talia, began fighting for her father’s return, despite being warned not to. Her bravery paid off. In June, the authorities admitted they had Idris in their custody and that they would be charging him under the Official Secrets Act. They still haven’t disclosed where he is.

Idris’ family fear he could be charged with espionage. If convicted, he could be jailed for 14 years or even sentenced to death.

“I look at pictures of Papa, and only dream of him walking into the room to be with us again,” says Talia. “We deserve answers and he deserves the protection of the law.”

**Tell Pakistan’s authorities to release Idris.**

## WRITE TO PAKISTAN’S PRIME MINISTER

Tell him to release Idris or, if there is credible and admissible evidence of an internationally recognized offence, bring him promptly to justice in a fair trial before a civilian court.

**Prime Minister Imran Khan**

Prime Minister’s Office  
Constitution Avenue G-5/2  
Islamabad  
Pakistan

E-mail: [info@pmo.gov.pk](mailto:info@pmo.gov.pk) /  
[spm@pmo.gov.pk](mailto:spm@pmo.gov.pk)

Twitter: [@ImranKhanPTI](https://twitter.com/ImranKhanPTI)

Salutation: Your Excellency

## SHOW IDRIS’ FAMILY YOU’RE WITH THEM

Send your messages of support to his daughters Talia and Shumaisa. You can send photos of your book recommendations or of yourself gardening – two things Idris loved. Tweet them [@TaliaKhattak](https://twitter.com/TaliaKhattak) and [@shumaisa77](https://twitter.com/shumaisa77) or send hard copies to:

Amnesty International South Asia  
Regional Office  
23/2 Horton Place  
Colombo 07  
Sri Lanka

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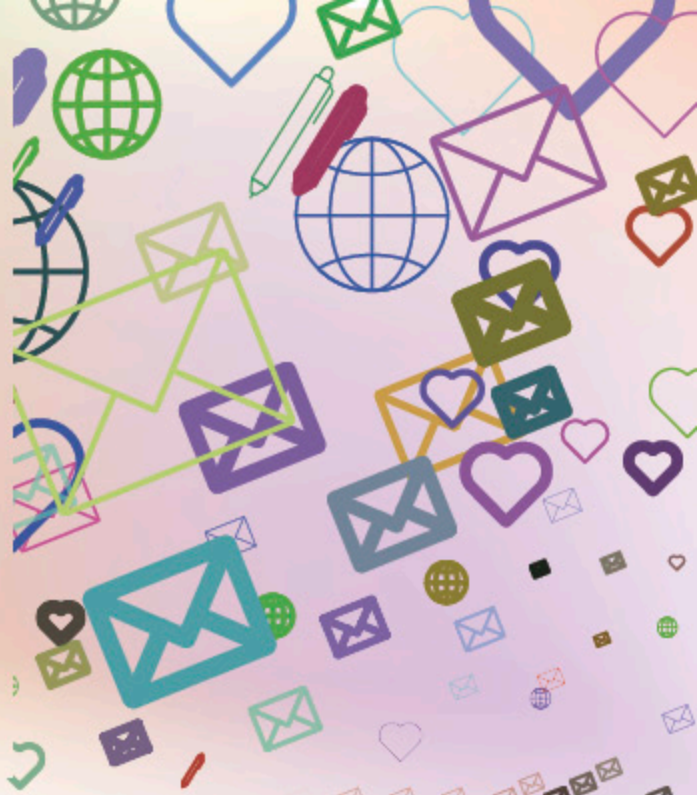
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**Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.**

**We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and public donations.**



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