

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



LETTER-WRITING KIT

WRITE A LETTER

CHANGE A LIFE



Adrián Vasquez Lagunes
Comité Internacional México

WRITE A LETTER CHANGE A LIFE

WRITE
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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.



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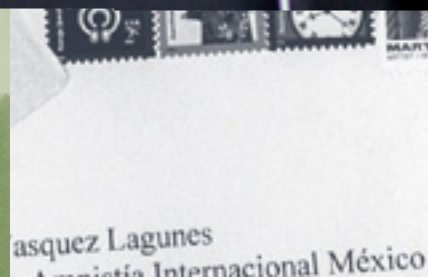
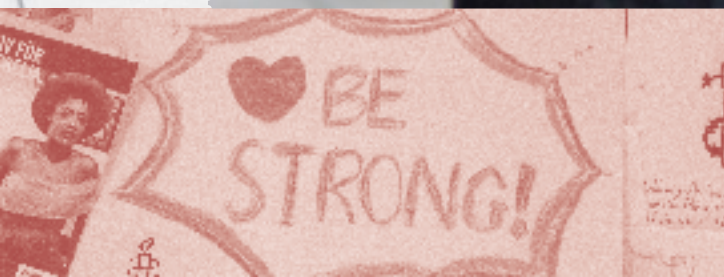
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***“I can’t emphasize enough
how important getting letters
from people around the world
is. It gave me a sense of
worth. It gave me strength –
convinced me that what
I was doing was right.”***

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.

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WHAT IS WRITE FOR RIGHTS?

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Sometimes a letter can change someone's life. That's the premise of Write for Rights, our global letter-writing campaign. We've been doing it for 16 years and today, it's the world's biggest human rights event.

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

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1



People in **more than 200 countries** and territories take part in all kinds of **events**

2



Writing millions of letters, emails, tweets and petitions

3



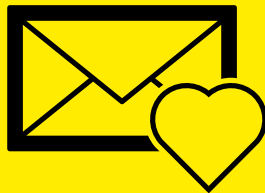
Supporting people who've been harassed, threatened and jailed for speaking out

4



Putting pressure on governments, leaders and decision-makers

5



Showing **love and support** for the people and their families

6



And **making change** happen – releasing activists and protecting people who stand up for change

WHY DO WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION?

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In country after country, people's freedom – to speak out against injustice, to live on their ancestral lands, to not be discriminated against – is under threat. Our 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 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?

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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.

WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN?

While Human Rights Day on 10 December remains a key moment, this year's campaign runs from 29 November, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, until 20 December, International Human Solidarity Day. Write your letters during this period.

“Thank you very much each and every one of you. Not just for campaigning for my release, but for helping to keep our hope and our beliefs alive.”

Student activist Phyoe Phyoe Aung, who was freed from prison in Myanmar in April 2016 after featuring in Write for Rights the previous year.

© BayBay



HOW TO WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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NAWAL BENAISSA
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, MOROCCO

**HOUNDED FOR DEMANDING
A BETTER LIFE**

NAWAL BENAISSA

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER
MOROCCO

Nawal Benaissa is prepared to stand up for what she believes in. That's why she speaks out for social justice and better health care services in her region, Rif, where many people feel forgotten by their government. As one of the leading voices of a popular movement called Hirak, she's been on peaceful protests and campaigned for change on social media.

Every step of the way, she's been harassed by the Moroccan authorities in an attempt to silence her. They arrested and held her in

custody four times in just four months, and demanded she close her popular Facebook profile which had 80,000 followers.

Finally, in February 2018, she was given a 10-month suspended sentence and a fine for "inciting to commit an offence". She's appealing the verdict, but the intimidation continues. She moved to another city to avoid the constant surveillance.

Nawal's treatment is part of a major crackdown on the Hirak movement and its leaders. Moroccan security forces have arrested hundreds of peaceful protesters and some just for expressing their support on Facebook.

For Nawal, the solution is simple. She wants to be completely free to fight for a better future for her community and her children.

Tell Morocco to stop harassing Nawal today.

WRITE TO THE MOROCCAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

Tell him to halt the harassment of Nawal, as she is a peaceful protester and human rights defender who just wants a better life for people in her region.

Department of the Head of Government
Rabat, Morocco

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gm.ma
Twitter: @Chiffon_ma

Salutation: Excellency

STAND WITH NAWAL

Send your messages of solidarity and support to her and her family, so they know there are people around the world who stand by them.

ich Amnesty International Morocco
20 rue Charles de Gaulle - 5 étage
10000 Rabat - Morocco

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

1. READ THE STORIES

This year, for the first time, we're featuring only women activists to shine a spotlight on the courageous work that they do.

They are from 9 countries, and you will find 9 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: that's the target address. This is the government figure 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** address is 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

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4. USE THE SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS IF YOU NEED THEM

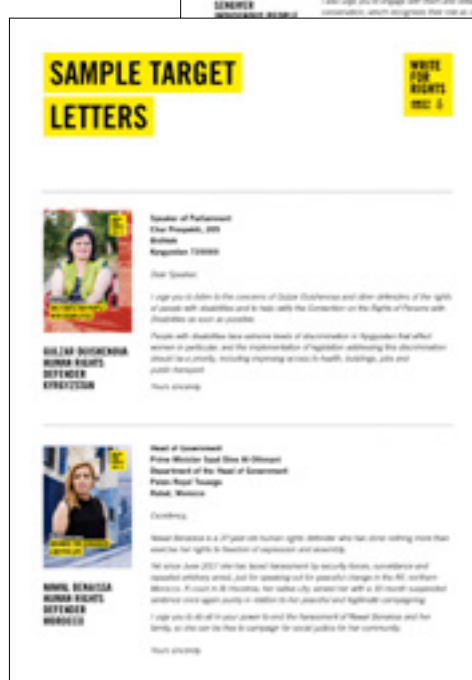
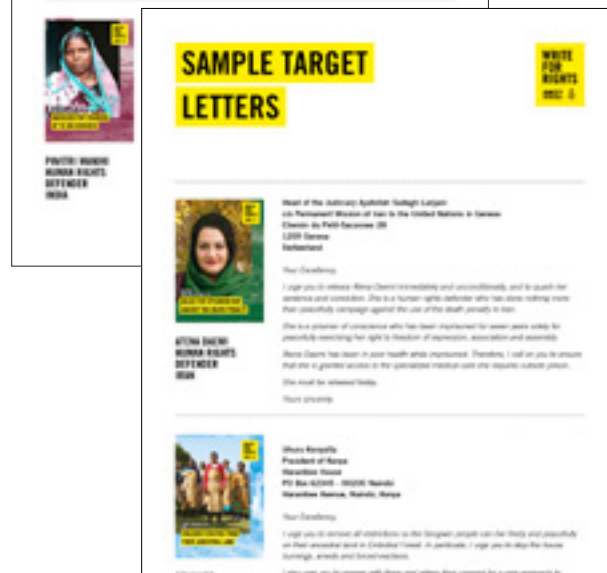
This kit contains 9 sample letters to your target. You can either copy these out in your own handwriting (great!), or rewrite them, adding your own words (even better!). You can do as few or as many as you like.

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 #W4R18. Please also tag @amnesty in your posts on Twitter and Instagram so we can find you. We'll try to re-tweet and re-gram the best letters during Write for Rights.

6. POST YOUR LETTER OFFLINE!

You've written to a government 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!



WHY DOES

SOLIDARITY MATTER?

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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.

Last year, your messages to Shackelia Jackson in Jamaica made a huge difference. Shackelia continues to demand justice for her brother Nakiea, who was killed by police for no reason. This tragedy led her to become a leader in the battle against police killings in Jamaica. This is her message back to you:

"You gave me not only a safe space and the shoulder of giants to stand on; but also an outlet to redefine the optics and manufactured perception of Jamaica and our leadership. The decision-makers no longer controlled the narrative and we were disrupting the nostalgia they exported."

Shackelia, 2017



SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS

WRITE
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There are 9 of these 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

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MARIELLE FRANCO
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDER
BRAZIL

Brazilian President
Praça dos Três Poderes, Palácio do Planalto
Brasília (DF)
Brazil

Dear President,

Today, I demand that you ensure a prompt, thorough, impartial and independent investigation into the killing of human rights defender Marielle Franco.

This must identify both the shooters and the people who ordered her killing, as well as the motivation for the crime. All those responsible must be brought to justice through a fair trial that meets international standards.

I also urge you to take all necessary measures to prevent further threats and attacks against human rights defenders like Marielle, including by restoring the programme of protection for human rights defenders in Brazil.

Yours sincerely



PAVITRI MANJHI
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDER
INDIA

Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh
Police Headquarters
Naya Raipur
Chhattisgarh
India – 492001

Dear Sir,

Pavitri Manjhi, the Adivasi leader of the Bhengari village council in Chhattisgarh, faces continued threats, intimidation and harassment for her peaceful activism. She is a human rights defender, protesting the actions of two private companies who allegedly defrauded Indigenous Adivasis of their land in Raigarh district.

I urge you to consult with Pavitri Manjhi and other Adivasi villagers in order to give them adequate security and protect them from further harassment.

I also urge you to investigate complaints of the harassment of Adivasi villagers and of the unlawful dispossession of land, and bring those responsible to justice.

Yours sincerely

SAMPLE TARGET

LETTERS

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ATENA DAEMI
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDER
IRAN

Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28
1209 Geneva
Switzerland

Your Excellency,

I urge you to release Atena Daemi immediately and unconditionally, and to quash her sentence and conviction. She is a human rights defender who has done nothing more than peacefully campaign against the use of the death penalty in Iran.

She is a prisoner of conscience who has been imprisoned for seven years solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Atena Daemi has been in poor health while imprisoned. Therefore, I call on you to ensure that she is granted access to the specialized medical care she requires outside prison.

She must be released today.

Yours sincerely



SENGWER
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
KENYA

Uhuru Kenyatta
President of Kenya
Harambee House
PO Box 62345 - 00200 Nairobi
Harambee Avenue, Nairobi, Kenya

Your Excellency,

I urge you to remove all restrictions so the Sengwer people can live freely and peacefully on their ancestral land in Embobut Forest. In particular, I urge you to stop the house burnings, arrests and forced evictions.

I also urge you to engage with them and obtain their consent for a new approach to conservation, which recognizes their role as owners and custodians of the forest and your partners in protecting the environment.

Yours sincerely

SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS

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GULZAR DUISHENOVA
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDER
KYRGYZSTAN

Speaker of Parliament
Chui Prospekti, 205
Bishkek
Kyrgyzstan 720000

Dear Speaker,

I urge you to listen to the concerns of Gulzar Duishenova and other defenders of the rights of people with disabilities and to help ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as soon as possible.

People with disabilities face extreme levels of discrimination in Kyrgyzstan that affect women in particular, and the implementation of legislation addressing this discrimination should be a priority, including improving access to health, buildings, jobs and public transport.

Yours sincerely



NAWAL BENAISSA
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDER
MOROCCO

Head of Government
Prime Minister Saad Dine Al Othmani
Department of the Head of Government
Palais Royal Touarga
Rabat, Morocco

Your Excellency,

Nawal Benaissa is a 37-year-old human rights defender who has done nothing more than exercise her rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

Yet since June 2017 she has faced harassment by security forces, surveillance and repeated arbitrary arrest, just for speaking out for peaceful change in the Rif, northern Morocco. A court in Al Hoceima, her native city, served her with a 10-month suspended sentence once again purely in relation to her peaceful and legitimate campaigning.

I urge you to do all in your power to end the harassment of Nawal Benaissa and her family, so she can be free to campaign for social justice for her community.

Yours sincerely

SAMPLE TARGET

LETTERS

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NONHLE MBUTHUMA
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDER
SOUTH AFRICA

Cyril Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa
Union Buildings
Private Bag X1000
Pretoria, South Africa
0001

Mr President,

I urge you and your government to protect Nonhle Mbuthuma, the Amadiba community leader in the Eastern Cape. She is a peaceful human rights defender standing up for her community to protect the land they rely on.

Please also conduct a full and proper investigation into the harassment and intimidation targeted at her and other activists as they stand up to the actions of the mining company Transworld Energy and Minerals Resources (TEM).

Yours sincerely



VITALINA KOVAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDER
UKRAINE

Minister of Interior
Vul. Akademika Bohomoltsa, 10
Kyiv, 01601
Ukraine

Dear Minister,

I urge you to publicly recognize and support the vital work of Vitalina Koval and others like her who peacefully defend the rights of women and LGBTI people in Ukraine. Please ensure they can exercise their right to freedom of expression and assembly without fear of attacks and reprisals.

I also urge you to ensure prompt, effective and impartial investigations are carried out into all attacks on activists by far-right groups which have been on the rise in Ukraine since 2017, and to ensure that any discriminatory motives are taken into account during the investigation. Those responsible for the attacks must be brought to justice.

Yours sincerely

SAMPLE TARGET

LETTERS

WRITE
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GERALDINE CHACÓN
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDER
VENEZUELA

Fiscal General de la República

Address: As the postal service in Venezuela can be unreliable, please send your letter to the Venezuelan embassy or other diplomatic representation in your country.

Señor Fiscal General / Mr Attorney General,

I urge you to formally close the case against Geraldine Chacón and grant her unconditional freedom. She is a peaceful human rights defender who has not advocated violence at any stage.

Geraldine was arrested, detained in appalling conditions for four months and intimidated solely on the basis of her peaceful work with young people in Caracas. Though conditionally released in June 2018, she can't leave the country and could be arrested again at any time for no reason. A passionate and active young member of society should be celebrated, not silenced.

Yours sincerely

尋找丈夫、妻
及寧靜的路上，
我們與妳同在。

支持人權協會
支持人權協會
支持人權協會

Support Human Rights.

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MARIELLE FRANCO

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, BRAZIL

**KILLED FOR FEARLESSLY
DEFENDING OTHERS**

MARIELLE FRANCO

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

BRAZIL



Marielle Franco fought fearlessly for a fairer and safer Rio de Janeiro. She was a popular city councillor who grew up in the favelas and always stood up for the rights of black women, LGBTI people and young people. She also condemned unlawful killings by the police. “Marielle embodied the rights she stood up for,” says her partner Monica.

But then, on 14 March 2018, Marielle was killed, shot to death in her car together with her driver, Anderson Pedro Gomes. Evidence suggests the murder was carried out by skilled professionals, and experts said the bullets had belonged to the Brazilian Federal Police.

Brazil is one of the world’s deadliest countries for human rights defenders like Marielle, with at least 70 killed in 2017. Too often, the killings are not investigated and those responsible go free. People who stand up for human rights live in constant fear.

Together, we can show the Brazilian authorities we won’t rest until justice is done. They must protect human rights defenders from further attacks. And they must identify who killed Marielle. As her sister Anielle says: “As long as we have the strength we will demand justice.”

Demand justice for Marielle today.



WRITE TO THE BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT TODAY

Urge him to bring Marielle Franco’s killers to justice, including those who ordered the crime, and to protect human rights defenders in Brazil from further threats and attacks.

Brazilian President

*Praça dos Três Poderes, Palácio do Planalto – Brasília (DF)
CEP 70150-900
Brazil*

Email: gabinetepessoal@presidencia.gov.br

Twitter: @planalto

Salutation: Dear President

STAND WITH MARIELLE’S FAMILY

Send your messages of solidarity and strength, so that they know you stand with them in their fight for justice.

Amnesty International Brazil

*Rua da Glória, 344 (3rd floor) Glória
CEP 20241180 Rio de Janeiro (RJ)
Brazil*

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PAVITRI MANJHI

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, INDIA

**HARASSED FOR STANDING
UP TO BIG BUSINESS**

PAVITRI MANJHI

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

INDIA

Pavitri Manjhi is taking a stand. She's part of an Adivasi Indigenous community who are at risk of being kicked off their land to make way for two power plants. They stand to lose their farms and livelihoods. But she's leading the fight back.

Villagers say they were forced to sell their land by agents acting on behalf of two private companies. Many haven't even been adequately paid. As head of her village council, Pavitri brought people together to file nearly 100 formal complaints. And for that she faces ongoing intimidation.



Local 'strongmen' have repeatedly pressured her to withdraw all the complaints. They visited her home and told her: "Everyone who helped you file the complaints are outsiders. They will not be able to save you and we will silence them." The men returned in the following days to make more threats. Pavitri reported the harassment to the police but little has been done.

For decades, Adivasi people have been forced from their land and had their rights trampled on to make room for business developments. But Pavitri isn't going anywhere. She's determined to help her community stand up to big business and protect their ancestral lands.

Tell India to protect Pavitri from harassment now.



WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE

Tell him to give Pavitri the security she needs to protect her from further threats, harassment and intimidation, so that she can continue to fight for the rights of Adivasis.

Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh

Police Headquarters, Naya Raipur
Chhattisgarh
India – 492001

Email: ps.dgp-cg@gov.in

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chhattisgarh.police

Twitter: @CG_Police

Salutation: Dear Director General of Police

STAND WITH PAVITRI

Send her your messages of solidarity, strength and support for her bravery in the face of persistent harassment.

Pavitri Manjhi Ji

c/o Sri. Degree Prasad Chouhan
Convenor, Adivasi Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh
Near Lata Sadan, Puri Bagicha, Madhuban Para
Raigarh, District Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, India – 496001

Email: chouhandprasad@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chouhan.dprasad

Twitter: @ChouhanDPrasad

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ATENA DAEMI
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, IRAN

**JAILED FOR SPEAKING OUT
AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY**

ATENA DAEMI

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

IRAN

Like so many, Atena Daemi dreams of an end to the death penalty in Iran. She's written Facebook and Twitter posts criticizing the country's execution record. She's handed out leaflets. And she's taken part in a peaceful protest against the execution of a young woman. Simple actions which sadly, in Iran, take great courage.

Incredibly, these activities have been cited as "evidence" of her criminal activity and now she's been sentenced to seven years in jail. Her trial was a sham – it took just 15 minutes and she was convicted on trumped-up charges, including "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security".

Her cruel treatment is one more bitter example of the intense crackdown on people who speak out for a fairer Iran. Dozens have been imprisoned, and many others face surveillance, interrogations and drawn-out prosecutions, forcing them into silence.

Atena has suffered so much already. She's been beaten, pepper sprayed and forced into solitary confinement, but she continues to fight for human rights. Earlier this year, she went on hunger strike to protest her transfer to a notorious prison. Her health has deteriorated alarmingly in prison. She must be released immediately.

Tell Iran: Atena Daemi must go free.

WRITE TO THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES TODAY

Urge them to release Atena Daemi immediately and unconditionally.

Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28
1209 Geneva
Switzerland

Salutation: Your Excellency

STAND WITH ATENA DAEMI

Sadly, it isn't safe to send letters to her or her family inside Iran. But please write to us and we will ensure your messages of solidarity are heard, or show your support on Twitter or Instagram.

Amnesty International – International Secretariat
c/o Iran Team
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

Instagram: www.instagram.com/atenadaemi
Twitter: @AtenaDaemi

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**SENGWER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
KENYA**

**VIOLENTLY EVICTED FROM
THEIR ANCESTRAL LAND**

SENGWER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

KENYA

The Sengwer people in Kenya have a deep, spiritual bond with the beautiful and vast Embobut Forest. It's their ancestral land where they have lived for centuries. But this Indigenous community of beekeepers and cattle herders is being violently evicted by the Kenyan government.

In the name of "conservation", forest guards and police have burned an estimated 2,600 houses since 2012, making some 4,600 people homeless. In January 2018, one man was shot

dead and another seriously injured. The violence is in direct violation of repeated court orders that should protect this Indigenous community.

Sengwer people are losing their homes, livelihoods and cultural identity. Some are now living outside the forest and have been left in crushing poverty. Women are often hit hardest, struggling on their own to care for families as some men stay in the forest or have abandoned their families.

The government says it wants to reduce deforestation, but there is no evidence that the Sengwer have damaged the forest. These Indigenous people should be recognized as the owners and natural custodians of the Embobut Forest, as their livelihoods, identity and spirituality rely on it. They are determined to resist. Let's stand with them today.

Tell Kenya to let the Sengwer people live on their land in peace.

WRITE TO THE KENYAN PRESIDENT TODAY

Tell him to stop the house burnings and arrests, and remove all restrictions so that the Sengwer people can live in peace on their ancestral land in the Embobut Forest.

Uhuru Kenyatta
President of Kenya
Harambee House
PO Box 62345 – 00200 Nairobi
Harambee Avenue, Nairobi, Kenya

Twitter: @UKenyatta

Salutation: Your Excellency

STAND WITH THE SENGWER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Send your messages of solidarity and strength, so that they know they are not alone in their struggle against violence and intimidation.

c/o Naomi Barasa
Amnesty International Kenya
PO Box 1527 – 00606
Nairobi
Kenya

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GULZAR DUISHENOVA

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, KYRGYZSTAN

**SHE FIGHTS FOR PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES**

GULZAR DUSHENOVA

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

KYRGYZSTAN

Gulzar Duishenova is a fighter. In 2002, she lost movement in her legs after a car accident involving a drunk driver. The next year, her husband died suddenly and she became the sole carer for her two young children.

Years later, she met other people living with disabilities who were organizing in the capital city of Bishkek. She realized they faced common problems, including struggling to find jobs because work places aren't adapted for



wheelchairs, or relying on others to lift them on to buses – an embarrassing and intrusive experience.

She's made it her life's mission to ensure people with disabilities can live with dignity and move around freely. She's met officials, organized training for bus drivers and pushed for action on social media.

But she continues to face barriers. She needs help to get down the stairs to her front door. Her road is pot-holed and bumpy, so she can't push her wheelchair. She faces daily discrimination in a society where women aren't meant to speak out and people with disabilities are seen as "invalids" with an incurable disease.

**But Gulzar refuses to be silenced.
Let's support her today.**



WRITE TO KYRGYZSTAN'S PARLIAMENT

Tell the speaker of parliament to support Gulzar and other activists as they fight for the rights of people with disabilities. The parliament must ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to help address discrimination and improve access to health, buildings, jobs and transport.

Speaker of Parliament

*Chui Prospekti, 205
Bishkek
Kyrgyzstan 720000*

Email: kenesh001@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Speaker

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR GULZAR

Send your messages of solidarity, so she knows we support her fight for a world where people with disabilities can live with dignity.

Gulzar Duishenova

*c/o Amnesty International Ukraine
POB 40
04050
Kyiv
Ukraine*

Email: gulzardushenova@gmail.com

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NAWAL BENAÏSSA

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, MOROCCO

**HOUNDED FOR DEMANDING
A BETTER LIFE**

NAWAL BENAÏSSA

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

MOROCCO

Nawal Benaïssa is prepared to stand up for what she believes in. That's why she speaks out for social justice and better health care services in her region, Rif, where many people feel forgotten by their government. As one of the leading voices of a popular movement called Hirak, she's been on peaceful protests and campaigned for change on social media.

Every step of the way, she's been harassed by the Moroccan authorities in an attempt to silence her. They arrested and held her in

custody four times in just four months, and demanded she close her popular Facebook profile which had 80,000 followers.

Finally, in February 2018, she was given a 10-month suspended sentence and a fine for "inciting to commit an offence". She's appealing the verdict, but the intimidation continues. She moved to another city to avoid the constant surveillance.

Nawal's treatment is part of a major crackdown on the Hirak movement and its leaders. Moroccan security forces have arrested hundreds of peaceful protesters and some just for expressing their support on Facebook.

For Nawal, the solution is simple. She wants to be completely free to fight for a better future for her community and her children.

Tell Morocco to stop harassing Nawal today.

WRITE TO THE MOROCCAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

Tell him to halt the harassment of Nawal, as she is a peaceful protestor and human rights defender who just wants a better life for people in her region.

Department of the Head of Government
Palais Royal Touarga
Rabat, Morocco

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cg.gov.ma
Twitter: @ChefGov_ma

Salutation: Excellency

STAND WITH NAWAL

Send your messages of solidarity and support to her and her family, so they know there are people around the world who stand by them.

c/o Amnesty International Morocco
20 rue Ouargha appartement 5 Agdal
10000 Rabat – Morocco

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



NONHLE MBUTHUMA
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, SOUTH AFRICA

**HARASSED FOR DEFENDING
HER ANCESTRAL LAND**

NONHLE MBUTHUMA

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

SOUTH AFRICA

Nonhle Mbuthuma won't back down. She's leading the fight for her community against a mining company which wants to mine titanium on their ancestral land. "When you take my land, you take my identity," she says. But she's being harassed just for defending their rights.

Nonhle is part of the Amadiba traditional community, who have communal rights to land on South Africa's Eastern Cape. Around 5,000 people may be forcibly evicted if the

company is allowed to mine the land. They could lose their homes, livelihoods and whole way of being.

Nonhle and her community founded the Amadiba Crisis Committee to unite people across five villages to push back. Since then, she has been continually intimidated and threatened and even survived an attempt to kill her. Another community leader was shot dead in 2016 and Nonhle was next on the 'hit list'. She believes the threats are an attempt to silence her and force her to flee her land.

But she's determined to resist. As she says: "This land was my grandmother's, who inherited it from her grandparents. What am I going to leave for my children? Mining is not an option."

Tell South Africa to protect Nonhle now.



WRITE TO THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Urge his government to protect Nonhle Mbuthuma and investigate the harassment and intimidation targeted at her.

President of the Republic of South Africa
Union Buildings
Private Bag X1000
Pretoria, South Africa
0001

Email: presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za
Twitter: @PresidencyZA

Salutation: Your Excellency

STAND WITH NONHLE

Send her your messages of support and solidarity, and encourage her to continue her fight against the mining company.

Nonhle Mbuthuma
c/o Amnesty International South Africa
97 Oxford Road
Saxonwold, 2196
Johannesburg, South Africa

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



VITALINA KOVAL

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, UKRAINE

**VIOLENTLY ATTACKED FOR
SUPPORTING LGBTI RIGHTS**



VITALINA KOVAL

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

UKRAINE

Vitalina Koval has always wanted to make a positive difference. She uses her incredible energy to support local LGBTI people in her home city, Uzhgorod. But she and other activists have been violently attacked by far-right groups, just for speaking out against hate.

On 8 March 2018, Vitalina organized a peaceful demonstration for women's and LGBTI rights to mark International Women's Day. The police reassured her that she and her fellow demonstrators would be safe.



On the day, a group shouted insults and hurled red paint, and Vitalina received chemical burns to her eyes. Her attackers were detained briefly but released just hours later. Afterwards, Vitalina and others received further threats, and two activists reported that they were beaten up.

The attacks are part of a wider surge in violence and intimidation by far-right groups in Ukraine, who claim the inclusive values supported by people like Vitalina are “unhealthy”. But Vitalina and human rights defenders like her won't give into fear and hate. Let's stand with them.

Tell Ukraine to protect Vitalina and other activists defending women's and LGBTI rights.



WRITE TO UKRAINE'S MINISTER OF INTERIOR

Tell him to publicly recognize the vital role of Vitalina and other activists who defend women's and LGBTI rights, and protect them from attacks by far-right groups.

Minister of Interior

*Vul. Akademika Bohomoltsa, 10
Kyiv, 01601
Ukraine*

Email: pgmia@mvs.gov.ua

Twitter: @AvakovArsen

Facebook: www.facebook.com/arsen.avakov.1

Salutation: Dear Minister

STAND WITH VITALINA

She told us she's gained so much strength from those who have supported her so far – let her know you stand alongside her in the face of hate.

Vitalina Koval

*Amnesty International Ukraine Office – postal box address
POB 40
04050
Kyiv
Ukraine*

Twitter: @VitalinaKovalUA

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RIGHTS**

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GERALDINE CHACÓN

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, VENEZUELA

**PERSECUTED FOR EMPOWERING
YOUNG PEOPLE**

GERALDINE CHACÓN

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

VENEZUELA

Geraldine Chacón always wanted to defend other people. Aged nine, she dreamed of being a lawyer. At 14, she stood for her local youth government. And at university, she started a network of Amnesty International activists pushing for change. As her mum says, “Any injustice she saw, she fought against.”

This passion inspired her to work for an organisation which empowers young people in some of the poorest areas of Caracas, her home city. But then, in February 2018, this young, enthusiastic member of her community was arrested in her home by armed officials.

The authorities wrongly linked her with “resistance” groups they accused of organizing violent anti-government demonstrations. In fact, her persecution is part of a wider government crackdown on those who criticize the authorities and stand up for human rights during the current Venezuelan crisis.

After four months jailed in appalling conditions, Geraldine was conditionally released in June 2018. But she can’t leave the country and her case is still open – so she could be arrested again at any time for no reason. She and many peaceful activists here face daily intimidation, just for trying to make their country a better place.

Tell Venezuela to stop harassing Geraldine now.



WRITE TO VENEZUELA’S ATTORNEY GENERAL

Tell him to close the case against Geraldine and give her unconditional freedom, so she can keep on standing up for young people in Venezuela.

Address: As the postal service in Venezuela can be unreliable, please send your letter to the Venezuelan embassy or other diplomatic representation in your country.

Twitter: @TarekWilliamSaab

Email: ministeriopublico@mp.gob.ve

Salutation: Señor Fiscal General/Mr Attorney General

STAND WITH GERALDINE

Tell her she’s not alone – send her your messages of support and solidarity.

c/o Amnesty International

Calle Manuel A. Fuentes 894

San Isidro 15046, Lima, Perú

Email: nattvilla2512@gmail.com

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

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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I Support
DEAR. Hanan



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