

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

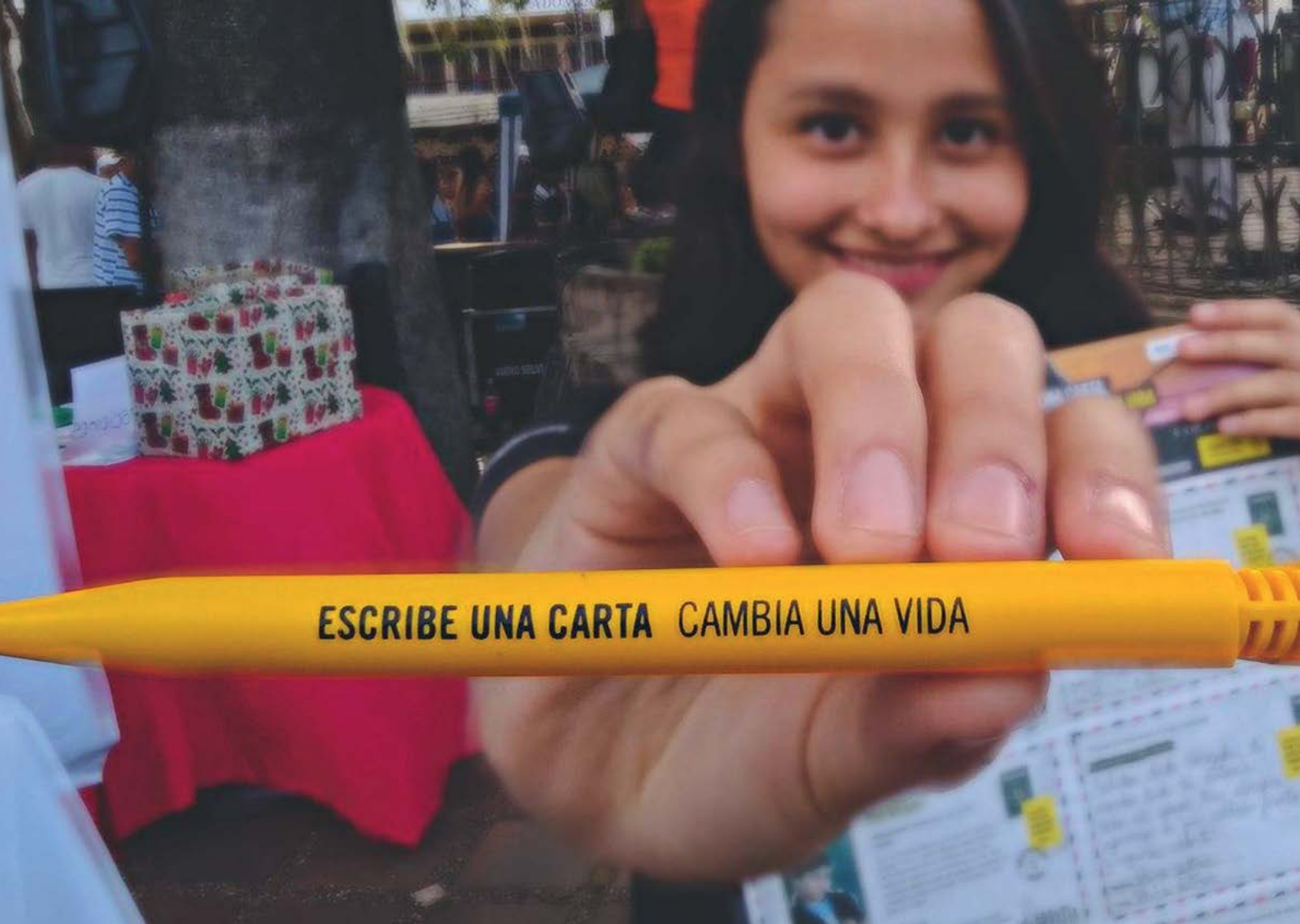
**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



WRITE FOR RIGHTS CASES 2020

**INTRODUCING
PEOPLE
AT RISK**





HUMAN RIGHTS INTRODUCTION

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Amnesty International's "Write for Rights" campaign takes place annually around 10 December, which is Human Rights Day (commemorating the day when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948). Write for Rights aims to bring about change to the lives of people or communities that have suffered or are at risk of human rights violations. Among the many actions that take place as part of Write for Rights, Amnesty raises cases of individuals, groups and communities with decision-makers who can change the situation, gives visibility to those cases by organizing public actions, and brings international attention through media and internet exposure.

A major part of the Write for Rights campaign consists of a letter-writing marathon and involves millions of people around the globe. As a result of the international call to action, decision-makers are bombarded with letters. This year's cases cover people imprisoned for defending their rights and expressing their opinions, LGBTI activists targeted

for who they are, peaceful protestors beaten and shot at and environmental defenders harassed and intimidated or other human rights violations. They will receive messages of solidarity from thousands of people in far-off corners of the globe. Those suffering the violations and their families know that their cases are being brought to public attention. They know that they are not forgotten.

The results of similar campaigns in previous years have been striking. Individuals affected by the violations report the difference that these letters make, they express their gratitude to those who have written, and they often describe the strength they derive from knowing that so many people are concerned about their case.

Often there is a noticeable change by officials towards these individuals: charges are dropped, treatment becomes less harsh, and laws or regulations addressing the problem are introduced.

Read about the people we're fighting for:
www.amnesty.org/writeforrights

Contact the Amnesty team in your country:
www.amnesty.org/countries

Tweet your support to @Amnesty using the hashtag #W4R20

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

BEFORE YOU START

This **human rights education activity** can take place in a variety of settings, such as a school classroom, a community group, a family group, an activist group, online or offline. As a facilitator, you can adapt the activity to best suit the needs and context of the group you are working with. For example, you may want to consider what knowledge the group already has about the issues discussed, the size of your group and how to best organize the activity to allow for active participation, the physical setting of your activity and any limitations. When participants take action on a case, discuss with them whether it is safe for them to do so – why or why not?

The activities are all based on participatory learning methods in which learners are not merely presented with information, they

explore, discuss, analyze and question issues relating to the cases. This methodology is very important for the wider learning objectives because participants will:

- **develop** key competences and skills
- **have the opportunity** to form their own opinions, raise questions, and gain a deeper understanding of the issues presented.
- **take control** of their learning, and shapes discussions according to their interests, abilities and concerns.
- **have the space** required for them to engage emotionally and develop their own attitudes



Students and school teachers in Taiwan organized letter writing events with Amnesty International for the Write for Rights campaign 2019.
© Amnesty International Taiwan

If you are not familiar with participatory learning methods, look at Amnesty International's **Facilitation Manual** before you start. This can be found at www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ACT35/020/2011/en/

Amnesty International offers further human rights education courses on different human rights issues through **the Amnesty Academy**, including a short course about human rights defenders which introduces the **Write for Rights Campaign**:
<https://academy.amnesty.org/learn>

HUMAN RIGHTS INTRODUCTION

ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights are the basic freedoms and protections that belong to every single one of us. They are based on principles of dignity, equality and mutual respect – regardless of age, nationality, gender, race, beliefs and personal orientations.

Your rights are about being treated fairly and treating others fairly, and having the ability to make choices about your own life. These basic human rights are universal – they belong to all of us; everybody in the world. They are inalienable – they cannot be taken away from us. And they are indivisible and interdependent – they are all of equal importance and are interrelated.

Since the atrocities committed during World War II, international human rights instruments, beginning with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, have provided a solid framework for national, regional and international legislation designed to improve lives around the world. Human rights can be seen as laws for governments. They create obligations for governments or state officials to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of those within their jurisdiction and also abroad.

Human rights are not luxuries that can be met only when practicalities allow.



Members of Amnesty International Togo joining in the Write for Rights campaign, 2019. Every year they mobilize people throughout the country to take part.

© Amnesty International Togo



HUMAN RIGHTS INTRODUCTION

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR)

The UDHR was drawn up by the newly formed United Nations in the years immediately following World War II. Since 1948, it has formed the backbone of the international human rights system. Every country in the world has agreed that they are bound by the general principles expressed within the 30 articles of this document.

The UDHR itself is, as its name suggests, a declaration. It is a declaration of intent by every government around the world that they will abide by certain standards in the treatment of individual human beings. Human rights have become part of international law: since the adoption of the UDHR, numerous other binding laws and agreements have been drawn up on the basis of its principles. It is these laws and agreements which provide the basis for organizations like Amnesty International to call on governments to refrain from the type of behaviour or treatment that the people highlighted in our Write for Rights cases have experienced.

SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE 2019 CAMPAIGN

HOW YOUR WORDS HAVE CHANGED LIVES

JAIL SENTENCE REDUCED IN IRAN

In 2019, Yasaman Aryani was sentenced to 16 years in prison for handing out flowers to train passengers while unveiled. In February 2020, her sentence was substantially reduced, thanks in part to the more than 1.2 million messages written worldwide for her freedom. We won't stop until she's free.



"We are joining hands around the world to combat all the injustice."

Crystal Swain of Grassy Narrows



HEALTHCARE WIN FOR GRASSY NARROWS, CANADA

For decades, the Grassy Narrows Indigenous community have been suffering the effects of mercury poisoning in one of Canada's worst health crises. The youth of Grassy Narrows have been particularly affected, and have been at the forefront of the fight for a healthy future for their community. *After years of delay, a \$19.5 million (CDN) agreement to build a care facility was finally signed on 2 April 2020 – a victory for the people of Grassy Narrows.*

DEATH SENTENCE REVOKED IN SOUTH SUDAN

Magai Matiop Ngong was only 15 when he was sentenced to death. But thanks to the amazing support of people like you, his death sentence was cancelled in July 2020. People around the world took an incredible 765,000 actions, including letters and tweets, calling for Magai's life to be spared – and it worked.

**"Thank you so much.
I have no words.
You have no idea
how my heart is filled
with happiness."**

Magai Matiop Ngong



HUMAN RIGHTS INTRODUCTION

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES

Right to life, freedom from torture and slavery, right to non-discrimination.

Article 1 Freedom and equality in dignity and rights

Article 2 Non-discrimination

Article 3 Right to life, liberty and security of person

Article 4 Freedom from slavery

Article 5 Freedom from torture



LEGAL RIGHTS

Right to be presumed innocent, right to a fair trial, right to be free from arbitrary arrest or detention.

Article 6 All are protected by the law

Article 7 All are equal before the law

Article 8 A remedy when rights have been violated

Article 9 No unjust detention, imprisonment or exile

Article 10 Right to a fair trial

Article 11 Innocent until proven guilty

Article 14 Right to go to another country and ask for protection



SOCIAL RIGHTS

Right to education, to found and maintain a family, to recreation, to health care.

Article 12 Privacy and the right to home and family life

Article 13 Freedom to live and travel freely within state borders

Article 16 Right to marry and start a family

Article 24 Right to rest and leisure

Article 26 Right to education, including free primary education



ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Right to property, to work, to housing, to a pension, to an adequate standard of living.

Article 15 Right to a nationality

Article 17 Right to own property and possessions

Article 22 Right to social security

Article 23 Right to work for a fair wage and to join a trade union

Article 25 Right to a standard of living adequate for your health and well-being



POLITICAL RIGHTS

Right to participate in the government of the country, right to vote, right to peaceful assembly, freedoms of expression, belief and religion

Article 18 Freedom of belief (including religious belief)

Article 19 Freedom of expression and the right to spread information

Article 20 Freedom to join associations and meet with others in a peaceful way

Article 21 Right to take part in the government of your country



CULTURAL RIGHTS, SOLIDARITY RIGHTS

Right to participate in the cultural life of the community.

Article 27 Right to share in your community's cultural life

Article 28 Right to an international order where all these rights can be fully realized

Article 29 Responsibility to respect the rights of others

Article 30 No taking away any of these rights!

ACTIVITY

INTRODUCING PEOPLE AT RISK

FOLLOW COVID-19 MEASURES

Be sure to comply with public health advice in your area during the Covid-19 Pandemic and conduct your activity ensuring safety and any physical distance measures in place.

If you are doing the activity online:

- **Choose** a platform that provides participation and interaction while being secure.
- **Adapt** the activity to allow for relevant reflections and debriefing (in small groups)
- **Provide** technical support for participants to allow for good participation.

In light of Covid-19 and the various digital spaces in which schools and other groups now have to come together to continue their normal activities, Amnesty is developing additional material to support the delivery of these activities online. Check the Write for Rights webpage www.amnesty.org/writeforrights

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Participants are introduced to some of the cases in the Write for Rights campaign. They “meet the people” and map rights to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

TIME NEEDED:

60 minutes

AGE: 14+

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Participants are introduced to the Write for Rights campaign and made familiar with some of the cases
- They explore the rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- They start to take action for human rights.

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

- Case cards on pages 9-17. **The cases of Germain Rukuki, Gustavo Gatica, Melike Balkan and Özgür Gür (METU Pride Defenders), Nassima al-Sada and Paing Phyo Min are also addressed separately in other activities.**
- Take Action Card for each case pages 10-18.
- Copies of the (simplified) **UDHR** on page 6.
- **Optional letter templates** found on www.amnesty.org/writeforrights

1 INTRODUCING THE CASES

Divide participants into small groups or pairs and give each group one of the case cards. Explain that this activity will introduce a selection of real people living in different countries.

Ask groups to read about the person (or people) on their card. They can discuss their ideas together. They should:

- **draw up a list of what they think is wrong or unfair about the way the person is being treated.**
- **prepare to present their person to the rest of the group.**

After 10 minutes, invite everyone back to the group and ask each group to introduce their case to the others and list the injustices they have found.

If you have time take the short 15 minute course on **Write for Rights**, it will give you ideas to share and you could use with the participants <https://academy.amnesty.org/learn/course/145/play/3027:415/write-for-rights-a-short-guide>

 20 MINUTES

OPTIONAL: *If you have access to a world map, ask the participants to mark on the map in which country the case that they discussed occurred. At the very end, having located the 10 cases and countries, ask the participants what stands out when looking at the world map and why it is important that we care about these cases and act upon them.*

2 MAPPING THE RIGHTS

 **15 MINUTES**

Either in small groups or in the group as a whole ask participants to identify any rights which have been violated for these people.

Give them 10 minutes to identify – “map” – the injustices they found to the rights in the UDHR. You can use the table on page 6 to help participants identify rights.

Ask participants to share what they found.

OPTIONAL: If time allows reflect further using the following questions:

- **Is there anything that stands out?**
- **Anything that surprises, or does not surprise at all?**
- **Are there cases that revolve around similar human rights violations?**
- **What does that mean in terms of the global scale of human rights violations?**
- **What have you learned from this activity?**

Note that the categories listed on the left-hand side of the summary on page 6 are included for convenience: they are provided to break up a long document and help young people to gain a better understanding of the range of different rights. The categories are not precise, and many of them overlap. If participants are not familiar with human rights, you could show them the short video on the UDHR at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pby1KngOhBY> or provide some background information from page 4.

3 WRITE A LETTER – SAVE A LIFE

 **25 MINUTES**

Explain that the people on the cards have all been included in Amnesty International’s Write for Rights campaign. Tell participants about the campaign and explain that Amnesty is calling on people to write letters both to the individuals affected, and to officials responsible for the human rights violations. An overview of the campaign is given on page 3.

Tell them that everyone’s letters will be sent to the officials. Ask participants to choose one of the people on the cards to work on and give them a copy of the Take Action card.

As an alternative, you could ask the whole group to agree on one person. This will be easier for you when it comes to posting!

Give everyone a piece of paper and allow time for them to write their letters. Explain that a personal message to the officials can have the most impact. Ask them to:

- **Write something about themselves**
- **Tell the official what shocks them about the case**
- **Say why they think it is important governments respect human rights**

If people wish to share them afterwards, provide an opportunity for them to do so.

Conclude by asking participants to use a few words to express their feelings at the end of the activity. Try to take contributions from everyone.

You can also find out more about the cases of Germain Rukuki, Gustavo Gatica, Melike Balkan and Özgür Gür (METU Pride Defenders), Nassima al-Sada and Paing Phyo Min, who are addressed separately in other activities in the Write for Rights pack. Go to www.amnesty.org/writeforrights/

4 SHOW SOLIDARITY

If you have time, you can also do some of the solidarity actions for the cases you selected on the Take Action Card.

Learn more about other activities in the **Write for Rights** campaign at <https://www.amnesty.org/writeforrights/>

Please copy both sides of the pages that follow and divide them up into individual cards. You can share the details about the case before taking action for each one.

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 two years in 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.

“His first fight is for free journalism and besides that is why he is in 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.

“If they take you back to Libya, they put you in a room, they torture you, you eat only once per day.”



TAKE ACTION FOR KHALED

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

Fax: +213 21 69 15 95

Twitter: @TebbouneAmadjid

Salutation: Dear Mr President

Use the template letters at www.amnesty.org/writeforrights, or tell the President something to make this a personal letter:

- Tell him something about yourself
- Tell him what shocks you about the case

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](https://twitter.com/khaleddrareni) on Twitter and [@Khaled.Drareni](https://www.instagram.com/Khaled.Drareni) on Instagram.

TAKE ACTION FOR THE EL HIBLU 3

WRITE TO MALTA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL

Tell him 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

Tel: (+356) 21 225 841 Fax: (+356) 21 240 738

Salutation: Your Excellency

Use the template letters at www.amnesty.org/writeforrights, or tell the Attorney General something to make this a personal letter:

- Tell him something about yourself
- Tell him what shocks you about the case

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

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JANI SILVA, COLOMBIA

WRITE
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AMNESTY
WEEKEND

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."

"You can't let fear win... we can't run, we have to defend our lives and our rights"
Jan Silva



PAING PHYO MIN, MYANMAR

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WEEKEND

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

simply for exercising his right to freedom of expression. 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 the 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."
Paing Phyto Min



TAKE ACTION FOR JANI

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

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

Salutation: Dear Mr President

Use the template letters at www.amnesty.org/writeforrights, or tell the President something to make this a personal letter:

- Tell him something about yourself
- Tell him what shocks you about the case

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.



TAKE ACTION FOR PAING PHYO MIN

WRITE TO MYANMAR'S STATE COUNSELLOR

Tell her to immediately release Paing Phyo 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](https://twitter.com/MyanmarSC)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Use the template letters at www.amnesty.org/writeforrights, or tell the State Counsellor something to make this a personal letter:

- Tell her something about yourself
- Tell her what shocks you about the case

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



IDRIS KHATTAK, PAKISTAN

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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.”

“My father is not a casefile. He is a human being... We deserve answers and he deserves the protection of the law”

Talia Khattak



NASSIMA AL-SADA, SAUDI ARABIA

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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

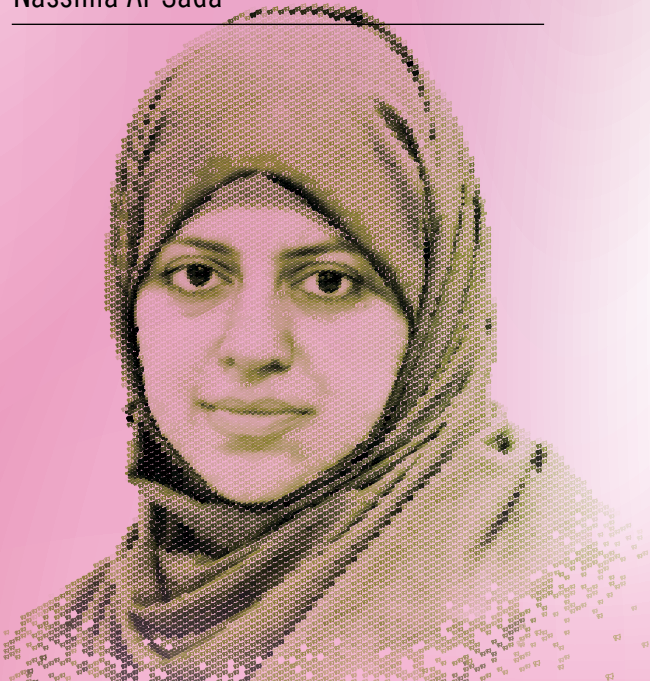
bars. “Why should an under-age boy be the guardian of a woman who is an adult?” Nassima wrote in 2016. “Why isn’t there an age at which a woman becomes an adult, responsible for her decisions and her life? Why should there be a man responsible for her life?”

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.

“When a woman feels that she can’t carry out basic tasks as a citizen without her male guardian this restricts her humanity”

Nassima Al-Sada



TAKE ACTION FOR 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 / spm@pmo.gov.pk
Twitter: [@ImranKhanPTI](https://twitter.com/ImranKhanPTI)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Use the template letters at www.amnesty.org/writeforrights, or tell the President something to make this a personal letter:

- Tell him something about yourself
- Tell him what shocks you about the case

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



TAKE ACTION FOR NASSIMA

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

Office of His Majesty the King
Royal Court Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Twitter: [@KingSalman](https://twitter.com/KingSalman)
Salutation: Your Majesty

Use the template letters at www.amnesty.org/writeforrights, or tell the King something to make this a personal letter:

- Tell him something about yourself
- Tell him what shocks you about the case

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](https://twitter.com/nasema33), as well as [@KingSalman](https://twitter.com/KingSalman), and use the hashtag [#FreeNassima](https://twitter.com/FreeNassima).

Send hardcopies to
Amnesty International
For Moussa
Postbus 1968
1000 BZ Amsterdam
Netherlands



GERMAIN RUKUKI, BURUNDI

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In better times, Germain Rukuki liked nothing more than playing with his sons, now aged seven and six. 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. "How long must my husband suffer this injustice?" asks Emelyne.

***"Komera Turikumwe!
(Stay strong, we are together!)"***
Germain Rukuki



METU PRIDE DEFENDERS, TURKEY

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

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 23 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.

"In Pride you get to come together and be yourself... it has a healing power"
Melike Balkan



TAKE ACTION FOR GERMAIN

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

@GeneralNeva – Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

Salutation: Dear Mr President

Use the template letters at www.amnesty.org/writeforrights, or tell the President something to make this a personal letter:

- Tell him something about yourself
- Tell him what shocks you about the case

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



TAKE ACTION FOR MELIKE & ÖZGÜR

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](https://twitter.com/abdulhamitgul)

Email: info@adalet.gov.tr

Salutation: Dear Minister of Justice

Use the template letters at www.amnesty.org/writeforrights, or tell the Minister something to make this a personal letter:

- Tell him something about yourself
- Tell him what shocks you about the case

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.



POPI QWABE, BONGEKA PHUNGULA, SOUTH AFRICA

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

"We want justice for my sister. We want justice for my best friend Bongeka"
Thembelihle (Popi's sister)



GUSTAVO GATICA, CHILE

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

When in 2019 protests broke out across Chile over rising prices and inequality, Gustavo Gatica was studying psychology in the capital, Santiago. Like millions of others, he also took the streets. Demonstrations lasted for months, capturing imaginations around the world. This was people power in action and it was awe-inspiring. The authorities, however, took a different view.

At one fateful protest in November, police loaded their shotguns with rubber and metal ammunition 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 officers. Instead, they allowed the violence to continue.

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

An initial internal police investigation following the shooting found that no one could be held responsible, and it even suggested that demonstrators themselves injured Gustavo. However, after public criticism about this outcome, the investigation was reopened and is currently pending. The National Prosecutor's Office is now investigating. Still, those who allowed the attack on Gustavo remain unpunished.

As demonstrations continued, protesters wore eye patches and chanted his name at police. They want justice, truth and reparation. So do we.

"I gave my eyes so people would wake up"
Gustavo Gatica



TAKE ACTION FOR POPI AND BONGEKA

WRITE TO THE MINISTER OF POLICE

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

Minister of Police

Private Bag X463

Pretoria, 0001

South Africa

Email: PhokaneN@saps.gov.za

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

Salutation: Dear Minister Bheki Cele, Gen.

Use the template letters at www.amnesty.org/writeforrights, or tell the Minister something to make this a personal letter:

- Tell him something about yourself
- Tell him what shocks you about the case

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

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

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

TAKE ACTION FOR GUSTAVO

WRITE TO CHILE'S NATIONAL PROSECUTOR

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.

Jorge Abbott Charme

National Prosecutor

Fiscalía Nacional

Catedral 1421-1453

Santiago de Chile, CHILE

Email: jabbott@minpublico.cl

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

Salutation: Dear Mr National Prosecutor, Jorge Abbott Charme

Use the template letters at www.amnesty.org/writeforrights, or tell the National Prosecutor something to make this a personal letter:

- Tell him something about yourself
- Tell him what shocks you about the case

TELL GUSTAVO HIS LOSS IS NOT IN VAIN

Send him recordings of your messages of hope and solidarity. Email:

justiciaparagustavo@amnistia.cl

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

Amnistía Internacional Chile
Calle Eliodoro Yañez 828
Comuna de Providencia
Santiago de Chile
CHILE





ABOUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who take injustice personally. We are campaigning for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

We investigate and expose the facts, whenever and wherever abuses happen. We lobby governments as well as other powerful groups such as companies, making sure they keep their promises and respect international law. By telling the powerful stories of the people we work with, we mobilize millions of supporters around the world to campaign for change and to stand in the defence of activists on the frontline. We support people to claim their rights through education and training.

Our work protects and empowers people – from abolishing the death penalty to advancing sexual and reproductive rights, and from combating discrimination to defending refugees' and migrants' rights. We help to bring torturers to justice. Change oppressive laws... And free people who have been jailed just for voicing their opinion. We speak out for anyone and everyone whose freedom or dignity are under threat.

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