

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ADVISORY

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Amnesty International Middle East and North Africa campaigning for International Women's Day 8 March

Amnesty International is calling on its supporters to mark International Women's Day on 8 March by taking action in solidarity with women in the Middle East and North Africa. Thousands of individual actions are expected to be taken, with a **focus on four countries – Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen.**

Iran: The organization's members will call on Iranian authorities to release Nasrin Sotoudeh, a prisoner of conscience and human rights lawyer who is serving a six-year jail sentence at Tehran's Evin Prison.

Saudi Arabia: The organization is calling on people around the world to share images and messages of solidarity with Saudi Arabian women activists and support them in their "drive to freedom" campaign to overturn the country's ban on women driving:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/womens-day>

- **View** *Saudi Arabian women must drive their way to freedom*, a short film produced by Amnesty International which can be embedded: <http://youtu.be/3zmZCapW9pU>

Syria: on 6 March Amnesty International is asking people around the world to take part in a letter-writing campaign to urge Asma al-Assad to use her influence to end the ongoing violence and human rights violations committed against Syrian women human rights activists.

- **View** *The First Lady silent on Syria's human rights record*, a short film produced by Amnesty International which can be embedded: <http://youtu.be/7dSD3btdCuQ>

Yemen: Amnesty International is asking its members to write to Yemen's transitional authorities urging them to consult with and work with women human rights activists to bring an end to discriminatory laws and practices, including violence against women, in the country.

Spokespeople: Amnesty International experts are available for interview on or before International Women's Day, including:

- Widney Brown, Senior Director, International Law and Policy (English)
- Madhu Malhotra from the Gender, Identity and Sexuality programme (English, Hindi)
- Regional experts on the situation for women in Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Yemen as well as the wider Middle East and North Africa (depending on the country, in English, Arabic, Persian or French)

Contact: for more information, please contact the Amnesty International Press Office on +44 (0) 20 7413 5566, email press@amnesty.org or follow us on twitter [@amnestypress](https://twitter.com/amnestypress)

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