

# WIRE

FOR ACTIVISTS AND INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS  
DECEMBER 2009 / JANUARY 2010 VOLUME 39 ISSUE 006

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



MIGRANTS  
A NEW  
DESTINATION





# HELP BREAK THE CYCLE OF ABUSE

PAGE 2

## THIS IS YOUR WIRE

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU LIKE IT

- » Have you used the actions?
- » Have you shared the information with anyone?
- » What would you like to see more of in future issues?
- » Do you have photos or articles that you would like to share with other members?
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Send all your comments and suggestions to:

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*Cover photo:* Central American migrants waiting for the train to the north, Tierra Blanca, Veracruz, Mexico, June 2009. © Amnesty International  
(Photo: Ricardo Ramírez Arriola)

*This page:* A detention centre for refugees and migrants in Lampedusa Island, Italy, July 2007.  
© UNHCR/A. Di Loreto

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Would you like know more about Amnesty International's campaigns or use the **WIRE** actionzine for your own activism?

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Institutions are welcome to purchase copies. The price for six copies a year for institutions is **£35/US\$54/€41**. Amnesty International sections can purchase copies for their own members. Email us on [wire.subscribe@amnesty.org](mailto:wire.subscribe@amnesty.org) or call **+44 207 413 5814/5507**.

# INSIDE THIS WIRE

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

Governments are detaining migrants in an attempt to prevent unauthorized immigration. But in many countries, detention conditions violate international law and ignore human rights. Help to stop this disregard for migrants' rights. **PAGE 2.**



## WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Join the Write for Rights action this Human Rights Day. All the information you need is on **PAGE 8.** Read the stories of some of those who need your solidarity and support in the centrefold. Pull it out and use it on your own or with others. **PAGE 9.**

## GOVERNMENT FAILS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN PERU

It's been six months since Indigenous people in Bagua clashed with police and still there is no accountability for the deaths of the protesters and local residents. Read on **PAGE 15.**

## ARMS TRADE DEADLY FOR SOMALI CIVILIANS

The arms embargo on Somalia did not stop the transfer of weapons into this conflict-torn country. A global Arms Trade Treaty must be part of the solution. Find out why on **PAGE 16.**



**ACT NOW  
WORLDWIDE  
APPEALS  
READ,  
DISTRIBUTE,  
ACT  
SEE OUR INSERT**

## SAVE THE DATES

To help you prepare for 2010, we have put together a list of key human rights days on three identical bookmarks – for you and for your fellow activists. **SEE OUR INSERT.**



## WHAT ELSE?

Please use our poster (above) on and around 18 December, International Migrants Day (**PAGE 10**). Read our Q&A with migrants' rights activist Father Alejandro Solalinde Guerra (**PAGE 13**) and find out about our recent research in Turkey, Nigeria (**PAGE 7**), China, Morocco and Western Sahara (**PAGE 18**), Czech republic and Egypt (**PAGE 19**).

# TRAPPED

**HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MIGRANTS AROUND THE WORLD ARE LOCKED UP AS GOVERNMENTS INCREASINGLY TURN TO DETENTION AS A WAY OF CONTROLLING MIGRATION. MANY HAVE RISKED EVERYTHING, EVEN THEIR LIVES, FOR SECURITY AND A CHANCE OF PROSPERITY. AT EVERY STEP, THEY ARE VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION, FRAUD AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. LEND THEM YOUR VOICE ON 18 DECEMBER, INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY.**

**T**wo years ago, Sharif (not his real name) left his home in Bangladesh to search for work. He paid a recruitment agent to take him to Malaysia. Once there, an agent confiscated his passport and kept him in a house with about 60 other migrants for weeks without enough food. He was then told to leave. He had to pay to have his passport returned and was forced to look for a job by himself.

About a year later, Sharif was arrested because the company that he was working for was not the one listed on his work permit. He has been held at Lenggeng detention centre – one of the worst immigration detention camps in Malaysia – for more than 10 months.

Millions of people around the world are caught in this cycle of migration, exploitation and detention. Conflict, poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunity are just some of the reasons that drive people to migrate. They leave everything they know – their homes, their families, their friends. Some risk their lives on the way.

Many migrants start off with legal permission, but become irregular migrants; that is, they do not have legal permission to remain or work in the country they are in. In some cases, this happens

because their employers or agents fail to renew their work permits or provide fake ones.

Large numbers of irregular migrants end up in detention centres – which in some cases are effectively camps or prisons – as governments around the world increasingly turn to detention as a way of deterring unauthorized immigration.

Under international law, immigration-related detention should only be used as a last resort, in exceptional circumstances and for the shortest possible time, following an assessment that it is lawful and necessary in each individual case. In many countries, detention conditions violate international law.

## ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Migrants and their families with irregular status are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses. They are often exploited by traffickers and unscrupulous employers and condemned to live and work in appalling conditions. They are sometimes stigmatized and discriminated against by their host communities. And they are subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention by the authorities.

Once detained, they must often contend with

filthy and overcrowded conditions and abusive immigration detention staff. Sometimes family members are separated from one another. Many have no access to legal advice and no way of appealing against their detention. Most have no idea when they will be released or deported back to their home countries.

In Malaysia, the authorities routinely arrest and detain suspected irregular migrants. In July 2009, Amnesty International gained unprecedented access to three detention centres in the country, all of which were overcrowded and lacking basic hygiene. In Lenggeng detention centre, they met Sharif

***‘The drinking water is also very dirty, with small pieces of rusted metal. The officers here are also violent.’***

“It has been very hard,” he told Amnesty International. “There is very little food. We only get a little bread in the morning with some black tea. For lunch and in the evening, we get a little white





Immigration detainees at Lenggeng  
detention centre, Malaysia, July 2009.





© Refugee Solidarity Committee

rice and a small piece of dried fish. There are no vegetables or fruit... I am always hungry... There are insects that are always biting me, so much that my skin is always itchy and I am sick. The drinking water is also very dirty, with small pieces of rusted metal. The officers here are also violent.”

Located just south of Kuala Lumpur, the capital, Lenggeng detention camp is made of open-air pens, where hundreds of men are crammed together. At the KLIA detention camp, just minutes away from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, migrants are also held in crowded enclosures.

Many people remain at these centres for months, without access to proper health care, adequate food, clean drinking water or legal assistance. Poor conditions lead to sickness, and in some cases, death. There is no legal minimum duration for detention, and detainees are unable to challenge in court the lawfulness of their detention.

Libya is a popular route for sub-Saharan Africans trying to reach Europe. Many never make it. Some are pushed back by European states, such as Italy. Others find themselves arrested and placed in detention centres across Libya. They are held there,

sometimes indefinitely, and are unable to challenge their detention. In May 2009, Amnesty International visited Misratah, a detention centre some 200km from the capital, Tripoli. Between 600 and 700 detainees from Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Nigeria and other countries are held there in facilities designed for half the number. Conditions are severely overcrowded and unhygienic.

In South Korea, the government relies on immigration raids as a primary enforcement strategy for tackling irregular migration. As a result, thousands of irregular migrant workers each month are arrested, detained and then deported. The mass crackdowns have strained the capacity of detention facilities, contributing to overcrowding, poor living conditions and delayed access to medical treatment. Some irregular migrant workers are held in former office spaces which have been remodelled as detention centres. These facilities are wholly inappropriate: they have poor ventilation – some have no external windows – and lack outdoor recreational space.

In Greece, unaccompanied children are held in immigration detention centres, in some cases for

more than two months, in overcrowded and sometimes dirty conditions. There are also cases of unaccompanied children being detained among adults, or children separated from their families and detained in a different facility. In June 2009, legislative amendments increased the detention period for foreign nationals issued with a deportation order from three to six months, and under certain conditions up to 12 months.

## PROTECTED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

Under international law, people detained under immigration powers must be given access to a lawyer and medical assistance and allowed visits from family members. Detention conditions should be consistent with, for example, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment.

States must respect the rights to liberty and freedom of movement of migrants, and provide effective alternative measures to detention.

Detention should be the exception and not the rule. It should be used as a last resort and, if necessary, used for the shortest period possible.

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which was adopted by the UN on 18 December 1990, seeks to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers. Among the many rights protected by the Convention is Article 16, which guarantees the right of migrant workers and their family members to liberty and security and their protection from arbitrary arrest or detention. Other rights protected include access to social and health services and freedom from forced labour.

So far, only 42 states have ratified the Convention. Unfortunately, the majority of migrant-receiving states have not yet ratified it.

On International Migrants Day, 18 December 2009, Amnesty International recognizes the contribution that migrants make to their host societies, and calls on states that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so. Those states that have ratified it must ensure that it is incorporated into domestic law and implemented. We also urge governments to find alternatives to detention that meet international human rights standards.

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST 200 MILLION INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS IN THE WORLD TODAY. OF THESE, ACCORDING TO THE UN, ABOUT 20 TO 30 MILLION ARE IRREGULAR MIGRANTS.

## ACT NOW

Help stop the exploitation of migrant workers by traffickers and employers, and the arbitrary detention of migrants.

Call on your government to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

First, check whether your government has ratified it at:

<http://sn.im/tbdx0>

If your government has not ratified the Convention, write to the relevant governmental department urging them to do so. If your government has already ratified it, write to the relevant department urging them to ensure that the Convention is incorporated into domestic law and implemented.

For more information, go to

<http://sn.im/tbdxh>

### Previous page:

A container previously used to detain “illegal immigrants” on Chios island, Greece, April 2005;

*Below, clockwise from left:*

South Korea Immigration officers (top, in blue uniform) arrest a migrant worker (in red Jacket) as two South Korean activists (bottom) try to stop the arrest, in front of the Seoul Immigration Office building, February 2004;

Two migrants held by the Spanish authorities in Melilla, October 2005;

Inside a detention centre for refugees and migrants, Lampedusa Island, Italy, July 2007.







Go to [www.amnesty.org/livewire](http://www.amnesty.org/livewire) to catch up with what people around the movement are doing, watch footage and listen to audio clips from actions, missions, high-level meetings and events.

### MESSAGE ON MATERNAL MORTALITY

Khairunissa Dhala blogs from Sierra Leone

"During the past two weeks, we have travelled across Sierra Leone with activists, musicians and a drama group to engage with local communities, including in rural areas, on problems around the high level of maternal mortality in the country. The musicians who travelled with us have released a song about the issue."

You can watch the music video on <http://sn.im/tbdt0>

Below: Launching the campaign in Freetown, Sierra Leone September 2009.



### Bellé woman dae suffer

(Pregnant women are suffering)

People of this world our pregnant women are suffering  
People of this world our pregnant women are dying  
Aya mama our pregnant women are suffering  
Aya papa our pregnant women are dying.

Africa today many women die while giving birth  
Sierra Leone today many women die while giving birth  
No medicine is there, no hospital is there, because there is no money, our pregnant women don't get attention.  
Doctor doesn't treat you if you don't have money.

Let's stand firm for our children and future of our country.

What about those living in the village and those without money. If they want to give birth tell me what will they do? Government, the women need attention to build a better nation, who would solve this problem in our life?

Amnesty has stood firmly, so let's all join hands and build a better plan for our pregnant women.

People of this world...

Papa, brother, uncle if you have a pregnant woman take her to the hospital. Don't nurse her at home because if she dies it is a big big issue. Government also needs to help them. NGOs don't forget them as well. Let's stop corruption; our mothers are dying in our beloved country. Doctors, nurses you have to help them don't neglect them because of poverty. Let us help because this is life, and if you make it bright it is worth more than wealth.

In our sweet Sierra Leone women are dying every day.  
I feel it in my heart while women die every day.  
Why should women die every second in the labour room? I say we are tired. No proper care for women. Poverty also is a big problem. Forced to deliver can cause complications after birth: bleeding, infection that makes the system weak, complications on the young baby.  
Sierra Leone women let's stand up and solve this problem in our sweet Sierra Leone, in our sweet Sierra Leone.

People of this world...

CONTINUE READING ON [WWW.AMNESTY.ORG/LIVEWIRE](http://WWW.AMNESTY.ORG/LIVEWIRE)

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## NIGERIAN POLICE ARE KILLING AT WILL

Christian Onuigbo, aged 28 and a father of one, was shot by the police for no apparent reason as he was parking his car in Jiwa in the Federal Capital Territory on the night of 19 March 2009. The police officers did not warn him and did not identify themselves before shooting him. He was unarmed. Despite his injuries, he was kept all night at the local police station, and the police waited until the following morning before taking him to hospital. He died of his injuries on 21 March.

Thousands of people have died at the hands of the Nigerian police in recent years. Many were unlawfully killed in the streets, at roadblocks, in police detention, and before or during arrest. In many cases, such unlawful killings may have been extrajudicial executions – that is, they were carried out by order of a government or with its complicity or acquiescence.



© Private

Christian Onuigbo.

In most cases, the perpetrators are not brought to justice and the families of the victims are unable to access

justice or redress. Christian Onuigbo's family could not afford to pay for his burial so his body is still being kept in the hospital's mortuary.

The authorities have not carried out an autopsy, and an investigation into the death of Christian Onuigbo has not been completed. In July 2009, the House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions ordered an investigative hearing into the circumstances of his death, but no date has been set.

Amnesty International's report *Killing at will: Extrajudicial executions by the police in Nigeria* is out on 9 December.

### ACT NOW

Call on the Nigeria Police Force to carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into Christian Onuigbo's death. Urge them to ensure that those found responsible for human rights violations are subjected to disciplinary and/or criminal proceedings in accordance with international standards. Remind them that Christian Onuigbo's family have the right to know what happened and to get access to justice. Request that they receive full reparation, including financial compensation.

Urge them to ensure that every death or serious injury in police custody and every suspected unlawful killing, including those reported by witnesses or family members, is adequately and impartially investigated by an independent body.

Please write to:

Mr Ogbonna Okechukwu Onovo  
Inspector General of Police  
Nigeria Police Force Headquarters  
Loius Edet House  
Shehu Shagari Way  
Area 11 Garki, Abuja  
Nigeria

Parry Osayande (DIG RTD)  
Chairman of the Police Service  
Commission  
Police Service Commission  
PMB 5188  
Garki  
Abuja  
Nigeria

For more information, go to  
[www.amnesty.org/en/region/nigeria](http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/nigeria)

## CHILDREN PROSECUTED UNDER ANTI-TERRORISM LAWS IN TURKEY

Thousands of children face prosecution for allegedly taking part in protests against the authorities in Turkey. Alarming, the number of prosecutions has increased since 2008.

Deniz (not his real name), aged 16, told Amnesty International that he was arrested and beaten by the police in October 2008. At the time, he was walking back from school while a protest was taking place near his home.

He said that when he arrived at Kürkçüler prison in Adana, he was repeatedly beaten and eventually fainted. After nearly three months in

pre-trial detention, he was convicted of terrorism-related offences and sentenced to four years and nine months in prison. He has since been released and an appeal against his conviction is currently pending.

Children, some as young as 12, are accused of terrorism-related offences, including membership of a terrorist organization, solely for their alleged participation in protests.

Many of the demonstrations took place in the south-eastern province of Diyarbakır and the southern province of Adana. Protests focused on issues of concern to members of the Kurdish community, including the alleged

denial of their cultural rights. During the protests, demonstrators clashed with police and some threw stones and Molotov cocktails. Reports of police ill-treatment during and after the protests were widespread. However, such allegations are rarely investigated and no police officers have been prosecuted.

Some children who were arrested during the protests are initially held in adult police custody. Once charged, they are kept for long periods of time in pre-trial detention, some alongside adult prisoners, and denied access to education. Some children are then tried according to the same trial procedures as adults. Through these practices, Turkey is contravening international human rights standards, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as its own domestic law.

### ACT NOW

Call on the Turkish authorities to comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards. Ask for prompt, effective and impartial investigations into allegations that law enforcement officials and prison guards have ill-treated children.

Please write to:

Sadullah Ergin  
Minister of Justice  
Adalet Bakanlığı  
06659 Ankara  
Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 4193370  
Salutation: Dear Minister

For more information, go to  
<http://sn.im/tbe0e>





Write for Rights actions in South Korea, 2006 (*above left*) and Poland, 2005 (*above right*).

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

**CELEBRATE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY BY  
ACTING AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.  
JOIN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S  
'WRITE FOR RIGHTS' ACTION BETWEEN  
5 AND 13 DECEMBER 2009.**

"I spent 900 days on a 'torture island'; 700 of those days I spent in solitary confinement. I endured it only because of the support of people who were concerned about my fate. Only this gave me strength."

Mutabar Tadzhibaeva, chairwoman of the independent non-registered human rights organization Utiuraklar (Fiery Hearts) Club in Uzbekistan, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment in March 2006 and released in early June 2008. In December 2006, while in prison, she received thousands of letters of solidarity from people who took part in Amnesty International's annual Write for Rights action.

The action takes place on and around Human Rights Day on 10 December. Every year, people around the world come together to demand that the rights of individuals are respected, protected and fulfilled and to show solidarity with people who suffer human rights abuses.

Participants write letters, send faxes and emails and sign petitions. They call for human rights defenders to be protected, and for prisoners of conscience to be released. They challenge injustice, demand accountability and express their support of those who risk their lives and freedom in the struggle for human rights.

This year, Amnesty International is calling for action on behalf of people facing human rights abuses in Colombia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Greece, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. You can find information on some of them in this issue's centrefold.

**For details on others who are imprisoned, tortured or otherwise ill-treated for peacefully expressing their views or for protecting the rights of others, go to [www.amnesty.org/en/individuals-at-risk](http://www.amnesty.org/en/individuals-at-risk)**

**Join the action. Write a letter. Send an email. Your words, together with those of thousands of others, will help to put pressure on governments and international organizations that are failing to stop human rights abuses. Your words will help people get their voices heard.**

## ACT NOW

**Join the Amnesty International letter-writing marathon between 5 and 13 December 2009. You can do this on your own or take part in one of the many letter-writing events around the world.**

**Contact an Amnesty International office near you by visiting [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)**

**Host a Human Rights Day party and invite people to come together and take action.**

**Tell others about the individuals and communities featured in the 2009 action in your blog, or in social networking sites. For more information, go to**

**[www.amnesty.org/en/individuals-at-risk](http://www.amnesty.org/en/individuals-at-risk)**



# THEY DEFENDED OTHERS. NOW THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

[www.amnesty.org/en/individuals-at-risk](http://www.amnesty.org/en/individuals-at-risk)



*Left: Alisher Karamatov  
Right: Azam Farmonov*

## AZAM FARMONOV AND ALISHER KARAMATOV, UZBEKISTAN

### ACT NOW

Call for the immediate and unconditional release of Azam Farmonov and Alisher Karamatov as prisoners of conscience. Insist that in the meantime Alisher Karamatov receives appropriate medical treatment.

Azam Farmonov, aged 30, and Alisher Karamatov, aged 41, are prisoners of conscience. They were arrested on 29 April 2006 as they defended the rights of local farmers who had accused district farming officials of malpractice, extortion and corruption. The two men were allegedly tortured, charged with extortion and subjected to an unfair trial where they were denied adequate legal representation. There are serious concerns for the health of Alisher Karamatov, who has been treated for tuberculosis in Sangorodok, a prison hospital facility near Tashkent, since October 2008. Azam Farmonov continues to be held at Yaslik prison camp.

Head of the Directorate of Execution of Sentences  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Abdulkarim Shodiev  
GUIN MVD Respubliki Uzbekistan  
Ferganskoye shosse, 25  
Tashkent 700005  
Uzbekistan  
Fax: +998 71 191 6835  
Salutation: Dear Mr Shodiev



## RITA MAHATO, NEPAL

### ACT NOW

Call on the Nepalese authorities to take all possible measures to ensure the protection and safety of Rita Mahato. Urge them to develop a national plan of action to implement the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which would enable human rights defenders to carry out their legitimate work without fear of reprisals.

Human rights defender Rita Mahato has been threatened with kidnapping, rape and death as a result of her work helping women in Nepal who have suffered acts of violence. She is a health adviser at the Women's Rehabilitation Centre, which has been attacked by men from the village who are opposed to its work. The police have failed to provide Rita Mahato with protection or to investigate the threats, and she fears for her life.

Inspector General of Police  
Ramesh Chand Thakuri  
Police Headquarters  
GPO Box 407  
Naxal  
Kathmandu  
Nepal  
Fax: +977 1 4 415 593 or 594  
Email: [info@nepalpolice.gov.np](mailto:info@nepalpolice.gov.np)  
Salutation: Dear Inspector General



## MUSAAD ABU FAGR, EGYPT

### ACT NOW

Call for the immediate and unconditional release of Musaad Abu Fagr, a prisoner of conscience, detained for the peaceful expression of his views.

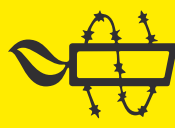
Musaad Suliman Hassan Hussein, known by his pen name Musaad Abu Fagr, is a novelist and human rights defender in Egypt. He was arrested in December 2007 following demonstrations in Sinai against plans by the authorities to demolish thousands of homes near the border with the Gaza Strip. He has been in administrative detention, by order of the Minister of the Interior, since 15 February 2008. His detention defies several court orders for his release, most recently in October 2009. He is a prisoner of conscious.

Ministry of the Interior  
H.E. Habib Ibrahim El Adly  
25 Al-Sheikh Rihan Street  
Bab al-Louk  
Cairo  
Egypt  
Fax: +20 22 796 0682 / 579 2031 / 794 5529  
Email: [moi@idsc.gov.eg](mailto:moi@idsc.gov.eg), [moi1@idsc.gov.eg](mailto:moi1@idsc.gov.eg),  
[moi2@idsc.gov.eg](mailto:moi2@idsc.gov.eg), [center@iscmi.gov.eg](mailto:center@iscmi.gov.eg)



# GET ON BOARD WITH MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**







The Spanish coastguard intercepts a traditional fishing boat laden with migrants off the island of Tenerife in the Canaries, October 2007.



# 2009 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS



## FORMER MEMBERS OF THE PROGRESS PARTY OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Five former members of the opposition Progress Party of Equatorial Guinea, PGGE (Partido del Progreso de Guinea Ecuatorial) have been held incommunicado for more than a year in Black Beach prison in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in conditions that may amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

Gerardo Angüe Mangué, Bonifacio Nguema Ndong (since released), Cruz Obiang Ebele, Juan Ecomo Ndong and Emiliano Esono Michá and Gumersindo Ramírez Faustino were arrested in March and April 2008 in Malabo by security personnel without a warrant. Some of the men were tortured or ill-treated in pre-trial detention. The three-day trial, which

was unfair, ended on 19 June 2008, and on 7 July they were convicted of illegal possession of arms and ammunition.

Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience, arrested for their past membership of the PPGE.

### ACT NOW

Call for the immediate and unconditional release of prisoners of conscience Gerardo Angüe Mangué, Cruz Obiang Ebele, Juan Ecomo Ndong, Emiliano Esono Michá and Gumersindo Ramírez Faustino. Urge the President of Equatorial Guinea to ensure that while they are in prison they are treated humanely, are allowed visits by family, friends and lawyers and that they receive medical treatment as required.

General Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo  
Presidente de la República  
Gabinete del Presidente de la República  
Malabo  
Equatorial Guinea



*Top, left to right: Marta María Blandón, Ana María Pizarro, Luisa Molina Arguello, Martha Munguía, Mayra Sirias. Bottom, left to right: Violeta Delgado, Yamileth Mejía, Juanita Jiménez, Lorna Norori.*

First image: © Ipas; all other images: © Amnesty International



## WOMEN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN NICARAGUA

Nine women's rights defenders are facing legal proceedings for their involvement in the case of a nine-year-old girl who obtained a legal abortion in Nicaragua after she was raped and became pregnant. It is feared that they have been targeted for their human rights work, particularly in the area of reproductive health.

The nine women — Ana María Pizarro, Juanita Jiménez, Lorna Norori, Luisa Molina Arguello, Marta María Blandón, Martha Munguía, Mayra Sirias, Violeta Delgado and Yamileth Mejía — are well-known Nicaraguan women's rights defenders. In October 2007, a Church-backed NGO, the Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights, brought a legal complaint against the women citing their work in the case of the nine-year-old child.

Amnesty International fears that the complaint has been brought solely because of the women's human rights work and campaigning to ensure that

women and girls have access to safe and effective sexual and reproductive health services, including therapeutic abortion in cases where the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest and when the pregnancy poses serious risk to their life or health.

### ACT NOW

Write to the Nicaraguan Attorney General, expressing concern that the seemingly baseless complaint against the nine women human rights defenders remains open two years on. Call on the Public Prosecutor's Office to resolve the case and clarify their legal position. Urge the Nicaraguan authorities to ensure that the nine women are able to carry on with their campaigning free from intimidation. Please mention the names of the nine women in your letter.

Dr. Julio Centeno Gómez  
Fiscal General de la República de Nicaragua  
Ministerio Público  
Km 4, Carretera Masaya  
Contiguo al Bancentro  
Managua  
Nicaragua  
Fax: +505 2255 6832  
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

# FATHER ALEJANDRO SOLALINDE GUERRA

## Q WHAT SPARKED YOUR INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS?

A A few years ago, I travelled through Oaxaca state in Mexico and saw how migrants were being kidnapped, sexually abused and intimidated by criminal gangs and how the local authorities violate their human rights. I couldn't turn my back on what was happening.

## Q WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES THAT YOU FACE IN YOUR WORK AS A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER?

A I constantly need to try to overcome intimidation, harassment and disrespect from people who don't want me to do my work for migrants. Local authorities, criminal gangs and drug traffickers want to get rid of human rights defenders because we get in the way. But despite all their efforts, we must continue.

## Q WHAT IMPACT DOES YOUR WORK HAVE ON YOUR LIFE AND ON YOUR FAMILY?

A I will never be the same person I was before I started working to defend the rights of migrants. My family knows about the risks. They have accepted them. I could never go back to living a quiet, comfortable life now that I have become involved in this fight for justice for migrants. There is so much work to do and the migrants are worth fighting for.

## Q WHAT KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED?

A Everyday I am motivated by the Central American migrants who arrive at the shelter looking for a bit of food and shelter for the night. They are so vulnerable: it hurts me a lot to see them arrive, I feel very protective of them, as if I was their father or brother. I recently travelled to Central America and saw the poverty and violence there. The migrants passing through Mexico are simply in search of a better life which they hope to find in the United States.

## Q WHAT DOES AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEAN TO YOU?

A Through Amnesty International I have discovered that there is more good than bad in this world. Last year I lived through some of the toughest moments of my life, but I didn't feel alone because people from all over the world, people I didn't even know, were writing to me. I felt their love and it helped to keep me going. I call it the globalization of love.

## Q DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR OUR READERS?

A Amnesty International members are living proof that this world can be a better place. I would like to thank the members of Amnesty International, on behalf of myself and the migrants, for taking time out of their lives to protect us. You have made us feel that we are not alone, like a family.



© Amnesty International/Ricardo Ramírez Arriol

## Q WHAT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON THAT YOUR ACTIVISM HAS TAUGHT YOU?

A I have learnt that the people in this world are neither good nor bad people. Some people in this world see things less clearly because they have been failed by three institutions: family, school and the church. They do things because they don't know right from wrong because of a lack of education.

Father Alejandro Solalinde Guerra is the co-ordinator of the Catholic Pastoral Care Centre for Migrants in Southwestern Mexico (Pastoral de Movilidad Humana Pacifico Sur del Episcopado Mexicano) and director of a migrants' shelter in the town of Ciudad Ixtepec, Oaxaca state.

Freight trains, carrying hundreds of Central American migrants heading north to the USA, pass through Ciudad Ixtepec, an important rail junction in southern Mexico. The migrants stop at the shelter to get some rest and food until the next train arrives to carry them farther north. They are prime targets for criminal gangs, who kidnap and ill-treat them to extort money.

Amnesty International has been campaigning on behalf of Father Solalinde because he has been the target of threats, intimidation and harassment.



# ACT CREATIVE

A bit of creativity and imagination goes a long way when it comes to activism. It can make your message more powerful and your audience more engaged in the issue. It can also help to attract attention from the media. So if you enjoy performing, design or art and crafts, use your talents to create an action to remember. Here are three examples of creative activism by Amnesty International members.

## ORIGAMI IN MEXICO

Belarusian youth activist and former prisoner of conscience Zmitser Dashkevich became the subject of a global action in which Amnesty International members, youth groups and supporters sent over 10,000 origami cranes to the authorities to highlight his case.

A giant crane was created by Amnesty International youth members at the ICM in Mexico and sent to the Ministry of the Interior in Belarus. The package was refused at the border but was then sent to local human rights NGO Vyasna, which successfully delivered the crane to the Ministry.

Zmitser Dashkevich was released early from Sklou Prison in Belarus on 23 January 2008.

**Watch a video and read more about this campaign at <http://sn.im/t9f50>**



© Amnesty International

A giant origami crane in Mexico, August 2007.

## CRAFT WORKS IN THE UK

Amnesty International mobilized its youth members to campaign against human rights violations by the police in Moldova using a spiral mobile. Young



© Amnesty International

**The 'human rights spiral' action in the UK, October 2009.**

activists created the spiral mobile from a template sent out by their section. When put together, the spiral has an appeal to the Moldovan authorities to end torture and other ill-treatment in police detention on one side, and Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights on the other.

The spiral has been a great success with young people. Children as young as eight enjoyed making the spiral and colouring it in. They learned about the issue in an engaging way and were committed to following it up.

The spiral action was launched in October 2007 and continues to be used in campaigning on torture and other ill-treatment in police detention in Moldova. Amnesty International UK, for example, has rolled out the action to 700 youth groups across the UK aged 11-18 years and to over 1,000 individual youth members.

## STREET THEATRE IN SEOUL

Activists in South Korea turned a simple petition to end the death penalty into a piece of street theatre which attracted lots of public interest in a busy part of Seoul. Two life-size papier-mâché figures representing a prisoner with bound wrists and ankles and an executioner pointing a rifle at her were moved around the streets.

Members of the public were encouraged to participate in the action by signing branded Amnesty International balloons. The signed balloons

were filled with helium and attached to the "prisoner", who gradually rose from the ground and out of range of the guard's rifle. "This campaign was designed to give citizens an opportunity not just to sign a petition against the death penalty", the organizers said, "but also to witness the power of their signatures."

**You can watch short film about the Stop Executions Save Lives action at: <http://sn.im/t9f6r>**



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Life-size papier-mâché figures in South Korea, summer 2009.

# GOVERNMENT FAILS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN PERU

**THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN BAGUA, HAVE PAID A HEAVY PRICE FOR EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO PROTEST. SIX MONTHS AFTER PROTESTERS CLASHED WITH THE POLICE OVER RIGHTS TO ANCESTRAL LAND, THEIR COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE HARASSED, THEIR ORGANIZATIONS ARE THREATENED AND THE FAMILIES OF THE DEAD ARE STILL WAITING FOR JUSTICE. IT IS TIME TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT.**

**O**n 5 June 2009, Felipe Sabio César Sánchez, aged 30, was shot dead by the police as he left the hospital in the town of Bagua, in the department of Amazonas. A radio correspondent and a member of the Indigenous organization Organización de los Pueblos Indígenas del Norte del Perú (ORPIAN), he had come to Bagua to take part in Indigenous protests outside the town. The Wampís and Awajún Indigenous people had been blockading a stretch of road leading to the towns of Bagua and Bagua Grande to express dismay at legislation which posed a threat to their rights to their ancestral land and had been protesting peacefully for more than 50 days.

On the day of Felipe Sabio César Sánchez' death, the Peruvian police arrived to disperse the roadblock. They fired indiscriminately into the crowd and, as the violent clashes spread into the towns, began firing at local residents. Five Indigenous people and five local residents were killed, as well as 23 police officers. At least 200 people were wounded.

In the days and months following

the violence, Amnesty International called on the Peruvian government to immediately establish an independent and transparent investigation into the events of that day. The organization demanded that the government make the results public and bring those responsible to justice.

Six months on, and the authorities continue to focus solely on investigating and prosecuting the Indigenous protesters. In addition, victims and their families have not received redress or compensation. None of those responsible for the shooting and killing of Indigenous protesters and local town residents have been charged and many families are facing a very insecure future.

Felipe Sabio César Sánchez' wife is now the sole provider for her four young children, the youngest of whom was born after his death. "[My] husband... fell in defence of the Amazon territory," she told Amnesty International. "Now his four children are orphans and who is going to support them? Because the only means to support the children was the father, the father has died, so now

they are totally orphaned. The government should recognize this too, because we are all Peruvian human beings."

The government is trying to silence the Wampís and Awajún communities and harass their representatives; it has attempted to ban Asociación Internética de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (AIDSEP), the main Indigenous organization representing the communities, and brought unsubstantiated charges against many Indigenous leaders.

Amnesty International is calling on the Peruvian government to end the impunity for the human rights abuses that took place on 5 June 2009. It also urges the government to ensure that the voices of Indigenous communities are heard and that they are consulted on any legislation that may affect their rights.

## ACT NOW

**Call on the Peruvian government to fulfill immediately their responsibilities towards the victims of the human rights abuses that took place in Bagua on 5 June 2009 and to bring to justice all those responsible for the abuses. Urge them to end the harassment of the Indigenous organization AIDSEP and Indigenous leaders who are currently facing unsubstantiated charges. Demand that they fulfill their promise to implement mechanisms to allow for free, prior and informed consent with the Indigenous people on legislation which affects their interests and rights.**

Please write to:  
Sr. Alan García Pérez  
Presidente de la República del Perú  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Plaza Mayor  
Lima 1  
Peru

**Image above:** The family of Felipe Sabio César Sánchez at their home in the Indigenous community of Wawás, Imaza, Amazon department. July 2009.



© Ronar Espinoza-Vicariato de Jaén



# ARMS TRADE DEADLY FOR SOMALI CIVILIANS

SOMALIA'S CIVILIAN POPULATION HAS BEEN DEVASTATED BY YEARS OF RAGING ARMED CONFLICT. DESPITE A UN ARMS EMBARGO, WEAPONS CONTINUE TO POUR INTO THE COUNTRY. THE UN MUST BRING SANCTIONS AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE FUELLING THE CONFLICT IN SOMALIA, AND BRING THIS DEADLY TRADE TO AN END.



© Private



© Private



Two decades on, Somalia's armed conflict shows no sign of abating. Somali civilians are caught in a human rights crisis long ignored by the international community. Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed or injured in the last three years alone, some in targeted killings, others as a result of all parties to the conflict shelling densely populated areas. "We left because death and injury had become the order of the day," a young Somali woman who had recently fled Somalia told Amnesty International in Kenya. "Dead people were scattered everywhere. We could not go anywhere without seeing a corpse. At night we could not sleep because of the sound of bullets."

According to UN estimates, 1.5 million Somalis have been displaced by insecurity since early 2007 and 3.5 million, half of the population, now depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

## ARMING SOMALIA

Somalia's conflict does not take place in a vacuum. Neighbouring countries – including Eritrea, Ethiopia and Yemen – supply Mogadishu's flourishing private arms markets and the conflicting parties including the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and armed groups such as the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) and Al-Shabab. In 2008, for example, an aircraft operator from South Africa told Amnesty

International that aircrews had allegedly flown Kalashnikovs from Eritrea to arm the ICU. Such illicit transfers of arms and military assistance from within the region ignore the arms embargo which has been in place on Somalia since 1992. They are sustained by irresponsible arms inflows from Europe, the USA and Asia to Somalia's arms suppliers.

In late 2006, US-backed Ethiopian troops ousted the ICU, then in control of most of Somalia's central and southern regions, in favour of the TFG. The Ethiopian authorities told the UN that between 2006 and 2009 they had imported over US\$48 million of military weapons from China, Bulgaria and South Korea. These arms deals took place despite the UN Monitoring Group on Somalia having described Ethiopian forces' presence in Somalia as an inherent violation of the arms embargo. They also flew in the face of consistent reports that Ethiopian and TFG forces have committed grave human rights abuses.

Meanwhile, in response to Al-Shabab and other armed groups' renewed offensives against the TFG in 2009, the US government reportedly shipped 40 tons of arms to TFG forces from Entebbe, Uganda. Amnesty International has learned that these shipments included 19 tons of ammunition, and 81/82mm mortars. The shipments were allowed by the UN Sanctions Committee, which decides whether to authorize UN arms embargo exemptions. This was despite consistent reports that the TFG used mortars and artillery to carry out indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks, and reports by the UN Monitoring Group that TFG personnel had diverted security assistance to the arms market or armed groups.

## A GLOBAL SOLUTION TO A GLOBAL PROBLEM

It is clear that global arms flows require global solutions. To be effective, the UN arms embargo on Somalia needs to be reinforced by a global Arms Trade Treaty. An Arms Trade Treaty is due to be negotiated at the UN in 2010-2011 and must require all states to strictly regulate their international weapons and other military transfers. Arms transfers must not be authorized if there is a substantial risk of arms being deployed or diverted for use in serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

In April 2009, the international community including the USA, France, the European Union and Egypt pledged US\$213 million of security assistance to TFG forces and an African Union peace support operation in Somalia.

However, to provide genuine security for civilians, the international community must also assist in strengthening the monitoring and enforcement of the UN arms embargo. It must also

help to support the development of accountability and governance systems to ensure that the TFG respect human rights. Without such safeguards, Somali civilians will continue to pay the human cost of the global arms trade.

## ACT NOW

**Please call on the UN Sanctions Committee to identify those responsible for violating the UN arms embargo on Somalia and recommend targeted sanctions against them. Urge the Committee not to authorize exemptions to the UN arms embargo if :**

- the funding, arms or training are likely to facilitate serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law;
- sufficient information is not provided about the precise recipients of funds, arms and training;
- sufficient information is not provided on the nature of arms and training, their supply routes, and the precise specifications and markings on the arms to allow the UN Monitoring Group and supplying governments to detect their subsequent diversion or misuse.

Please write to  
H.E. Mr Claude Heller  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of Mexico  
to the United Nations  
Two United Nations Plaza, 28th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

**Please also write to your government and call on the relevant ministers to press for a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty with a strong human rights risk assessment rule which requires states to prevent international arms transfers wherever there is a substantial risk that the arms will be used or diverted for use in serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.**



© UNHCR/E. Hockstein

### Images from top left clockwise:

A house hit by artillery in the Ali Kamin area of Mogadishu, Somalia, April 2007.

Somali refugees wait for water, Dadaab, Kenya, December 2008.

Reportedly captured weapons displayed by Ethiopian troops at the former Pasta factory, Mogadishu, Somalia, April 2008.





## AUTHORITIES VIOLENTLY REPRESS PROTESTS IN CHINA

**P**eaceful protests ended in the death and injury of possibly hundreds of people after police and security forces violently cracked down on protesters in Urumqi in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR), north-western China on 5 July 2009.

Official figures state that 197 people were killed, the majority of whom were “innocent Han Chinese killed by angry mobs” and 1,600 people were injured. However, eyewitness accounts contradict the official version of events.



© ASSOCIATED PRESS/NG HAN GUAN

The protest was held to commemorate victims of an incident in Shaoguan, Guangdong province, two weeks earlier during which Uighur workers were beaten up by Han Chinese workers.

According to eyewitnesses, the violence escalated when police and security forces attempted to contain the protest. By 4.10pm security forces had surrounded People's Square and were beating, rounding up and arresting hundreds of protesters. One eyewitness described how the police beat a pregnant woman who was

**An Uighur woman protests before a group of paramilitary police in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China, July 2009.**

attempting to break away from a crowd of protesters.

A number of eyewitnesses described how police shot directly into crowds of protesters: two Uighurs were shot dead directly in front of one witness in the Sanxihangzi neighbourhood; another witness described seeing police open fire into a crowd of several thousand young

protesters outside the Rebiya Kadeer Department Store; and one protester described being at the back of a crowd when he suddenly found himself directly in front of the police – those in front of him had fallen down wounded or were dispersed by gun shots. Hundreds were estimated to have been killed or wounded in this incident alone.

Official reports on the events of 5 July blamed Uighurs for the deaths of Han Chinese, possibly contributing to the reprisal attacks against Uighurs that followed on 6 and 7 July.

### ACT NOW

**Please urge the Chinese authorities to allow an independent and impartial investigation into the crackdown on the peaceful protests of 5 July and subsequent events.**

Please write to:  
President of the People's Republic of China  
Hu Jintao Guojia Zhuxi  
The State Council General Office  
2 Fuyoujie  
Xichengqu  
Beijingshi 100017  
People's Republic of China  
Salutation: Your Excellency

## MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES PUNISH SAHRAWIS FOR SUPPORTING SELF-DETERMINATION

**S**even Sahrawi human rights activists were arrested on their return to Casablanca, Morocco, from the Tindouf refugee camps in Algeria on 8 October 2009. The Polisario Front, which calls for the independence of Western Sahara, runs a self-declared government in exile there. It took four days for the Moroccan authorities to inform the families of the arrests. Possible prisoners of conscience, the seven are still being held and may face trumped-up charges due to their public support for the right of Sahrawis to self-determination.

Human rights defenders in Western Sahara have been a target for repression by the Moroccan authorities in recent years. The status of Western Sahara, a territory Morocco annexed in 1975, remains taboo. Activists who monitor, document and raise awareness of human rights violations committed in Western Sahara are subject to threats and intimidation. These can include judicial harassment, limitations on their freedom of movement, surveillance, and verbal assaults – all seemingly intended to deter activists from conducting their human rights

work or to punish them for their vocal support for self-determination.

Several Sahrawi human rights organizations, such as the Association sahraouie des victimes des graves violations des droits de l'homme commises par l'état du Maroc (ASVDH) and the Collectif des défenseurs sahraouis des droits de l'homme (CODESA), have been unable to obtain legal registration due to obstacles placed in their way by the Moroccan authorities. Since 2005, several activists belonging to these organizations have been convicted of “belonging to unauthorized organizations”, among other charges, following waves of protests in Western Sahara calling for self-determination.

On 6 October 2009, five Sahrawi activists on their way to Mauritania were stopped by the Moroccan authorities at the border, interrogated at length and had their identification papers confiscated. They were

eventually released, but were not allowed to continue their journey. No official explanation was provided for the ban.

### ACT NOW

**Please call on Moroccan Prime Minister Abbas El Fassi to respect the right of Sahrawi activists to freely express views on the issue of Western Sahara's independence and to document alleged human rights violations.**

Please write to:  
Prime Minister Abbas El Fassi  
Département du Premier Ministre  
Palais Royal  
Touarga  
Rabat  
Maroc / Morocco  
Fax: +212 537 76 99 95  
Email: courrier@pm.gov.ma

# A LESSON IN INJUSTICE FOR ROMANI CHILDREN IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

In 1998, when she was six years old, Sabrina started school. But she was not treated the same as other children in her class. Her mother said that the teacher never involved Sabrina in activities and never asked her any questions, and that the girl used to sit in the corner while other children were busy with school work. Her mother was then told that Sabrina must change to a special school for children with “mild mental disabilities”. She was never properly tested for learning disabilities.

Sabrina is one of thousands of Romani children in the Czech Republic who were placed in special schools. In



November 2007, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that such discriminatory placement in special schools violated the right of Romani children to education. Two years later, however, the discrimination continues.

Although special schools have now been renamed “practical” schools, little else has changed. Romani children are still significantly over-represented in “practical” schools; in some places, they make up more than 80 per cent of the pupils.

Romani children are often socially disadvantaged and require special support and attention, which mainstream elementary schools are

frequently unwilling or unable to give. Pushing these children away from mainstream education seems to be an easier option. Many end up in Roma-only schools, where the level of education is significantly lower than in other places. Those who study with non-Romani children are often taught in separate classes or face discrimination in the classroom. Their rights are still violated at every step of the way.

**Above:** Romani children attending the first grade of a primary school for pupils with “mild mental disabilities”, Ostrava, Czech Republic, February 2009.

## ACT NOW

Call on the Czech Minister of Education, Miroslava Kopicová, to introduce a moratorium on the placement of children into primary schools and classes for pupils with “mild mental disabilities” for the school year 2010/11. Urge her to re-examine the rationale for such schools and to review the need for a special curriculum for pupils with “mild mental disabilities”. Call on the Minister to formulate and adopt a comprehensive plan with clear yearly targets to eliminate school segregation of Romani children.

Please write to:  
Miroslava Kopicová  
Minister of Education, Youth and Sports  
Karmelitská 7  
118 12, Prague 1  
Czech Republic  
Fax: +420 234 811 753

For more information, go to  
<http://sn.im/tbe3h>

# CRUSHED BY POVERTY: CAIRO'S UNSAFE AREAS

“We went to the neighbourhood authority [in June 2009] and they said ‘when the mountain falls on you we will come to remove your bodies’.”



Mohamed Abdel Aal, a labourer from Moraba' Hafez in east Cairo's Manshiyet Nasser informal settlement (slum) – home to around a million of the capital's poorest people – was speaking to Amnesty International in August 2009.

The neighbourhood authority's words were particularly cruel, coming less than a year after the tragic Al-Duwayqa rockslide. In September 2008 boulders crashed down Al-Muqattam Hill, killing at least 107 people. Survivors say the toll was much higher, with many bodies buried under the rubble and never found.

For the past nine years, Mohamed Abdel Aal has lived in Moraba' Hafez with his mother and four siblings in a three-room block made of bricks with a wooden ceiling. Small rocks have been falling on their roof and those of neighbours for months. His mother says that if they had money, they would move.

Located in Al-Madaress area, the 11 or so blocks of Moraba' Hafez lie within a pocket at the bottom of a cliff

in the hill. Sewerage from the homes on the edge of the cliff leaks into the rock, which absorbs the water and becomes unstable.

Shortly after the Al-Duwayqa rockslide, a local authority committee inspected Moraba' Hafez and told residents that the area was dangerous and that they would be rehoused. By August 2009 they had neither been evacuated nor consulted about relocation. Residents are terrified that they will suffer the same fate as those crushed to death in the Al-Duwayqa disaster.

A report by Amnesty International, *Buried alive: trapped by poverty and neglect in Cairo's informal settlements* (MDE 12/009/2009), documents the Al-Duwayqa rockslide a year after the tragedy. It highlights the failure of the authorities to heed the warnings and protect the lives of people living in poverty in Manshiyet Nasser, and documents subsequent violations of their rights, including forced evictions.

## ACT NOW

Call on the Egyptian authorities to take urgent action to prevent more people being killed in Cairo's unsafe areas.

Please write to:  
Dr Abdel-Azim Morsi Wazir  
Governor of Cairo  
Cairo Governorate  
7 Abdin Square, Al Gomhoriya Street  
Cairo  
Egypt  
Email: [Cairogov@Cairo.gov.eg](mailto:Cairogov@Cairo.gov.eg)  
Salutation: Dear Governor

**Left:** Mohamed Abdel Aal showing a hole in his block's wooden ceiling caused by the cliff's falling rocks, August 2009.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### MONGOLIAN MAN ON DEATH ROW PARDONED

Mongolian prisoner Buuveibaatar had his death sentence commuted in August 2009 after the country's President, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, granted him a pardon.

The 33-year-old was found guilty of murder in January 2008 and sentenced to death by the Bayangol District Court in the Mongolian capital, Ulaanbaatar, on 1 August 2008.

Following his arrest, Buuveibaatar was interrogated overnight without access to a lawyer. His father claims the crime was committed in self-defence and that his son confessed to the crime after he was beaten in police custody.

Buuveibaatar had exhausted all means of appeal and his life depended solely on a presidential pardon. He will continue to serve a prison sentence.

Amnesty international has called for Buuveibaatar to be pardoned in July 2009. Sam Zarifi, Director of Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific Programme said: "We applaud President Elbegdorj's pardon, but it's only a first step. The Mongolian government should introduce a moratorium on the death penalty and commute the sentences of everyone currently still on death row in Mongolia."

### CAMPAIGNING TO REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY IN SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world. Women in the country face numerous obstacles in accessing health care, including a lack of adequate medical facilities and trained medical staff, and high costs.

Amnesty International's report, *Out of Reach: the cost of maternal health in Sierra Leone* (AFR 51/005/2009) was launched in Freetown on 22 September 2009 together with a national campaign to reduce maternal mortality in the country. Amnesty International Secretary General Irene Khan attended the event as part her high level mission there.

Following the launch, a caravan of people including delegates from the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso Amnesty International sections, travelled around the country for 12 days, raising awareness on maternal health issues with over 20,000 people. More than 50,000 people signed a petition and postcard action to the President of Sierra Leone, urging him to make maternal health a priority. These were presented to the President in November.

**Read about the mission, report and film at: <http://sn.im/t793z>**  
**Follow the caravan at: <http://sn.im/t9v1i>**

**Right: Music and drama are used to raise awareness on the right to maternal health as Amnesty International's caravan makes its way around Sierra Leone.**

### Clarification

Our August-September issue article on enforced disappearances (*WIRE* Vol. 39 Issue 4 – "A wound that never heals") featured photos of individuals whose cases Amnesty International has worked on over the years. A concern was raised that the status of those individuals represented could be perceived to be still disappeared.

In particular, it was noted that Suresh Ale Magar and Bishnu Pukar Shrestha, both from Nepal, had already been released. Our intention was to represent some of the hundreds of individuals whose rights Amnesty international has campaigned to protect. *WIRE* would like to apologize to all our readers and supporters for any confusion caused.







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WHETHER IN A HIGH-PROFILE  
CONFLICT OR A FORGOTTEN  
CORNER OF THE GLOBE,  
**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**  
CAMPAIGNS FOR JUSTICE AND  
FREEDOM FOR ALL AND SEEKS  
TO GALVANIZE PUBLIC SUPPORT  
TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Activists around the world have shown that it is possible to resist the dangerous forces that are undermining human rights. Be part of this movement. Combat those who peddle fear and hate.

- Join Amnesty International and become part of a worldwide movement campaigning for an end to human rights violations. Help us make a difference.

**Together we can make our voices heard.**

I am interested in receiving further information on becoming a member of Amnesty International

NAME

ADDRESS

COUNTRY

EMAIL

www.amnesty.org

Please return this form to the Amnesty International office in your country.

For a full list of the offices worldwide please go to [www.amnesty.org/en/worldwide-sites](http://www.amnesty.org/en/worldwide-sites)

If there is no office in your country, you can become an International Member and join our International Members' online community.

To do this, please visit: [www.amnesty.org/en/join](http://www.amnesty.org/en/join) where you will be able to access joining information and sign up online in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Or alternatively write to:  
Online Communities Team, Amnesty International,  
International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street,  
London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom

To be an International Member you need to agree to an International Members Code of Conduct. The Code is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish at: [www.amnesty.org/en/code-of-conduct](http://www.amnesty.org/en/code-of-conduct)



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**‘I COULDN’T  
TURN MY BACK  
ON WHAT WAS  
HAPPENING.’**

**FATHER ALEJANDRO SOLALINDE GUERRA**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**

