IT RAINS BOMBS IN THE SOUTH OF SUDAN

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE RESIST THREATS TO HOMELANDS IN AUSTRALIA

THE LIVES OF MIGRANT WORKERS
Welcome to WIRE,

How to inspire people to act? This question is on our minds with every new issue of WIRE.

Taking action requires determination and optimism, and that is not always easy. For the thousands of people who campaigned for years to save Troy Davis, his execution in September was a terrible blow. But giving up is not an option. And we know that the campaign succeeded in raising awareness and strengthening the call to abolish the death penalty.

This momentum can help save others from death row.

Activism is the ultimate gesture of solidarity and hope. So please pay special attention to those all-important “act now” calls at the end of each article — how they end is quite literally in your hands.

yours, Wire team

GETTING WIRE

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Middle East and North Africa

Forced evictions in Egypt

People living in dangerous conditions in some of Egypt’s slums face eviction without being consulted about their resettlement options. Many are at risk of being made homeless. In September, Amnesty International brought children from five slums to the banks of the Nile to perform theatre plays and dances at the First Arabic Book Fair, and used publications and photos to raise awareness of forced evictions in Africa.

http://tinyurl.com/egyptslums

Sign and send the postcard in the insert, urging Egypt’s Prime Minister to prevent forced evictions.

Africa

Ugandan journalists under attack

Journalists in Uganda are increasingly being harassed for expressing views deemed critical of the authorities. Meanwhile, public protests have been banned and four political activists charged with treason, a capital offence, for organizing protests. “The Ugandan authorities are creating a climate where it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to freely criticize government officials, their policies or practices,” said Amnesty International’s Researcher Godfrey Odongo.

http://tinyurl.com/ugandajournalists

Europe and Central Asia

Finland must investigate renditions

The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs has published information revealing more than 100 landings in Finland by aircraft linked to the CIA’s rendition and secret detention programmes. However, the Ministry said that they were only seeking clarification from the USA on one flight. Amnesty International is calling on Finland to investigate further and determine whether USA rendition flights landed in the country.

http://tinyurl.com/finlandflights

Syria Uprising

Syrian activist killed

Activist Ghayath Mattar is reported to have been killed in custody following his arrest by Syrian security forces on 6 September. His body was returned to his family on 10 September. Four other Syrian activists arrested at the same time are in grave danger. Act on their behalf at www.eyesonsyria.org

http://tinyurl.com/bsjl5s2j

22 journalists and media workers killed in Russia between 2000 and 2010. (Source: Committee for the Protection of Journalists)

http://tinyurl.com/liberia-prisons

Cells in Liberia’s Monrovia Central Prison are so overcrowded that some prisoners sleep on hammocks made from empty rice bags tied to the cell bars and windows. Amnesty International has called on Liberia to improve the appalling conditions witnessed in four of the country’s 15 prisons.

http://tinyurl.com/landwin
2½ years in prison
for three Azerbaijani opposition activists who organized peaceful pro-reform protests.

Death Penalty
Executions breach international law
On 21 September, the day the USA executed Troy Davis (see p.13), Iran publicly hanged 17-year-old Alireza Molla-Soltani despite international prohibitions against executing juveniles. The same day, China executed Pakistani national Zahid Husain Shah for drug smuggling, even though drug offences do not meet the threshold for “most serious” crimes under international law.
http://tinyurl.com/troydp

Global Ethics Series
The Human Right to Health
A new publication from Amnesty International Global Ethics series is out in February 2011. The Human Right to Health explores current debates and ideas on the right to health. The book examines the idea of a human right assesses whether health meets those criteria and identifies the political and cultural realities we face in attempts to improve the health of people in wildly different regions. The author, Jonathan Wolff, is a professor of philosophy at University College London, UK. Available in English only. http://tinyurl.com/Health-Feb2012

Dear The Agenda’s editor:

“...truly women have a place, truly women have a face and truly the world has not been functioning well without the input, in every sphere, of women.”

Leymah Gbowee, one of three women awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize

In August 2009, the Nigerian Rivers State government forcibly evicted up to 17,000 residents of Njemanze, one of the informal settlements in Port Harcourt’s waterfronts. Many of the older residents have since returned to their villages. But with no work there, many young men and women have stayed in the city. What happened to them two years after the eviction? We travelled to Port Harcourt to find out.

We met a group of young women in a neighbouring waterfront. What we witnessed was shocking. The women share tiny rooms in houses marked for demolition. Many are pregnant or have babies, and cannot afford food or essential medicines.

Before the 2009 eviction, all these young women were living with their parents, studying and supporting the family with informal jobs. “We used to feel free... and we could eat before we went to bed”, one woman told us. Their lives in Njemanze were hard, no doubt, but they were dignified. After the eviction, the women have been left with nothing. Now, they struggle to have even one meal a day.

Many women have no option but to sell sex to survive. They send some of the money to their families. Criminal gangs prey on the women, extorting the money they earn. These same gangs, and other men, also enter their rooms at night and rape them. When the women are arrested, police officers demand money, which they usually do not have, or sex before letting them go.

We asked the women what Amnesty International can do. They said that first of all, they want us to tell their stories. They also decided to protect their own rights and set up an alert network, which will take action when one of them is arrested.

We will continue to speak to Njemanze’s young women. In the meantime, we are documenting what we found and will be making recommendations to the Nigerian authorities on what they need to do. The authorities should know: when they destroy homes, they also destroy lives.
DEATH FROM THE SOUTH

Conflict continues in Southern Kordofan, the Sudanese state bordering the newly independent South Sudan. While unarmed men, women and children are killed, the world looks the other way. Campaigner KHAIRUNISSA DHALA reports.
On 5 June fighting erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the armed opposition Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N) in Kadugli, the capital of Southern Kordofan, and Um Durein, and quickly spread to other towns and villages. On 1 September, it reached neighbouring Blue Nile state.

Tensions had been growing between Sudan’s ruling National Congress Party (NCP), and the ruling party of the newly independent South Sudan, the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), in the context of the government’s attempts to disarm the SPLA and the disputed outcome of the elections for the governorship of Southern Kordofan in May. These elections were narrowly won by the NCP candidate Ahmed Haroun, wanted since 2007 by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur.

Following the independence of South Sudan on 9 July 2011, the SPLM operating in Sudan became known as the SPLM-N (SPLM-North), and the SPLA became known as SPLA-N.

Southern Kordofan lies on the border with South Sudan and is home to large populations of Nuba people. During the 22-year civil war which ended in 2005, the Nuba took up arms against the Sudanese government.

In August 2011, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch spent a week in Southern Kordofan to investigate the impact of the conflict. The team was not able to reach the front lines or areas controlled by the SAF, but interviewed scores of people from those areas who had escaped the fighting.

GOING HUNGRY
Zenab Al-Ameen Hamis and her 10 children fled from Serifiya in late June, after the village was attacked by the Sudanese army and its allied militia. “I ran with my children and left everything behind,” Zenab said. “I had five tukuls (huts) and two sorghum stores. They all burned, and they stole cattle. I am waiting here for plastic sheeting. We received sorghum, but now we don’t have any.”

More than 200,000 people have been forced to flee their homes in Southern Kordofan, in fear of aerial bombardments by the SAF, fighting between the SAF and SPLA-N, and the threat of arrests and extrajudicial killings of Nuba people believed to support the SPLM-N.

Many of the displaced in areas controlled by the SPLA-N live in and around the Nuba Mountains, with little more than the clothes on their backs and some plastic sheeting for shelter. The bombings mean that people live in constant fear and many abandoned their fields at prime cultivation time.

The Sudanese government has actively blocked or severely restricted humanitarian aid to the region, in violation of international humanitarian law. The World Food Programme, which supplied aid to the Kadua region, left in...
June (as did most international NGOs), after the fighting started. The supplies that remained in their storerooms were distributed by local organizations over 60 days. However, supplies have since dwindled and many families survive only on soup made from berries and leaves.

INTERNATIONAL INACTION

The conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile continues with no signs of any resolution, but the international community has done little to stop it.

On 15 August, the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights released a report based on research carried out by human rights monitors of the UN Mission in Sudan before their mandate ended on 9 July. The report’s findings include accounts of unlawful killings, mass destruction and looting of civilian property, which could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Shortly after the report was released, the UN Security Council met, but failed to condemn the indiscriminate bombings and other human rights violations, and the lack of access to aid agencies in Southern Kordofan. Following this, in September, during the UN Human Rights Council session on Sudan, the international community failed to take a stand and call for independent human rights monitors in both Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Until action is taken, civilians will continue to bear the brunt of the conflict.

**ACT NOW**

Ask your Minister of Foreign Affairs to call on the UN Security Council to condemn and demand an end to the indiscriminate bombings and other violations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile by the Sudanese government.

Ask the Minister to call for unhindered access for aid agencies so that they can assist the civilian population and to call for independent human rights monitoring across Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

Above: Eight-year-old Marcela Teimas Suleiman’s foot was mutilated when a Sudanese Armed Forces bomb hit her village of Kurchi, Southern Kordofan, on 26 June. Her two younger sisters, Makalina, aged 4, and Breskela, aged 3, were killed in the attack along with 11 other civilians, most of whom were children and women.
BACKGROUND

Sudan is a country with a turbulent past. Since it gained independence in 1956 it has been plagued by years of internal armed conflicts, including a war between the south’s Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) and the government which spanned 22 years.

The conflict between northern and southern Sudan ended in 2005 with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and former southern opposition group, the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM). As part of the CPA, the people of southern Sudan voted on a referendum on 9 January 2011 to decide whether their region would secede from Sudan. They voted with a resounding yes – and South Sudan became the world’s youngest nation on 9 July 2011.

The referendum and creation of an independent state went relatively smoothly, yet the process created some problems, and left others unresolved. As one country, southern Sudan held most of the oil, but depended on northern Sudan to transport it. As two countries, they have not yet managed to negotiate an arrangement for profit sharing.

Neither have the two countries been able to resolve exactly where the border between them lies, leading to armed conflict in the Abyei region, which both sides claim belongs to them. Fighting in Abyei town in May 2011 led to the displacement of over 110,000 people to South Sudan.

Page 4: Displaced children shelter in caves at Labu in Southern Kordofan, August 2011. More than 200,000 people have been forced to flee their homes for fear of aerial bombardments by the Sudanese Armed Forces.

Top: The Al-Sir family has been devastated by Sudanese Armed Forces bombing raids over their village, Um Sirdeeba. The children’s mother, brother, sister, and cousin were all killed along with a visiting relative on 19 June 2011. Five other children from the family were injured in the attack.

“I received my contract at the airport. It was in English so the broker verbally translated it for me. It said I would receive a salary of 1,250 Malaysian ringgit (US$ 417) working eight hours per day plus overtime and receive free accommodation with one day off per week. In truth, my monthly salary was 450 ringgit (US$150), working 12 to 16 hours per day without overtime or a rest day.”

T.P., December 2010

T.P.’s experience is not untypical of many Nepalese people who migrate abroad for work. Like him, most of the people we spoke to came from small rural villages. There are no factories. Jobs are scarce. In a decade, annual migration for work has risen from 55,000 to 300,000.

While an expanding recruitment industry has benefited from large profits, protection of migrant workers’ rights remains poor. Government departments are poorly funded, centralized in the capital, Kathmandu, and weak at enforcing regulations. Systems of redress are difficult to access. The result is a recruitment industry acting with impunity.

Many prospective migrants believe agents when they promise high wages and good conditions in places like the Gulf States and Malaysia. So they take out large loans, averaging around US$1,400, at high interest rates, to pay recruitment fees. Often, workers only discover the truth when they receive their first month’s wages. By then it is too late – burdened with debt and their travel documents confiscated, it is difficult to back out.

Despite everything, T.P. says he would go abroad for work again. “To raise the funds to go the first time, I mortgaged my land at the bank at 12 per cent interest. I still haven’t repaid the loan. I want to go abroad again because I need to make money for my family, my children’s education.”

Many people in Kailali district in Nepal feel compelled to go despite the risks. It is time the government of Nepal enforced its own regulations to ensure migrant workers’ rights are protected and complaints against recruiters properly investigated. Amnesty International will be pressing the authorities to ensure that the recruitment process is properly regulated so that people like T.P. can work abroad without fear of exploitation.

Read more at http://tinyurl.com/nepal-migrant-wrks
providing humanitarian aid, and the efforts of the priests and lay workers who run them, that many more migrants do not succumb to exhaustion, abuse and starvation on their journey.

The film The Invisibles, of migrants falling victim to beatings, abduction, rape and even murder.

In May 2011, we visited four detention centres on the border between Greece and Turkey. About 90 per cent of migrants and asylum-seekers entering Europe during 2010 crossed through Greece, an undeniable challenge for the authorities.

Entering these facilities was like stepping into another era. The dirty, overcrowded cells smelt so bad that guards wore surgical masks. In one cell in Tyčero, women and children had barely enough space to stretch their legs. Unaccompanied children shared a cell with the men and slept on the floor on flattened cardboard. Tyčero and Soufli detention centres had no courtyards for outdoor exercise.

Detainees told me they didn't always receive soap and other basics, that food was of poor quality and insufficient and that requests to see doctors were not always answered. “We have done nothing wrong”, they said. “Why are we imprisoned in such conditions?”

The unaccompanied minors were waiting for space to become available at the special reception centre. I met some who had been detained for up to two months. Their cell, in Fylakio, was dark, poorly ventilated and short of beds. The toilets overflowed and stank.

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Such appalling conditions are a strong deterrent. If people apply for asylum, they risk having to remain in detention for up to six months. One Turkish man had already been held for 188 days. He and several others were on hunger strike against their prolonged detention. They said that they had fled their countries looking for refuge, solidarity and human rights: “Isn’t that what Europe is all about?”

This kind of routine detention of asylum-seekers and irregular migrants must stop and no minors should be detained. We need to urge the Greek authorities to act immediately to bring detention conditions in line with international standards.

Help put pressure on the Greek authorities by signing a letter at http://tinyurl.com/migrant-rights-greece

TRAPPED IN DETENTION IN GREECE
Giorgos Kosmopoulos

“I was living [in Belgium] for many years but then I was sent back to Morocco. I am trying to get back there. My wife gave birth a few months ago and I haven’t seen my baby yet. I don’t know if I will make it; I am detained in this horrible place for some weeks already and they don’t tell me what is going to happen to me.”

M.M., from Morocco, May 2011

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TERRORIZED IN MEXICO
Sarah Shebbeare

“I was the last one to be beaten, but they hit me really hard… I called out for God but they told me that they were God here… They beat an 18-year-old boy on the head. My sister-in-law is a nurse and knew first aid so we tried to resuscitate him but it was too late, we couldn’t stop the bleeding. He died in our arms. I thought it was the last day of my life.”

Miguel Angel, September 2011

We met Honduran Miguel Angel and his sister-in-law Laura at a migrants’ shelter in Mexico state. Miguel’s description of being kidnapped by a criminal gang, just days earlier, shocked me.

But his experience is one shared by thousands of people who make the journey through Mexico every year in the hope of getting to the USA; experiences we have documented in the film The Invisibles, of migrants falling victim to beatings, abduction, rape and even murder.

Miguel and Laura managed to escape their kidnappers and reach a shelter where they were taken care of. A nurse volunteering there between shifts at the local hospital helped them recover. They were offered a bed, food and a new set of clothes.

It is largely thanks to this network of shelters providing humanitarian aid, and the efforts of the priests and lay workers who run them, that many more migrants do not succumb to exhaustion, abuse and starvation on their journey.

To my surprise, Miguel’s experience had not put him off his dream of reaching the USA and finding work; he was planning to get on the next freight train heading north. Many more will follow him.

Show your solidarity for the shelters and the migrants who stay in them by packing a toothbrush, a bar of soap and a pair of socks in a jiffy bag and sending it to one of the first shelters on the migrants’ route north in southern Mexico.

“La 72” Hogar Refugio para Personas Migrantes, Calle S/N, Colonia Estación Nueva Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico.

Watch The Invisibles and take action at:

www.youtube.com/invisiblesfilms

Read more on MIGRANTS’ RIGHTS in this issue and at wiremagazine.org.

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© Amnesty International (Photo: Ricardo Ramirez Arriola)
STAND UP FOR THE
RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS
www.amnesty.org/migrants

ARLY ABUSED, REGULARLY DENIED JUSTICE
Executions of alleged drugs offenders in Iran have skyrocketed since officials in the judiciary announced a crackdown on drug trafficking in October 2010. Arrests of drug traffickers have soared in recent years as Iranian drug seizures have risen, in part as a result of international assistance to try to stem the flow of narcotics from Afghanistan.

In a new report, Addicted to death: executions in Iran for drugs offences, Amnesty International has shown how many of those executed are killed in secret mass executions in some of the country’s overcrowded prison facilities. Many have not received a fair trial — they have often been denied access to lawyers, and appear to have no right to appeal against their death sentences.

The authorities have never acknowledged the September 2011 execution of Haj Basir Ahmed, an Afghan national. “[He] phoned us from Tayebad prison in Iran to say that he was going to be executed in under two hours. As far as I know he never even appeared in court”, a relative of Haj Basir Ahmed said. “We couldn’t get his body back, as the Iranians wanted 200 million rials payment, which we couldn’t afford”.

Disadvantaged are most at risk

Those most at risk of execution for drug-related offences are often from the most disadvantaged sectors of society; members of ethnic minorities which suffer discrimination in law and practice in Iran, or foreign nationals who often come from countries where their economic opportunities are limited. Women sometimes resort to drug smuggling to feed their families, and some individuals may be duped into carrying drugs for others while the drugs barons often avoid arrest and prosecution.

Death row prisoner Yousef Islamdoust is a member of the Sunni Azerbaijani minority. “Although we had been told by the Judge that Yousef would be sentenced to six or seven months in prison, the Ministry of Intelligence asked for his execution”, Yousef’s father, Mahmoud Islamdoust, says. “My son was tortured by Ministry of Intelligence [officials] for about 50 days.”

Iran continues to violate the international prohibition on the execution of juvenile offenders. Two juvenile offenders – Vahid Moslemi and Mohammad Nourouzi, both Afghan nationals – may have been among 22 individuals executed for drugs offences in Evin and Reja’i Shahr prisons on 18 September 2011. Amnesty International is aware of other juvenile offenders reported to be on death row, some of whom may have already been executed.

Twenty years ago, the authorities stepped up executions for alleged drugs offences in a “war on drugs”, aiming to eliminate drug trafficking from the country. But Iran still has an estimated two million or more addicts and users. Large quantities of Afghan opium are consumed in Iran – the world’s largest market for opium – as well as other illegal drugs. It is also an important transit country for trafficking elsewhere, particularly towards Europe and, increasingly, Africa. In a new development, ever greater amounts of synthetic drugs such as metamphetamine (“crystal meth”) are being manufactured in Iran and trafficked abroad, mostly to Asian countries.

Iran’s immense drug problem cannot be solved by a widespread application of the death penalty. There is no clear evidence that the death penalty has any identifiable effect in alleviating drug trafficking and abuse and even some officials doubt its efficacy. Despite the authorities’ addiction to death as a cure-all solution for social ills, Iran’s drug problem is continuing to grow.

ACT NOW

Call on Iran’s Supreme Leader to commute all death sentences, including those passed for drug drug-related offences; order the review the Anti-Narcotics Law to remove the mandatory death penalty for drugs offences, and ensure that no one arrested for alleged drugs offences is tortured or otherwise ill-treated; and that all trials are conducted according to international fair trial standards. All defendants must be given every opportunity to defend themselves and the right to appeal their conviction and their sentence. You can also act online at www.amnesty.org/50/campaigns/death-penalty/iran.

Please write to:
Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Ayatollah Sayed ‘Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street – End of Shahid Keshvar Doust Street,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: info_leader@leader.ir
Salutation: Your Excellency
‘THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE DOESN’T END WITH ME’

These were the words of Troy Davis, who was executed in the USA in September. ROSEANN RIFE, Head of Special Projects at Amnesty International, believes the legacy of the campaign to save Troy could help others on death row.

Working for abolition of the death penalty is hard. It is an issue dealing in the most fundamental way with life, death and justice. The numerous people who devote time to this effort often make strong and emotional connections with death row inmates and their families. After the execution of Troy Davis in Georgia, USA, on 21 September, activists grieved alongside his family and friends. It is difficult not to be discouraged when so much effort is still not enough to stop a state from killing.

Many of us have been asked since then how we feel about our failure to stop Troy’s execution after years of campaigning. It is important to realize that, despite the tragic outcome, our efforts on his behalf had a huge impact.

Our members around the world participated in over 300 events or vigils that were held in the week preceding the execution. Troy made global headlines and exposed the cruellest deficiency of the death penalty – the fact that it is irrevocable. The enormous attention enabled abolition activists to re-engage with the media, governments and the public.

Many of our members have told us that people in their countries are questioning the death penalty because of the intense focus on this execution. This is a significant step forward towards abolition.

WORLDWIDE IMPACT

The doubts raised about Troy’s conviction also gripped the attention of many people in Taiwan. It allowed activists to draw parallels with the case of Chiou Ho-shun. Like Troy, Chiou Ho-shun has spent over two decades on death row and there are doubts about the case against him.

Chiou Ho-shun and his co-defendants say they were prevented from communicating with anyone for the first four months of their detention and were tortured into confessing to murder and kidnapping, which they later retracted. In 1994, after an official investigation, two public prosecutors and 10 police officers handling the case were convicted of extracting confessions through torture.

In Japan, international attention has also helped to further public debate. Hakamada Iwao was convicted for the murder of four people after an unfair trial and confessed after 20 days of interrogation by police without a lawyer present. He later retracted his confession and testified during his trial that police had beaten and threatened him. Hakamada Iwao is suffering from mental illness after almost 30 years in solitary confinement, and is at daily risk of being executed.

During this 50th anniversary year of Amnesty International, our members are also focusing on two cases of migrant workers in Saudi Arabia, where foreign nationals are particularly vulnerable and frequently receive unfair trials. Sulaimon Olyfemi, a Nigerian national, was sentenced to death for murder in 2004 after a trial conducted in Arabic, which he does not speak, and without access to a translator or a lawyer. Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa reportedly confessed to the murder of her employer in 1999 while mentally ill and did not have any legal representation.

THE FIGHT CONTINUES

Activists often campaign for respect for international standards on the use of the death penalty but it is the individual cases, the names and faces of those on death row, that grab the public’s attention.

In countries with vigilant media and transparent legal systems, we are able to follow cases fairly closely and plan strategies. In the USA, India and Taiwan, we have worked with and for individual death row inmates for years, even decades.

But the unknown executed need to be remembered and counted as well. Many death penalty cases in North Korea, for example, never get reported in the news, do not have lawyers working on appeals and the executed are listed in our reports simply by numbers.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty for all crimes, in all cases, and in all countries. We continue to fight in the name of all individuals facing execution, even when we don’t know their names.

Troy Davis knew this. Shortly before his death, he said “The struggle for justice doesn’t end with me. This struggle is for all the Troy Davises who came before me and all the ones who will come after me.”

All those people around the world who work for abolition should not only feel angry and grieve when a person is executed; they should also recognize that their efforts are having results. The global trend is demonstrably toward abolition and together we are powerful – and we will prevail.
An estimated 50,000 men, women and children are currently held in Yodok political prison camp in North Korea. Most have been sent there without a trial. Why? Because they might have criticized the government or spoken to someone from South Korea. They may have watched a South Korean TV show or listened to South Korean radio. They may have been a government official who has fallen out of favour. Or they may be related to someone who has done any of the above.

Once in Yodok, they are forced into hard labour, brutalized and pushed to the limit – both mentally and physically. Some are born in Yodok, others die there. Only a few survive to tell their stories.
There was no trial. One day, the cell guards told me, ‘Get ready! You are going now.’ So, I obeyed him. I asked them where I was to go. They didn’t tell me. Then I was taken to Yodok.

Former prisoner, 1994-97

I was hung by my arms for half an hour, then brought down and then taken back as many as five times a day. At other times, a black plastic bag was put on my head and then I was submerged in water for long periods at a time. For five months, I was tortured. In the end, I confessed to what they wanted me to confess.

Lee, who was tortured for leaving North Korea without permission and sent to Yodok from 1997-2000

Not one day goes by when I [don’t] deeply regret the suffering I brought to my family who are languishing in North Korea. They have suffered so much for a crime they have not committed. I want to know where they are, what has happened to them, to hear from them. It is my dream that they are released and that we are reunited.

Oii Kil-nam, who sought asylum in Denmark in 1986 after being sent to Germany by the North Korean authorities. His wife and two daughters (pictured left) were interned at Yodok in 1987. They are believed to be in the camp’s Total Control Zone, where they may remain for the rest of their lives. Oii Kil-nam now lives in Seoul.

We were not treated as human beings; we were forced into hard labour with tough targets which if not met meant punishment by restrictions of the already insufficient diet. If you fell sick, there were no meals as you did not produce any output. Given the crowded toilets, lack of time and pressure to meet work targets, we often urinated or defecated while working.

Kim and Lee, former prisoners, 1997-2000

The children in my class were ordered to dig and move earth to a work site 200m away. But we were afraid that as we dug deeper, it could collapse at any time. The teachers who were supervising us told the children to keep digging. After three days, the hill suddenly collapsed. Three children were killed and the other three were badly injured. However, the teachers blamed the children for carelessness.

Kang Cheol-hwan, former child prisoner, 1977-87

The term “political prisoner” does not exist in DPRK’s [Democratic People’s Republic of Korea] vocabulary, and therefore the so-called political prisoners’ camps do not exist. There are reform institutions, which are called prisons in other countries. Those who are sentenced to the penalty of reform through labour for committing anti-State crimes or other crimes prescribed in the Criminal Law serve their terms at the reform institutions.

North Korean response to the UN’s review of the country’s human rights record at the Human Rights Council, December 2009

ACT NOW
Write to the North Korean authorities, calling on them to immediately close Yodok and release all prisoners of conscience held there. See: http://sn.im/2labxx

Oh Kil-nam, who sought asylum in Denmark in 1986 after being sent to Germany by the North Korean authorities. His wife and two daughters (pictured left) were interned at Yodok in 1987. They are believed to be in the camp’s Total Control Zone, where they may remain for the rest of their lives. Oh Kil-nam now lives in Seoul.

[T]he security officers kept sex slaves selected from the female inmates [who] received additional food and were assigned relatively easy work.

Ahn, former prisoner, 1980-82

I saw three executions. Those executed included inmates who were caught escaping. All those who tried to escape were caught. They were interrogated for two to three months and then executed.

Kim, former prisoner, 1997-2000

North Korean response to the UN’s review of the country’s human rights record at the Human Rights Council, December 2009

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North Korean response to the UN’s review of the country’s human rights record at the Human Rights Council, December 2009
The Australian government is systematically stripping services from many communities in the Northern Territory, threatening Aboriginal Peoples’ connection to their traditional homelands. Defending the homelands is central to the survival and dignity of communities at risk. Campaigner SARAH MARLAND, from Amnesty International in Australia, reports.

**‘THE LAND**

**Aboriginal** Peoples have lived in Australia for millennia and are the world’s longest-surviving continuous culture. Besides their own distinct laws and customs, they have a unique relationship with the land.

Alyawarr/Anmatyerr elder Rosalie Kunoth-Monks explains this beautifully:

“All of the components of our identity hang on the land. There’s the land in a circle. There’s the language from that land. In this region it’s the Alyawarr and Anmatyerr language. It incorporates family lineage, family groups. It incorporates our sacred lands. It incorporates our law. The law is L-A-W as well as L-O-R-E. Break any one of those arms and sever it from the land, you are committing the death of a race of people.”

Australia’s federal and Northern Territory governments are now placing the future of traditional homelands in jeopardy. Government policies see homelands losing funding in favour of larger towns and being pushed to the bottom of the priority list for essential services such as health care, education, housing and infrastructure maintenance. This is forcing people to leave their homelands and move to larger towns to get access to basic services.

The governments are also taking decisions that affect communities without consulting them and without their free, prior and informed consent. This results in policies that effectively discriminate against Aboriginal Peoples on the basis of their culture and where they live.

**REPEATING PAST MISTAKES**

Decades of Australian government policy in the last century saw Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples forced off their traditional lands and into missions, towns and cities – a process referred to as “assimilation”.

In the 1960s, small groups of Aboriginal people, usually families or other closely related people, began relocating back their traditional lands and waters and establishing communities there. This became known as the homelands movement. Today, one third of Aboriginal Peoples in the Northern Territory live on approximately 500 homelands.

Studies show that there are proven benefits to living on traditional homelands. The Alyawarr and Anmatyerr Peoples of the Utopia homelands are based 260km north-east of Alice...
"I live here, I grew up here: this is my country. This is a special place, I don’t want to go to no other place, I love my country, it’s where I’m gonna stay forever. It’s all family sitting down here. This is one country, one family.

Motorbike Paddy Petyarr, Anmatyerre elder and kwertengel “manager” of his country, Utopia Homelands.

Springs in the Northern Territory. Utopia is home to roughly 1,400 people living in 16 dispersed communities several hundred kilometres apart. Studies have shown that people in Utopia are healthier, happier and live longer.

The evidence is particularly strong and growing in relation to health, showing that Aboriginal Peoples living in homeland communities were far healthier than those living in large towns. Raising families on homelands means that people maintain their spiritual and economic connections to their country and have some measure of community control and agency.

For these communities, current government policies may herald a return to the assimilation era.

Learning from the past, and given its obligations under international law, the Australian government should be encouraging, rather than undermining, traditional homelands. For three years, Amnesty International has been researching human rights violations by the Australian and Northern Territory governments against Aboriginal communities, including breaches of the fundamental right of Indigenous Peoples to their traditional lands. In August 2011, we published the report *The land holds us: Aboriginal Peoples’ right to traditional homelands in the Northern Territory*, available at www.amnesty.org.au/indigenous-rights/comments/26216

"I learned bush medicine from my grandparents. In order to keep making and using bush medicine, I need to live on my homelands.

We know people here are healthier than other people. We live longer, have less heart problems, less diabetes, better diet, more exercise.

If people have to move into town, we lose our medicine. Then how will little kids know?" 

Joycie Jones Petyarr, health worker, Utopia homelands

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**ACT NOW**

Send a message of support to the Alyawarr and Anmatyerre Peoples of the Utopia homelands, by filling in and sending the card in the insert. Your support will let the government know that people from across the world believe the Australian government should not abandon the homelands.
RESISTING THE REIGN OF TERROR

The Lord’s Resistance Army is terrorizing civilians in Central African Republic. Its members kill in cold blood, force children to become soldiers, rape women and girls and have forced thousands out of their villages. Human rights defender LEWIS-ALEXIS MBOLINANI tells Amnesty researcher Godfrey Byaruhanga how civil society can help to alleviate this desperate situation.

“In the south-east of the country, nearly everyone is a victim of the LRA [Lord’s Resistance Army]”, says Lewis-Alexis Mbolinani (pictured top left wearing tie). “When they attack, they set fire to houses and granaries. They kill and abduct people. All kinds of humiliations are going on. People are experiencing enormous violence.”

The human rights situation in Central African Republic (CAR) is dire. Ravaged by a conflict involving a myriad of groups, it is a volatile and unstable country. Innumerable human rights abuses continue to be committed by the various parties in the conflict-ridden country. The civilian population bears the brunt of the abuses. Tens of thousands of Central Africans have been forced to flee to neighbouring countries, and several hundred thousand civilians are internally displaced in the CAR.

The LRA has caused the most distress in eastern CAR since early 2008. The group has launched incursions into eastern CAR, mostly from neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and sometimes from South Sudan. The LRA has no clear agenda. “A rebel force normally has specific objectives and seeks to secure power”, says Lewis-Alexis. “What are the LRA’s objectives? They say that they are a liberation army sent by God; but who is this God that just kills? It’s a whole phenomenon of destruction, of the extermination of peoples”.

In July 2010, Amnesty international researchers met and interviewed scores of victims of LRA abuses, including those who have been abducted and taken to LRA camps. The victims told of mutilation, cruel treatment, torture, including rape, sexual slavery, pillaging, intentional direct attack on civilians and forcibly recruiting children to fight as soldiers.
SUPPORTING VICTIMS
Human rights defender Lewis-Alexis is Coordinator of Youth United for Environmental Protection and Community Development (JUPEDEC). The NGO promotes health and education in southeastern CAR and helps villagers build health centres, classrooms and bridges and establish income-generating initiatives.

JUPEDEC also develops programmes to support child soldiers who return from LRA camps. “The children are indoctrinated to go out into their own villages to carry out massacres, kill their own parents and kill villagers”, Lewis-Alexis explains. “They feel guilty. We raise awareness of the predicament of child soldiers, so that when they return and give themselves up, they will be welcomed”.

Women, he mentions, also find it hard to return home after being abducted by the LRA. “Women are raped by LRA members and become pregnant. When they return, they are completely rejected. These women and young boys, who have spent months or years with the LRA in the bush come back traumatized and very probably infected with HIV or have AIDS.

JUPEDEC also helps those who have been internally displaced. “People have been forced to abandon their villages because of the massacres. In the south-east, we now have at least 28,000 displaced people. They are confined to the urban centres. Where are they going to find food? Lack of access to land to grow crops is a serious problem. The international community distributes food but the people who have been displaced cannot grow anything.” JUPEDEC helps them secure seeds and tools to grow their own food.

A REGION-WIDE PROBLEM
Lewis-Alexis believes that civil society can help deal with the consequences of LRA violence. “Civil society has helped the authorities and the international community to understand the situation better. UNHCR (the UN Refugee agency) works to protect refugees and displaced people. UNICEF is down here too; we have international NGOs operating there now and the UNHAS (UN Humanitarian Air Services) humanitarian flights are providing a truly remarkable service. There is therefore a strong need for civil society capacity-building, especially in relation to conflict prevention and the protection of civilians.”

Protecting civilians, Lewis-Alexis says, is a priority. “We call on the European Union, the African Union and governments who are listening to help set up a system, a strong mechanism to ensure co-ordination and safety of the civilians population.”

His public criticism of the CAR government failure to protect civilians has been received with hostility and Lewis-Alexis was arrested in December 2009 and accused of being an LRA agent. The case was dropped in September 2010.

What about the future? Lewis-Alexis believes in a holistic approach to resisting the LRA. “The LRA is a regional problem which can no longer be solved as separate Ugandan, Sudanese, Central African or Congolese issues”, he says. “It has to be addressed in a co-ordinated manner. When representatives of civil society get together, we share our knowledge: what have they been doing in the CAR? What have they been doing in Sudan? What can we do while we wait for the government or the international community or the local authorities to arrive?”

“Our prayer today is for the LRA to leave our country. We want peace, simply peace.”

The report Central African Republic: action needed to end decades of abuse is available at http://tinyurl.com/CAR-report
In October we celebrated the release of prisoners of conscience Zarganar (pictured top left), Su Su Nway (below left) and Zaw Htet Ko Ko (bottom left). The three were among at least 240 political prisoners released in a mass amnesty in Myanmar. WIRE readers campaigned for the release of Zarganar and Su Su Nway when their cases featured as Worldwide appeals in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

However, the releases so far are not enough. “There are many [political] prisoners left in the prisons, including ill people and the aged and hospitalized”, said Su Su Nway. “All political prisoners deserve to be free.”

Freed comedian and activist Zarganar said: “Getting all political prisoners released... is my number one priority.”

Amnesty International’s researcher on Myanmar, Benjamin Zawacki, stated: “If Myanmar’s authorities are serious about demonstrating their commitment to reform, this must be only the first step towards a release of all political prisoners as soon as possible.” A petition of 30,750 signatures from residents in 77 countries, calling for the release of all prisoners of conscience, was delivered to Myanmar authorities by Amnesty International on 11 November 2011. We continue to monitor the situation.
 WHETHER IN A HIGH-PROFILE CONFLICT OR A FORGOTTEN CORNER OF THE GLOBE, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS FOR JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DIGNITY 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

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

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 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
‘WE WANT PEACE. SIMPLY PEACE.’

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER LEWIS-ALEXIS MBOLINANI
OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (PAGE 18)
Dr Liu Xiaobo (pictured left), the prominent Chinese scholar and 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, is serving an 11-year sentence for “inciting subversion of state power”. He was sentenced on 25 December 2009, after a two-hour trial on 23 December. He was sentenced, for six articles he wrote between 2005 and 2007 and for devising Charter 08, soliciting signatures to it and publishing it online. His wife, Liu Xia (pictured right), a poet and artist, is under illegal house arrest in Beijing. They are prisoners of conscience. Charter 08 calls for the effective protection of universal human rights and democratic reform in China. The court considered it “slanderous” and an attempt to incite subversion of the Chinese government. In the six articles that formed the other basis of his sentence, Liu Xiaobo criticized corruption, censorship and one-party rule and advocated developing a democratic multi-party political system. The court considered this “rumour mongering, slander and smear”, which exceeded the limits of freedom of expression, constituting a criminal offence.

Liu Xiaobo is held in Jinzhou Prison, in Liaoning province, north-east China. On completion of his sentence, he will be deprived of political rights for two more years.

His wife, Liu Xia, was placed under illegal house arrest following the announcement on 8 October 2010 that her husband had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Liu Xia was last heard from in February 2011 when she briefly managed to contact a friend online. During their short online chat, Liu Xia said that she was feeling miserable, was unable to go out and that her whole family was being held hostage.

According to unofficial reports, Liu Xia and Liu Xiaobo have been allowed to meet twice since January this year.

Please write, calling for Liu Xiaobo to be released from prison immediately and unconditionally. Urge the authorities to lift surveillance and all restrictions on Liu Xia’s freedom of movement and freedom of expression. Send appeals to:

- Premier Wen Jiabao
  The State Council General Office
  2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu
  Beijing 100017
  People’s Republic of China
- Fax: +86 10 65961109 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- Salutation: Dear Premier

Law student and blogger Maikel Nabil Sanad, aged 26, is being held in El-Marg prison, north of Cairo, where he is on hunger strike.

On 10 April 2011, he was convicted and given a three-year sentence for publicly insulting the army on the social networking website Facebook, and for “spreading lies and rumours about the armed forces” on his blog. His blog described time spent inside military barracks while preparing to join the military service. He wrote about his conscientious objection to military service and his arrest, detention and torture by the military in February 2011 after attending a public protest. He also criticized the use of force against peaceful protesters in Tahrir Square.

He was sentenced and convicted without the presence of a lawyer. On 23 August 2011 he began a hunger strike in protest against his continued imprisonment.

On 11 October 2011, a military court of appeal ordered the retrial of Maikel Nabil Sanad. As a civilian, he refuses to be tried before a military court. He, his family and his lawyers therefore did not attend the first session on 18 October, during which the court ordered his transfer to a psychiatric hospital for 45 days. At the time of writing, he had been returned to prison and was awaiting his next hearing.

A psychiatrist, Dr Basma Abd el-Aziz, who questioned his presence in psychiatric hospital, was threatened with administrative investigation by the Ministry of Health.

International law prohibits the trial of civilians before military courts. However, since the ousting of President Hosni Mubarak, some 12,000 Egyptian civilians have faced prosecution in military courts.

Please write, calling for Maikel Nabil Sanad to be released immediately and unconditionally. Urge the authorities to end the trial of civilians by military courts. Send appeals to:

- Major-General Adel al-Morsi
  Director of Military Judiciary
  Military Judicial Department
  Cairo
  Egypt
- Salutation: Dear Major-General

Journalist Manolis Kypreos became deaf in both ears when a stun grenade was thrown in front of him by Greek police on 15 June 2011. He was reporting on the protests in Syntagma Square, Athens, against austerity measures introduced by the government.

Manolis Kypreos says that he witnessed police spraying chemicals and throwing stun grenades at peaceful protesters, and beating them with batons. He says that when the head of a riot police unit asked him why he was taking pictures, he responded and produced his journalist’s accreditation. The head of the unit used abusive language against him and pointed him out to an officer, who threw a stun grenade towards him. It exploded about half a metre away from Manolis, causing him to fall to the ground. When he got up he could no longer hear.

Manolis told Amnesty International that, while making his way to hospital, he intervened to protect a young protester being attacked by police. As a result, he received several beatings.

As a result of the physical disability and psychological trauma he sustained, Manolis’ career as a journalist is effectively over. He told Amnesty International: “When I was reporting from conflict zones and caught up between law enforcement standards. Send appeals to:

- Mr Christos Papoutsis
  Ministry of Citizens’ Protection
  Ministry of Citizens’ Protection
  4 P. Kanellopoulou Street
  10177 Athens
  Greece
- Salutation: Dear Minister
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Conscientious Objector at Risk of Imprisonment</td>
<td>Halil Savda is a human rights defender and conscientious objector at ongoing risk of imprisonment for freely expressing his support for conscientious objectors. He has been arrested on multiple occasions since 2004 for refusing to perform military service, and detained for around 17 months in total. In 2008, Halil Savda was declared “unfit” for military service. He consistently and publicly argues against compulsory military service and he is the registered owner of the Savaş Karşıtları (War Resisters) website in Turkey. He currently faces three separate charges under Article 318 of the Turkish Penal Code, which criminalizes “alienating the public from military service”. In November 2010, his previous conviction under Article 318 was upheld by the Supreme Court of Appeals. He may be imprisoned at any time for 100 days at any time. Halil Savda told Amnesty International that he was ill-treated while detained in 2007, including being kicked and hit by four officers, having a dirty cloth shoved in his mouth and being kept naked for three days in a room without chairs or a bed and forced to sleep on a concrete floor without a blanket. These incidents have never been properly investigated. Turkey is one of only two Council of Europe member states not to recognize the right to conscientious objection (the other being Azerbaijan). In Turkey, military service is compulsory for all male citizens between the ages of 20 and 41. No civilian alternative is available and conscientious objectors continue to be prosecuted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Minor Sentenced to Life Without Parole</td>
<td>In 1994, Christi Cheramie was sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. She was 16 years old. Imposing such a sentence on a minor violates international law. Now aged 33, Christie Cheramie has spent more than half of her life in prison. Christi Cheramie was convicted of second-degree murder in the killing of her 18-year-old fiancé’s great aunt, which she maintains her fiancé carried out. She pleaded guilty just before her trial in adult court began, fearing she could be sentenced to death if the trial went ahead. Her plea prevents her from directly appealing against her conviction or sentence. In 2001, she sought unsuccessfully to have her plea withdrawn, testifying that she had not understood the proceedings at the time. Christie Cheramie’s childhood was marked by sexual abuse. She was hospitalized in a psychiatric clinic after attempting suicide aged 13. In prison, she has been described by a warden as “a model inmate… worthy of a second chance in society.”. She has obtained a high school diploma and a degree in agricultural studies and teaches a number of classes on this subject at her correctional facility. The victim’s closest relatives have stated that Christi Cheramie deserves a second chance. The USA is the only country apart from Somalia not to have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits life imprisonment without the possibility of release for anyone under 18 at the time of the crime.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA)</td>
<td>Since February 2003, members of the women’s rights organization Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) have repeatedly been arrested while taking part in peaceful demonstrations for social, economic and human rights issues in Zimbabwe. Many have been arbitrarily arrested and detained in appalling conditions. Some have been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment and denied access to medical care, food and lawyers while in police custody. Twelve WOZA activists were arrested on 21 September 2011, after police used excessive force to break up a peaceful march for International Day of Peace. Ten of them were released without charge, but WOZA leaders Jenni Williams and Magodonga Mahlihu were charged with “kidnapping and theft”. They deny the charges. Both were denied bail and detained for 13 days without access to necessary medication. Around 40 WOZA members were beaten by riot police during a protest on 10 May and, on 28 February, seven members of WOZA and its partner organization Men of Zimbabwe Arise (MOZA) were arrested in Bulawayo. They were reportedly tortured at Bulawayo Central police station before being released on bail two days later, on the condition that they report to the police twice a week. The treatment of WOZA and MOZA members illustrates the government’s intolerance of peaceful public demonstrations against government policies. It also highlights how repressive laws, particularly the combination of the Public Order and Security Act and the Miscellaneous Offences Act, are used to allow arbitrary arrests and detentions and to facilitate a range of other human rights violations by the police.</td>
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Please write to the Prime Minister of Turkey, calling for Halil Savda to be free to continue publishing articles and making public speeches in support of conscientious objectors, without fear of prosecution or intimidation. Urge the authorities to immediately stop prosecutions of conscientious objectors and introduce an alternative civilian service, in line with European and international standards. Send appeals to:

- Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
  Office of the Prime Minister
  Başbakanlık
  06573 Ankara
  Turkey
  Fax: +90 312 422 18 99
  Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Please write to the Governor of Louisiana, calling on him to grant clemency to Christi Cheramie. Urge him to take all necessary steps to ensure the enactment of state legislation that retroactively eliminates the sentence of life without parole for any crime committed by a person under the age of 18. Send appeals to:

- Bobby Jindal
  Governor of Louisiana
  Post Office Box 94004
  Baton Rouge
  LA 70804-9004, USA
  Fax: +1 225 342 7099
  Email via contact form at: http://www.gov.la.gov/index.cfm?md=for
  m&tmp=email_governor
  Salutation: Dear Governor

Please write to the Deputy Commissioner-General (Crime) Innocent Matibiri, Zimbabwe Republic Police, P. O. Box 8807, Causeway Harare, Zimbabwe, calling on him to stop prosecutions of WOZA and MOZA activists. Urge them to respect WOZA and MOZA members’ rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Send appeals to:

- Deputy Commissioner-General (Crime) Innocent Matibiri
  Zimbabwe Republic Police
  P. O. Box 8807, Causeway
  Harare, Zimbabwe
  Fax: +263 4 253 212
  Salutation: Dear Deputy Commissioner-General
I support homelands
Locked Bag 23
Broadway NSW 2007
AUSTRALIA

“I AM ALIVE TODAY, AFTER 34 ARRESTS, BECAUSE MEMBERS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SPOKE OUT FOR ME.”

Jenni Williams,
human rights defender in Zimbabwe
Your Excellency,

Elders in one area of Al-Duwayqa informal settlement in Manshiyet Nasser, Cairo, are seeking information about government plans for their area. They wish to secure their land tenure and improve their housing conditions without fear of demolition.

Although the elders don’t live in an area designated as “unsafe”, they have been unable to obtain assurances as to whether their area is set for clearance or upgrading.

I urge you to ensure:

- at least minimum legal security of tenure for the residents of Al-Duwayqa and all informal settlements built on land owned by the state so that they can be protected from forced evictions.
- that residents of informal settlements, whether in an “unsafe area” or not, are able to freely access all information concerning government plans so that they can actively participate in future development.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK.