

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



2010 WRITE FOR RIGHTS

TAKE ACTION AGAINST
HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES
4-14 DECEMBER

Each year hundreds of thousands of us mark International Human Rights Day on 10 December by taking part in Write for Rights, Amnesty International's letter-writing marathon. We write letters and take action online to demand that the rights of individuals are respected, protected and fulfilled. In doing so, we show solidarity with those suffering human rights abuses and try to bring about real changes to people's lives.

TAKING ACTION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

■ Thousands of Amnesty International supporters wrote in 2009 in support of nine women human rights defenders in Nicaragua who faced legal proceedings. Their accusers claimed that by campaigning for the right of women and girls to access safe and effective sexual and reproductive health services, the nine women had committed a crime. They also claimed that the women had committed a crime for their alleged role in supporting a nine-year-old girl who was raped and made pregnant to obtain a safe and legal abortion in 2003. The legal proceedings against the women were finally closed in 2010.

■ In July 2010 the Egyptian authorities released Bedouin blogger and activist Musaad Suliman Hassan Hussein, known by his pen name Musaad Abu Fagr, from detention. He had been held without charge or trial for almost three years for calling for the rights of Bedouins in the Sinai to be respected.

■ Bu Dongwei spent over two years in a “Re-education Through Labour” camp in China until his release in July 2008, following campaigning by Amnesty International and others.

In other cases, we reminded people who have had their rights abused that they are not alone:

■ Konstantina Kuneva, a Bulgarian migrant worker and trade union leader who was severely injured after being attacked with sulphuric acid in the Greek capital, Athens, said she was very touched to receive over 1,000 messages of support and stressed her commitment to standing up for workers' rights.

■ The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, which has refused to take sides in Colombia's armed conflict and whose members are in constant danger, has thanked Amnesty International. Members of the community said that messages made them feel like they were not alone in their convictions, and that they had the support of people around the world.



Father Alejandro Solalinde Guerra,
MEXICO

The life of Catholic priest Father Alejandro Solalinde Guerra is at risk because he has dedicated his life in Mexico to providing a place of safety for migrants, away from the criminal gangs who exploit and abuse them.



100 Roma people have been forcibly evicted from their home in Romania and rehoused. Most are now living in insanitary and inhumane conditions in metal cabins alongside a sewage treatment plant.



Norma Cruz,
GUATEMALA

Norma Cruz, who documents and fights for justice in cases of violence against women in Guatemala, is in constant danger. She has received dozens of death threats, and the aggressors have not been brought to justice.



Femi Peters,
GAMBIA

Femi Peters is Campaign Manager for the opposition party in Gambia who was arrested for holding a peaceful demonstration organized by his party. He is serving a one-year prison sentence in Mile 2 high security prison, notorious for torturing and otherwise ill-treating inmates. Femi Peters' wife and two small children are worried that he isn't being given the medical treatment he needs for his diabetes.

Roma families, ROMANIA

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Zelimkhan Murdalov,
RUSSIAN
FEDERATION

Zelimkhan Murdalov has not been seen since 2001, when he was detained in Chechnya in the Russian Federation. In 2005 a police officer was found guilty of crimes connected with his torture and is serving a prison sentence of 10 and a half years. Two higher-ranking officials identified as being involved are still at large.



Su Su Nway,
MYANMAR

Labour activist Su Su Nway, a member of the opposition National League for Democracy in Myanmar, is serving a sentence of eight years and six months in a remote prison, far from her family, for taking part in anti-government protests.



Mao Hengfeng,
CHINA

Mao Hengfeng has been repeatedly detained in China for her activism in support of women's reproductive rights and victims of forced evictions. She is serving 18 months' "Re-education Through Labour" and says she has been beaten.



Walid Yunis Ahmad,
IRAQ

Walid Yunis Ahmad has been held in detention in Iraq for more than 10 years without charge or trial. He has been tortured and held in solitary confinement for long periods. He is detained by the Kurdistan Regional Government, which administers three predominantly Kurdish provinces in northern Iraq.



Khady Bassène,
SENEGAL

In Senegal, Khady Bassène's husband, Jean Diandy, was arrested by soldiers in 1999 and no one has seen him since. She is fighting for the truth about what happened to him, and is still awaiting financial reparation for his disappearance.



Saber Ragoubi,
TUNISIA

Saber Ragoubi was sentenced to death in Tunisia after being convicted of belonging to a terrorist organization, which he denies. His trial was unfair; he was convicted on the basis of a "confession" he said he was forced to make under torture. The court accepted the "confession" as evidence against him without investigating his torture allegations.

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WRITE FOR RIGHTS: JOIN THE LETTER-WRITING MARATHON!

Join the hundreds of thousands of people around the world who will be writing letters and taking action online for 10 days in December.

■ From Belgium to Benin and Switzerland to South Korea, Amnesty International events will take place around the world from 4-14 December 2010, to mark International Human Rights Day.

■ People will come together to Write for Rights by sending letters, emails, faxes, SMS messages and tweets, and signing petitions.

■ To get involved, go to:
www.amnesty.org/en/individuals-at-risk



'Amnesty International's support is one of the reasons that I was released, your messages gave me a sense of solidarity.'

Musaad Abu Fagr, released from detention in Egypt in July 2010.

'People have criticized me for filing a complaint against the military. Many people are afraid. I said no, I filed a complaint to find out where my husband is.'

Khady Bassène, fighting for the truth about the disappearance of her husband in Senegal.



'From my experience, attention and pressure from international society can help to improve the conditions of jailed people. The Letter-Writing Marathon is a great idea.'

Bu Dongwei, released from a Chinese "Re-education Through Labour" camp in July 2008.

Images, top: Activists writing for rights in previous years.
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TAKE ACTION NOW

Join Write for Rights, Amnesty International's letter-writing marathon, between 4 and 14 December 2010 and support those listed inside.

■ Go to www.amnesty.org for your nearest Amnesty International office and find out about letter-writing events in your country

■ Take action online: go to www.amnesty.org/en/individuals-at-risk

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Amnesty International is a global movement of 2.8 million supporters, members and activists in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

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English

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

www.amnesty.org