



**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL 

# FINAL REPORT 2016

This report is created by the Individuals at Risk Team  
April 2017  
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# INTRODUCTION

For the fourteenth consecutive year, Write for Rights has grown again. This time increasing the overall number of actions by over 24% compared with 2015. With at least...

# 4,660,774

## ACTIONS

Almost 60% of Sections saw an increase in their previous year's numbers. Actions taken via the amnesty.org website increased by almost 70% from 2015. We also know that at least 1.4 million people took part in the campaign this year! In all likelihood that number is far higher. On average 43% of the Write for Rights participants were new to Amnesty and Sections collected the data from 46% of new participants.

Again we achieved a variety of human rights impact – the full details of which can be found between pages seven and 35. Highlights include:

- **AMAZING VISITS TO DELIVER SOLIDARITY CARDS, INCLUDING CAMEROON AND PERU**  
Amnesty campaigners were able to visit the prison in Cameroon, where Fomusoh Ivo Feh and his friends are locked away for sending a joke text message – the young men all stated that Write for Rights has given the courage they need while lock away from their friends and family. Land rights defender Máxima was hand delivered over 150,000 cards and letters from all around the world, she was so humbled by the response that she wants Amnesty International (AI) to continue fighting for protection of all women human rights defenders in Peru.
- **HEALTH - ACCESS TO A DOCTOR IN EGYPT AND SUNSCREEN IN MALAWI**  
While Shawkan sadly remains in detention in Cairo's Tora Prison, in line with our calls that he be granted access to the medical care he requires, in December 2016 Shawkan was presented to the prison doctor for a medical exam. Just before the campaign, but on the back of much campaigning by Amnesty Sections, we learned that sunscreen is now being distributed to several government run hospitals and medical centers in Malawi. Sunscreen lotions are not easily accessible for people with albinism in Malawi, previously only two hospitals stocked sunscreen.
- **GREAT PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**  
This year we saw many partnerships with other human rights organizations. Perhaps the most visible was with Edward Snowden. We partnered with the Pardon Snowden Campaign, American Civil Liberties Union, Human Rights Watch, CREDO and Demand Progress, to work on Edward's case in the weeks leading up to Write for Rights and during the campaign. In January 2017 we handed over a global total of 1,101,252 signatures to the White House calling on President Obama to use the presidential pardon for Edward Snowden.

Keep reading for lots of great information about the campaign, including numbers of actions by case and a breakdown of what happened all around the world, from Argentina to Zimbabwe!!

# ACTIONS PER GLOBAL CASE<sup>1</sup>

CASE	ESTIMATED TOTAL # ACTIONS <sup>2</sup>
Fomusoh Ivo Feh <b>Cameroon</b>	313,961
Annie Alfred and People with Albinism <b>Malawi</b>	566,257
Máxima Acuña <b>Peru</b>	308,281
Edward Snowden <b>USA</b>	528,265 <sup>3</sup>
Peace River Valley <b>Canada</b>	179,935
Ilham Tohti <b>China</b>	203,285
Johan Teterissa <b>Indonesia</b>	166,982
Eren Keskin <b>Turkey</b>	350,599
Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov <b>Azerbaijan</b>	231,513
Mahmoud Abu Zeid 'Shawkan' <b>Egypt</b>	445,590
Zeynab Jalalian <b>Iran</b>	206,283

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<sup>1</sup> Please be aware that this table only includes numbers of actions on the official Global 11 cases collated via the survey sent out to Sections after the campaign. The total number of actions for the whole campaign however (as indicated at the start of this report), includes cases *outside* of the global 11, actions where S/s were unable to give us a breakdown by case and actions from S/s that filled in the global counter and/or the evaluation survey, but did NOT answer the detailed numbers survey following the end of the campaign.

<sup>2</sup> The estimated total number of actions include all actions taken in countries with an Amnesty section and online actions taken independently by activists around the world.

<sup>3</sup> This number does not include the actions taken before Write for Rights 2016

**ACTIONS WERE TAKEN BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SECTIONS, ACTIVISTS AND BY ONLINE SUPPORTERS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD**

**THE FOLLOWING ARE THE COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHERE ACTION WAS TAKEN:**

Afghanistan, Åland Islands, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo-Brazzaville, Congo - Kinshasa, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Finland, France, French Guiana, French Polynesia, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar, Greece, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guernsey, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jersey, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Réunion, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, U.S. Virgin Islands, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and

Zimbabwe

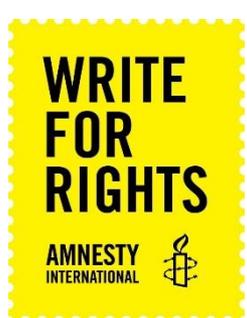
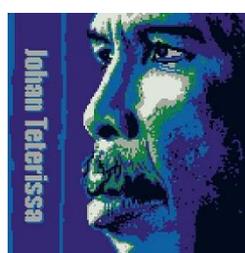
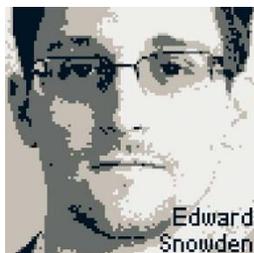
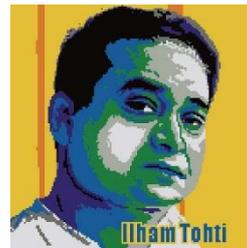
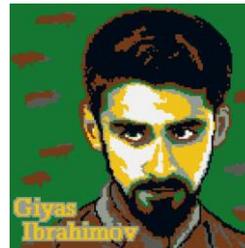
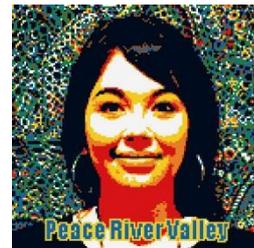
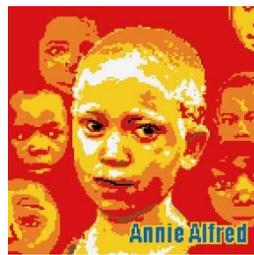
# HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

In the following section we report on how being a part of the Write for Rights campaign in 2016 impacted the lives of those individuals featured as 'cases'.

The huge number of actions that took place in 2016 again broke all records, more than ever before activists wrote letters, signed petitions, sent SMS', and took Facebook and Twitter actions.

As an example of how we can all work together as a global movement, this is an amazing achievement, but our overall end goal is ensure that this mobilisation and growth is translated into meaningful human rights impact.

## SO, WHAT HAVE WE MANAGED SO FAR?



Artwork by Ai Weiwei



## FOMUSOH IVO FEH CAMEROON

Fomusoh Ivo Feh had a bright future ahead of him. He was just about to start university in Cameroon, where he lives. But an SMS message changed everything.

One day, Ivo received a text message from a friend, saying: *“Boko Haram recruits young people from 14 years old and above. Conditions for recruitment: 4 subjects at GCE, including religion”*.

His friend’s message was a comment on how difficult it is to find a good job without being highly qualified – joking that even Boko Haram (an armed group) won’t take you unless you’ve passed your high school subjects.

Ivo forwarded the message to his friend Azah Levis Gob, who shared it with another friend, Afuh Nivelles Nfor, who was a student in secondary school. A teacher saw the text, having confiscated the phone, and showed it to the police. Ivo and his two friends were arrested between October and December 2014.

The three young men were first detained at a police station in Douala, then at the Directorate of Territorial Surveillance in Yaoundé, before being transferred to Prison Principale of Yaoundé on 14 January 2015 where they had their legs chained at the ankles. Ivo had been held incommunicado until his transfer to the prison in Yaoundé.

They were all charged with ‘complicity in a rebellion’ and ‘non-denunciation’. The chains were removed in April 2015, after their lawyer made a request for the chains to be removed. In January 2016, their trial at the Yaoundé Military Court began.

Balkissa Ide Siddo, the Amnesty International Central Africa Campaigner paid an informal visit to Fomusoh Ivo Feh, Afuh Nivelles Nfor and Azah Levis Gob, in prison on 21 November 2016. Balkissa accompanied the friends’ parents and lawyer and this was why she was authorised to see them. The gathering took place in the meeting room located in the administrative section of the prison.

This was the first time in more than 10 months that Azah Levis Gob’s mother, Regina, was able to visit him. Financial constraints had prevented her from visiting, as she lives far from Yaoundé and has to travel at least 6 hours by bus to reach the Main Prison. Regina sends money to a relative in Yaoundé and they use it to buy food and take it to Ivo in prison.

During the visit to the prison, Ivo and his two friends talked of their dream to be free, to continue with their studies and then get jobs, so they can financially support their families. Despite being detained and going through a long, drawn-out process under the justice system, the three still manage to smile and crack jokes.

More information on this visit is available [here](#).

***'You do not know us, we do not know you, but you have been with us from the beginning and you fight for our liberation. What Amnesty International does, even our relatives did not. We will be forever grateful to you for that. You give us the strength to continue day after day and not to give up. It's not easy but we're holding on. May God bless you and continue to assist you in all that you do. Thank you for everything'***

Azah Levis Gob on behalf of the three young men, during a prison visit by Amnesty's Central Africa campaigner.

Just before the campaign began officially in December, Ivo and his two friends Afuh Nivelle Nfor and Azah Levis Gob were found guilty for the charge of 'non-denunciation' on 5 October 2016. Then on 2 November 2016 the Yaoundé military court sentenced the three young men to 10 years in prison for "crimes" related to terrorism.

On 28 November 2016 John Kirby, Assistant Secretary and Department Spokesperson, Bureau of Public Affairs, in a public statement in relation to the ongoing crisis in Southern Cameroon, specifically mentioned the case of Ivo and his friends, stating in part that, "...we are also concerned over recent Cameroonian government actions to restrict free expression and peaceful assembly, including ten-year prison sentences for men who exchanged texts referencing Boko Haram..."

The full statement is available [here](#).

In response to this statement, the Cameroonian Minister of Communications held a press conference on 2 December 2016, in which he denied the fact that Ivo and his two friends were still in detention and had been sentenced for 10 years in prison for the SMS messages they had exchanged. He instead stated that that two of the young men had already been acquitted and released, while one had been sentenced to 11 months in prison on 22 February 2016 but was later released. Amnesty International reacted to the incorrect information communicated by the minister on Fomusoh Ivo Feh, Afuh Nivelle Nfor and Azah Levis Gob confirming that they are still in detention at the Prison Principale of Yaoundé and had been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

With the support of Amnesty International, Ivo and his two friends lodged an appeal. The first hearing was to take place on 19 January, but was rescheduled for 16 February 2017 as the military judge presiding in the case was unavailable. The appeal hearing was yet again postponed, as the military judge assigned to their case was again absent. The judge is unavailable to preside over the case and therefore the president of the appeal court made a request to the director of military justice, for the judge to be replaced. The director transferred the request to the minister of defense who is expected to propose candidates to replace the military judge. The appeal hearing was then set to take place on 16 March 2017 and a list of suitable judges to preside in the case was submitted to the Minister of Defence. However none of the judges was appointed. Without a judge, the appeal trial cannot continue.

Thanks to Write for Rights, the case received global support as well as increased media attention. Celebrities such as Richard Branson and Patrick Mboma, a former Cameroonian football striker and Ivo's favourite footballer, tweeted about the case and sent solidarity messages to Ivo and his two friends as well as letters to the authorities.

There was also peaked interest from Amnesty International Sections on the case, which falls under the thematic issue 'human rights violations in the fight against Boko Haram'. Campaigning around the issue did not receive much attention from sections before Write for Rights, but once Ivo's case was selected for the campaign many sections have actively been engaged in various actions such as, AI Poland produced a virtual 360 video representing a police cell, AI USA published an Op-ed signed by Eric, Ivo's brother, AI Ivory Coast organised a letter writing marathon in a high school in Abidjan.

Further, members of the political opposition in Cameroon such as Kah Walla got in touch with the team during the Write for Rights campaign inquiring about the case. Although the team did not involve them in the campaign, so as to avoid any politicisation of the case, it shows that the communication materials and messages shared as part of Write for Rights have indeed reached lots of people.

Ilaria Allegrozzi, the Amnesty International Lake Chad Researcher visited Fomusoh Ivo Feh, Afuh Nivelé Nfor and Azah Levis Gob in prison on 3 February 2017. They expressed their joy at the solidarity messages they had received. They are grateful to everyone around the world are taking action on their case.

One of the solidarity cards received by Ivo and his friends featured the words 'Never give up', with a drawing of Amnesty International's logo – the candle with barbed wire. When the prison manager saw it – since he opens all the letters – he thought it was the drawing of a bomb and insisted that he had to show it to the Minister of defence and the General Directorate of External Research (DGRE). It took a lot of time for him to actually understand that it was simply Amnesty International's logo! Some prisoners who have previous reports published by Amnesty International, had to show him the logo to convince him it was legitimate before he gave the letters to Ivo and his friends. This did not cause any adverse problems for Ivo and his friends, but does go a long way to show how paranoid the authorities are!

In early February, Réseau des Défenseurs des Droits Humains en Afrique Centrale (REDHAC) and Commissioner Reine Alapini-Gansou of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights organised a series of advocacy meetings in Cameroon, during which they raised Ivo's case. The Commissioner has promised to send an official communication to the Cameroon government on the human rights situation in the country including human rights violations committed by security forces in the fight against Boko Haram such as in the case of Ivo and his friends.

Moving forward, Amnesty International will continue to campaign on the case, demanding that the three are released. The team will continue to be in touch with the young men, their families and lawyers and visit them in prison whenever they are in Cameroon. The team is also planning a high-level mission in Cameroon in May to meet with Cameroonian authorities to hand over a private brief on torture by security forces in legal and illegal detention centres and a dummy cheque with an amount representing the number of actions taken on behalf of Ivo and his friends during Write for Rights.

Local organisations such as REDHAC, Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme (NDH) and Cercle Des Educateurs Solidaires Des Quartiers Réunis De Maroua (CESOQUAR) are also actively engaged on the case and use any key date and moment to call for the release of Ivo and his friends.



*Portrait of Fomusoh Ivo Feh created by El Moustach, a famous Algerian Artist, for the Write for Rights campaign © El Moustach*



# ANNIE ALFRED AND PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM MALAWI

Like thousands of people with albinism in Malawi, little Annie Alfred lives in constant fear of being abducted or killed for her body parts. Some people, mostly influenced by superstition, believe that her body parts can bring them riches.

Annie's case proved extremely popular, with over half a million actions taken during the campaign. Many Amnesty International Sections organised an array of exciting actions. Amnesty International Mali were able to get on board several organisations working with people with albinism to support their activities including the Salif Keita Foundation whose founder, Salif Keita was born with albinism and is a renowned music artist who has had several Grammy nominations. Amnesty International UK worked with well known UK TV presenter, Reggie Yates. As he is also a keen photographer, Amnesty International UK commissioned Reggie Yates to do a series of photos of people with albinism in the UK holding messages of solidarity for people with albinism in Malawi. The photos were shown during an exhibition at a small gallery in the UK. An Amnesty International Australia group made a quilt for Annie Alfred with her name on it.



*Amnesty Mali Activists © Amnesty International Mali*

Since 2016, when Amnesty international began campaigning for the protection of people with albinism in Malawi, there has been a temporal reduction in killings and other attacks against them. For example, between May 2016 and February 2017, two people with albinism were killed, compared to

the seven killings that Amnesty International documented between January 2016 and April 2016. On 10 January 2017, Madalisto Pensulo, a 19 year old male with albinism was killed coming from Mlonda Village, Traditional Authority Sabwe Thyolo District. He was invited to attend a meal at the house of Willard Michael's, where he was killed. Willard Michael, 27 years old, who is suspected of the killing has yet to be arrested. On Thursday 23 February 2017, Mercy Zainabu Banda, a 31 year old woman with albinism, went missing in Lilongwe. Her body was discovered by children on 25 February 2017, she had been murdered and left in a maize field. Her right breast, right arm and her hair had been cut off.

Write for Rights helped globalise media attention on the issue. Several media organisations sent their reporters to Malawi, with some even travelling into the rural areas where Annie and her family live - far from the capital, Lilongwe. With the help of the Association of People with albinism in Malawi ([APAM](#)) these reporters were able to meet people with albinism, their families, friends and document their life stories and experiences.

In October 2016, the Central Medical Stores (CMS), which is a government agency that procures drugs, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals for the public, started buying sunscreen lotions. These are now being distributed to several government run hospitals and medical centres in Malawi. The CMS have been able to purchase the sunscreen with the help of funding from UNICEF. Sunscreen lotions are not easily accessible for people with albinism in Malawi, previously only two hospitals stocked sunscreen.

The government in Malawi seems to have heard your calls for there to be harsh penalties against those found guilty of committing crimes against people with albinism. In December 2016, the Government (with support from the UN) launched a handbook on offences against people with albinism. The handbook incorporates the legislative changes introduced in 2016 under the Penal Code Amendment Act and Anatomy Amendment Act, containing new offences and harsher penalties for those who attack people with albinism. It also highlights already decided court cases in Malawi and elsewhere, as well as the Practice Direction issued on 3 May 2016 by the Malawi Chief Justice on handling cases involving attacks against people with albinism. The handbook seeks to strengthen the legal response to crimes against people with albinism, by bringing together all applicable charges that can be filed against perpetrators of crimes against people with albinism. The handbook it is hoped will help investigators, prosecutors and magistrates in dealing with offences committed against people with albinism better. It is hoped that the courts will now treat cases involving crimes against more seriously than in the past when perpetrators were convicted of minor offences and in some cases fined as little as 10,000 Malawi Kwacha which the equivalent of USD \$15.

More stakeholders from the civil society and donor organisations are actively supporting the work to make lives of people with albinism better, each playing a different role. For example, some are supporting community education, others have trained district focal persons for people with albinism, others supported production of handbook on offences against people with albinism etc.

APAM, Amnesty International's main contact in Malawi noted that during their visits to different areas in the country that verbal insults against people with albinism had greatly reduced. Previously, people with albinism would be called names like 'ghost', 'napwere' (unripen tomato) and 'mzungudalo' (fake white person) which are very discriminatory. The campaign has also strengthened the resolve of APAM and other organisations to continue fighting for the rights of people with albinism in Malawi.

*"These materials (Write for Rights produced materials) have helped to change lives of victims and families of people with albinism in Malawi", APAM*

*"The moral support from Amnesty International has helped us gain confidence in our fight", APAM*

The First Lady of Malawi has become a patron for the Association of Persons with Albinism in Malawi (APAM). This means that she has agreed to be associated with the association and due to her high profile in the country this will likely give the necessary attention to issues faced by people with albinism and also help raise funds to help people with albinism who are faced with various health challenges. Towards the end of 2016, the First Lady helped APAM convene a fundraising dinner to mobilising resources for the support of people with albinism.

However, even with the positive developments more still needs to be done to guarantee the protection of people with albinism in Malawi. We will be continuing with the campaign. The Amnesty International team is considering a trip to Malawi sometime in April 2017.



# MÁXIMA ACUÑA

## PERU

Máxima Acuña is a peasant farmer in northern Peru. Máxima and her family are in a dispute with the Yanacocha mining company over the ownership of the plot of land where they live in Tragadero Grande, Cajamarca region. A human rights defender, Máxima and her family have been repeatedly threatened and harassed by police, and have also faced forced eviction from the land they live on.

This harassment and intimidation intensified in 2011, when police descended on her small farm and beat her and her daughter unconscious. Since then they have knocked down her home twice. A lengthy legal battle saw Máxima first stripped of, and then returned, the land where she lives. While the court procedure takes place, Máxima and her family must be able to live peacefully on the disputed land, without fear of violence and intimidation. Community members have banded together to protect Máxima from forced eviction and continued harassment.

As part of Write for Rights 2016, over 300,000 actions were taken on behalf of Máxima Acuña, many of which urged the Peruvian authorities to protect Máxima and her family from violence, harassment and intimidation, and publicly recognize Máxima's legitimate and important work as a human rights defender working on issues of land and the environment. Thousands of solidarity messages, including postcards, photos, were sent to Amnesty International Peru and later delivered to Máxima and her family. Artistic activists in [Norway](#), [Italy](#), France and the UK, among other countries, performed songs to show their solidarity with Máxima as well.

As an integral part of Write for Rights every year, the Human Rights Education Programme developed a number of human rights education activities and resources featuring Máxima's case to support campaigning and engage young audiences on what it means to be a human rights defender working on issues of the land and environment. This included a case study and human rights education activity on Máxima Acuña in the [Write for Rights 2016 Human Rights Education Pack](#) for sections working with teachers and student groups. Máxima's case also featured in a quiz on the online interactive educational platform [Kahoot!](#), which partnered with Amnesty to develop quizzes around Write for Rights and human rights in general. Activists and students were engaged either as a group or individually, and learned about human rights issues and some of this year's campaign cases through playing.

The Amnesty International Secretariat Americas Regional Office and a number of sections in the Americas also worked collaboratively to produce additional resources and opportunities to support campaigning on Máxima's case. The Americas Human Rights Defenders team launched the [Speak out for defenders!](#) online platform on 9 December, International Human Rights Defenders Day, which seeks to make visible and register security incidents faced by territory, land and environmental rights defenders in the Americas. The stigmatization of Máxima Acuña by Yanacocha personnel in 2016 is included in this platform, and those visiting the site are encouraged to take action on her case. AI Peru and AI Venezuela worked together to create an animated film telling Máxima's story in [Spanish](#), which AI Canada then translated and promoted in [English](#).

The Americas Regional Office also coordinated licensing agreements with the producers of the documentary *Daughter of the Lake (Hija de la Laguna)*, which features Maxima telling her story, so that six Sections could organize screening events of the film as part of their campaign activities.

Unfortunately, Maxima Acuna and her family have continued reporting stigmatization by Yanacocha security personnel since Write for Rights has ended. However, our analysis is that the campaign has had a positive impact in terms of demonstrating solidarity with Maxima and her family, as well as sensitizing the Peruvian public and one of our key targets toward Maxima’s struggle and important work as a human rights defender of land and the environment.

On 14 February, Amnesty International delegates visited Maxima Acuna and her family on the land where they live in Tragadero Grande, Cajamarca region. Before arriving at Maxima’s family home, the delegates were required to identify themselves and await authorization from the mining company in order to pass through. The group delivered over 150,000 solidarity messages to Maxima and her family from AI activists all around the world telling Maxima that she was not alone.

Maxima and her family opened the piles of solidarity letters, postcards, photos and drawings, and were extremely excited and appreciative to receive support from so many countries around the world. She was particularly excited to read any card that had flowers on it, as she loves flowers and seeing pictures of them from other countries. After reading some of the solidarity messages, Maxima told AI that the Write for Rights campaign had brought about a positive change in her life, stating, *“the feeling that I am protected, that my children are protected”* and it has made a difference to her to know that *“there are people who are helping us to seek justice”*.

The repeated solidarity message of “Maxima is not alone” (*“Maxima no est sola”*) seemed to lift her spirits. She shared with AI the following message of thanks, *“I am grateful that I am not alone. I have the support of so many people from all around the world, from many different countries. Thank you for everything.”*

Also visiting Maxima and her family on 14 February was the Peruvian Minister for Justice and Human Rights, Mara Soledad Prez Tello, who was our secondary target during the Write for Rights campaign. The Minister was visiting the family in order to verify compliance with the precautionary measures granted to Maxima in 2014 by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. These require the Peruvian government to adopt all measures necessary to safeguard her life and physical integrity. During the visit, Maxima gave the AI delegates and the Minister a tour of the land where she and her family live and the crops they grow for themselves, and showed the group the crops that Yanacocha personnel had destroyed during a recent attack the previous morning.

As a meeting with the Minister of Interior, our primary target during the campaign, was not possible, the Minister of Justice received letters about Maxima’s case on behalf of the government. She told Amnesty International that she had also received a large number of letters from AI activists directly, particularly remembering those she received in French and that her daughter translated for her. Following the Write for Rights campaign, AI believes it is clear that the Minister of Justice has been very receptive to taking action to protect and support Maxima and her family. This was evident just one day after the joint visit to Tragadero Grande, on 15 February, when the Minister was interviewed on national radio show Radio Existosa and said that there are currently several measures that the State must implement to ensure the safety of Maxima and her family. The Minister continued that these measures were the same ones Amnesty International’s campaign was calling for, and that the State must urgently comply with.

Amnesty International has also noted that the Write for Rights campaign has helped to sensitize national media and public opinion in Peru toward Maxima and her situation. Although some media outlets label Maxima as anti-development or anti-mining, there are now others that are supportive of the struggle she is going through. The campaign has put Maxima in the centre of discussion around such issues of human rights defenders of the land and environment, bringing greater visibility to the issue throughout the country.

Amnesty International issued a [public statement](#) on 14 March expressing its concern about the inappropriate use of the justice system to bring a criminal prosecution for land invasion against Máxima Acuña and stigmatize her with the objective of discrediting her and denying the legitimacy of her work. The Supreme Court of Justice will issue its final decision in the case of usurpation against Máxima Acuña on 12 April. After the Supreme Court issues its decision, we will know whether the case is closed in Máxima's favour or if she is found guilty of usurpation. We will then review and update the campaign strategy accordingly, also taking into account the upcoming global campaign on human rights defenders, and the Americas Human Rights Defenders team's priority work in South America for 2017.

We will continue to demand an end to the harassment, intimidation, stigmatization and attacks that Máxima faces, and for the authorities to publicly recognize her legitimate and important work as a human rights defender. Máxima calls on Amnesty International to continue fighting for protection of all women human rights defenders in Peru, asking AI activists to, ***“Keep on supporting, helping, and not just me, ok? Because in different areas of Peru there are many women suffering from this kind of ill treatment, all kinds of abuse. Support them all. The position I am in, as a humble peasant farmer woman, there are others in this position in other places.”***



*Máxima Acuña opening some of the more than 150,000 letters from all over the world delivered to her at her home in Tragadero Grande, Cajamarca region, Peru. © Amnesty International*



# EDWARD SNOWDEN USA

When Edward Snowden shared US intelligence documents with journalists in June 2013, he revealed the shocking extent of global mass surveillance. He showed how governments were secretly scooping up huge amounts of our personal communications, including private emails, phone locations, web histories and so much more. All without our consent. His courage changed the world. He sparked a global debate, changing laws and helping to protect our privacy. Edward Snowden is a human rights hero, yet he faces decades in prison under charges that treat him like a spy who sold secrets to enemies of the USA.

With over 500,000 actions taken for Edward during Write for Rights and around 200,000 taken before the campaign began – over 700,000 Amnesty supporters from 110 countries worldwide stood up for Snowden. Together with our US-based partners: the Pardon Snowden Campaign, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Human Rights Watch (HRW), CREDO and Demand Progress, we handed over a global total of 1,101,252 signatures to the White House calling on President Obama to use the presidential pardon for Edward Snowden.

**Tanya O'Carroll** @TanyaOCarroll · Jan 13

Incredible, more than 1 million people from 110 countries wrote to @potus calling for him to pardon @Snowden!! Here's what that looks like

Stand With Snowden and Edward Snowden

58 1.1K 2.1K

Although Obama did not, in the end, pardon Snowden, he did decide to free Chelsea Manning — a huge victory for those defending the rights of whistleblowers everywhere.

The fight for Snowden is not over yet. Amnesty International and partners will keep up the pressure as part of a global solidarity campaign: *Stand with Snowden*

We are also developing a high-level advocacy strategy for key Amnesty International Sections in Europe, to build networks of influential allies and to call for European countries to grant Snowden safe passage and/or facilitate asylum in Europe.

(Left) Tweet from Amnesty Researcher/Advisor, Tanya O'Carroll

You Retweeted

**Edward Snowden** @Snowden · Jan 13

This is not the end of a fight, but the beginning of a movement. There will be injustice in the coming years, my friends. Let's be loud.

86 2.5K 6.8K

Tweet from Edward Snowden in January 2016

From the start of our work with Edward Snowden, we knew that achieving a pardon would be extremely difficult. A pardon would depend heavily on the political calculations of Obama at the end of his Presidency, at a uniquely tumultuous time in the United States following the election of Donald Trump. While our outward messaging focused clearly and consistently on the call for Pardon, the campaign had additional aims.

This campaign presented an historic opportunity for Amnesty International and our partners to put a stamp of legitimacy on Snowden's status as a whistleblower and applaud his act of conscience and his courage in standing up for human rights. Amnesty's previous work on Snowden's case had shown that many people continued to lack the facts about Edward Snowden's case and confused him with others who have leaked documents in recent years.

Our campaign aimed to communicate in a compelling way why Amnesty International considers Edward Snowden to be a whistleblower and human rights hero. In doing so, we aimed to challenge the US government's narrative that Snowden's disclosures made him a traitor and an enemy of the United States.

Above all, this campaign was about building a solidarity movement so that even if unsuccessful in achieving a pardon now, we would alter the political calculations of future politicians and increase the possibility that Snowden will one day be able to leave Russia and return home. In this regard, the campaign was a huge success. It generated global attention, attracted prominent persons and celebrities, who publicly and visibly stood with Snowden, and influenced public opinion in the US.



*A balloon with Edward Snowden's face was attached to the Statue of Liberty replica during an AI France action, calling for outgoing President Barack Obama to pardon him, on 13 January, 2017 in Paris, France © cyril marcilhacy/Cosmos*

A few notable successes of the [Pardon Snowden](#) campaign, backed by Amnesty International, ACLU and HRW:

- The launch of the campaign in September 2016, to time with the launch of the new Oliver Stone movie, “Snowden”, sparked a deluge of commentary in the US press and around the world - much of it joining the call for Pardon or urging leniency in light of Snowden’s contributions. The opinion pages of just about every major paper in the USA weighed in, with pro-pardon contributions in the [New York Times](#), [Time](#), the [Los Angeles Times](#), [USA Today](#), and [many more](#). Amnesty International’s announcement of the launch received 1676 media hits and was our biggest story of 2016 for the Americas.
- [More than a hundred distinguished individuals](#) signed on to the campaign, including Steve Wozniak, Co-Founder of Apple, Tim Berners-Lee, Inventor of the World Wide Web, Actors Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Viggo Mortensen and Maggie Gyllenhaal (among others), and filmmaker Michael Moore.
- The Guardian [ran a piece](#) to coincide with the launch of the campaign, featuring prominent individuals in support of Snowden including Bernie Sanders, Susan Sarandon, and Daniel Ellsberg, the former US military analyst who released the 1971 Pentagon Papers on the Vietnam war.
- More than 30 prominent writers came out in support of a Presidential Pardon for Edward Snowden. [Their joint letter](#) to former President Obama appeared as an advertisement in the November 22, 2016 edition of The New York Times.
- 15 former staff members of the US Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities (the “Church Committee”), [authored a memo](#) to the White House and the Justice Department urging them to show leniency to Edward Snowden.
- Timothy Edgar, former director of privacy and civil liberties in Obama’s National Security Staff [wrote a piece in support](#) of a Pardon for Snowden from his perspective as a member of the intelligence community.

Sections did a huge amount to raise the profile of Edward Snowden as part of the wider campaign and during Write for Rights specifically. Several sections organized events featuring live discussions with Edward Snowden via video-link from Moscow. These were invigorating and inspiring events for Amnesty International activists working on his case:

- A crowd of more than 300 Amnesty Norway activists barely squeezed in to see Snowden talk from a snowy Trondheim on the side of the section’s AGM.
- Amnesty International Sweden facilitated Snowden’s appearance at the Internet Days conference in front of an audience of more than 1000 people.
- Amnesty International Netherlands had a virtual visit from Snowden at their annual 24 hour letter writing marathon on Human Rights Day in Amsterdam.

The Pardon Snowden campaign organized a stunt at the Newseum, a Washington museum celebration free expression, on international Human Rights Day. Messages of support from across the US and the world were [projected](#) onto the First Amendment tablet of the building from across the US and the world.

Amnesty International France organized a fantastically eye-catching stunt in Paris to coincide with the handover of the more than one million signatures to Obama on 13 January 2017. It was a powerful symbol to see Snowden’s face on the Statue of Liberty (OK, so not the one in the US but still!)



*A dozen illustrations were created by artists in solidarity with the Pardon Snowden campaign in the US, in gratitude to Ed's contribution to human rights. © Erik Maniscalco*

### **A THANK YOU FROM EDWARD SNOWDEN:**

I want to thank you, humbly and with a full heart, for your unwavering advocacy and support. More than a million of you came together to say in one voice that the truth matters. My gratitude is beyond expression.

Though the powers of our day may keep me from home for a few more years, your support keeps me company during the fight. With each action, you are authoring a story of how ordinary people, good and gracious, come together in the United States and around the world to change our collective future. There is no honour greater than standing shoulder-to-shoulder with your generous spirit.

It is this same spirit that set free Chelsea Manning, who will finally come home from seven long years in prison for the crime of telling the truth. It will be the force that preserves our civil liberties, not just over the next four years, but for the enduring generations. It is the force that inspires me to never give up, and ask you to commit to the same.

In that unstoppable spirit, I invite you to stand with me one more time to protect the values that represent the real greatness of our age.

**Make no mistake, my friends: There is injustice in this world, but it will not last forever.**

**We will make sure of it.**

With gratitude,  
Edward Snowden



# PEACE RIVER VALLEY CANADA

The Peace River Valley in northeast British Columbia is one of the very few areas in the region that so far has been largely preserved from large-scale resource development. The Dane-Zaa, Cree, Métis and other Indigenous peoples rely on the valley for hunting and fishing, gathering berries and sacred medicine, and holding ceremonies. Their ancestors are buried in this land. An USD \$8 billion hydroelectric dam, known as Site C, would flood more than 80 km of the Peace Valley and more than 20 km of its tributaries. The resulting 9,330 hectare reservoir would submerge hundreds of cultural and historic sites, including graves. The federal and provincial governments have allowed a public utility to plunge ahead with construction while legal challenges to the dam are still before the courts.

As part of Write for Rights 2016, activists called on the Canadian authorities to rescind, or at least suspend all permits and approvals related to the construction of the Site C dam, pending resolution of the outstanding legal issues, and to incorporate Canada's obligation to uphold Indigenous peoples' right of free, prior and informed consent in law and policy. Of the total number of actions, at least 400 solidarity messages were posted the [#WithThePeaceRiver solidarity site](#) and more physical letters are due to be delivered to the communities of the Peace River Valley.

Unfortunately, in late January, the efforts of the West Moberly and Prophet River First Nations to stop the dam through a legal proceeding called a judicial review were rejected by the Canadian Federal Court of Appeal. The Court concluded that the federal government was acting within the terms of Canadian environmental legislation when it approved the dam without first considering whether it violates the Constitutionally-protected Treaty rights of the First Nations who live in and depend on the Peace River Valley. If the court decision stands, it has the potential to set a dangerous precedent for rights protection in Canada as it effectively allows the terms of an individual piece of legislation to trump wider Constitutional rights protections.

There is no decision yet on whether this will be further appealed. In the meantime, construction of the Site C dam is proceeding. Although construction of the dam is moving forward, our analysis is that the Write for Rights campaign has had a positive impact through providing solidarity to the communities in the Peace River Valley and with our local partners, as well as on increased national media attention, and pressure for accountability from Canadian authorities.

Amnesty International activists showed their solidarity with the Indigenous peoples of the Peace River Valley in a variety of ways, including by posting messages and photos on Twitter or Instagram, which were then automatically uploaded to the [#WithThePeaceRiver solidarity site](#). Some solidarity letters were sent directly to organizations in the Peace River Valley, although most of the physical letters were sent to AI Canada's office in Ottawa, the capital. The section is currently working on plans to deliver the letters in a variety of ways, through both video and in person letter-opening events in the affected communities. Helen Knott, an activist from the Peace River Valley whose story featured in campaign materials such as videos and case cards, is working with other artists in the area to create an art installation using some of the letters.

Activists and leaders from the Indigenous communities in the Peace River region have expressed their deep appreciation for the continued support of Amnesty International on this important case. Many have told us how profoundly moved they were by the individual expressions of solidarity and support they saw online or received personally.

## **“Completely made my morning. ❤️”**

Helen Knott wrote on Facebook after receiving letters from students in the UK.

***“It pulled at my heartstrings,”*** another activist said about the solidarity letters already received by the communities. ***“There’s no better way to show that you’re not alone, that other people recognize that what’s happening to you isn’t right.”***

When the communities learned in January that their latest legal challenge to the dam had been rejected, the support from Amnesty International members worldwide has been an important morale booster at a crucial time. ***“Having those letters will really uplift people when they need it most,”*** one activist said.

Within the Peace River Valley community, AI Canada has observed that the movement’s focus on this case has helped spark local conversations: that people who had not expressed an opinion about the Site C dam before were now more interested and willing to talk about it because of the international attention it had received. Community activists with the Peace Valley Environmental Association also got actively involved with Write for Rights campaigning and held an event at the Treaty 8 Tribal Council offices. Organizers noted that it brought out people who had not been publicly involved in the fight against the Site C dam before. Although the event was small, the organizers are positive it is something that can be built upon in the future.

In terms of working with local partners, AI Canada’s work on this case continues to be part of a much larger, informal alliance of Indigenous peoples’ organizations, faith groups, environmentalists and others in Canada. Much of Amnesty International’s impact is through contributing to this larger movement. The section has stated that these partners have expressed a lot of enthusiasm for the Write for Rights campaign, and many of them helped to actively promote campaign events or even to host their own.

Media coverage on this case within Canada was very good during the Write for Rights campaign period. This is particularly notable considering that two major media moments on the case had already occurred during the previous six months: the launch of the report [\*The point of no return: The human rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada and threatened by the Site C dam\*](#) and accompanying campaign digest August 2016, and the launch of the report [\*Out of sight, out of mind: Gender, Indigenous rights and energy development in northeast British Columbia\*](#) in October 2016.

The inclusion of the Indigenous peoples of the Peace River Valley case in the global Write for Rights campaign was covered by two major Canadian syndication services, Broadcast News and Canadian Press, resulting in the story being covered in local print and broadcast media across the country. It was also featured in *Maclean’s* magazine, the largest and most influential news magazine in Canada. AI Canada’s media monitoring service, which is not exhaustive, estimates that the story reached a potential audience of more than 13.5 million people within Canada, more than one-third of the country’s population.

AI Canada delegates have met with several senior policy advisors at the federal and provincial level regarding the Site C dam. The section has stated that they have no doubt that these governments are feeling considerable pressure from the national and international attention to the case as a result of our campaigning. The case is now mentioned daily in national media and regularly in the House of Commons.

AI Canada is organizing a petition delivery event to take place in Ottawa, which will be accompanied by a photo stunt and media work. Amnesty International will review the Indigenous peoples of the Peace River Valley casefile in or to adjust the campaign strategy following the end of Write for Rights, and will continue campaigning for the rights of Dane-Za, Cree and Métis peoples in northeast British Columbia to be recognized and effectively protected.



# ILHAM TOHTI

## CHINA

Ilham Tohti is an economics professor at Central University for Nationalities (Minzu University) in Beijing, the founder of “Uighur Online” website, and a well-known critic of China’s ethnic and religious policies in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Charged with “separatism”, often used against Uighurs who speak out against human rights violations, Ilham was sentenced to life imprisonment on 23 September 2014.

Considered a prisoner of conscience, the primary campaign call for Ilham Tohti has always been for his immediate and unconditional release.

Ilham remains in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region No. 1 Prison at the date of writing this, however his treatment in detention has not deteriorated. This is regarded as a small victory by the Amnesty International China team as it shows that the local prison authorities are aware of the international attention that his case is receiving, and therefore continue to ensure his well-being.

During the 2016 Write for Rights campaign we were fortunate enough to work closely with Ilham’s daughter, Jewher Tohti, who proved instrumental in providing a voice to her father’s case. Active on social media, Jewher was able to amplify and personalize Ilham’s story through formal interviews, campaign outputs, and at Amnesty International events.

A guest speaker at Art for Rights, an AI USA event in Los Angeles, Jewher expressed her thanks to the movement for campaigning on her father’s behalf as well as her delight in the painting by Sophia Dawson of Ilham. She has continued to support Amnesty International even after the official campaign period of Write for Rights had come to an end, as she still provides assistance in coordinating & creating social media outputs, including quotes for tweets to mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Ilham’s detention on 15 January 2017.

 **Amnesty International Canada** added a new photo to the album: Write for Rights 2016. 8 hrs · 🌐

Amnesty International members gathered in St John's for a flash Write for Rights art installation. They shared the story of Ilham Tohti who is being cruelly punished for peacefully defending the rights of Chinese minorities.



Tweet from AI Canada

***“It really is heart-warming to have so many people support my family and it brought me to tears to see all the letters that Amnesty International had collected. It makes me feel stronger when I know there are so many people who trust in me, my father, and my family. The attention that this campaign has received is significant as the more people who know about my father’s case, the safer my father and my family will be. I would like to thank Amnesty International and everyone who stands for those, like my father, who have risked their lives to speak out for human rights. I will never give up on the fight for my father’s release.”***

- Jewher Tohti, daughter of Ilham Tohti

Lib Dem Baroness @LorelyBurt joins @amnestyuk's call on China to #freellhamTohti this #humanrightsday @amnestyukCEA



RETWEETS 4 LIKES 4

Amnesty International Sections from across the world campaigned for Ilham's release, including the Amnesty International European Institutions Office (EIO) who invited journalists, and those working in European Institutions or NGOs, to raise awareness about Write for Rights. Ilham Tohti was one of the featured cases at the event and AI EIO invited people to sign a petition, send solidarity messages and write a letter to the Chinese authorities. The event was well documented and shared on social media.

Amnesty International United Kingdom also engaged high ranking officials at a parliamentary event in London where they prepared a photo action and asked Members of Parliament to take a picture of themselves demanding Ilham Tohti's freedom.

*Tweet from a UK politician in support of Ilham*

Within the Asia Pacific region itself, participation in Write for Rights was at an all-time high with Amnesty International Taiwan recording over 300,000 actions. Support was provided to sections for targeted Facebook advertisements on Ilham's case and, for both AI Taiwan and AI Hong Kong, post engagement was over 22%.

Overall, the Chinese language platforms performed well over the campaign period. With no online petitions or calls for action, the objectives differed from the amnesty.org website and instead the campaign was successfully used to promote awareness about human rights issues generally as well as to share Ilham Tohti's story to a wider domestic Chinese audience.

The Amnesty International Chinese language website was only launched in October 2016 and both the Write for Rights story page, and social media outputs such as the blog and video, were the top performing content during this period. While comments on Facebook posts were mixed, as Ilham is still regarded by some domestic audiences as a "separatist", it was fantastic to see leading influencers within the region, including ChinaChange.org and prominent national activists, share and support Amnesty International campaign outputs.

In addition to the Lunar New Year Action in January, the release of the Chinese transcript of a 2014 interview with Ilham has provided great campaigning opportunities in 2017 to capitalise on the momentum generated by Write for Rights. Both were well received, indicating healthy appetite for the continued support of his release. Going forward, the Amnesty International China team is considering a slight shift in focus to help alleviate the stress of his family. While the primary objective will always be for Ilham's immediate and unconditional release, it may be beneficial to utilize the current international pressure to ask for him to be relocated to Beijing. Urumqi, Xinjiang, where Ilham is currently being detained, is over a two day journey from Beijing, where his immediate family are based.

The first priority however is the delivery of the signatures collected through the .org online petition, after which there will be a thorough review of Ilham's campaign strategy. Therefore any updates on his situation, or changes in priority appeals or targets, will be made known to the movement to allow activists to continue their coordinated and effective campaign for improved conditions and his unconditional release.



# JOHAN TETERISSA INDONESIA

Johan Teterissa, a political activist and former teacher, is currently serving a 15-year prison sentence for his peaceful activism.

In June 2007, Johan led a group of 22 men in a peaceful protest in front of Indonesia's president and performed a traditional war dance ('cakalele'), before unfurling a flag banned by the government. The men were immediately taken by the police and, during their detention and interrogation, were subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

Following unfair trials, the group was eventually charged with 'rebellion'.

In 2009 Johan was moved to a prison in Java Island over 2,500 kilometers away from his family and friends. During his prison term, Johan has had some health issues which requires specialist treatment.

The Amnesty International Indonesia National Office is scheduled to be opened in mid-2017 however, at the time of Write for Rights 2016, Amnesty International did not have a physical presence in the country. It was therefore decided to partner again with [Pamflet](#), a highly regarded organization established by a group of young people to support the Indonesian youth movement, for the campaign. Events were held in four different cities and supported by local partners of Pamflet: SOFI Institute in Cirebon (West Java), Lembaga Pers Mahasiswa Lentera (Lentera Student Press) in Salatiga (Central Java) and Perkumpulan Humanum in Ambon (Maluku). The event in Jakarta was incorporated as part of Pamflet's broader human rights campaign (Pameran Alat Bantu Belajar MemahAMI Indonesia) to celebrate International Human Rights Day. In total there were 144 attendees and 403 signatures collected, with the event in Ambon (Maluku), where Johan is from, hosting the most people (81).



The format of each event in the four cities were similar; there was a public discussion followed by asking the attendees to sign the petition calling for the release of Johan Teterissa. Joncard Teterissa, Johan's son, was invited as a speaker at the Jakarta event. He said that he felt very happy that his father, as a prisoner, received public attention and asked the audience to keep supporting the call to release him. He also went on to say that, despite being very young at the time of the events in 2007, Joncard believed his father was innocent and a good guy.

Overall, it was felt by the Amnesty International team that there was a missed opportunity to better engage a wider audience in Indonesia, especially secondary school and university students. Even so, the positive reception of the campaign by the public, along with the constructive collaboration with local stakeholders, provides a great foundation for Write for Rights 2017, especially with the office in Jakarta expected to be well up and running at that point.

In February 2017, after Write for Rights 2016 had officially ended, Usman Hamid (the new Director for AI Indonesia) and Papang Hidayat (Indonesia researcher) had a meeting with Glenn Fredly, a famous and influential singer who also happens to be an Ambonese, the same ethnicity as Johan. During a recent visit to Batu Prison on Nusakambangan Island, where Johan is being detained, Glenn expressed his eagerness to work with Amnesty International and to help campaign on Johan's behalf.

Following that visit, Glenn met with the Chief of the Presidential Staff Office (KSP) Mr Teten Masduki and expressed the call to President Joko Widodo to release Johan and other prisoners of conscience in line with his public promise made in May 2015 (in which followed the release of five Papuan 'political prisoners', and PoC Filep Karma).

While Johan remains in detention, he has expressed his thanks to both Amnesty International and Pamflet for organising the Write for Rights 2016 campaign. During a text message exchange in February 2017 with Amnesty International researcher Papang, Johan said that he was especially happy that his sons were involved in the Jakarta event on 10 December 2016.

*Letter created by AI Venezuela © AI Venezuela*





# EREN KESKIN

## TURKEY

Eren is a lawyer and former newspaper editor. Eren Keskin has been a vocal critic of the Turkish state for decades. She co-founded the project "Legal Aid For Women Who Were Raped Or Otherwise Sexually Abused by National Security Forces", to expose abuses happening to women in Turkish prisons. She has been the object of numerous lawsuits in relation to her human rights activities.

The relationship between Amnesty and Eren Keskin goes back to the early 1990s. Even then we were calling for the government to protect her and allow her to carry out her human rights actions. In 2015 the level of judicial harassment was extremely high and she was at risk of being imprisoned following a conviction under Article 301 of the Penal Code (which punishes "Denigrating the Turkish nation" and represents an unfair restriction of the right to freedom of expression and should therefore be abolished).

At this time, the environment was very difficult for human rights defenders in Turkey, but it got even worse and we could not have anticipated the way things were going to deteriorate following the violent coup attempt on 15 July 2016 and it became even more important to feature Eren's in Write for Rights.

The attempted coup prompted a massive government crackdown. Over 40,000 people were remanded in pre-trial detention during six months of emergency rule. Nearly 90,000 civil servants were dismissed; hundreds of media outlets and NGOs were closed down and journalists, human rights defenders activists and MPs were detained.



*Eren Keskin reading solidarity messages, Istanbul © Amnesty International*

As expected, pressure on Eren also increased after the coup attempt. Her home was raided by armed police on 16 August, while she was away and only her 85 year-old mother was present. Eren presented herself voluntarily to the prosecutor on 25 August and was arrested. The prosecutor requested that she be remanded in pre-trial detention on accusations of “membership of a terrorist organisation” and attempting to “break the state’s unity and national territorial integrity” which carry a possible sentence of life imprisonment.

Despite the seriousness of the charges the court denied the prosecutor’s request for pre-trial detention and granted Eren a conditional release (she must report to her local police station weekly and cannot leave the country).



Portrait of Eren Keskin created by El Moustach © El Moustach

It is impossible to categorically affirm that it has been the international campaign that has aided in keeping Eren out of prison so far. However, Eren believes this to be the case.

In an interview she gave to Amnesty in December, she explained:

***“I can say that international campaigns have always been the only support we have. In countries such as Turkey where national public opinion is not very strong, international solidarity is incredibly important... But currently we are in a period where the state does not care about the international solidarity we receive... it looks like they don’t care. But I believe this solidarity needs to grow and get bigger because we have to have hope. If we lose our trust in solidarity, we won’t have anything else left for us. ...Amnesty International is campaigning for my rights and I even think this is why I have not been remanded in pre-trial detention... I said it before, I always saw Amnesty International as saviours of human rights defenders. I still do. I personally need this solidarity very much... it makes me feel more secure. This is why I call on Amnesty’s activists not to give up on us.”***



# BAYRAM MAMMADOV & GIYAS IBRAHIMOV AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan is well known for crushing any form of criticism and opposition. From the moment we learnt about Bayram and Giyas' case we knew the authorities were going to make them pay a high price for their act of defiance. We also knew that, contrary to other high profile activists and human rights defenders, punishing Bayram and Giyas, two university students, did not have a high political or reputational cost for Azerbaijan.

Therefore, one of our objectives by including Bayram and Giyas in Write for Right was to provide them with that international visibility and support, and send a clear message to the authorities that they were not insignificant but really important for thousands of activists around the world.

A good example of an unexpected success in terms of achieving visibility in Azerbaijan, was the fact that at the beginning of December one of Amnesty Netherlands' Write for Rights posters featuring Giyas went viral in Azerbaijani social media. An Azerbaijani student in the Netherlands randomly saw the poster at a bus stop and shared it on Facebook and in a matter of days it gathered thousands of reactions and was shared by thousands of Azerbaijani users, including the NIDA youth movement, and prominent human rights defenders like Khadija Ismayilova. As a result, the Write for Rights campaign and Bayram and Giyas' case was picked up by local news agencies.

As expected by the Amnesty International team, the chances that Bayram and Giyas could avoid shockingly long jail sentences were slim, as the trial on trumped up charges was purely aimed at punishing them. However, the fact that the sentences – 10 years in jail for each of them – were issued in the build up to Write for Rights meant that we were able to react strongly both condemning the decisions and expressing support in this difficult moment for the activists and their families.



*Supporters in Saskatoon, Canada promote the case of Giyas and Bayram © AI Canada*

Bayram and Giyas being youth activists – both are members of the NIDA youth movement - and university students, has resonated strongly with students and young audiences in general. Also, connecting the campaign with the fact they were targeted for a political graffiti has proved very inspiring for young activist and many have used their creativity to organise stunts and actions using graffiti.

In terms of solidarity, the strategy was to send letters directly to the prison where Bayram and Giyas are held so that they feel the international support but also as a way to show the authorities, starting by the prison authorities, that people around the world is watching. This is especially relevant as they explained about the torture and ill-treatment suffered at the time of their arrest.

We were happy to learn that Bayram and Giyas were aware from prison of the international campaign for their freedom. In an interview given by their lawyer to Radio Free Europe, the lawyer explained that Giyas and Bayram specifically asked him to thank Amnesty International, in particular for including their case in Write for Rights.

Additionally, some of the solidarity messages and books that sections and activists put together for Bayram and Giyas have been sent directly to the parents. Although not part of our initial plans, knowing that they are not alone in their struggle is a great support for family members and we are glad we have managed to convey that message.

Many positive things have happened during Write for Rights, but Bayram and Giyas are still serving long prison sentences and continue needing our support. We cannot allow them to feel they are being forgotten now that Write for Rights is over. Moreover, one of the most important lessons we have learnt about Azerbaijan is that we need to maintain the pressure, hoping this nightmare will come to an end soon.



*Solidarity graffiti for Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov. Located in Helsinki, Finland.*

*Artist: Hende, Psyke & Acton © Tomi Asikainen/AI Finland*



# MAHMOUD ABU ZEID 'SHAWKAN' EGYPT

Photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid (known as Shawkan) is passionate about taking pictures. He is paying the price for his peaceful work. Detained since 14 August 2013, Shawkan was arrested for photographing the violent dispersal of the Rabaa al-Adawiya sit-in in Cairo in the summer of 2013. He has now been imprisoned for over 1300 days, during which

time his health has deteriorated. Shawkan is considered by Amnesty International to be a prisoner of conscience, whose liberty, in what constitutes a flagrant disregard for human rights, has been taken away from him for more than three and a half years.

His case is emblematic of Egypt's escalating crackdown on press freedom. If found guilty of the charges against him, for which no evidence has been presented, he faces the death penalty.

The 2016 Write for Rights Campaign inspired over 445,000 actions to be taken on Shawkan's case. Letters and petitions to the authorities urged the Public Prosecutor and Minister of Interior to release Shawkan immediately following his arbitrary 3 and a half year detention, solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. Handwritten solidarity letters, postcards and messages of support were written and delivered initially via his friend in Chicago, and later to Shawkan's brother in Egypt.

While Shawkan sadly remains in detention in Cairo's Tora Prison, pursuant to our calls that he be granted access to the medical care he requires, in December 2016 Shawkan was presented to the prison doctor for a medical exam. His lawyers hoped the report would confirm his Hepatitis C diagnosis and that this would enable them to call either for Shawkan to be referred to the Forensic Medical Authority (FMA) or for his release. However, the prison doctor's report, presented in court on 26 December 2016, stated that Shawkan was in good health and neglected to make any mention of his Hepatitis C.

In response, Shawkan's lawyers filed a request before the court to have Shawkan referred for a medical examination by the FMA, which is part of the ministry of justice. In the 7 February session, the request was accepted by the court.

It is difficult to assess what motivated the court's decision but the high level of activism on the case may have been a contributing factor. The decision is particularly significant given that reports by FMA doctors have led to the release of detainees on health grounds on more than one occasion in the past. The high level of activism has also had a great impact in terms of international solidarity action, the secondary campaigning objective.



One of the many solidarity messages written for Shawkan © Amnesty International

At the 25 February hearing, it was confirmed that Shawkan had been examined by the Forensic Medical Authority. The trial resumed on 21 March but the medical report has yet to be submitted to the court. On 21 February, the Egypt Team spoke with Shawkan's brother who said, 'Shawkan is suffering a lot. The case is going to take a long time and he is wasting away his years in prison for nothing.' We encourage sections to build on the momentum of the Write for Rights campaign and continue calling for Shawkan's release and for the charges against him to be dropped.

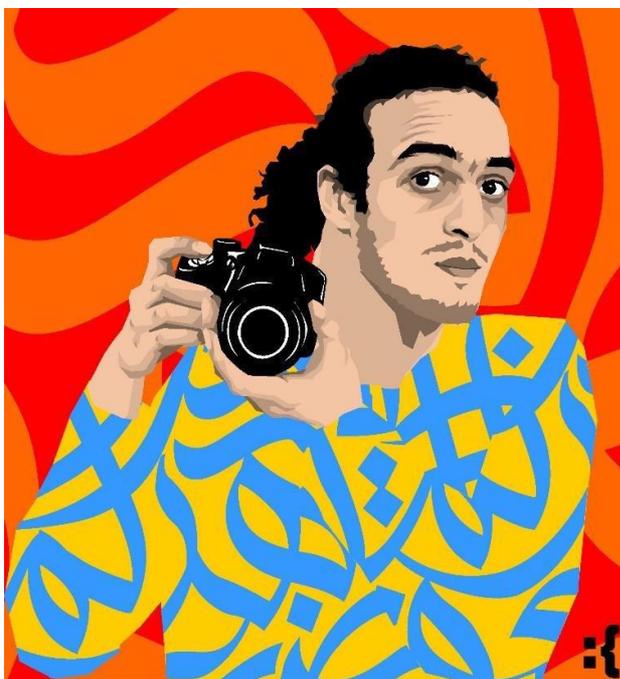
While no acknowledgement of the campaign from the Egyptian government and/or intended targets (the Public Prosecutor and Minister of Interior) was received, Amnesty International Sections did a fantastic job in garnering responses from various Egyptian embassies which report to Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relay messages to other parts of the Egyptian government.

AI Portugal visited the Egyptian embassy in Lisbon in February and met with the Third Secretary and Consul who requested he receive copies of all the documentation he was presented with during the meeting and accepted receipt of around 65,000 appeal letters for Shawkan which he promised to ensure was delivered "into the right hands" in Egypt.

AI Sweden met with the Egyptian Ambassador in Stockholm in February. The ambassador denied basic facts of Shawkan's case - such as the length of his detention and the fact that international law applies unequivocally to Egypt, and accused Amnesty International of being a 'Western' organisation that unfairly targets third world countries. He did however offer to help with obtaining what he considered 'non-propaganda' information on Shawkan's case and to arrange for the Swedish Section to meet with members of the Egyptian judiciary visiting Sweden in the spring, as well as a senior human rights representative at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

AI Spain and AI UK also reached out to the Egyptian Embassy in their respective countries. The embassies however were less receptive to their requests for a meeting. In November 2016, when AI UK attempted to deliver letters for Shawkan to the embassy, they refused to answer the door but heard, and peered out of open windows, as AI UK chanted calls for Shawkan's freedom.

With regards to the strategic delivery of appeals, while some sections were successful in getting appeals delivered to the Public Prosecutor's Office we received feedback from others that letters were being registered as undeliverable and/or returned. So as not to dampen activists' generous spirit, we will no longer be listing the Public Prosecutor as a target. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will for now on be the primary target for appeals for Shawkan.



*Illustration of Shawkan by Algerian artist, El Moustach  
© El Moustach*

An online day of action on Shawkan was launched by the Amnesty Egypt team on 22 November 2016 to coincide with Shawkan receiving the Committee to Protect Journalists' Press Freedom award; two videos, which feature Shawkan's childhood friend, Ahmed Abu Self were also produced and made available for Amnesty Sections to share on social media. A number of sections - including AI USA and AI Netherlands, also hosted the video on their YouTube channels.

AI Algeria organised for Algerian artist El Moustach to produce an illustration of Shawkan. They also ran offline and online actions calling for his freedom, including posting social media pictures and messages as well as collecting signatures. AI Australia distributed emails through their channels calling for action on Shawkan's case.

They also featured Shawkan's case in their annual media awards event which was attended by journalist Peter Greste- who spent just over a year in prison in Egypt for his work with Al-Jazeera, and who delivered a speech on press freedom in front of a picture of Shawkan. Sydney Morning Herald journalists, editors and photographers also showed fantastic solidarity when they raised 'free Shawkan' posters.

AI Belgium ran an online and offline petition; their youth programme in particular played a key role in campaigning on the case. AI Chile collected signatures and sent solidarity letters. They also carried out a creative public stunt as a way to draw attention to the case, see photos [here](#). AI Germany also raised Shawkan's case with the Chancellor's office, ahead of her March 2017 meeting with President Sisi. The AI EU Office hosted a talk in December attended by people working in EU institutions aimed at highlighting the Write for Rights campaign and trying to inspire further action to be taken on the cases.

AI France invited the head of the Freedoms Committee at the Egyptian Press Syndicate, Khaled al-Balshy, to speak and raise awareness about his own case as well as that of Shawkan's. AI France activists carried out a number of creative public stunts, one of which involved school children, calling for Shawkan's freedom. AI Norway ran a petition, disseminated both offline and online. On 4-6 November, at their biennial National Assembly, Shawkan's case was the focus of Action Hour. They also gave talks on Shawkan's case in schools, the University of Oslo, and to activists across the country. In February they hosted a workshop and invited a Bahraini poet and activist.

Between 20-22 November, during President Sisi's visit to Portugal, major newspapers and journalists printed Amnesty's position on human rights violations in Egypt and highlighted Shawkan's case. As well as collecting signatures and wearing t-shirts with Shawkan's face on them, the section also met with the chief of staff of Portugal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to voice their concerns for Shawkan. A group of activists went to the airport in Lisbon to greet President Sisi with 'Freedom for Shawkan' and 'Photography is Not a Crime' placards on his arrival.

To accompany their web action for Shawkan, AI Spain met with one of Shawkan's lawyers and recorded soundbites of him in English, Arabic and Spanish to share on social media. They also asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to attend Shawkan's trial and collected thousands of signatures. AI Sweden met with the Egyptian Ambassador in Stockholm to raise Shawkan's case while

AI UK hosted an exhibition showcasing Shawkan's beautiful photographs (a collection of which is available [here](#)) and invited the IS Egypt Campaigner to speak at the event about Shawkan's case. Signatures were collected at the event and a number of AI UK staff gave interviews to members of the press, including Al-Jazeera and Al-Araby TV; the Guardian also publicised the event ahead of time. Shawkan's case was also highlighted during the high-profile annual AI UK Media Awards event and a small demonstration was organised outside the Egyptian Embassy in London. AI USA featured Shawkan on a number of their Write for Rights materials, including the Activist Toolkit and stickers. Students from Holy Trinity School also joined us in calling for Shawkan's freedom, captured in a very sweet video available [here](#). We've collated photos of some of the fantastic actions taken and created an album for everyone's viewing pleasure, available [here](#).

Mohamed Abu Zeid, Shawkan's brother said the solidarity letters written for Shawkan were incredibly meaningful and impactful for both Shawkan and his family. But Mohamed remains frustrated at the way things are going: that despite the volume of generous action taken for Shawkan the situation has not changed and that according to Shawkan's lawyer, the case is likely to drag on for a while yet. His family are struggling. Their only priority is Shawkan's freedom.

The campaign for Shawkan's freedom continues. We will keep pushing for the charges against him to be dropped. Opportunities for putting pressure on the authorities in the coming months will continue to be explored, with the feedback received from sections on the campaign in mind. We hope that sections and activists will remain engaged so that we can build on the momentum created and succeed in getting Shawkan released.



# ZEYNAB JALALIAN

## IRAN

An advocate of Kurdish minority rights, Zeynab Jalalian is serving a life sentence following a grossly unfair trial, for her involvement in social and political activities associated with the political wing of the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK), a Kurdish opposition group.

Following her arrest in March 2008, she was held for eight months in solitary confinement during which time, she has said, intelligence and security officials subjected her to various forms of torture and other ill-treatment, including sexual violence, flogging and beatings which resulted in a fractured skull and impaired vision.

She also suffers from an eye condition that requires specialist surgery outside prison but the authorities have persistently refused to give her the medical treatment she needs. This treatment, which has resulted in partial vision loss, amounts to torture. The Iranian authorities have failed to comply with the recommendations of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention urging them to release Zeynab Jalalian immediately and accord her an enforceable right to compensation.

The decision to feature Zeynab's case in the campaign was borne out of the momentum gained from the April 2016 decision of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention calling for Zeynab Jalalian's release, as well as the traction gained following the publication of Amnesty International's July 2017 report, *Health taken hostage: Cruel denial of medical care in Iran's prisons*.

As part of Write for Rights 2016 over 200,000 actions were taken for Zeynab and her case proved to be the second most popular on amnesty.org, missing the top spot (which went to Edward Snowden) by around only 200 signatures. The campaign inspired members of the public, as well as various European parliamentarians, to send appeals to the Iranian authorities. Thousands of activists also sent solidarity messages to Zeynab Jalalian in prison.

We asked for solidarity actions to be addressed to both Khoy prison, in West Azerbaijan Province, where Zeynab is serving her sentence, and to various officials in the province in order to increase the chances of her receiving the cards and letters. While she never sadly received the letters personally, the volume of letters delivered to the prison compelled prison officials to tell her about them.



*Solidarity letters for Zeynab written by AI Germany activists © Amnesty International*

Despite the number of actions taken, Zeynab has yet to be released and the authorities still refuse to transfer her to a hospital outside prison to receive the medical treatment she requires. However, it appears the huge number of appeals sent to the Iranian authorities have put them under pressure and prevented them from denying Zeynab Jalalian's health concerns and falsely claiming in private diplomatic communications that she does in fact have access to regular medical care. No mention of Zeynab Jalalian's case was made by the national press but the case received good coverage in the Persian and Kurdish-language media outside Iran and was picked up well by Iranian human rights activists, who demonstrated a strong sense of solidarity with Zeynab and covered the case well through their channels.

Amnesty International will continue to campaign on Zeynab Jalalian's case using every opportunity to draw attention to it. We hope Amnesty International members and activists support us in keeping the momentum from the campaign going until Zeynab Jalalian is given access to adequate medical care and is granted her freedom.

**AMNESY INTERNATIONAL**  
**WRITE FOR RIGHTS**  
**ACTIVITIES**  
**A-Z BY COUNTRY**<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Please be aware that this list ONLY includes information from Sections that filled in the Reporting and Evaluation survey,

# ALGERIA



**52,551 Total actions**  
**10,500 estimated participants**

AI Algeria tried to incorporate new activities into their Write for Rights campaign in 2016, as well as collecting signatures. For example, the section organised a film screening followed by a debate – the film chosen was *Citizen Four*, about Edward Snowden.

Youth members organised a race – “Run for Rights”

A particular point of pride for Amnesty International Algeria was the broad reach of the campaign – events were held in fifteen cities.

*(Left) Youth organised “Run for Rights” race event  
© AI Algeria*

# ARGENTINA

**5,752 Total actions**  
**3000 Estimated  
Participants**

Write for Rights 2016 was an opportunity for AI Argentina to establish a new audience: students. In previous years they focused on activists, members and the general public.

For 2016 they decided to improve their focus on university students and also for younger students at primary and high schools. They worked with the students of the Colegio Nacional de La Plata and also with Instituto Lenguas Vivas "Juan Ramón Fernández". It was an amazing experience for the schools and also for the students.

Students had the opportunities to work with part of the Human Rights Education group from AI Argentina, activists and staff, who explained the cases and collected the letters from the kids and young students. On December 10th, Amnesty Argentina were in Bosques de Palermo (the biggest park in Buenos Aires) collecting letters from the general public.



*(Right) Activists in Argentina © AI Argentina*

# AUSTRALIA

**138,862 Total actions**  
**40,600 Estimated participants**

This was AI Australia's best year for action numbers ever! Over 50 events were held across the country. Groups hosted literary evenings, stalls at festivals and markets, and partnered with other organisations to run events - like making a quilt for Annie Albert with the Country Women's Association. These events also generated over 20 local media stories.

A highlight was their Amnesty International Media Awards in November, featuring a Shawkan photo exhibition and solidarity #FreeShawkan action involving high-profile media personalities with big online following – tagged tweets received as many as 150 retweets. The challenge in Australia is the timing of Write for Rights - it is at the beginning of summer and the end of the school year. However, in 2017 the Section will be reaching out to schools nationally and invite them to take part in the annual event

# AUSTRIA

**56,800 Total actions**  
**24,435 Participants**

Local Amnesty groups organised over 47 events in cafés, pubs, libraries, shops, schools, public streets and squares around the country. More than 200 school classes and over 4.000 pupils participated. Highlights included: Screening of the Oliver Stone film, *Snowden*, including a panel discussion with experts on privacy and data security in the web. Testimonial videos featuring two Austrian celebrities who promoted the campaign in Austria. In one of the videos two school classes participated as well. Photo exhibition with a selection of Shawkan's pictures (school event).

For the first time in 2016, the Section provided media packages to activists, they also provided Human Rights Education (HRE) materials in languages other than German and sent letters to all Head boys/girls to promote Write for Rights. In 2016 they also introduced online/offline feedback survey for all participants.

# BELGIUM (FL)

**50,000 Estimated total actions**  
**20,000 Estimated Participants**

The Section kicked off in Antwerp and 3000 letters were written during a 12 hour event with music, food and drinks. The Section then continued to take action during whole the month of December.

They distributed 300 action kits to local activists for regional events, which created 16,000 handwritten letters (only 10 percent responded with feedback - so the total number must be much, much higher). Online the Section garnered over 34,000 actions.

They also partnered with a cultural organisation and a womens' organisation. They created a short film, which was played in different movie theatres. They also created a radio spot for regional media. The Section had a famous singer as ambassador for the campaign.

# BENIN

**48,966 Total actions**  
**100,000 Estimated**

AI Benin selected seven of the global cases (Cameroon, Malawi, China, Egypt, Iran, Canada and the USA) and collected an amazing 48,966 actions, including 3778 letters and 45,188 petitions. These were collected by 25 Amnesty Groups.

More than 100,000 people took part in the campaign. In total, 12 new people joined the movement and the Facebook page had 300 new followers over the period.

The signatures were collected through a variety of activities, including at schools, on street corners, at churches, craft workshops and even at hairdressing salons. The Section also had a website, a press conference 10 December with partners and the campaign was promoted on social networks.



*Amnesty Benin Group member collecting signatures at an event in Benin © AI Benin*

# BRAZIL

**27,997 Total actions**  
**10,559 Participants**

AI Brazil adopted AI Czech Republic's online platform "Marathon Builder" to mobilize supporters and reach out to new audiences. It was the first year they invested most of their resources in to online mobilization for the campaign, offering supporters the opportunity to effectively engage on the campaign by organizing their own activity. They had 28 events registered on the platform by supporters, and 29 offline activities held by activists from our local groups. It was also their first experience in investing more on Human Rights Education techniques and practices for activism mobilization in Brazil, and this proved to be very attractive for activists in general.

# BURKINA FASO

**19,135 Total actions**  
**25,000 Estimated Participants**

120 members and activists were trained in a capacity building exercise which allowed them to drive forward AI Burkina's Write for Rights campaign. They organised conferences at schools and universities and used radio media to announce events in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso and mobilize supporters. They also organised film screenings and debates at the French Institute and at the university of Bobo Dioulasso.

The Section held a photo exhibition at the Goethe Institute in Ouagadougou, with a panel with national experts on national human rights protection strategies and systems. Members of the government departments participated and stated they would be interested in attending the event every year.

The Sections held an Amnesty themed evening on the 10<sup>th</sup> December at the French Institute in Bobo, where more than 300 people took part and learned about Amnesty, its work on Individuals at Risk and signed petitions. It was an opportunity to engage new audiences, such artist who joined Amnesty, and it was a great opportunity for youth members to perform and contribute.

Finally, in many places, including Ouahigouya, Yako, Bobo, Ouagadougou and Bousse, young leaders throughout Amnesty Burkina imagined and implemented activities with others and held events at schools and universities. As an example, they organized human rights competitions through theater and songs.

# CANADA (FR)

**63,522 Total actions**  
**11,000 Estimated Participants**

The 2016 Write for Rights campaign was wonderfully surprising! Not only did the Section exceed their targets in terms of the number of cards and letters sent (over 57,000) but there were also over 90 public events organized by their members and supporters – this was almost double the number of the previous year.

Events were held over three consecutive weeks by Amnesty Groups - Some groups used advertising to publicize their events, others held events at musical performances to attract the general public.

As a section, AI Canada (Fr) are working to improve their evaluation of the campaign.

# CANADA (EN)

**83,751 Total actions**  
**28,000 Estimated participants**

Events were held in many places across Canada, including a big letter writing event in Toronto on Human Rights Day and smaller member-led events. For the second straight year, the Section hit a new high for number of Write for Rights events held across Canada. The total number of registered events increased from 1700 to over 2100.



*Supporters in Vancouver promote the Site C / Peace River Valley action during Write for Rights 2016 © AI Canada*

# CHILE

**4,256 Total actions**  
**4,300 Estimated participants**

Highlights for the Section as section included the fact they achieved more signatures than ever! They also had more participation from activists, staff, interns and even the Executive Board. They carried out HRE workshops at two schools, an activity that has not been able to take place for many years.

December in Chile is summer, and at that time students are with University and High School, so there were not as many people in the parks or at academic centres. It's also a very warm season, so being outdoors sometime is difficult to handle because of the hard sun. In December there was a change of mayors, so the many confirmation of permission to use public spaces arrived very late, this made the Section very worried about the possibility of being in some spaces to hold activities. In fact, some permissions were cancelled, so we had to ask for other places very quickly, what affected our target groups. Despite this, the Section achieved more actions than the previous year.

# COTE D'IVOIRE

**43,232 Total actions**  
**25,000 Estimated**  
**Participants**

Write for Rights was very successful for the Cote D'Ivoire Section in 2016. Especially amazing was the event held on Human Rights Day, where most actions took place. The Section also achieved some media coverage, in newspapers and on the radio. Although most activities were offline, the Section also hosted actions on their website.



*Activists taking part in events held by AI Cote D'Ivoire © AI Cote D'Ivoire*

# CZECH REPUBLIC

**69,520 Total actions**  
**15,000 Estimated**  
**Participants**

This year Amnesty International Czech Republic organised a number of events, focusing on promoting strongly through social media. The highlight was the opening event on the 10 December at the central office in Prague, where participants wrote over 800 letters.

# DENMARK

**15,000 Total actions**  
10,363 Estimated Participants

2016 was a year of transition for Amnesty International Denmark, and as a result Write for Rights was not promoted as heavily as in previous years. However, as Write for Rights continues to be popular in Danish schools, results were actually higher than anticipated – despite a very low level of promotion. Amnesty International Denmark expects to be able to scale up again next year.

## EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS OFFICE

**356 Total actions**

An event was held at the EIO on 8 December 2016. The speakers were Fred Bauma (Former Prisoner of Conscience, DRC) Mercedes Garcia Perez (European External Action Service) and Iverna McGowan (EIO Director).



*Fred Bauma, former Write for Rights case, at a Write for Rights 2016 event held at the Amnesty European Institutions Office in Belgium on 8 December, 2016 © AI EIO*

# FINLAND

**53,343 Total actions**  
**41,000 Estimated Participants**

The Section had a huge 36% growth in participants but a slight drop on online-petitions. They had several ways of engaging people to join in offline: an 'individual attendee's concept' where people were encouraged to order action packages via mail and to take the campaign to their own everyday environments (workplaces, schools, host their own events etc.) and local groups around Finland organised several offline events, petition evenings etc.

Moses Akatugba came to Finland to launch the campaign and he visited schools, universities, met our supporters and activists and participated in media work. The Section worked on the Malawi and Azerbaijan cases for human rights education, with 120 schools joining in. Numbers were fantastic: 6,500 students were in classes taking part in the campaign, 3,000 students joined the campaign by writing 1,500 letters and 1,500 solidarity cards. For the first time the Section published the teacher's manual in Finnish *and* Swedish and they trained teachers via webinars, held a joint HRE seminar with European parliament information office, schools and MEPs. This spring they will visit with a delegation of school students with the Foreign Ministry of Finland and will discuss the human rights situation in Azerbaijan with them. The feedback from teachers has been really good and they love that the campaign is built to support the new national curriculum. Amnesty Finland has been lobbying for many years for the national authorities to have Human Rights Education in the curriculum, now it is – this helps a great deal the Section's work on HRE.



*Solidarity graffiti for Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov. Located in Helsinki, Finland.*

*Artist: Hende, Psyke & Acton © Tomi Asikainen/Al Finland*

# FRANCE

**504,870 Total actions**  
**120,000 Estimated Participants**

With over 500,000 actions completed, Amnesty International France achieved the highest numbers of Action in Write for Rights 2016. The mobilisation of activists was very dynamic, with around 300 activities taking place between 2 and 11 December. Additionally, 'action centres' were organised across 32 major cities in France on Human Rights Day, with an Amnesty International bus serving as a "mobile action centre", offering activities in areas of the country where the Section cannot normally reach. The Section incorporated new and innovative activities into their campaigning - such as paper paddles for Justin Trudeau, origami butterflies for Ivo, and solidarity cards for Bayram and Giyas. Three wrote and sung a song for Maxima and two pieces of graffiti were designed in solidarity with Bayram and Giyas. In terms of online mobilisation, the Section invited each person who signed a petition to do another action for this person.

The Section were especially pleased to have had the great privilege of guest speakers Albert Woodfox and Robert King. Their presence significantly raised public awareness on the cases the Section worked on and also allowed the highlighting of the situation to the French authorities. Thanks to their presence, Amnesty International France organised a public meeting at *Le Monde's* offices, in partnership with *Courrier International*, which published an extensive piece in the campaign.



*Albert Woodfox and Robert King, the two surviving members of the Angola Three with AI France president, Camille Blanc, and Nicolas Krameyer – at an event during Write for Rights 2016 © Pierre-Yves Brunaud / Pictoretank*

# GERMANY

**255,804 Total actions**

In 2016 the German Section again broken all records for the campaign. All the global cases were worked on with an overall increase of 31% in letters written. Supporters held various kinds of activities, such as organising pop-up-stores, Christmas bazaars and events in museums and libraries. They also carried out advocacy actions in regional and European Parliaments in collaboration with Amnesty International France. One of this year's special highlights was the Write for Rights campaign in schools, with 546 schools taking part.

The second great success was a new radio-promotion strategy that had a significant impact: 42 radio stations published the Section's editorial content, reaching an audience of more than four million people per day. Furthermore this editorial content was published 24 times on the radio channels' websites leading to a success of 1.2 million visits. An insert on the campaign was added to a weekly newspaper and was distributed nationwide 370,000 times. Billboards advertising the campaign, especially at train stations, were put up in all major cities.

The online team shared all the cases and information on activities via social media channels. The Section's fundraising team and the communications and activism teams incorporated Write for Rights in all activities carried out towards the end of 2016. The Human Rights Education team increased school participation.

# GHANA

**12,264 Total actions**  
**12,000 Estimated participants**

Human Rights Education formed a large part of the Section's work on the campaign in 2016. With St. Francis Senior High Technical School, Akim Oda, Oda College of Education and Suhum Presbyterian Senior High School in the Eastern Region of Ghana, Nungua Senior High School, Accra Academy and Kasoa Group Members all in the Greater Accra Region taking part. It was the first time St. Francis Senior High Technical School in Akim Oda and Oda College of Education participated in such an event. Even though they were preparing for their end of term examinations, with the support of some of our members teaching in those schools, they were able to mobilise the students for action. Students who participated in the 2016 Write for Rights were happy to be part of it and would like to participate again in 2017.



*School children in Ghana take part in Write for Rights 2016 © AI Ghana*

# GREECE

**2,499 Total actions**  
**400 Estimated Participants**

Amnesty International Greece placed again focused on online activism. There was a lot of media and public interest on Snowden's case in particular.

# HONG KONG

**1,299 Total actions**  
**300 Estimated Participants**

Amnesty International Hong Kong's campaign did not go as well as expected because of capacity issues. However the highlight was a concert during which independent singers performed at a letter writing event.

# ICELAND

**62,698 Total actions**

AI Iceland collected 64,776 signatures in total through its online call to action, SMS-network, Write for Rights website, postcards and letters. 15 public libraries took part and individuals all over the country organised a Write for Right events. The Sections broke records in the number of high schools that participated in the campaign in 2016 with almost every high school in the country taking part, in total 36. Out of the 30,457 signatures they collected on their Write for Rights website, students collected 19,874 and youth centres 5,766 signatures. AI Iceland also launched a fundraising feature on its Write for Rights website and collected a list of 1,550 Icelanders for fundraising purposes.

# INDIA

**3927 Total actions**  
**3927 Estimated Participants**

At Amnesty International India, the Human Rights Education team worked on Annie Alfred's case in schools. The campaign was launched in public and private schools, in collaboration with other NGOs, through letters, postcards, selfies and presentations. The campaign was also launched at 3 colleges in Bangalore.

Four events took place for people to take action and show support – a human rights workshop, letter writing, online actions on Write for Rights and the global day of action on 10 December. A Write for Rights stall was set up in three colleges to encourage students to write on any of the cases. Students also live tweeted messages of solidarity, along with images of letters.

Participation from government run institutions was much higher than that of private schools. Primarily carried out by Human Rights Education partner organizations and pilot schools, schools were able to take up the campaign on their own and engage students, of which many held marches, talks and discussions on human rights issues.

# IRELAND

**18,026 Total actions**  
**18,000 Estimated Participants**

AI Ireland's 2016 campaign featured all 11 global cases. The overall result was positive, with the Section collecting over 18,000 actions. The Section did very well offline as well as online. The Section designed petitions for each case and felt that they worked well and were useful for local groups, Youth and Student groups and activists during events. We printed stickers and posters to advertise events locally. We launched the campaign via e bulletin and social media . We brought the campaign at festival and Christmas markets.

# ITALY

**209,835 Total actions**  
**70,000 Estimated Participants**

Amnesty International Italy had very good involvement from their activists and via schools. They had 53 schools take part in the campaign in 2016, resulting in a high number of solidarity messages from children.

For the first time the Section had high profile people in Italy as ambassadors for their Write for Rights, one for the campaign as a whole and one for every case selected. The campaign had a very good presence on social media and the Section collected higher numbers of signatures/letters than 2015.

# JAPAN

**9,649 Total actions**  
**6,786 Estimated Participants**

Amnesty International Japan worked on all eleven cases during their 2016 Write for Rights campaign, organising 30 events in 27 places across the country. These events included dinners, concerts, film screenings and discussions on the death penalty.

During the campaign, approximately 320 people joined offline events, and collected 9,649 letters and online signatures.

# MALAYSIA

**45, 244 Total actions**  
**25,000 Estimated Participants**

The Section worked on 4 cases for the campaign in 2016. They upscaled the campaign, providing activists with a small booklet to explain what the campaign is and all the synopsis' of the cases. They also designed and printed petition cards and also postcards, which looked more attractive.

AI Malaysia also hosted 7 physical letters writing events. This was a huge success. From these events, AI Malaysia increased membership and visibility in the public eye. As a result they are now working closely with a café which are keen to promote what AI Malaysia is doing.

Online actions were still the most powerful tool to collect actions. AI Malaysia collected more than 45,000 actions in the month of December 2016. The campaign enabled the Section to reach new groups/audiences. They interacted with international school students, members of the public who had never heard about AI Malaysia before.

# MEXICO

**18,437 Total actions**

# MONGOLIA

**12,716 Total actions**  
**2,100 Estimated Participants**

Amnesty International Mongolia organized their Write for rights 2016 at universities, secondary schools and in four local places. They collected totally around 12,700 petition signatures and letters to the authorities for the China, Indonesia, Iran, Peru, Turkey and USA cases.

# MOROCCO

**13,020 Total actions**  
**6,500 Estimated Participants**

The Section organised solidarity events across Morocco, with the mobilization of 13 (out of 17) local groups and youth clubs, as well as individual members, partner schools and civil society members to coordinate a wide range of activities, which resulted in to a total of at least 6,054 actions in support of 3 cases AI Morocco worked on during Write for Rights.

During December AI Morocco mobilized its membership and partners to take part in the campaign. Various types of activities were organized nation-wide, including awareness-raising workshops on the campaign and its cases on public booths and movie screenings, debates, photo actions, artistic and fundraising events, stunts in schools and universities, sit-ins and marches with other human rights organizations on Human Rights Day, hosting Amnesty spaces at partners' events, hosting letters writing events, creating online actions (social media and email actions) and reinforcing all of this mobilization through their social networks. One of the most active and large groups of AI Morocco, a youth club at Akhawayn University, was successful in organizing a fundraising musical concert to collect money to organize a visit for their members to a local refugee centre in early January.

Human Rights Education projects continue to be a major a source of opportunities to raise awareness and increase activism around AI's campaigns, as well as support our growth objectives within the youth constituency. Activities were organized in a number of human rights school clubs, newly targeted schools as well as human rights friendly schools and women's associations partners in AI Morocco's "Education, Empowerment & Justice" project. These events allowed for greater growth/mobilization prospects, reinforced youth membership and provided more of overall visibility for Amnesty International.

# NEPAL

**14,600 Total actions**  
**14,600 Participants**

This year Amnesty Nepal focused principally on offline events. They mobilized their members to organize events in their local area. They worked on 5 cases- Johan- Indonesia, Ivo- Cameroon, Zeynab - Iran, Anne- Malawi and Maxima- Peru. As well as regular petition signing, large size posters were made to collect signatures. This was useful in attracting people to take action. Likewise, youth activists went to colleges and carried out events. Most of the Section's activists were interested in the case of Malawi.

# NETHERLANDS

**166,305 Total actions**  
**155,107 Estimated Participants**

2016 was the fourth time Amnesty Netherlands participated in the Write for Rights campaign, and they managed to increase their total yet again, from approximately 100,000 letters in 2015 to more than 166,000 in 2016. About 100,000 of the letters were handwritten, and 66,000 online. There were more than 450 letter writing events hosted throughout the Netherlands. Plus 200 schools (primary and secondary) joined with approximately 1000 classes! It was for the first time that the Section fully integrated the campaign schools, and it exceeded expectations.

The Section, for the first time, enabled activists to take action via Facebook, with 20,000 actions taken. As in previous years about 115 of the 400 Dutch Mayors joined the campaign. They wrote letters, visited local events and shared their actions on social media. It contributed to the Dutch hashtag #schrijfmarathon being second in trending topics on Twitter on December 10th.

The Section conducted a large advertising campaign through radio, television and social media. The poster with the Azeri case was even picked by media in Azerbaijan. The 24-hour event at the Section office was again very successful. It was opened by Leyla and Arif Yunus from Azerbaijan. Their daughter was present at the event in 2014 to ask us to campaign for her parents. They were freed in 2016 and currently live in the Netherlands – their presence was very special.

About 900 people came to write letters, contributing to a positive atmosphere. The office hosted a live video conference with Edward Snowden. It was very well received by the audience present, as well as via the live Facebook event where it was streamed. The organizers had a Facebook group through which they shared experiences and materials, as well as asking for advice. It was a good way to stay in touch with a large amount enthusiastic people and see what they were doing.



*A young child participates in Write for Rights at the Amnesty Netherlands offices in Amsterdam © AI Netherlands*

## NEW ZEALAND

**3,456 Total actions**  
**1,500 Estimated Participants**

Amnesty International New Zealand was impacted by staff changes during Write for Rights 2016, so they had to mainly re-use the strategies they had adopted for the campaign the previous year. Despite this, the impact of social media meant that we had our best Write for Rights in terms of actions.

## NIGERIA

**5956 Total actions**  
**2000 Estimated Participants**

The 2016 Amnesty Nigeria campaign took place across 5 states. Highlights included mobilization of new activists and supporters, large numbers of young people taking actions and good coverage by Nigerian local media.

## NORWAY

**203,019 Total actions**  
**203,019 Participants**

Some particular highlights for Amnesty International Norway included visits from Phyo Phyo Aung, Moses Akatugba and a Skype conversation with Edward Snowden. In addition, 100 young activists sang a joik (traditional indigenous song) during a youth gathering in solidarity with Maxima Acuña.

The HRE materials provided by the IS was used heavily by Amnesty International Norway during the campaign. New for 2016 the Section incorporated a ‘response’ option to their newsletters which has worked well. By clicking a "response button", participants access a pre-filled e-mail for (potentially) multiple recipients/authorities, which allows for the sending of various emails just through the click of one button and signing your name.

## PARAGUAY

**1,150 Total actions**  
**500 Estimated Participants**

In Paraguay Write for Rights activities were carried out in different parts of the capital city of Asuncion, and other cities such as Encarnacion. Activities were held at universities, plazas in the historical center of Asuncion, as well as at the Avenida Costanera (promenade) of Asuncion, an iconic space and newly renovated part of the historical center of Asuncion.

There were also other activities, such as a series of classes and workshops on Human Rights and a small film festival at the Juan de Salazar Cultural Center funded by the Spanish Embassy, as well as at AI Paraguay’s "Peter Benenson Awards, Prize for defense of Human Rights and journalism.”

Furthermore, an event was held to close the campaign, known as la “Fiesta Amarilla” (Yellow Party), an event of celebration between activists, members and supporters, in an amiable atmosphere of celebration.

# PERU

**10,112 Total actions**  
**1,600 Estimated Participants**

This year Write for Rights had a big impact in Peru, as the campaign included the case of Máxima Acuña, a land and water defender from the country. The campaign included the development of a specific strategy for the case of Maxima Acuña, achieving concrete commitments from senior levels of the Peruvian government in order to guarantee her security. One of the most telling achievements was the visit of the Minister of Justice and Human Rights to Maxima's house in the heights of the region of Cajamarca in order to gain first-hand knowledge of the situation. The minister committed to carrying out a follow-up of the case and to intervene to obtain an early solution to the conflict.

In terms of communication, videos, graphics and illustrations of Maxima's struggle were disseminated through social networks and media. Maxima was also present in interviews on television and radio stations with national reach. Finally, a street action was developed in which a theatre company presented a play about the struggle of Maxima and signatures were collected. This year Amnesty Peru also worked with schools where Write for Rights campaign cases were presented to the students and wrote letters. Also a space was provided for members and activists of the section to write letters to each of the cases in the campaign.



*Street action for Máxima Acuña in Lima © AI Peru*

# PHILIPPINES

**30,042 Total actions**  
**18,655 Participants**

Most of the actions gathered by AI Philippines were done so during the human rights week led by our supporters from different universities around Metro Manila. Usually well known cases like that of Edward Snowden would do well at the Section. However with the current political situation in the Philippines, members of the public felt that they wanted to focus more on Extrajudicial Killings in the country, resulting from the government's war against drugs.

# POLAND

**356,645 Total actions**  
**128,000 Estimated Participants**

2016 proved to be the Sections best year ever, with significant growth against *all* indicators, including achieving almost 100,000 more actions than the previous year.

There were almost 800 events held across the country, with over 300,000 letters and actions, and around €7000 of income generated. Highlights also included, the making of a Virtual Reality video for Ivo's case, a Crowdfunding platform launch, SMS/MMS communications with event organizers. In addition, the Marathon Builder platform from AI Czech Republic again worked amazingly well, in fact it gets better each year.



*The finale of Write for Rights in Poland.  
The event took place on 10-11 December 2016 in Warsaw.  
© Grzegorz Zukowski, AI Poland*

# PORTUGAL

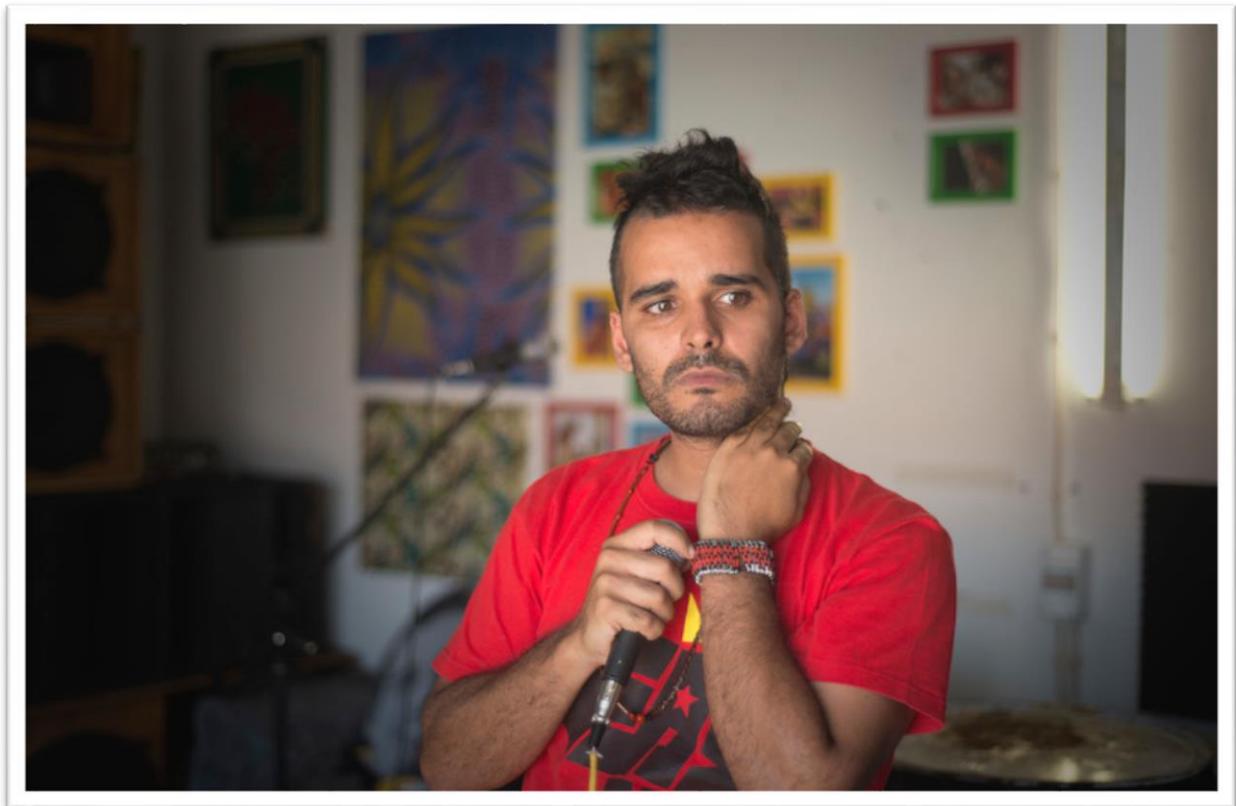
**265,665 Total actions**  
**66,400 Estimated participants**

In 2016 AI Portugal substantially increased the number of appeals to 265,665 (an increase of approximately 54% in relation to 2015).

One of the biggest contributors to this increase was the participation of 174 schools and universities, 24 local groups, 27 individuals and 9 institutions.

Schools and universities continue to be the major source of activism around the campaign for the Section, where many different kinds of events took place – from theatre to conferences – involving the whole school community. Young children were also involved, mainly in solidarity actions through drawings that were sent to the people targeted in the cases. Local groups spread the campaign at national level with dozens of events that included meetings about Human Rights, debates, parties, stalls for collecting signatures, sessions in local schools. AI Portugal also improved online and digital engagement by creating a more attractive and interactive website and experimenting with new social media strategies and the involvement of celebrities. This resulted in an increased number of site visits, duplication of online signatures and thousands of people reached through Facebook posts.

The Section also had the presence and support of two Angolan activists that were released from prison in 2016 – Luaty Beirão and Marcos Mavungo. This helped the Section to reach and mobilise more people to act. On 3 December Luaty Beirão, who is a musician, performed in a concert in Lisbon where the campaign was presented and people were invited to sign the appeals.



*Angolan Luaty Beirão, who took part in AI Portugal's 2016 Write for Rights © Jorge Vaz Gomes*

# PUERTO RICO

**3,261 Total actions**  
**1,000 Estimated Participants**

This was by far our best year for AI Puerto Rico. They almost tripled their number of actions from our previous record. This was done by focussing on multipliers (working with schools and university groups) rather than investing energy in producing a big finale event.

# SENEGAL

**235,107 Total actions**  
**44,621 Participants**

Write for Rights has become a major event in mobilizing members and engaging the public in the actions of Amnesty International Senegal. In 2016, some 100 local groups in all regions of the country participated in the campaign. AI Senegal selected 5 individual cases and collected 235,107 signatures from members and the public. The Section exceeded their objectives in terms of mobilizing the general public and recruiting new members. This mobilization of activists was accompanied by a communication campaign in the media (press conference, interviews) and social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). In various locations around Senegal activists organized public demonstrations (acting out sketches and putting on debates) and visited schools (colleges and universities) to enable people to take part in demonstrations and commit to respect for human rights.

# SLOVAKIA

**15,240 Total actions**  
**2,000 Estimated Participants**

The Section had the most successful Write for Rights in their history! They collected the record amount of letters and engaged new audiences as well.

Thanks to their cooperation with a movie distribution company, they were able to reach and engage more people, as a video made by the Section was broadcasting ahead of screenings of Oliver Stone's film, *Snowden*. They also worked with graffiti artists, who learned about the fate of their counterparts in Azerbaijan. All in all, they had the best year of Write for Rights so far, and they are very much looking forward for the next one.

# SLOVENIA

**17,090 Total actions**  
**6,000 Estimated Participants**

Write for Rights 2016 was the best year ever for AI Slovenia – not only there were more than 17,000 actions taken, but more than 50 schools participated in the campaign. The main event was held at a secondary school, where they organised a project day on human rights and organised a petition signing activity in the town centre. The Section again included a local case in the campaign – this year they asked participants to make ‘word cards’ for refugees, to help them learn the Slovenian language – participation in this was beyond expectation – they collected almost 5000! Participants were highly motivated because they could both express solidarity with refugees, as well as help them with a useful language-learning tool. One school organised an event where they handed over the cards to the refugee and migrant children.



*Young people take action for Edward Snowden in Slovenia, during Write for Rights 2016 © AI Slovenia*

## SOUTH KOREA

**18,818 Total actions**  
**16,191 Participants**

Due to the huge presidential corruption scandal in South Korea making such a huge impact in the country during Write for Rights 2016, Amnesty International South Korea focused on collecting petitions on their website.

## SPAIN

**81,369 Total actions**  
**40,220 Participants**

AI Spain worked in three cases: Malawi, Peru and Turkey. The albinism case and Maxima Acuña were very well received. The Section designed creative actions, with magicians for Malawi and songs record for Máxima.

The Section worked on other Write for Rights cases throughout the year, including Snowden and Shawkan. They also had visits from Charles Fotso, an activist with albinism and Ahmed Ali an Egyptian activist.

## SWEDEN

**101,122 Total actions**  
**30,600 Estimated participants**

Amnesty Sweden worked on four cases during the campaign. To encourage people to take part in the campaign they had around 40 famous singers, writers, actors/actresses, photographers and journalists spreading the cases through videos, social media and our own channels.

Amnesty groups all across Sweden took part in the campaign and brought it on to the streets. Some groups organized lectures, there were also movie nights showing *Daughter of the Lake* and in some locations you could experience the typical Swedish Lucia parade in solidarity with, for example, Máxima Acuña.

As with previous years, the campaign was also part of the Section's work with Human Rights Education. Teachers and students planned and carried out different activities, for example they wrote and drew almost 3,000 solidarity letters and pictures. Solidarity actions were also taken via a digital application where anyone could create and send their own solidarity post-cards. During the campaign AI Sweden also engaged in lobby and fundraising activities. Edward Snowden appeared via video link at the 'Swedish Internet Days' where he was interviewed with an audience of around 1,000 people attending, while also being live streamed.

## SWITZERLAND

**22,055 Total actions**  
**30,600 Estimated participants**

For the cases of Shawkan, Annie and Eren AI Switzerland again used their 'e-collector' application, a tool which generates personalized letters to be sent to the targets individually. For the case of Peace River they linked to the solidarity action of AI Canada and for Snowden

the Sections have been using the web action launched in October. Offline, 27 Amnesty groups organized 30 events, in addition to that, the campaign was brought to schools in several regions (in particular Ticino). Write for Rights activities were covered by 19 media outlets, mainly small regional outlets.

# TAIWAN

**312, 479 Total actions**  
**41,275 Participants**

AI Taiwan successfully used Human Rights Education model to reach its goal of growth in 2016. More than 314,000 actions have been taken and it grew by almost 7 times compared with 2015.

More than 350 teachers joined Write for Rights as multipliers, leading 35,615 students to take actions. #OneAmnesty Talk which had its focus on Chinese human rights defenders attracted almost 200 people joining from on-line registration.

For the first time AI Taiwan conducted Facebook broadcasts, and the event itself worked as a good example of transforming on-line activism dynamics into off-line event. New social media channel had been established in Write for Rights 2016. Existing social media channels have documented significantly increased by 20% (Facebook) and 93% (Instagram).



Letters from young people in Taiwan for the cases featured in Write for Rights 2016 © AI Taiwan

# THAILAND

**11,768 Total actions**  
**3,500 Estimated Participants**

Amnesty International Thailand made extensive preparations for Write for Rights 2016, which included a strategy to specifically target young people at music festivals. However, events had to be scaled down due to the death of the King in mid-November. The focus of the campaign was changed to Human Rights education programmes. Despite this unavoidable setback, the total number of actions was greater than the previous year, even though staff capacity was lower.

# TOGO

**69,036 Total actions**  
**10,000 Estimated Participants**

This year's campaign allowed the section to grow in visibility through a variety of actions and more mobilization of members. The Section collected almost 70,000 signatures, reached more than 10,000 new people while recruiting 70 new members.

Among these actions was the launch of the Human Rights Anthem by young activists, a competition to decide the human rights topics for HRE, and a musical concert as highlights.

A skype conference with the campaign manager for West Africa, Anglophone countries was very successful, it motivated the team of activists via testimony on the case of the Ivo from Cameroon. The session boosted their commitment and allowed them to mobilize to achieve the Section goals.



*Musical concert put on by AI Togo concert to support the Write for Rights campaign 2016 © AI Togo*

# TURKEY

**7,614 Total actions**

AI Turkey campaigned for Eren Keskin, Ilham Tohti, Edward Snowden, Shawkan, Annie Alfred and indigenous people in the Peace River Valley.

In total, 7614 signatures were collected and sent, 92 letters were written and sent to authorities and 82 solidarity postcards were sent to right holders. AI Turkey's activist groups organized five letter writing marathons, two film screenings and two panels. Activists also opened six Write for Rights stands. One letter writing marathon was organized by AI Turkey staff at the office. AI Turkey campaigns team organized one major panel on Freedom of Expression and Press Freedom. Eren Keskin was invited as a speaker. AI Turkey also joined global Twitter action on 10 December.

# UKRAINE

**41,963 Total actions**  
**5,000 Estimated participants**

AI Ukraine took part in Write for Rights for the 10th time. They "opened" their Write for Rights 2016 with a bright public action in central Kyiv. They screened festival hit documentaries *He named me Malala* and *Sonita*; conducted discussions and photo-exhibitions. More schools participated this year. In total, there were over 120 events across Ukraine. This resulted in a new national milestone – they collected over 41,000 actions this year (up 6000 actions compared to 2015).

# UK

**126,114 Total actions**  
**80,000 Estimated participants**

Amnesty UK had a hugely successful Write for Rights in 2016. For the first time the Section held a launch event, where over 150 guests were wowed by Albert Woodfox and Robert King talking about their time in prison, and the impact Write for Rights had on Albert's case last year.

AI UK supported Shawkan's case by arranging a number of events, including a stunt at the Egyptian embassy in London. Staff from across the Section wore masks of Shawkan's face and stood in a cage outside the embassy. They also worked with one of Shawkan's ex-colleagues who curated an exhibition of Shawkan's photographs. The Section held a private viewing and drinks reception that was attended by a great number of activists and staff. Finally, they brought Shawkan's case to the attention of hundreds of journalists at the AI UK Media Awards, who all took to Twitter to demand his release.

The Section partnered with The Albinism Fellowship, and Reggie Yates, a UK TV presenter, actor, writer/director and photographer. Reggie took photos of people with Albinism in the UK holding placards to show solidarity from London to Lilongwe for people with Albinism in Malawi. They held a launch event for these photos in East London that attracted substantial media attention.

AI UK's annual parliamentary event was a huge success again with 47 MPs attending to hear about the campaign and to take action on cases. Since then, MPs have tabled questions for us in Parliament on Ilham Tohti and Shawkan.

The campaign events calendar finished with a vigil outside the Iranian embassy for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, where activists and Amnesty staff, alongside her friends and family, read messages of support that had been sent to her from around the UK as part of Write for Rights.

The Section introduced a new, user-friendly website for Write for Rights, designed to make sending solidarity actions as easy as possible. Online, supporters could write their own messages to the individual, that the Section then arranged to have printed and sent. Making it as easy as possible meant that over 80,000 people took action on behalf of individuals online alone this year. That gave the Section a total of nearly 100,000 actions for Write for Rights this year – a 25% increase on last year.

The Section also achieved scores of regional media coverage for the campaign, as well as coverage in The Guardian, Huck, Al Jazeera English, the Associated Press, Al Jazeera Arabic, Al Araby, Boxbe, iNews and Voice online.

## USA

**410,200 Total actions**  
**135,425 Participants**

Write for Rights 2016 was the largest in AI USA's history, generating even more online and offline actions and participants than our record-breaking year in 2015! AI USA expanded our Write for Rights Human Rights Education program, performing direct outreach to 20,992 educators and generating the participation of over 10,000 students across the country.

AI USA promoted Write for Rights through their fundraising channels, generating funds as well as actions. They included lobbying and media work on cases where strategic, and as capacity allowed. AI USA redesigned their website and made all resources available as early as possible, and promoted Write for Rights heavily at their five Regional Conferences. They held a special event displaying original art on each case in Los Angeles with attendees such as artists and singers.

## VENEZUELA

**17,530 Total actions**  
**1,400 Estimated Participants**

Amnesty International Venezuela's members selected cases on which they wanted to work. The Section also worked on the campaign in schools

