

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2013

FINAL REPORT

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



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

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

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2013

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CONTENTS

1. SUMMARY OF IMPACT
2. INTRODUCTION
3. IDEAS FOR 2014
4. IMPACTS AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE INDIVIDUALS
5. DETAILS OF ACTION ON EACH CASE
6. BREAKDOWN OF ACTIONS BY COUNTRY
7. ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRY

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Amnesty International Argentina
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Amnesty International Austria
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Amnesty International Belgium (Francophone)
Amnesty International Bermuda
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Amnesty International Brazil
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Amnesty International Luxembourg
Amnesty International Malaysia
Amnesty International Mali
Malta
Amnesty International Mexico
Amnesty International Moldova
Amnesty International Mongolia
Montenegro
Amnesty International Morocco
Amnesty International Nepal
Amnesty International Netherlands
Amnesty International New Zealand
Nigeria
Amnesty International Norway
Amnesty International Paraguay
Amnesty International Philippines
Amnesty International Poland
Amnesty International Portugal

Romania
Amnesty International Russia
Amnesty International Senegal
Amnesty International Slovakia
Amnesty International Slovenia
Amnesty International South Africa
Amnesty International South Korea
Amnesty International Spain
Amnesty International Sweden
Amnesty International Switzerland
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Amnesty International Thailand
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Notes on HOW to **READ** this REPORT!

This report comprises of two main sections. In the first, any **impacts and developments** in the lives of the **individuals** are explained.

The second part of the report details the various **activities** that took place around the **WORLD** **highlighting** some of the particularly innovative or popular action ideas.



INTRODUCTION

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2013: A SUMMARY OF

IMPACT

In December 2013, 12 cases of individuals and communities whose human rights have been violated were given huge international public attention by Amnesty International (AI) as part of the annual Write for Rights campaign, also known as the Letter Writing Marathon, now in its eleventh year as a global moment of action.

Activities for about two weeks around 10 December, Human Rights Day, generated approximately

2,373,422 actions taken by hundreds of thousands of people in
143 countries around the world – making this year...

THE BIGGEST

Write for Rights ever and breaking records for any Amnesty international action ever. The action taken pressured authorities around the world and led to the **RELEASE** of three prisoners of conscience:

Cambodian housing rights activist **Yorm Bopha**, Russian peaceful protester **Vladimir Akimenkov**, and Tunisian blogger **Jabeur Mejri**.

Actions were taken in Amnesty International Sections and Structures in the following countries:

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium (Francophone), Bermuda, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada (Anglophone), Canada (Francophone), Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

They were also taken in the following countries with no AI Section or structure, organised by volunteers: Barbados, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Guinea, Liberia, Malta, Montenegro, Nigeria, Romania and Zambia.

Actions were also taken online independently by activists in the following countries with: Afghanistan, Albania, American Samoa, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Croatia, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Maldives, Martinique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Reunion, Saint Barthelemy, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, Virgin Islands (US) and Yemen.

HOW DID WE DO IT?

By interrupting wintry Russian streets with flash-mobs, and collecting signatures while running marathons in Guinea. By singing our hearts out at concerts in Brazil and speaking out in government meetings. By doing public stunts in Israel, and creating stunning light projections in Istanbul, Paris and Amsterdam. Amnesty Iceland collected 51,465 signatures - among a total population of just 350,000 people. Letters were written, SMS messages sent and tweets fired out at events in schools, universities and public squares. In countries as far apart as Togo, South Korea and Algeria, more people than ever before were inspired to participate.

WHO WERE WE WORKING FOR?

In 2013 the cases chosen to be featured in Write for Rights included a broad mix of individuals, from all regions of the world, all of whom have had their human rights abused and whose fate is typical of many of those for whom Amnesty campaigns. They were:

13 opposition activists from Bahrain	Miriam López , a torture survivor from Mexico
Ihar Tsikchanyuk , a Belarusian activist targeted for his work on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) rights	Dr Tun Aung , an imprisoned community leader in Myanmar
Yorm Bopha , a Cambodian housing rights activist	The Badia East community who were forcibly evicted from their homes in Nigeria
Eskinder Nega , a journalist imprisoned in Ethiopia	Three Bolotnaya Square protestors, imprisoned in Russia
The Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), an Honduran human rights NGO	Jabeur Mejri , an imprisoned blogger in Tunisia
The residents of Nabi Saleh , a village in the Occupied Palestinian Territories	Hakan Yaman , a Turkish citizen who was brutally beaten by police

SUMMARY OF **IMPACT**

2013 was another record-breaking year for Write for Rights. But how have those 2.3 million actions translated into change in or impact on the lives of the 12 individuals featured?

Wonderful news came as three of the individuals featured were released from prison in the weeks around the campaign. Sections and structures had been working on Cambodian housing rights activist **Yorm Bopha**'s case for some time before Write for Rights, and this high level of engagement meant that nearly 90,000 appeals from 15 different countries were generated and sent to the Minister of Justice in November 2013, just days before an appeal hearing took place for her. Following the hearing, on 22 November, **Yorm Bopha** was released from prison. In Russia, **Vladimir Akimenkov**, one of the Bolotnaya Three, was released under amnesty on 19 December 2013. He met with Amnesty shortly after and spoke about the importance of international support in his case and that of the remaining Bolotnaya detainees. And in February 2014, blogger **Jabeur Mejri** was given a Presidential pardon and released from prison the following month.

Unfortunately Jabeur Mejri had a confrontation with court officials in April which led to his re-arrest and subsequent re-imprisonment. His family and lawyers are certain that the stress and negative psychological impact of his unfair imprisonment led to this confrontation. Despite this set-back Jabeur Mejri's family described how important Amnesty's campaigning was for him and in particular the solidarity messages he received.

Indeed solidarity actions proved yet again to be an incredibly important and highly beneficial aspect of campaigning. In all the cases where feedback was gathered from the individuals or their representatives, it was clear that international solidarity had had a positive psychological impact. Community representatives from **Badia East** reported that receiving messages meant they felt supported in their fight. **Eskinder Nega**'s wife Serkalem Fasil told Amnesty that the cards and letters she received for him had, for both of them, been a huge source of encouragement and strength.



Vladimir Akimenkov after his release. © Third

Yorm Bopha with solidarity letters from AI members after her release. © AI



Vladimir Akimenkov, Ksenia Kosenko – sister of **Mikhail Kosenko** – and Victor Saviolov – father of **Artiom Saviolov** all confirmed the importance of Amnesty’s support to the prisoners of **Bolotnaya**, as did relatives and friends of other Bolotnaya detainees not directly represented in the campaign. Ksenia told of how Mikhail Kosenko smiled for the first time in weeks when recalling a letter he received from an Amnesty activist.

Ihar Tsikhanyuk also reported feeling very happy about the sheer amount of solidarity cards he received, and how they gave him renewed confidence and energy to continue with his activism. He also took part in a speaker’s tour, which included visiting AI Ukraine and AI France and meeting other human rights defenders and activists.

Yorm Bopha was extremely grateful the letters, cards and photos she received, saying that the support had given her strength.

Hakan Yaman and his family told Amnesty that they were overwhelmed by the massive response by Amnesty activists and Hakan said he felt incredibly pleased and immensely touched. **Jabeur Mejri’s** family also explained that the cards he received in prison helped him enormously.

Similarly, **Miriam Lopez** stated that the international solidarity she received through Write for Rights, including thousands of letters, cards and Facebook messages of support from around the world, provided a vital source of encouragement for her to continue seeking justice and not give up hope.

Members of **COFADEH** said that the thousands of solidarity letters received from around the world have boosted their morale and given them the strength to continue their important human rights work. They also expressed feeling a sense of international solidarity with the other global Write for Rights cases, displaying posters of the other cases in their office and hosting the videos on their website.

When the families of the **13 Opposition Activists** received their information packs they shared the content on Twitter and with local media. Ebramin Sharif’s wife told us that actions taken on behalf of her husband had inspired her to take action on other cases. Hassan Mshaima and Abduljalil Al Singace expressed their gratitude to activists.

Nariman Tamim from **Nabi Saleh** told Amnesty that all the letters she received and examples of materials produced by Sections all over the world made her cry with happiness. She and others in the village said that being a part of Write for Rights gave them a level of exposure they have never experienced before and stated that this helped raise awareness about their struggle in an unprecedented



Christmas card for Miriam Lopez © AI Thailand.

way. Fellow Nabi Saleh resident Abu Hussam Tamimi visited Al Spain and found the trip to be productive and engaging.

Another important sign of impact is when our global pressure is registered by campaign targets and in three of the cases there was an indication of this.

While Amnesty International was by no means the only organisation to work on behalf of the **Badia East** community, there were clear indications that Amnesty's actions, both during Write for Rights and as part of the longer-term campaign have been registered by the Lagos state government.

According to **Hakan Yaman's** lawyer the significant international pressure generated by the Write for Rights activists and their tens of thousands of letters was noticed by the authorities involved in the court processes.

There were rumours from some sources that **Ihar Tsikhanyuk's** name had been or was to be placed on some kind of international list in connection to his supposed comments regarding President Lukashenka while in France and there was talk on pro-Lukashenka websites that Amnesty International is an organisation that seeks to undermine the Belarusian authorities. Happily Ihar has not experienced any negative effects of this and in an indirect way this is an indication that pressure has been recognised.

Several Sections organised a joint petition delivery to the Bahraini Embassy in London for the case of the **13 Opposition Activists** and thus the campaign will have been registered by the authorities.



Nabi Saleh activists in activity in Al Spain © AI

Of course it is important to remember that while Write for Rights 2013 may well have ended, campaigning on the 12 individuals featured will continue. Indeed campaigning around Write for Rights has, in at least two cases, led to a positive impact for ongoing thematic campaigning related to the cases. Work on Freedom of Expression in Russia will carry on and although other **Bolotnaya** detainees continue to be found guilty, Amnesty's analysis is that many of those who have been sentenced ultimately received lighter sentences than the Prosecution had sought and global campaigning on this emblematic case has contributed to campaigning in Russia and influenced the cases of other Bolotnaya detainees not directly featured in the campaign.

As one of the most influential human rights groups in Honduras, it is fantastic to learn that members of **COFADEH** stated that having Amnesty International activists support them through the Write for Rights campaign gave legitimacy to their organization and their work as human rights defenders in the public eye. Since Write for Rights 2013 began, they have not faced public defamation such as they had in the past and this could be seen as an indication of hope for other human rights organisations in the region.

A MOMENT OF GLOBAL ACTION FOR INDIVIDUALS

Started in 2001 by a group of Amnesty activists in Poland, Write for Rights has grown steadily ever since to become a huge moment of global public activism in Amnesty's annual calendar. Just five years ago, fewer than 300,000 actions were taken but in 2013, over 2.3 million actions were taken in a matter of weeks around the globe.

CHOOSING CASES FOR THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

Making a concrete change in the lives of the individuals on whose behalfs we campaign is at the heart of what Amnesty International is about. Each year, we select certain individual cases to highlight during the campaign in light of their potential to benefit from mass mobilisation in December. Perhaps it is the anniversary of a particular moment in the story of that individual or community (such as the death of Mustafa Tamimi from Nabi Saleh on 10 December 2011); perhaps it is the time of traditional Presidential pardons (as in Tunisia); perhaps there is another political opportunity (such as the 12 December, the Day of Russian Constitution for the Russian landmark case of the Bolotnaya protestors). A case could also feature because there has already been substantial groundwork put in place and being featured as a Write for Rights case would build pressure at an important time (as with the case of Yorm Bopha). And of course, campaigns for individuals are often about more than those named: the violations they have suffered may be representative of the plight of others in their country. We chose cases where we hoped that pressure could lead to success not just in that case, but for others in similar situations (as hoped with the case of COFADEH for example). Cases are chosen to represent the breadth of Amnesty's campaigning work in terms of geography, theme, and gender focus. In 2013 we featured a journalist imprisoned for his writing in Africa; a woman seeking justice after being tortured in Latin America; an LGBTI activist beaten by police for being gay in Europe; and a community demonstrating for an end to the occupation and building of illegal settlements on their land in the Middle East.

CHOOSING CASES AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

Although a selection of 12 cases was chosen for worldwide action, different Amnesty S/s chose to work on various combinations of individuals and communities based on their own national criteria and capacity. Most S/s chose cases from the global pool of 12, however, some chose additional cases. Sections/structures made these choices in order to maximise the chance of impact for the individuals – for example, sometimes pressure from a specific country is particularly pertinent or a thematic area is more locally relevant for a certain country's constituencies, and sometimes the burst of pressure generated is most effective when there is already a groundswell of awareness. In India, for example, Write for Rights was used to raise awareness with and gain support from school communities that are already engaging on the case of Irom Sharmila, an Indian prisoner of conscience. Throughout December 2013, approximately 350 letters were handwritten to Irom Sharmila by students from Bangalore and Patna, many of which were handed directly to her during an advocacy event which was widely reported on in national media. In total, approximately 336,641 actions were taken by 17 S/s working on approximately 30 different cases in addition to actions on the 12 cases featured in this report.

ENGAGING WITH OUR SUPPORTERS

In many ways, Write for Rights embodies what Amnesty International is all about – connecting people who may have not experienced a human rights violation with those who have, empowering those who have, and mobilising people around the world to stand up for human rights. As such, it is popular with supporters and has developed into a major opportunity for Amnesty International to reach out to new supporters and strengthen engagement with existing audiences, given that it in a variety of innovative ways. In 2013, 51% of Sections/structures (S/s) surveyed identified increasing engagement with existing audiences as their primary growth/mobilization objective, and 44% noted that it was positioning Amnesty International positively to new audiences. These growth and mobilization objectives were achieved through a variety of ways, such as large scale public events or participatory human rights education activities that facilitated the exploration of wider human rights themes that were addressed in the cases. Throughout the campaign, Amnesty International is able to nurture a sense of international solidarity among new and existing supporters and show how taking global action together allows them to be part of a global movement that can really bring about change.

COUNTRIES WITH NO OFFICIAL AMNESTY PRESENCE?

As Write for Rights continues to grow each year, so does the number of countries in which people take action. 2013 was the fourth year that events were organized in countries without an official Amnesty International presence. International members and supporters of Amnesty International, whose relationship with the organisation has been built online, took action ‘offline’ and into their communities in Barbados, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Guinea, Liberia, Malta, Montenegro, Nigeria, Romania and Zambia. Many of these countries themselves are places in which human rights are regularly abused – for example in the Democratic Republic of Congo, even after decades of civil war, volunteers organised events to support those at risk in other countries. Barrister Grégoire Kauli Meket collected more than 1,800 letters after he organised Write for Rights debates at university faculties and high schools in Lubumbashi, Katanga.

ACTIONS AROUND THE WORLD

While the primary objective of Write for Rights is to change lives through mass action, S/s tailor their activism to suit their regions and membership. In this report, the word ‘action’ can be taken to cover a range of different activities, from the traditional letter to online web actions and SMS petitions. Some S/s collected photographs and drawings expressing solidarity to be sent on; others sent in video messages, or posted their messages online on the individuals’ Facebook or Tumblr pages.

These actions were either targeted at authorities in the individuals’ country or were a ‘solidarity action’. An action targeting an authority, such as the King of Bahrain in the case of the 13 Opposition Activists, called for concrete action, such as an investigation or immediate release. Solidarity actions, such as those sent to the wife of imprisoned journalist Eskinder Nega, were intended to give hope and remind the individual or their families that they are not alone.

Actions such as names on a petition or SMS, letters or photographs, were sent in a variety of ways. Some were sent directly to the recipient; others were gathered by groups and sent in small packets, or collated by S/s and sent in larger packets. Names gathered electronically on petitions and by SMS were printed out and sent with a covering letter to the target. Solidarity actions reached the individuals in a variety of creative ways. Some were sent directly, as in the case of the Bolotnaya Three, who were sent thousands of letters in prison. In other cases they were delivered via an intermediary, such as the individual's lawyer or by campaigners at the International Secretariat (IS) of Amnesty International, as was the case with the Honduran NGO COFADEH and Ihar Tsikhanyuk.

The variety and creativity of events designed to generate action during Write for Rights 2013 was outstanding, many of them going beyond simple letter writing events and becoming widely publicized. In Chile, activists took part in a bike-a-thon where they took photos displaying solidarity messages and signed petitions along the way. Workshops and sit-ins were held in Morocco, demonstrations in Nepal. Activities also included creative light projections near the Eiffel Tower in Paris and in central Istanbul.



Write for Rights demonstration in Nepal © AI

Activism that included participation from the individuals themselves proved particularly effective in creating change in the lives of the individuals, reaching new audiences, and deepening engagement with existing audiences. In 2013, some of the individuals and communities whose cases were included in the campaign were themselves participating in Write for Rights. Activists from the Palestinian village of Nabi Saleh travelled to Spain, where over 70 groups around the country had organised activities. Ihar Tsikhanyuk travelled from Belarus to Ukraine and France to talk to activists about his experience of being beaten by police for his sexuality.

← IMPACT AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE INDIVIDUALS

What were the impacts of this campaigning, and what developments have happened in the cases? Below we have made an analysis, based on conversations with country specialists at the IS of Amnesty International and the individuals themselves, or their representatives. Other sources of information to support our analysis include media, outcomes of lobby meetings, and communications with local partners. Finally, in order to facilitate conversations with the individuals and their representatives, we provided each with a short information pack that outlined how many actions were taken on their behalf around the world and in which countries, as well as photos of the variety of creative activities that took place. With this, we hoped to help them understand the breadth of action that had been taken globally, as well as facilitate a process of reflection on how any action may have impacted their lives.

13 OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS

BAHRAIN



In Bahrain, 13 prominent opposition activists are serving prison sentences handed down by a military court following anti-government protests in February and March 2011. They were not given fair trials and some of them were reportedly tortured. Amnesty International considers them prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully expressing their opinions, calling for anti-government protest and calling for political reforms.

During Write for Rights 2013, 125,046 actions were taken in 38 different countries around the world for the 13 opposition activists. At least 123,752 of those actions went directly to the Bahraini authorities while an estimated 1,294 solidarity letters were written to their families.

In January some changes occurred in the way the prison authorities treated some of the men. On 16 January, 'Abdullah al-Mahrous, also known as Sheikh Mirza al-Mahrous, was allowed leave from prison to go to his wife's funeral. And on 22 and 26 January 2014 respectively, Dr 'Abdel-Jalil al-Singace and Hassan Mshaima' were also granted family visits because they had begun wearing the prison uniform again after having been denied visits for almost 10 months. A few weeks later, in February 2014, the European Parliament called for the release of 'Abdulhadi al-Khawaja and Ebrahim Sharif, the two men whose faces were featured on the stamp image of the Write for Rights campaign. The UN also called for international awareness on the case.

Despite these positive developments, the situation remains very difficult for the men. The 13 activists still have no access to specialized medical care. Hassan Mshaima' told his family that although a private medical consultant had been looking at his medical files, he has not been allowed to advise on the treatment needed. Hassan Mshaima' called his family on 27 January to say that the prison authorities had told the 13 men that they would no longer supply them with medication needed to treat their medical conditions and that this would be their families' responsibility. He also said that the 13 men were objecting to this decision on the grounds that medication and medical treatment were an accepted right for any prisoner.

Several Scandinavian Sections collaborated to deliver 29,176 postcards and petitions to the Bahrain Ambassador to the United Kingdom in London on 26 February and so Amnesty International is confident the campaigning pressure will have been registered by the authorities.

On receiving the packs, families of the activists disseminated them on Twitter and were especially touched by the widespread actions taken for the men in so many countries. This is another reminder of the power of the photos after the fact to garner media attention and possibly political pressure.

Ebrahim Sharif's wife told Amnesty International that the action made her start wanting to take action on other cases because thanks to Write for Rights she became aware of other cases similar to that of her husband around the world. Another contact told the Bahrain team at the IS that Hassan Mshaima and Abduljalil Al Singace would like to express gratitude to Amnesty international for all the work carried out on their behalf.



Photograph taken at night showing an image of prisoners of conscience (2 of the 13, Farida Ghulam, Ebrahim Sharif) onto the Bahrain Embassy in France, an Amnesty International France action during the 2013 Write for Rights events. © Pierre-Yves Brunaud / Pictoretank pour Amnesty International



IHAR TSIKHANYUK BELARUS

In January 2013, LGBTI rights activist Ihar Tsikhanyuk was questioned, beaten, threatened and abused by police following his and his friends' unsuccessful attempt to register the LGBTI NGO, Human Rights Centre Lambda. Those responsible have yet to be held to account, and he and his colleagues remain at risk of further threats and abuse for their continued LGBTI activism.

During Write for Rights, at least **172,439** actions were taken for Ihar Tsikhanyuk in 84 countries around the world. At least 168,061 actions were sent to the Belarus authorities and at least 4,378 solidarity letters sent to Ihar Tsikhanyuk himself.

In March 2014, Amnesty International spoke to Ihar Tsikhanyuk about the effects of active international campaigning on his case. A long-time activist, he became very involved in the Write for Rights campaign and travelled to the Ukraine and to France in December 2013 to speak with Amnesty members about the situation for the LGBTI community in Belarus, and to raise awareness about the challenges it faces from the Belarusian authorities. While in France, Ihar Tsikhanyuk met with a wide range of people, from officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to university students and other LGBTI activists. He explained that he found the meetings to be very productive and the whole experience enjoyable. He particularly emphasized that he found it invaluable and inspiring to meet with other LGBTI activists, saying that he admired and learned from their work and their organisational skills.

"I have had the best impressions from meeting with activists. I have no words to describe it! The meetings were very interesting and for me it was a huge exchange of experiences. These meetings have given me a lot of strength and courage to continue to fight for justice in my own country."

This connection with French LGBTI activists particularly resonates in light of the fact that the reaction of the Belarusian LGBTI community to Ihar Tsikhanyuk's involvement in the campaign was divided. While some supported him, others worried that his exposure could lead to reprisals and greater repression of the LGBTI community. Ihar Tsikhanyuk was not worried however, telling Amnesty: "...Elections are soon in Belarus and also the Ice Hockey championship is coming, so I think the authorities have no time for the LGBTI community and for me in particular!" Since his involvement in the campaign however, Amnesty is aware of rumours from some sources that Ihar Tsikhanyuk's name had been, or was to be, placed on some kind of international list in connection to his supposed comments regarding President Lukashenka while in France. Furthermore there has been talk on pro-Lukashenka websites that Amnesty International is an organization that seeks only to undermine the Belarusian authorities. Ihar Tsikhanyuk commented that this may be in reference to his quoting of President Lukashenka, but explained that what he said was factual and refers to an interview with Lukashenka that can be found in various places. Ihar Tsikhanyuk has not been approached by any officials in relation to his work with Amnesty International.

An initial plan by Amnesty to link Ihar Tsikhanyuk's case and Write for Rights with Gay Pride events and local partners in Belarus was aborted when Pride was cancelled after the Belarusian authorities denied activists permission to march. It was hoped that the sheer size and global influence of Amnesty as an organization might lend a degree of protection at local Pride events, although we did not get to see if this would have been the case.



With regard to solidarity from the international community, Ihar Tsikhanyuk explained that he was very pleased and surprised by the sheer amount of solidarity cards he received, and that the support and personal messages he received from so many around the world gave him the confidence to continue with his activism, with even more energy.

Ihar Tsikhanyuk meets with fellow Human Rights Activists in France © Laurent Hini

“It is very important for us [LGBTI community] and for me personally. When I feel I am left with no hope or will to fight, I’ll get a letter out and it will inspire me and a light of hope appears again. The confidence in myself and ability to change something returns!”

While the majority of the messages he received were very positive, Ihar Tsikhanyuk did come across many homophobic comments online in response to some of the interviews he gave to online LGBTI magazines. Yet he quickly pointed out that making the issue personal through his individual story helped people to understand it:

“...For every bad comment, there were five good ones! People are able to read the story of one person, one particular case and begin to think more rationally.”

He told Amnesty that he wants those who wrote to him to know how thankful he is for their support and that while he cannot possibly write back to all those who took time to write to him, he does say that:

“...There are some letters that need to be answered. Some people wrote to me and shared their stories with me and I really want to answer them... The staff at the post office know me now, it’s not every day that one person gets so many letters!”

He further explained how the letters were causing a stir locally and how he plans to use the solidarity cards as a way to bring out societal change in Belarus:

“Many of my neighbours, even those who are tolerant to homosexuals, were surprised that even children sent me cards and drawings. They were surprised that children know about the existence of gay people. In the future, I want to show these cards to the Ministry of Education to change the education system in our schools, so that our children are taught at an early age to be tolerant and educated.”

Furthermore, as a long-time activist, Ihar Tsikhanyuk explained that the campaign inspired him to begin some new activism initiatives, including the creation of a support group for parents and families of gay children. He explained:

“I felt the change immediately after the marathon. So many people have started supporting me. When [solidarity] letters started to arrive my friends began helping me translate them, so I could read them all. Thanks to the letters, I also became united with other people and my neighbours, friends and I have decided to create a support group for the parents of gay children, especially the mothers, explaining that it is normal.”

Ihar Tsikhanyuk continues in his quest for justice and in January 2014 he submitted a new appeal against the decision to not initiate criminal proceedings against the police officers who beat him. If this is refused he plans to contact the head Prosecutor. His final message to Amnesty activists is:

“To all activists I wish you good health, a lot of courage to set high goals and the strength to achieve them. You are so cool Amnesty. I hope you get another Nobel Prize! It is a pity there is no AI office in Belarus. I would probably be the first member and a volunteer there.”



Just a small number of the many of thousands of cards sent to Ihar © AI

YORM BOPHA

CAMBODIA

Yorm Bopha is a housing rights activist and representative of the Boeung Kak Lake community in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She had been imprisoned since 4 September 2012 on accusations of planning an assault on two men suspected of theft a month earlier. She was a prisoner of conscience, detained on baseless, fabricated charges as a result of her peaceful activism. She left behind her young son and a husband in poor health.

During Write for Rights, at least **259,900** actions were taken for Yorm Bopha in 54 countries around the world. At least 253,695 actions were sent to the Cambodian authorities and at least 6,205 solidarity letters sent to Yorm Bopha herself.



On 22 November 2013, Yorm Bopha was released on bail at an appeal hearing against her three-year prison sentence at the Supreme Court. Although it was disappointing that the charges against her were not dropped, this was still fantastic news for her and her supporters. She was reunited with her young son and family on her release, and after a brief press conference, in which she expressed disappointment that the charges against her had not been dropped, she returned to Boeung Kak and a celebration!

The decision to release Yorm Bopha is likely to have resulted from a combination of domestic and international pressure, including by Amnesty International, in addition to the political context in Cambodia. Her release came at a time of political turmoil in the country, after elections in July 2013 in which the opposition disputed the ruling party's victory. They held several mass demonstrations against the alleged fraud and irregularities at the election, which led to a violent crackdown by the authorities. The government may have seen Yorm Bopha's release as an opportunity to boost their reputation, and prevent further criticism of their violation of the right to freedom of expression.

Local NGOs in Cambodia as well as Yorm Bopha's family and friends relentlessly pushed for her release. The domestic pressure they created undoubtedly contributed to her release, particularly at a time when the government was sensitive to criticism.

The Cambodian government is very susceptible to pressure from foreign governments, particularly key donor countries. Amnesty International's recognition of Yorm Bopha as a prisoner of conscience soon after her arrest supported campaigning by local activists and flagged to the Cambodian authorities the international concern around her case. Although her release came before the official start of Write for Rights, the high level of engagement on her case meant that activists from 15 different countries generated nearly 90,000 appeals for the Minister of Justice just before the appeal hearing took place. This was a fantastic effort, and ensured that the authorities were aware of the criticism they would receive if she remained behind bars.

In addition to the appeals targeting the Minister of Justice, nearly 500 photos were uploaded to Yorm Bopha's solidarity flickr page, showing support from people across the world. It was very moving to see the effort and creativity people had put in, and this action was highlighted on the front page of the Cambodia Daily newspaper on the date of her appeal hearing – the newspaper was in the hands of those inside the courthouse. Yorm Bopha was extremely grateful for this support, and sent the following message to Amnesty activists after her release:

“I’ve heard about it from the news, the communities, and other NGOs who went to visit me (in prison). They told me that a lot of people both inside and outside the country supported my release and that Amnesty International had strongly campaigned for my release as well. I was so happy because it showed that other Cambodians and I were not in it alone.

“I would like to thank to Amnesty International for helping and supporting my community as well as myself and thank all of the people who devoted their time to write petition letters to the government to request for my release. I believe that everyone will continue their support not only for Boeung Kok community but also other communities, other countries which do not respect human rights. I am very happy that (now I know) we are not alone. Amnesty International has helped me and my community so much. I really want them to continue their support.”



Yorm Bopha with solidarity letters from AI members after her release © AI

In a meeting with Amnesty International, Yorm Bopha said that the international support she had received gave her strength, indicating to the piles of cards and colourful messages of solidarity delivered to her.

Yorm Bopha continues to have the possibility of a new trial hearing hanging over her, but it is unclear if or when this would actually take place. The situation for her is highly unpredictable, particularly at a time when the political landscape in Cambodia is changing.

Since her release, Yorm Bopha has taken part in numerous peaceful protests for her own community as well as for others. She was even arrested at one protest, eliciting much concern from Amnesty International members, but was released later the same day.

Amnesty International will monitor her situation closely, and will update her casefile with guidance on what actions continue to be appropriate.

ESKINDER NEGA

ETHIOPIA



Eskinder Nega was arrested on 14 September 2011 after making speeches and writing articles criticizing the government and calling for freedom of expression to be respected. He was charged with terrorism offences, and on 27 June 2012, he was found guilty on charges of "preparation or incitement to commit terrorist acts", "participation in a terrorist organisation", and "high treason." He was sentenced to 18 years in prison on 13 July 2012. Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience.

As part of Write for Rights 2013, an estimated **236,849** actions were taken on Eskinder Nega's case in 102 countries and territories around the world. At least 226,031 actions were sent to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and at least 10,818 solidarity letters sent to Eskinder Nega and his wife Serkalem Fasil.

In early 2014 the Red Cross visited the zone where Eskinder Nega is imprisoned in Kaliti prison. Eskinder's wife Serkalem Fasil told Amnesty International that two days before the visit the prison authorities made a number of improvements to the zone's conditions, and specifically to Eskinder Nega's cell conditions, as he is a high profile prisoner. When the Red Cross representatives arrived at the zone, Eskinder Nega informed them that this was not the usual situation, which caused the prison authorities to interrupt the conversation. Immediately after this incident Eskinder Nega was moved to a different zone. The following day he was informed that he was to be subjected to restrictions on his visitors. He was ordered to provide the names of four people, who had to be family members, who would from then on be his only permitted visitors. No other people have been allowed to visit him since that time. This restriction is in violation of the Ethiopian Constitution, which states: *"Any person in custody or a convicted prisoner shall have the right to communicate with and be visited by spouse(s), close relatives and friends"* (Article 21(2)).

Serkalem Fasil, Eskinder Nega's wife, and their son Nafkot, have been living in the United States, a situation they initially found it hard to adjust to. Serkalem Fasil is in contact with Eskinder Nega through the relatives who are able to visit him in the prison. Serkalem Fasil explained to Amnesty International that it is still very difficult to communicate with him as when she talks to her relatives in Ethiopia they are afraid that their phone calls might be tapped, and when relatives visit Eskinder Nega in prison, prison guards are always present during their conversations.

During Write for Rights, Serkalem Fasil was overwhelmed by thousands of solidarity messages she received from all over the world. She explained:

"When I received the letters the first day, I was debating with the delivery person 'No these could not be mine, I could never receive so many letters'! I was elated. It was beyond my expectation. I received five huge packages of letters. There were far too many to count. Nafkot looks at the pictures in the letters. This is a huge resource of encouragement for me and for Eskinder."

While Eskinder Nega himself did not receive any letters, and nor did he get any information about letters arriving at the prison for him, Serkalem Fasil told Amnesty that she is sure that the letters arriving at the prison for him built up some pressure on prison authorities. Furthermore, she sent a message to him to let him know what was going on. She told Amnesty:

“Eskinder was really elated about it and asked me to thank everyone. He conveyed the message that obviously this activity is going to be painful for the regime and the people running the jail, it will be unacceptable, but for him it’s a huge source of encouragement and moral strength, and Eskinder and I are both so grateful. I want to convey Eskinder’s gratitude and my own to everyone who has taken part, taken action or sent us letters. I cannot emphasize enough the positive impact and encouragement we got from the campaign.”



Solidarity cards from school groups for Eskinder Nega, © Amnesty International Austria

The situation in Ethiopia remains very difficult as freedom of expression is under sustained attack, and there are no obvious and immediate successes. Nevertheless it is extremely important to keep pressure on the authorities. Alongside Eskinder, there are numerous other journalists, political opposition members and others dissidents imprisoned in Ethiopia because they exercised their right to freedom of expression. Serkalem Fasil told Amnesty that she believes pressure on the authorities will help to free Eskinder and the others.

“The regime will be forced to release him and the other prisoners of conscience. This opinion is not based on any specific signals, it’s just based on the patterns of the past, and on the support that Eskinder is enjoying all over the country and the world. That kind of pressure, they can’t resist forever.”

Serkalem Fasil also urged everyone to work for structural change in Ethiopia – to advocate for change on the wider restrictions on freedom of expression, including a number of repressive laws, used to target, or restrict the work of independent journalists, human rights activists and others.

“It’s also important to work on the draconian press law, to make space for journalists who are trying to make a difference to our country – for change which is sustainable and long term for the future of journalism and freedom of expression in our country. And Eskinder wanted to remind us all of that too.”

On 27 February 2014 US Secretary of State John Kerry made a speech to mark the launch of the annual State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. He mentioned several country situations and several thematic areas, and at the end of his speech mentioned the "awesomely courageous acts of individuals" fighting for human rights around the world, and named four individuals. One of these was "Eskinder Nega, writing for freedom of expression in Ethiopia".

This is a huge recognition of Eskinder Nega’s case, and of the cause he was fighting for which led to his arrest and imprisonment. It also appears to be a positive development in the US government’s approach to relations with Ethiopia. For many years, Ethiopia’s major donors, including the US, have been significantly reluctant to criticize the very serious human rights situation there. Serkalem Fasil’s final message to activists is the following:

“I would like to encourage you to keep up the good work. You may not see the change immediately but it’s just a matter of time, Eskinder and all the other prisoners will be free and will be able to go back to their work and lives. So keep up the good work.”



Serkalem Fasil, baby son Nafkot and husband Eskinder Nega © Private

COFADEH HONDURAS

The Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH) is one of the country's main human rights organizations. Its work includes seeking justice for current human rights abuses by the security forces and for "disappearances" in the 1980s, and training local human rights activists. Their brave work places them at great risk. In recent years, members of COFADEH have suffered intimidation, surveillance, threats and attacks. Despite the danger, COFADEH continues its crucial work. Their symbol of a white dove symbolises their commitment to peace and human rights and their determination to never give up.



As part of Write for Rights 2013, at least 51,461 actions were sent to the President-elect of Honduras, calling on him to publicly recognize and endorse the important and legitimate work carried out by COFADEH and other human rights defenders in Honduras, to pledge to support them, and to condemn all attacks against them. Thousands of solidarity messages were also sent to COFADEH (more than 5,000 had been received by 31 January 2014), using COFADEH's symbol of the dove to show support for the organization and their work. These actions were taken on behalf of COFADEH in 80 countries around the world.

Amnesty International delegates spoke to members of COFADEH on 31 January 2014 and again in March 2014. With regards to their physical safety and protection, members of COFADEH felt that the Write for Rights campaign had a positive impact in terms of minimizing risk, although no additional protection has been explicitly granted to them yet.

"Despite the step backwards in terms of human rights since the military coup, we believe Amnesty's solidarity action has largely deterred the defamatory environment, the attacks and the threats we have recently experienced. However, this does not mean that we are not still in the eye of the hurricane. At least in the last two months there have been no reported security incidents involving those who work for COFADEH or our relatives."

With regards to public recognition and support, more than one member of COFADEH told Amnesty International that following the recent presidential election, human rights defenders were still not looked at favourably in Honduras. However, they do believe that having Amnesty International recognize and support them globally through the campaign has given legitimacy to their organization and their work in the public eye. For example, prior to the campaign COFADEH had been defamed on a Honduran talk show, and had to defend themselves against claims that they were spreading lies through their work. Members of COFADEH told Amnesty International that after the Write for Rights solidarity campaign began, there were no more instances where they were publicly defamed like this.

There is still work to be done in order for COFADEH to be recognized and supported by the authorities for the legitimate human rights work that they do, however the Write for Rights campaign helped to foster positive public opinion throughout the country. Amnesty International believes that a large, public delivery of petitions to the new

President-elect will be a key moment in gaining recognition from the Honduran authorities. The new President has yet to publicly recognize the legitimate work of COFADEH. Amnesty International is in conversation with COFADEH to discuss when and where it's best to organize the handover of these petitions. One of the members of COFADEH explained the impact of the campaign.

"The benefits that we can attribute to the campaign are: increased visibility of our work, recognition and respect for the work we do in COFADEH and recognition of the work carried out by its most visible figures, in this case Bertha Oliva, the General Coordinator."

Members of COFADEH stated that the thousands of solidarity letters received from around the world have boosted their morale and given them the strength to continue their important human rights work. They also told Amnesty International that they have felt a sense of international solidarity with the other global cases featured in the campaign, and they printed out posters of the other cases and displayed them in their office, as well as hosting materials and other case videos on their website. They intend to gather and display all of the solidarity messages they have received in their office, inviting supporters and hosting a meeting to unveil these messages of support.

"With the campaign we were able to see international support, so important and necessary for us to be able to continue day by day with our risky work, which the defence and promotion of fundamental human rights has become. This can be felt as positive energy with which to face various risks... and to continue our work because we are sure that defending human rights is not a crime, but rather a universal right."



Members of COFADEH would like to share their thanks with all those who took action on their behalf as part of the Write for Rights 2013 and their gratitude for the support they continue to receive from Amnesty International. Bertha Oliva told Amnesty:

"I truly believe I would not be alive today were it not for the support of Amnesty International."

Amnesty International will continue to campaign on behalf of COFADEH as a priority case in their work on Honduras throughout 2014.

On December 7, AI Chile participated in the Festival for Human Rights for Everyone organized by the Chilean Commission for Human Rights (CCDDH). Here an activist takes action for COFADEH. © AI

MIRIAM LÓPEZ

MEXICO



In February 2011, shortly after dropping off her children at school, housewife Miriam Isaura López Vargas was grabbed by two men wearing balaclavas. She was tied up, blindfolded and driven to a military barracks in the city of Tijuana. Over the following week she was tortured, including being raped three times by soldiers, who forced her to sign a statement falsely implicating herself in drug offences. Despite the fact that Miriam has identified some of the perpetrators and their accomplices, no-one has been brought to justice for the torture she suffered.

During Write for Rights 2013, at least **227,972** actions were sent to the Federal Attorney General of Mexico on Miriam López's behalf, while she received at least 6,527 solidarity messages both in the form of letters and as posts on her Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Justicia-PARA-Miriam/>.

In December 2013 the protection measures that the Federal Attorney General's office granted Miriam López in December 2011 were reduced without prior warning or an adequate explanation as to why. The Mexican NGO which supports Miriam López, Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CMPDPDH), challenged the decision and this coincided with the Write for Rights campaign. By January 2014 Miriam's protection measures had been reinstated, but the authorities failed to explain why they had withdrawn them in the first place or why they had decided to reinstate them. Amnesty International will continue to monitor Miriam's protection measures.

In response to a complaint, filed in March 2011, to the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) an investigation was launched into Miriam López's detention and treatment. However at the end of 2013, the CNDH informed Miriam López's lawyers in a copy of a letter sent to the Ministry of the Defence - which is responsible for the army - that it considered that the Ministry had complied with the 2012 CNDH recommendation on Miriam's case. The CNDH disregarded the fact that Miriam is yet to get justice and reparations. The CMPDPH has challenged the CNDH decision. Amnesty International has also raised these concerns with the president of the CNDH.

Changes in Miriam López's case, either partially or wholly brought on by the Write for Rights campaign, are therefore yet to be seen, apart from Amnesty International's possible role in the re-establishment of protection measures. The struggle against impunity for human rights violations in Mexico is a long-term process, especially when members of the military are involved, and Amnesty International will continue to campaign on behalf of Miriam and other individuals in Mexico in the context of the global Stop Torture campaign.

On a personal level, however, the campaign had a great impact. When Amnesty International delegates spoke to Miriam López on 28 January and 20 February 2014 she stated that she was very happy with the campaign and in particular the international solidarity, including letters, cards and Facebook messages of support she has received. She told Amnesty International that the messages are a vital source of encouragement for her to continue seeking justice and to not give up hope and made it clear that the campaign activities undertaken on her behalf all around the world had impressed her and reassured her for her future.

“The letter-writing marathon was very good. I think that the authorities must have felt the pressure. I saw the pictures on my Facebook page and I couldn’t believe that they were really coming from all over the world. It’s good to know that everyone knows about my case. They don’t just know about it, they are helping me with it. Knowing that people are supporting me feels very good...It’s difficult for me to remember one action in particular, but I do remember the activity in Chile involving bicycles and one of the activities in Mexico City using lights. It was great to know that all this was coming from different countries and in different languages. Now I do think that my case is known worldwide.”

“Thanks everyone for supporting my cause, for supporting me in my search for justice. Justice is never done 100 per cent, but we are trying anyway. I ask you all to carry on helping me. The authorities do not pay attention when it’s just about one person...Thank you for supporting me, even though you don’t know me...for the cards, for the lights, for everything, thank you.”



People take action for Miriam López in Toronto, Canada, on 8 December 2013 © AI

DR TUN AUNG

MYANMAR

Dr Tun Aung is a community leader, doctor and family man, who is serving a 17 year prison sentence after an unfair trial. He was arrested following riots which broke out between Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims in Maungdaw, western Myanmar in June 2012. Independent eyewitnesses confirm that Dr Tun Aung actively tried to calm the crowd during the rioting and did not play any role in the violence. Dr Tun Aung may have been targeted because he is a Muslim community leader. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.



During Write for Rights, at least **122,144** actions were taken for Dr Tun Aung in 98 countries around the world. At least 120,365 actions were sent to the Myanmar authorities and at least 1,779 solidarity messages sent, including 300 solidarity messages and photos were shared on the Tumblr page created for Dr Tun Aung (<http://myanmar-w4r.tumblr.com/>) from at least 14 different countries. There were many moving and thoughtful messages and images, and the Tumblr page proved a great way to record these expressions of solidarity from around the world. Amnesty International hopes to get feedback from his family about the messages, and is confident that they will be hugely appreciated.

On 30 December 2013, it was announced that many prisoners were to be released as part of an amnesty in Myanmar. Unfortunately, Dr Tun Aung was not among them and remains behind bars in Sittwe prison. Although this is disappointing, Amnesty International's analysis is that the huge burst of action for him during Write for Rights 2013 was still very important in the campaign for his release.

Action for Dr. Tun Aung by activists in Algeria © AI



In July 2013, President Thein Sein announced that by the end of the year there would be no prisoners of conscience in Myanmar, and it is vital that cases such as Dr Tun Aung's remain in the spotlight to show that this promise has not been fulfilled. There is a risk that the attention of international media will focus too heavily on the seemingly positive developments in the country and the prisoner releases that have taken place, and that remaining political prisoners such as Dr Tun Aung could end up being forgotten. It is important therefore that organizations such as Amnesty International continue highlighting his case, and the Write for Rights action will have helped show the international concern around his case.

Sections and structures are asked to continue campaigning for Dr Tun Aung, and in particular to highlight to President Thein Sein, in appeals and advocacy efforts, his 'broken promise' as exemplified by Dr Tun Aung still remaining in jail. Amnesty International will continue to monitor developments and add any updates or guidance to the casefile.

BADIA EAST COMMUNITY NIGERIA



On 23 February 2013, hundreds of residents of Badia East in Lagos state were rendered homeless when the Lagos state authorities, supported by the police, demolished at least 266 homes in the community. The affected people were not genuinely consulted and received no adequate and reasonable notice prior to being forcibly evicted from their homes. Entire families were made destitute when their homes were demolished. Badia East is one of many communities across Nigeria that have been torn apart by forced evictions in recent years.

During Write for Rights, an estimated **85,408** actions were taken in 89 countries around the world. At least 83,407 of those actions were sent directly to the Governor of Lagos State and at least 2,001 solidarity letters were sent to the community via Amnesty International's local partner – the Social and Economic Rights Action Centre (SERAC).

In September 2013 the Lagos state government had negotiated with representatives of the victims of the Badia East forced eviction with a view to paying compensation under the World Bank funded Lagos Metropolitan Development and Governance Project (LMDGP). The World Bank oversaw the development of a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) by the Lagos state government.

In November 2013 the Lagos state government reduced the amount of compensation it had initially agreed to pay under the RAP. In December 2013 the Badia East community accepted the reduced offer of compensation with conditions. The conditions included the following: that the government makes an “upward review” of the compensation package in the future; that all structure owners be given the right of first refusal in the apartment housing scheme the government wants to build on the land cleared; and that the RAP is implemented as soon as possible. The government rejected the community's conditional acceptance of the compensation offer and the community had no choice but to accept the reduced compensation package unconditionally. The community representatives, who were negotiating with the government on behalf of the affected persons, were under increased pressure from the community to accept the reduced compensation package unconditionally in the light of the precarious conditions the victims continue to live under.

The Lagos state government offered to pay compensation to 1,933 tenants and 319 structure owners. In reality, the number of affected persons is much higher than the numbers above. In March 2014 the government began the payment of compensation.

Amnesty International has been putting pressure on the World Bank in their Nigeria and Washington offices and had requested them to urgently make public the RAP developed for the Badia East community; as well as ensure that the RAP fully complies with the Lagos state government's commitments under international human rights law and standards; in particular on the right to an effective remedy, and the right to adequate housing; and also the World Bank's Resettlement Policy Framework. On 21 February 2014 the Lagos state government publicly disclosed the RAP, although the RAP provides for some compensation for affected people it is grossly inadequate as it fails to fully comply with international human rights law and standards, and also the World Bank's Resettlement Policy. Albert Olorunwa, a former youth president of Badia East and evictee, told Amnesty International:

“Without the pressure from Amnesty International the Lagos state government would not have agreed to pay us some compensation. We thank Amnesty International and want the organization to continue to fight for us.”

While Amnesty International was by no means the only organization to put pressure on the Lagos state government – the World Bank, local organizations like SERAC and the community themselves did a lot of this work – it is clear that Amnesty’s actions, both during Write for Rights, and as part of the longer-term campaign, contributed to the change and that pressure from the movement was registered. Bimbo Osobe, an evictee from Badia East explained:



Badia East community members receiving solidarity cards after the Write for Rights
© SERAC

“Anytime Amnesty International’s name is mentioned they [the Lagos state government] feel pressured. Amnesty International’s involvement in our struggle has been an eye opener for me; that even in a difficult situation one can still stand out boldly to demand one’s right and that others from the government. Amnesty International made me strong.

As regards the solidarity, representatives from the community spoke of the support they felt in their fight after receiving messages from around the world.

There has been change, they [the Lagos state government] never wanted to pay but with your help and effort they agreed to give assistance to us. We appreciate the solidarity messages and the affection from Amnesty International for the poor and the people of Badia East. The struggle has not ended, you should always remember us.”

Abiola Ogunyemi, Badia East community leader

NABI SALEH

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Since 2009, the villagers of Nabi Saleh have held weekly peaceful protests against Israel's military occupation and the illegal Israeli settlement of Halamish, which has taken over most of their farmland. Despite court orders, the settlers have also turned the village water spring into a tourist attraction, which Nabi Saleh residents are prevented from using. In response, the 550 people villagers face frequent violent repression and intimidation from the Israeli army and police. So far Israeli forces have killed two people and injured hundreds with near total impunity.



During Write for Rights, at least 156,887 actions were taken for Nabi Saleh in 49 countries around the world. At least 155,374 actions were sent to the Israeli authorities and at least 1,513 solidarity letters sent to the villagers themselves. The situation in Nabi Saleh however remains unchanged: Israeli forces continue to use excessive and unnecessary force and to injure protestors, bystanders, and journalists during demonstrations, many times with lethal weapons.

On 7 March 2014, Nabi Saleh residents celebrated International Women's Day with a peaceful demonstration against the Israeli military occupation and illegal settlements. Activists held posters of Mu'taz Washaha, an activist who had regularly participated in Nabi Saleh demonstrations and who had been killed the previous week by Israeli forces during an arrest raid in his home in Birzeit. During the protest, Israeli forces fired a barrage of tear gas canisters at the protesters as well as rubber-coated metal bullets, which injured eight Palestinians including a child.

Israeli forces also continue to declare the village a closed military zone during demonstrations and impose imposing closures of access roads and restricting people's movement as a form of collective punishment. On 12 April 2014 Israeli forces closed the two military gates on the village's access roads severely restricting the movement of people. After two days of the closure Nabi Saleh residents held a peaceful demonstration and managed to open one of the gates. This despite Israeli forces firing tear gas and using stun grenades against protesters.

Israeli forces continue to target human rights defenders and journalists in the village during the peaceful demonstrations. On 24 April 2014 journalist Mu'ath Hamed sustained injuries to his legs when Israeli forces fired rubber-coated metal bullets directly at him. He was taken to hospital in Ramallah.

Raids, arrests and beatings have continued to be a feature of the Israeli response to the peaceful protests staged since Write for Rights in December 2013. Despite this villagers continue to hold peaceful protests and activists continue to document these human rights violations. Not one Israeli soldier or policemen has been held to account for any of these human rights violations.

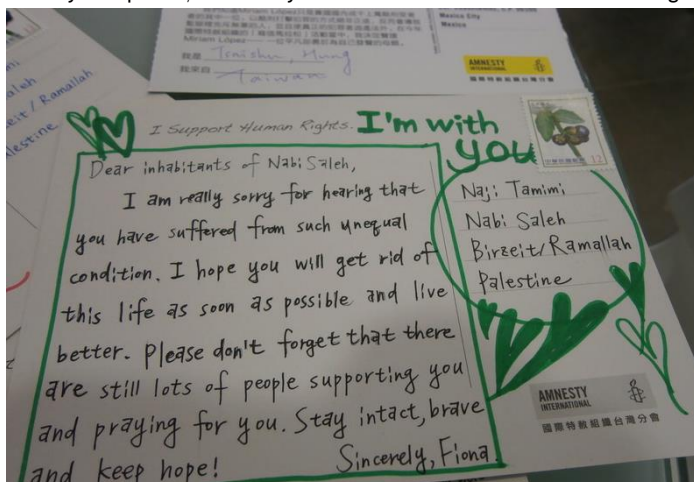
In March 2014, Amnesty International spoke to the “Popular Resistance Committee” in Nabi Saleh during a visit to the occupied West Bank. The leaders expressed their appreciation and thanks to Amnesty International and its membership for all their support. They explained that the exposure that Write for Rights provided is in itself an achievement and expressed their amazement and surprise at the number of actions taken in so many countries around the world. They were particularly impressed by the number of letters that were sent to the Israeli authorities. They told Amnesty International that they appreciated the many hundreds of solidarity letters they received and said that they have shared them around the village.

Nariman Tamimi, whose face was featured in Write for Rights materials, told Amnesty International that seeing the different materials and actions all over the world made her cry with happiness. She and others in the village said that the campaign gave them an exposure that they have never experienced before and helped raise awareness about their struggle in an unprecedented way.

Nariman Tamimi and her husband Bassem Tamimi urged that this support is stepped up, in order to present a real challenge to the military occupation. They asked for Amnesty International and other bodies to act effectively to bring justice to victims in the village, including their families, as well as to those across the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Israeli military investigation into the killing of Rushdie Tamimi - Nariman’s brother - in November 2012 remains open, but is neither independent nor impartial and so the family have little hope it will bring any justice. In December 2013, when Write for Rights was launched, the Israeli army closed the investigation into the 2011 killing of Mustafa Tamimi, another Nabi Saleh resident. The investigation found no wrongdoing and no soldier has been indicted. Family members of the two men expressed dismay at what they see as the bias and discrimination of the Israeli justice system and urged that Amnesty International help hold the Israeli authorities to account at the international level.

Another activist, Abu Hussam Tamimi, who visited Spain as part of the Write for Rights campaign, said that the trip was very well organized and saw that many of the activities organized by the Section were usefully strategic, including providing him with the opportunity to speak with Spanish media that are seen as sympathetic to the Israeli authorities. Furthermore, activist Manal Tamimi explained that Write for Rights has provided the villagers with an opportunity to establish direct relations with Sections and activists in many countries. She is working with Amnesty International France to organize a visit for two activists from the village to France. While all the activists Amnesty International spoke to explained that Write for Rights was important as an initiative that sought to change their situation, they emphasized that so far nothing has changed in concrete terms. The activists emphasized that for Amnesty International to help bring about real change it must act to end the Israeli military occupation, which they see as the main source of the human rights violations they face, and not just

tackle its practices. However, in the face of the continued use of arbitrary and excessive force against the peaceful protesters in Nabi Saleh every Friday, activists said that the continuing support of Amnesty International is crucial. They pointed out that, while Israeli forces still enjoy widespread impunity for the crimes they commit, they must now feel they are more exposed, with hundreds of thousands of people scrutinizing their actions.



A letter from Taiwan to the inhabitants of Nabi Saleh © AI

THE BOLOTNAYA THREE

RUSSIA

Vladimir Akimenkov, Artiom Saviolov and Mikhail Kosenko were detained during a protest in Bolotnaya Square, Moscow, on 6 May 2012. They were released several hours later and then rearrested a month later. They were detained solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

During Write for Rights 2013 **176,329** actions were taken on behalf of the Bolotnaya Three in 91 countries around the world. At least 172,937 actions were sent to the Prosecutor General and 3,392 were solidarity letters.



On 8 October 2013, Mikhail Kosenko had been found guilty of participating in “mass riots” and “use of force against a police officer” and ordered to be sent for forcible psychiatric treatment. In response, Mikhail Kosenko’s defence lawyers requested that Zamoskvoretskiy Court stop his criminal prosecution and ensure that treatment be provided at home and not in a hospital. On 25 March 2014, the Moscow City Court quashed Mikhail Kosenko’s appeal against the Zamoskvoretskiy Court decision as well as the defence team’s request to order another psychiatric examination. It is expected that Mikhail Kosenko will now be sent to a psychiatric hospital. On 21 February 2014, the Moscow Zamoskvoretskiy District Court found Artiom Saviolov guilty of participating in “mass riots” and “use of force against a police officer” and three days later he was sentenced to two years and seven months in jail.

Despite these setbacks, there was one piece of very good news. On 19 December 2013, Vladimir Akimenkov was released under amnesty. Amnesty International’s analysis is that movement campaigning on the Bolotnaya case might have indirectly contributed to the release of Vladimir Akimenkov. Although the other detainees were found guilty, Amnesty’s analysis is that they ultimately received lighter sentences than the Prosecution had sought and that global campaigning on this emblematic case contributed to the campaigning in Russia and influenced the cases of other Bolotnaya detainees not directly featured in the campaign. There was some international media attention and some, although not as much as was hoped, some media coverage within Russia. This, given the nature of the case, is not a surprise. However at least one Russian news site did cover the campaign.

Good contacts were maintained with the prisoners’ lawyers and in the case of Mikhail Kosenko, with his sister, Ksenia Kosenko. On 30 January 2014 Amnesty International met with her and with the newly released Vladimir Akimenkov. At the meeting Vladimir Akimenkov spoke about the importance of continued international support to all the co-defendants in Bolotnaya case, despite the difficulty the men faced in receiving the letters (in some cases whole batches of letters, particularly those not in Russian, were returned to the sender). Nevertheless, the messages were re-sent to family members, and both Vladimir Akimenkov and Ksenia Kosenko passed on their deep gratitude for all the support Amnesty International activists gave to the case. Ksenia Kosenko commented:

“...The letters that [Mikhail] receives often come with lines stroked through by a censor. Sometimes they only bring a sheet of paper for reply. Recently he received a letter from the UK where, not quite correctly but very diligently, somebody wrote in Russian several phrases of support. He told me about it and smiled a little at last. I chatted a lot trying to raise his spirits. I told him about different actions of support: about the collection of

signatures by the Presidential Administration and about Amnesty International's December actions of support of Bolotnaya detainees all over the world... At some stage he sighed and said: 'I know that we are supported, but it is very difficult to feel it in this information vacuum and I need it so much...'

During a meeting with Amnesty International delegates in April 2014, Vladimir Akimenkov, Ksenia Kosenko, Victor Saviolov – Artiom's father – and relatives and friends of other Bolotnaya detainees again confirmed the importance of Amnesty International's support to the prisoners of Bolotnaya.



Russian musician Boris Grebenshchikov shows his support of the Bolotnaya Three
© Amnesty International / Sergei Nikitin

JABEUR MEJRI

TUNISIA



In 2012, Jabeur Mejri was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in prison and a fine of 1200 Tunisian Dinars (US\$757) after posts he made about the Prophet Muhammad on his Facebook page were deemed “insulting to Islam and Muslims”. Amnesty International considered him a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned for peacefully expressing his opinion.

During Write for Rights, at least **158,318** actions were taken for Jabeur Mejri in 43 countries around the world. At least 154,353 actions were sent to the Tunisian authorities and at least 3,965 solidarity letters sent to

him in prison.

On 19 February 2014, a spokesperson for Tunisia’s Presidency announced that the President had pardoned Jabeur Mejri. On 4 March 2014, Jabeur Mejri was released from prison after spending two years behind bars. During that time, the Tunisian authorities had repeatedly promised that he would be released but had delayed a presidential pardon under the pretext that it was for his own safety as he would be at risk of assault by people who might have felt offended by his posts.

Local groups and activists told Amnesty International that the constant pressure on the Tunisian authorities worked in Jabeur Mejri’s favour as it highlighted their failure to follow through on their promises.

While Amnesty International welcomed the long overdue presidential pardon of Jabeur Mejri, concerns remain that the pardon does not expunge his criminal record. Amnesty International was also concerned that a new arrest warrant against Jabeur Mejri was produced two weeks before the pardon was eventually granted. The arrest warrant against Jabeur Mejri stemmed from accusations of embezzlement against him dating back from July 2011 and for which he could face 10 years’ imprisonment. Jabeur Mejri denied the charges and his lawyer said they were not supported by actual evidence. The arrest warrant meant that Jabeur Mejri spent an additional two weeks in detention despite his presidential pardon.

Regardless, this did not dim his family’s joy when Jabeur Mejri was finally released. Ines Mejri, Jabeur’s sister described her feelings to Amnesty International on the day after his release:

“Jabeur is very good – he’s here in the house with us finally. He reached home at 8pm last night, tired but happy, just like us. We’ve also received support from the local police and they came with him last night and again this morning to check on him and told us not to be afraid. Today he’s finally relaxing.”

Despite these assurances, Jabeur Mejri kept a low profile following his release and only left the house in disguise. Although he had been pardoned and released, there was still the fear of local animosity against him. On 7 March 2014 imams from local mosques demonstrated in front of the Mahdia court in protest against

Jabeur's release. Unfortunately, Jabeur has remained in a stressed and emotionally fragile state since his release, a result of the continued animosity towards him and his inability to move freely, in addition to a travel ban against him because of the other charges he faces.

On 18 April 2014 Jabeur Mejri apparently got into an argument with a court official when he went to inquire about his case and to find out the date of his next court session. Unfortunately he was arrested. His family and lawyers have said that his stressed and fragile emotional state is as a result of his circumstances is the most likely reason for the argument. On 29 April he was sentenced to eight months in prison on charges of verbally assaulting a public official. He is now once again in Mahdia Prison.

Despite this recent turn of events, Jabeur Mejri's family described to Amnesty International how important Amnesty International's solidarity and campaigning was to him. They described to Amnesty International how lonely and forgotten Jabeur Mejri initially felt while in prison and talked of the impact of the solidarity letters had on Jabeur. Following one of her weekly visits to Jabeur, Ines Mejri told Amnesty International:

"The longer he stays in prison, the more he feels forgotten. Every time there's a chance for him to get a pardon his hopes go up only to be greatly disappointed when he's not included in the President's pardons. He is tired emotionally when we see him. He told us the letters he received make him feel remembered and that people around the world are thinking about him and supporting him. They really helped in lifting his spirits."

Another important outcome of Amnesty International's campaign on Jabeur Mejri's behalf, is the way the campaign for Jabeur Mejri's release brought together Amnesty International, the Tunisian Section and Tunisian groups to galvanize a collaborative effort for his release. Amnesty International had campaigned for Jabeur Mejri's release prior to the Write for Rights campaign including through petitions and a global solidarity action. At the same time, local groups had also built widespread local support calling for Jabeur's release. Write for Rights actions provided an opportunity for local activists and Amnesty International to join efforts and to build on the existing relationship and trust between them in a manner that was mutually beneficial to all and, most importantly, for Jabeur Mejri. This marked the first time such an open and public cooperation between Amnesty International and local groups took place as the situation in the country under Ben Ali, and the tight control of public space, had made such initiatives impossible.



Letter Writing Marathon action for Jabeur Mejri in Albstadt, Germany. © AI

HAKAN YAMAN

TURKEY

On 3 June 2013 Hakan Yaman, a 37 year-old father of two, was on his way home from work when he got caught up in the protests taking place in his neighbourhood in the context of Gezi Park demonstrations, which had begun a few days earlier in central Istanbul and had been violently repressed. He was severely beaten by police near his home in the Sarıgazi district of Istanbul.



During Write for Rights, at least **96,193** actions were taken for Hakan Yaman in at least 43 countries around the world. At least 86,362 actions were sent to the Turkish authorities and at least 9,831 solidarity letters were received by Hakan Yaman himself.

In March 2014, Amnesty International spoke with Hakan Yaman's lawyer who told us that the criminal investigation into the police attack on him was still ongoing and an indictment in the case is yet to be prepared. A separate internal administrative investigation within the local police force has been dropped on grounds that the police officers could not be identified and therefore could not be disciplined.

According to Hakan Yaman's lawyer significant international pressure generated by the Write for Rights activists and their tens of thousands of letters has been noticed by the authorities. Before Write for Rights, the case had not received a lot of international media attention, but as a result of the campaign there was much greater media coverage on the case, including in Turkey. Hakan and his lawyer have been interviewed on several major media outlets in the last few weeks, with a clear focus on Amnesty International's campaign demands. Hakan Yaman's lawyer believes that Amnesty's involvement in Hakan Yaman's case has helped to ensure that the investigation is being carried out and indeed, appears to be progressing.

When Amnesty first made contact with Hakan Yaman, he was very physically unwell and his injuries were still at their worst. Since then Hakan Yaman has had five serious operations on his face. He now has a prosthetic eye to replace the one that was gouged out by the police. His change in appearance has been a massive cause for distress and loss of morale; however the positive results of the operations have improved this. The sight in his other eye appears to be less damaged than previously thought, which is good news, but he still faces further operations.

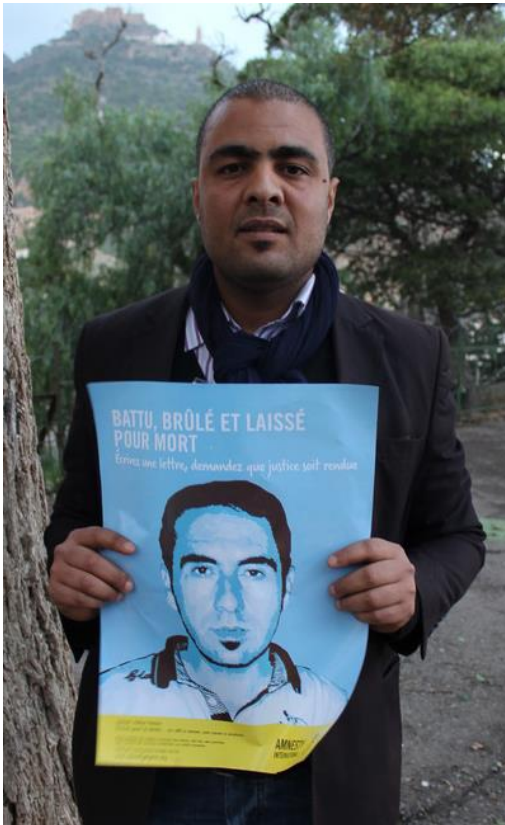
Hakan Yaman and his family actively participated in the Write for Rights campaign and even attended action events in Istanbul hosted by Amnesty Turkey. On 3 December 2013 Hakan said:

"I saw the images of the projections onto the Çağlayan courthouse and Galata Tower. Your tremendous support, all you are doing for me has lifted my morale. I thank you and all those who have been by my side over these difficult times very much. My hope is for justice to be done."

He told Amnesty that he was overwhelmed by the massive response and felt incredibly pleased and immensely touched. He and his wife Nihal explained that knowing people around the world are thinking of them has helped them to cope with the pressure of a very difficult and emotionally toiling situation:

“I have seen what has been done to support me. This made me very happy. I thank each and everyone who has taken action and supported us. Reading the solidarity letters particularly moved me.”

Hakan Yaman also spoke of how positive the relationship and support from Amnesty International Turkey was – he felt well informed about the campaign and what it meant to be a part of it. Additionally, the Amnesty Section in Turkey could facilitate on his behalf when it came to media interviews and messages to other Sections and this made him feel more supported.



The Turkish Section recently videoed an interview with Hakan, here he shared this message with Amnesty activists who worked on his case during Write for Rights:

“I was sincerely shocked and very happy the day I received those letters you sent me from four corners of the world. It was a truly wonderful day that day. I was surprised, seeing all those letters in one place all at once... We received nearly 10,000 letters and I believe more will come. In my heart, I would have loved to write back to each and everyone of you separately but please forgive me, it is not possible to reply to you all individually. I love you all. Thank you so much, it is so great that you are here.”

Activist from AI Algeria takes action for Hakan Yaman © AI



PLANNING YOUR CAMPAIGNING FOR 2014

In 2013, Amnesty activists took Write for Rights campaigning to newly creative and inspired levels – here are some of the great ideas to inspire you in your planning for 2014.

Working with schools and universities on Write for Rights was a very successful experience for many S/s. Not only are schools often very eager to participate, take action, write letters and engage young people but it opens the possibility for engagement with new audiences and growth in membership. Some S/s developed school lesson plans, template letters and toolkits for young people on how to organise an event. If you want to work with schools you can adapt some of these materials for your purposes or produce your own materials.

As young people engage readily with Write for Rights, using social media and online networks to promote actions, facilitate communities and build momentum around the actions, has proven to be successful.

Sports events can also help you to reach new audiences in a fun way and are often more visible on a public level given they are street-level activities. S/s have successfully organised running marathons, cycling events, dance classes among other kinds of public engagement activities.

Activists and volunteers really like participating in flash-mobs and other kinds of public happenings. Be creative, and make sure your ‘happening’ is open to any passers-by who might want to engage. You could paint a mural or project some footage of photographs onto a building or wall – think of ways to highlight the stories visually.

Concerts have been another great way to reach out to new audiences, gain media coverage and engage with celebrities, all of which are great ways to promote Write for Rights.

In terms of deepening engagement with audiences, speaker tours have proved successful for engaging activists in the long-term. The experience can be very empowering for speakers as well – both Nabi Saleh representatives and Ihar Tsikhanyuk spoke of this following their tours in 2013.

Discussions and workshops are also a great way talk about the issues raised in the cases. Activists could arrange them at universities and schools but also in public spaces, such as libraries and cafes.

Remember that you are not the only one who is organising a Write for Rights event! There are many other colleagues around the world that you can ask for advice, and whose ideas or materials you can adapt for your purposes. Every year there are opportunities for you to share best practices, tips, experiences and ideas with your colleagues both within your geographical region and further afield. Some S/s have even found it helpful to coordinate actions together or to connect activists across countries for discussions and events. You can find more examples of inspiring activism under ‘Activities by country’ on p. 51.

DETAILS OF ACTION ON EACH CASE

Case	Human rights concern	Countries in which action took place ¹	Estimated # actions	Political target	Actions sent to target	Solidarity action	Solidarity actions sent
Bahrain 13 Opposition Activists	Prisoners of conscience jailed for their activism and expressing opinions.	Australia, Belgium, Bolivia*, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador*, Finland, France, Guinea*, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Jordan†, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Montenegro*, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria*, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Puerto Rico, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, Togo, Tunisia	120,264	King of Bahrain	118,970	Letters and non-religious cards were sent to the families of the Opposition Activists with the suggested message "We will speak out against your imprisonment. Your voice has not been silenced."	2,001
Belarus Ihar Tsikhanyuk	Openly gay man and LGBTI activist beaten by police for being gay.	Afghanistan†, American Samoa†, Argentina, Armenia†, Australia, Bangladesh†, Bermuda, Belgium, Belarus†, Bhutan†, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Cambodia†, Canada Anglophone, Canada Francophone, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica†, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia*, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador†, Egypt†, El Salvador*, Eritrea†, Faroe Islands†, Finland, France, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran†, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan†,	172,439	Prosecutor General of Belarus	168,061	Letters and non-religious cards were sent to Ihar Tsikhanyuk with the suggested message "I admire your struggle in such difficult circumstances and wish you success in	4,378

¹ *denotes activities organised by volunteers in countries without S/s, but managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat. †denotes countries without an official Amnesty International presence where action was taken independently online.

Case	Human rights concern	Countries in which action took place ¹	Estimated # actions	Political target	Actions sent to target	Solidarity action	Solidarity actions sent
		Kuwait†, Lebanon†, Liberia*, Luxembourg, Maldives†, Mali, Malta*, Mauritius†, Mexico, Montenegro*, Nepal, New Zealand, Netherlands, Nigeria*, Norway, Pakistan†, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania*, Russia, Singapore†, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka†, Swaziland†, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates†, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela, Zimbabwe				it! Wishing you well.”	
Cambodia Yorm Bopha	Housing rights activist and prisoner of conscience imprisoned for her peaceful housing rights activism on behalf of the Boeung Kak community, where thousands of people have been forced to leave after the government leased the land to a company for development.	Australia, Austria, Bermuda, Belgium, Bolivia*, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Cameroon*, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, East Timor†, Finland, France, Ghana, Germany, Greece, Guinea*, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan†, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro*, Nepal, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania*, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, UK, Ukraine, USA, Zambia*	259,900	Minister of Justice of Cambodia	253,695	Photos with flowers (or lotus flowers, the symbol of the Cambodian campaign in support of Yorm Bopha and the Boeung Kak community) and the message “Free Yorm Bopha” in English and Khmer were collated in a Flickr album.	6,205

Case	Human rights concern	Countries in which action took place ¹	Estimated # actions	Political target	Actions sent to target	Solidarity action	Solidarity actions sent
<p>Ethiopia</p> <p>Eskinder Nega</p>	<p>Journalist serving an 18-year prison sentence for “terrorism” after he was charged in 2011 after giving speeches and writing articles criticizing the government and supporting free speech.</p>	<p>Afghanistan†, Albania†, American Samoa†, Algeria, Angola†, Antigua and Barbuda†, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bermuda, Belgium, Bangladesh†, Bhutan†, Bolivia*, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso, Cambodia†, Cameroon*, Canada Anglophone, Canada Francophone, Chile, China†, Colombia, Congo†, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt†, El Salvador*, Eritrea†, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada†, Guatemala†, Guinea*, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia†, Iran†, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica†, Japan, Jordan†, Kyrgyzstan†, Lebanon†, Luxembourg, Madagascar†, Malaysia, Maldives†, Martinique†, Mali, Malta*, Mexico, Montenegro*, Morocco, Myanmar†, Nepal, New Zealand, Netherlands, Nicaragua†, Nigeria*, Norway, Pakistan†, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Reunion†, Romania*, Saint Barthelemy†, Russia, Sao Tome and Principe†, Saudi Arabia†, Senegal, Serbia†, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka†, Sudan†, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Timor-Leste†, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates†, USA, United States Virgin Islands†, Zimbabwe</p>	231,149	Prime Minister of Ethiopia	220,331	Letters and cards were sent to Eskinder and his wife, Serkalem Fasil.	10,818

Case	Human rights concern	Countries in which action took place ¹	Estimated # actions	Political target	Actions sent to target	Solidarity action	Solidarity actions sent
Honduras COFADEH	Human rights defenders under threat and attack for their work seeking justice for current human rights abuses by the security forces and for “disappearances” in the 1980s, and training local human rights activists.	Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain†, Bermuda, Belgium, Bangladesh†, Bhutan†, Bolivia*, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Cameroon*, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo†, Costa Rica†, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic†, Ecuador†, Egypt†, El Salvador*, Eritrea†, Faroe Islands†, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala†, Honduras†, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica†, Japan, Jordan†, Lebanon†, Libya†, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives†, Mali, Malta*, Mexico, Montenegro*, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria*, Norway, Pakistan†, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania*, Saudi Arabia†, Singapore†, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia†, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka†, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates†, Uruguay, Venezuela	50,213	President of Honduras	46,259	Cards and letters were sent to COFADEH staff showing support for their human rights work. Activists were encouraged to include a picture of a dove, the symbol of COFADEH.	3,954
Israel/OPT Nabi Saleh	550 people living in Nabi Saleh village facing frequent violent repression from the Israeli army.	Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bermuda, Belgium, Bolivia*, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso, Cameroon*, Canada Anglophone, Canada Francophone, Congo†, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Guinea*, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro*, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands,	158,817	Minister of Defence of Israel	157,304	Letters or cards were sent to Naji Tamimi, co-ordinator of the Nabi Saleh Popular Resistance Committee. Solidarity messages were also left on the village	1,513

Case	Human rights concern	Countries in which action took place ¹	Estimated # actions	Political target	Actions sent to target	Solidarity action	Solidarity actions sent
		Nigeria*, Pakistan†, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania*, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Togo, Tunisia, UK, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA				Facebook page.	
Mexico Miriam López	Tortured and raped by soldiers in February 2011 and now fighting for justice.	Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bermuda, Belgium, Bolivia*, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso, Cameroon*, Canada Anglophone, Canada Francophone, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador*, Finland, France, Ghana, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta*, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro*, Morocco, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania*, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, UK, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela, Zambia*	253,581	Federal Attorney General of Mexico	247,054	Solidarity messages were left on Miriam's Facebook page with the suggested messages "Miriam, remember that you are not alone in this struggle. I am with you" and "Fuerza Miriam! Your fight can help others too".	6,527
Myanmar Dr Tun Aung	A community leader, doctor and prisoner of conscience sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment after an unfair trial.	Afghanistan†, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados*, Bermuda, Belgium, Bhutan†, Bolivia*, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Cameroon*, Canada, China†, Colombia, Costa Rica†, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic†, East Timor†, Ecuador†, Egypt†, Eritrea†, Faroe Islands†, Finland, France, Ghana, Georgia†, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia†,	122,144	President of Myanmar	120,365	Photos and videos were posted on Dr Tun Aung's tumblr page, which his family was able to view. Short descriptions of any events that were being organized to	1,779

Case	Human rights concern	Countries in which action took place ¹	Estimated # actions	Political target	Actions sent to target	Solidarity action	Solidarity actions sent
		Iran†, Iraq†, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica†, Japan, Jordan†, Kyrgyzstan†, Latvia†, Laos†, Lebanon†, Libya†, Malaysia, Maldives†, Mali, Malta*, Mauritania†, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro*, Morocco, Myanmar†, Nepal, New Zealand, Netherlands, Nigeria*, Norway, Pakistan†, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania*, Russia, Saudi Arabia†, Singapore†, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia†, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka†, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania†, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda†, UK, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates†, USA, Venezuela, Yemen†, Zambia*				show solidarity were also encouraged.	
Nigeria Badia East community	2,237 households were demolished by the authorities in February 2013.	Afghanistan†, Algeria, Angola†, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bermuda, Belgium, Bangladesh†, Bhutan†, Bolivia*, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso, Cameroon*, Canada Anglophone, Canada Francophone, Colombia, Congo†, Costa Rica†, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic†, Ecuador†, Egypt†, Eritrea†, Faroe Islands†, Finland, Ghana, Germany, Greece, Guatemala†, Guinea*, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Iran†, Iraq†, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon†, Libya†, Liberia*, Malaysia, Maldives†, Mali, Malta*, Mauritania†, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro*, Morocco,	85,408	Governor of Lagos State	83,407	Letters, cards and photos were sent to community members with the suggested messages “We support the Badia East community”, “Housing is a human right”, and “End forced evictions”.	2,001

Case	Human rights concern	Countries in which action took place ¹	Estimated # actions	Political target	Actions sent to target	Solidarity action	Solidarity actions sent
		Nepal, New Zealand, Netherlands, Nigeria*, Norway, Pakistan†, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania*, Saudi Arabia†, Singapore†, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia†, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka†, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates†, Venezuela, Virgin Islands (US)†					
Russia Bolotnaya Three	Protestors held for over a year charged with participating in “mass riots”.	Afghanistan†, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain†, Belgium, Bangladesh†, Benin, Bhutan†, Bolivia*, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso, Cameroon*, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo†, Costa Rica†, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic†, Ecuador†, Egypt†, El Salvador*, Eritrea†, Faroe Islands†, Finland, France, Ghana, Georgia†, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia†, Iran†, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon†, Libya*, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives†, Mali, Malta*, Mauritania†, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro*, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Netherlands, Nigeria*, Norway, Pakistan†, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania*, Russia, Singapore†, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia†, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri	176,329	Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation	172,937	Bright, beautiful postcards were sent separately to the three men in prison. Activists were encouraged to send messages in Russian.	3,392

Case	Human rights concern	Countries in which action took place ¹	Estimated # actions	Political target	Actions sent to target	Solidarity action	Solidarity actions sent
		Lanka†, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates†, USA, Venezuela, Yemen†					
Tunisia Jabeur Mejri	Jailed in 2012 for seven-and-a-half years after posts he made about the Prophet Muhammad on his Facebook page were deemed “insulting to Islam and Muslims”.	Bermuda, Belgium, Bolivia*, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso, Cameroon*, Canada Anglophone, Canada Francophone, Congo†, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, El Salvador*, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea*, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liberia*, Mali, Malta*, Mexico, Montenegro*, Morocco, Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania*, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Taiwan, Togo, Tunisia, UK, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia*	158,318	President of Tunisia	154,353	Letters and cards were sent to Jabeur Mejri with the suggested message “I stand in solidarity with you and for your freedom as a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for exercising your right to freedom of expression”.	3,965
Turkey Hakan Yaman	Beaten, burned and left for dead by the police after he passed a public demonstration against police violence in June 2013.	Algeria, Bermuda, Belgium, Bolivia*, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso, Canada Francophone, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, El Salvador*, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Jordan†, Liberia*, Luxembourg, Moldova*, Montenegro*, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria*, Paraguay, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania*, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Taiwan, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela	96,193	Minister of Justice of Turkey	86,362	Letters and cards were sent to Hakan Yaman with the suggested message in Turkish and English “Hoping you recover as quickly as possible, thinking of you”.	9,831

BREAKDOWN OF ACTIONS BY COUNTRY

*denotes activities organised by volunteers in countries without S/s, but managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat.

	Country	Total number of actions	Number of solidarity actions, if known	Estimated number of people who took part, if known
1	Algeria	28,397	500	5,815
2	Argentina	753		
3	Australia	61,680	715	54,567
4	Austria	37,007	2,188	20,400
5	Barbados*	335		
6	Belgium (Francophone)	22,919	3,920	3,200
7	Bermuda	1,053	213	105
8	Bolivia*	470		70
9	Brazil	7,596	24	1,500
10	Bulgaria*	2,611		1,012
11	Burkina Faso	26,329	17	10,000
12	Cameroon*	10		
13	Canada (Anglophone)	21,464	256	23,000
14	Canada (Francophone)	39,356		
15	Chile	3,222	9	3,000
16	Cyprus*	143		18
17	Czech Republic	14,032	150	5,000
18	Democratic Republic of the Congo*	1,802		

	Country	Total number of actions	Number of solidarity actions, if known	Estimated number of people who took part, if known
19	Denmark	31,792	2,995	8,000
20	El Salvador*	69		27
21	Finland	23,125	415	7,000
22	France	590,000	2,350	150,000
23	Germany	99,296		
24	Ghana			
25	Greece	1,838		1,500
56	Guinea*	5,409		3,000
27	Hong Kong			
28	Hungary	622		
29	Iceland	51,219	324	45,000
30	India	393	346	346
31	International Secretariat (UK) (includes action taken independently on IS-managed websites)	20,257		
32	Ireland	11,863	741	250
33	Israel	150		
34	Italy	119,449	49	24,960
35	Ivory Coast	41,274		325
36	Japan	2,554	818	3,000
37	Liberia*	95		
38	Luxembourg	3,140		

	Country	Total number of actions	Number of solidarity actions, if known	Estimated number of people who took part, if known
39	Malaysia			
40	Mali	16,100		
41	Malta*	200		
42	Mexico	4,213		2,500
43	Moldova	4,024		3,000
44	Mongolia	21,043	48	4,500
45	Montenegro*	166		200
46	Morocco	7,374	685	14,529
47	Nepal	3,000		3,000
48	Netherlands	72,106	2247	5,000
49	New Zealand	4,716	183	1,500
50	Nigeria*	727		
51	Norway	97,607	1,321	54,000
52	Paraguay	2,197		200
53	Philippines			
54	Poland	212,700	17,700	21,000
55	Portugal	93,274	256	24,071
56	Puerto Rico	960	329	500
57	Romania*	1,327		1,169
58	Russia			
59	Senegal	33,206		

	Country	Total number of actions	Number of solidarity actions, if known	Estimated number of people who took part, if known
60	Slovakia	4,520		
61	Slovenia	13,978	932	6,000
62	South Africa			
63	South Korea	34,451	3,921	
64	Spain	80,328		35,000
65	Sweden	153,811	983	30,000
66	Switzerland	21,118		
67	Taiwan	2,237		450
68	Thailand	2,679	294	1,000
69	Togo	61,372	12	4,603
70	Tunisia	8,066		100
71	Turkey			
72	UK	83,615	7,452	
73	Ukraine	16,539		
74	Uruguay	4,501		1,200
75	USA	154,937	33,160	10,525
76	Venezuela	20,024	8,000	20,565
77	Zambia*	70		17
78	Zimbabwe			

Actions were also taken online independently by activists in the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, American Samoa, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Croatia, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Maldives, Martinique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Reunion, Saint Barthelemy, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, Virgin Islands (US) and Yemen.

ACTIVITIES

IN SECTIONS, STRUCTURES AND MEMBERSHIP COMMUNITIES

We have not included in this section information about the countries where actions were simply taken independently online by activists

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **ALGERIA**

Total number of actions: 28,397

Estimated number of participants: 5,815

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

AI Algeria organized more than 20 activities in 8 different cities around the country. Activities were also organized by newly-formed youth groups, in universities and other public places. One youth group alone collected more than 12,000 signatures. In 2013 the total the number of signatures collected more than doubled from the previous year. The Youth Network also organized the first "Algerian Human Rights Caravan" which travelled to the 4 cities in the west of the country, and which undertook activities in partnership with civil society and regional groups. Media coverage of the campaign also increased dramatically, helped by a press conference held on 10 December and a partnership with an online newspaper, which agreed to publish stories of the cases featured as well as the online actions. Three well-known celebrities – cartoonist Ghilas Ainouche, and singers Karim

Abranis and Lotfi Attar supported Write for Rights by taking part in activities.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **ARGENTINA**

AI Argentina led two activism actions in the streets – one in downtown Buenos Aires and one in Palermo Park, involving artists painting murals about the cases.

Total number of actions: 753

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras - COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh



Activist at an event run by AI Argentina © AI

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

A dedicated section on the website encouraged people to get involved online and offline, and lesson plans were created for primary and secondary school teachers as well as bus adverts to promote their SMS network. Resources for activists to download included template letters, a toolkit for groups, an events poster and a letter writing guide. Approximately 25% of the people who took action during Write for Rights were new to Amnesty.



Activists at an event run by AI Australia © AI

Total number of actions: 61,680
Estimated number of participants: 54,567
Individuals featured:
 Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
 Mexico – Miriam Lopez
 Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
 Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
 Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
 Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AUSTRIA

Total number of actions: 37,007
Estimated number of participants: 20,400
Individuals featured:
 Nigeria – Badia East community
 Honduras – COFADEH
 Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
 Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
 Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
 Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Local Amnesty groups in Austria organised over 20 letter writing events in cafes, pubs, libraries, shops, public streets and squares around the country. More than 120 school classes and more than 2,000 school students took part.



Activists at an event run by AI Austria with lotus flowers for Yorm Bopha © AI

BARBADOS

Total number of actions: 335

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras - COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

The Justice Committee (JC) organized a letter writing event in Barbados for the second year in a row, despite the lack of Amnesty Section in the country. The event was organised at the cafe on the South Coast and many people attended. In total 335 actions were taken for all 12 cases. Local Poets and the Rastafarian Community took part in the action and once again supported the JC. Moreover the JC was supported by the local United Nations Human Rights Officer for Barbados who participated in the event and also donated literature on Human Rights for distribution.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

BELGIUM (FRANCOPHONE)

AI Belgium (Francophone) developed a special website for the campaign <http://www.isavelives.be/marathon2013> and promoted all 12 cases to their networks. In addition, local groups organised activities, school groups were engaged, an online promotion strategy was developed and a candle-lit walk was organised on 10 December.

Total number of actions: 22,919

Estimated number of participants: 3,200

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras - COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

BERMUDA

AI Bermuda hosted an 'AMNESTEA' event in front of City Hall in Hamilton, the capital of Bermuda, attracting plenty of students, locals and even tourists. Many people engaged with the volunteers, wrote letters and signed messages of support. After the event letters were mailed off to the respective governments and the individuals carrying beautiful colourful stamps, intended to brighten up the dark cells they were destined for.



Materials from an event
in Bermuda © Suzanne Wilson

Total number of actions: 1,053
Estimated number of participants: 105

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras - COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

BOLIVIA

Total number of actions: 470
Estimated number of participants: 70

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras - COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

(Activities organised through the online community managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Volunteers organized one event at a university under difficult circumstances. Despite this, a total of 470 letters and message were written.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **BRAZIL**

The launch of Write for Rights in Brazil was promoted with a Lindy Hop party in a plaza in Rio de Janeiro, which attracted hundreds of people to sign petitions and write letters. Music was played by volunteer DJs and a lindy hop dance show was performed by a volunteer dance group.

Volunteer groups promoted the campaign in 12 other cities, covering all 5 geographic regions of the country. One group produced 500 letters during their first day of action, in Dourados, Mato Grosso do Sul, where indigenous peoples live in deep vulnerability due to land conflicts.

Activists attended other open-space parties to promote the campaign and were quite successful. Six new local groups became stronger in the preparation and implementation of the campaign, expanding Amnesty's presence in the country. The main activism group, in Rio de Janeiro, grew from 15 to about 30 people regularly participating in activities.

Total number of actions: 7,596
Estimated number of participants: 1,500
Individuals featured:
Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras - COFADEH
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three

BULGARIA

Total number of actions: 2,611
Estimated number of participants: 1,012
Individuals featured:
Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras - COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

(Activities organised through the online community managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Participants in Bulgaria attended a total of 16 events organised by volunteers. Events were mainly held in schools and cafes where volunteers talked to children and young people about the cases. Some events were organised and led by students themselves. An amazing 2,654 letters and petitions were signed on all 12 cases, increasing exponentially from the 10 actions taken in 2012!

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **BURKINA FASO**

Write for Rights in Burkina Faso was a key moment for integrating human rights education and activism into the campaign. Prior to the campaign, Write for Rights workshops were organised and attended by over 100 members. During the campaign, activities were organised all over the country by groups and the Section, mobilising over 10,000 people and recruiting 200 new members. For example, Al Burkina's school groups organized global days of action in four schools and three universities. Youth members used stands at the events to mobilize others, write letters, collect signatures and discuss with them issues related to individuals at risk. In Ouahigouya, members organized a small discussion tour in the town and collected signatures. A night dedicated to individuals at risk in the same town was organized to highlight how important it is for people to protect their rights. Al Burkina Faso further focused on the case of Miriam Lopez with young female students to try and involve them more in women's rights issues. Through this experience, Al Burkina Faso created a new young student group within the University of Koudougou (another town of Burkina Faso). The Section also organised a press conference as well as promoted the campaign through a Facebook page and blogs.

Total number of actions: 26,329

Estimated number of participants: 10,000

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri



CAMEROON

A volunteer organized a small Write for Rights event with the support of the International Secretariat.

Total number of actions: 10

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community

Honduras – COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **CANADA** (ANGLOPHONE)



Over 20,000 people participated in Write for Rights in 2013 writing over 23,000 letters and hand crafted cards. Activists in Regina may have participated in the coldest weather anywhere: -40°C! At the large event in Toronto, writers were briefly pulled away from letter writing stations to participate in a flash-mob. Using a megaphone, activists broadcast news about the narrowing space for freedom of expression and association in Russia. Participants converged on a major intersection supplied with newspapers carrying headlines on the cases. Hamid Ghassemi-Shall, unlawfully detained in Iran for over five years – four of those spent on death row – joined the flash-mob. Hamid was the subject of UA 113/12 and spoke briefly to guests before sitting down to write for others at the same table where one year ago, activists wrote letters for him. John Greyson, the subject of UA 248/13, contributed a photo at the event and told activists: "In our Cairo prison, we weren't allowed to write or receive letters. On 10 December, write for rights, and save a life." AI Canada also worked on a comprehensive communications strategy which resulted in widespread media coverage as well as Write for Rights trending on social media on 10 December. One third of writers were participating for the first time.

Total number of actions: 21,464
Estimated number of participants: 23,000

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **CANADA** (FRANCOPHONE)

Total number of actions: 39,356

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman

Nigeria – Badia East community

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

Brazil – Alexandre Anderson de Souza*

Bangladesh – Kalpana Chakma*

Thailand – Somyot Prueksakasensuk*

AI Canada (Francophone) organised a seven hour letter-writing marathon, with artist performers, a photo activity for Yorm Bopha, a nail art activity for Ihar Tsikhanyuk as well as putting up posters around the city and making an online social media push.

Total number of actions: 3,222

Estimated number of participants: 3,000

Individuals featured:

Honduras – COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **CHILE**

In 2013, AI Chile participated in a popular weekly bike ride in Santiago with an activist dressed up as a pencil as she cycled around the city, eliciting cheers, photo solidarity actions and 500 signatures for the cases. In addition they joined forces with a Human Rights music festival, engaging well-known Chilean musicians, who spoke about the campaign to thousands of people in the audience. Finally, local artists made a mural about Write for Rights working with children and their families. Activists lit lanterns in support of Miriam Lopez, COFADEH and Ihar Tsikhanyuk and celebrated as a team when they all wrote back to us with messages of gratitude. School participants in the Human Rights Friendly Schools programme also engaged in role playing activities around the cases, bringing an awareness to the stories of the individuals and writing hundreds of personal cards and letters.



Activists from Chile take part in bike ride in Santiago © AI Chile

CYPRUS

(Activities organised through the online community managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Total number of actions: 143

Estimated number of participants: 18

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman

Nigeria – Badia East community

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

Volunteers in Cyprus organised small events in their schools and a total of 143 letters were written. Volunteers in Cyprus gave the option for students to write the letters by hand or to write them as emails or post on social media where appropriate.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CZECH REPUBLIC

In 2013 AI Czech Republic worked to grow the number of organising volunteers and improve the engagement of existing volunteers in the campaign. They hit their targets in both senses – 60% of volunteers had never organised a Write for Rights event before while 70% of actions came from events organised by volunteers from previous years. Furthermore, the Section developed a microsite which guided organizers through the whole event – how to register, how to download materials and gather information, and how to provide up to date results and feedback – and in doing so managed to save two-thirds of their resources in comparison to 2012 by encouraging participants to send letters themselves.

Total number of actions: 14,032

Estimated number of participants: 5,000

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman

Nigeria – Badia East community

Honduras - COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

Slovakia – Levoca*

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

(Activities organised through the online community managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

One volunteer in the DRC organised five panel discussions at universities and high schools where he raised awareness about Amnesty International's work and the cases of the individuals at risk. Through these events, the volunteer recruited many new members.

Total number of actions: 1,802

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri



A university student takes part at an event in the DRC organised by our Volunteer Facilitator © AI

Total number of actions: 31,792

Estimated number of participants:
8,000

Individuals featured:

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DENMARK

In 2013, AI Denmark focused on encouraging people to write handwritten letters and felt it was a great success. In the words of one participant, "I want to thank you for the opportunity to write (...) It was great to sit down, write the letters and walk to the post office knowing that someone would benefit from my small effort. Thank you so much for the opportunity."

EL SALVADOR

(Activities organised through the online community managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Volunteers in El Salvador organized two events where participants wrote a total of 69 letters.

Total number of actions: 69
Estimated number of participants: 27
Individuals featured:
Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

Total number of actions: 23,125
Estimated number of participants: 7,000
Individuals featured:
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

FINLAND

Since 2010 AI Finland has taken part in Write for Rights using its own "10 days for human rights" concept. The section developed their own microsite.



An activist signs a petition at an event in Finland. © AI

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **FRANCE**

Total number of actions: 590,000
Estimated number of participants: 150,000

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri
Guatemala – Yolanda Oqueli*
Vietnam – Nguyen Tien Trung*

Write for Rights 2013, known as '10 jours pour signer' in AI France, was a widely successful burst of public activism. In just 12 days, 590,000 signatures were collected both on and offline, and activists in big cities and small villages organized around 500 public activities. Artists, public figures and local partners took part in the campaign as well. Embassies were informed of the launch of the campaign and some agreed to meet with AI France delegates. For those who refused, AI France exposed the human rights abuses faced by the featured individuals by using beautiful light installations to screen the individuals' faces on the walls of those embassies.

Beyond pressure put on the authorities, solidarity actions in France were also outstanding, as a number of featured individuals were able to meet with AI activists, including Belarusian LGBTI activist Ihar Tsikhanyuk, Nam, the brother of a jailed Vietnamese blogger, and Guatemalan human rights defender Yolanda Oqueli. These events attracted a high amount of media coverage not just for AI France but for the wider human rights situations faced by the individuals featured.



A light projection stunt near the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. © Pierre-Yves Buraud / Picturatank pour Amnesty International

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **GERMANY**

Write for Rights continues to grow each year in Germany, proving that the tried and tested method of writing letters really does change lives! In 2013 AI Germany used new media channels and activism to reach new audiences, including through their development of an advertisement for the campaign. The section built a huge yellow letter box which it will continue to use for other events. The German president even kicked off a Write for Rights event, telling his guests that letter writing does give hope to individuals at risk and can even save lives.

Total number of actions: 99,296

Estimated number of participants:

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community

Honduras – COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri



A student takes part in a Write for Rights event in Germany. © AI

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **GHANA**

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community

Honduras – COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Vietnam – Nguyen Tien Trung*

In Ghana, Write for Rights really took the form of a letter writing marathon, with the participation of many school children from Ghana's Human Rights Friendly Schools project.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GREECE

Amnesty International Greece hosted a blog on their website where famous Greek bloggers and writers, as well as the general public, published letters of support for the individuals featured. A street action with student groups also took place on Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Total number of actions: 1,838
Estimated number of participants: 1,500
Individuals featured:
 Turkey – Hakan Yaman
 Nigeria – Badia East community
 Honduras – COFADEH
 Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
 Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
 Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
 Russia – Bolotnaya Three
 Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

GUINEA *(Activities organised through the online community managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)*

Total number of actions: 5,409
Estimated number of participants: Over 3,000
Individuals featured:
 Nigeria – Badia East community
 Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
 Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
 Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
 Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

Volunteers in Guinea organised a number of sporting and artistic events across the country to raise awareness on five of the featured cases. Events included: a marathon letter writing event, a football tournament, four conferences and two theatre plays. Over 3,000 people participated in these events and they wrote a total of 5,409 letters and signed petition sheets. Events also attracted local media coverage.



A Volunteer Facilitator in the Guinea organised five events one of which was a real marathon to engage people in the LWM. The other events were held at Universities and schools. © AI

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HONG KONG

Amnesty International Hong Kong held letter writing workshops in schools, including a solidarity action for Cambodian housing rights activist Yorm Bopha using print-outs of the suggested symbol of a lotus flower. The section also created QR codes for petitions that were promoted at the Cities for Life event, and had a booth for collecting signatures at the International Human Rights Day Carnival on 10 December.

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HUNGARY

Total number of actions: 622

Estimated number of participants:

Individuals featured:

Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Amnesty International Hungary organized a massive event for Human Rights Day that included concerts, round table discussions, and a Slamnesty (slam poetry) activity. 2013 also marked the first year that AI Hungary organized Write for Rights events in high schools.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ICELAND

In 2013 AI Iceland doubled the number of signatures they collected from the previous year's Write for Rights, collecting over 50,000 – this amounts to one third of the population of Reykjavik! The Write for Rights campaign helped the section reach a huge new audience of 10,000 people, primarily through their collaboration with new schools and working with individuals in rural areas. AI Iceland's offline participation also increased greatly in 2013 as they collected more than 30,000 signatures in this way.

Total number of actions: 51,219
Estimated number of participants: 45,000

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

Total number of actions: 393

Estimated number of participants: 346

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community

Honduras – COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

India – Irom Sharmila*

Amnesty International India's Write for Rights activities were organized through their human rights education programme and as part of their Human Rights Month events with schools which were organized from Children's Day (14 November) to Human Rights Day (10 December). Their focus was to raise awareness and support from school communities on the case of Irom Sharmila, an Indian prisoner of conscience. AI India also focused on encouraging freedom of expression in work with the students. Throughout the month, approximately 350 letters were handwritten by students from Bangalore and Patna. Thirty of these were directly handed over to Irom Sharmila during an advocacy event which was widely reported in national media. Approximately 60 letters were exhibited as part of a one-month long public interactive art installation at a popular art and theatre space in Bangalore, the Rangashankara Theatre. In addition to this, the letters are being used to increase social media engagement for the human rights education programme.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (IS) INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The International Secretariat organised a letter writing event on 10 December at which members of staff wrote letters and signed petitions on behalf of the 12 cases. This generated 1,253 letters and signatures.

An online platform was created on the Amnesty website for people to take action on the 12 cases which generated 8,611 petition signatures. In addition to the main Amnesty International website, a new platform was developed and piloted in 2013 to highlight three of the cases – Hakan Yaman, Dr Tun Aung and the Badia East community – and was promoted primarily to international members (those engaged with Amnesty International where there is no official Section or structure in their country).

Finally, following the tragic death of iconic human rights defender Nelson Mandela in December 2013, a Mandela Memorial website was set up by Amnesty International as a way for people around the world to share their memories and messages of hope inspired by Mandela. After posting these messages on the Mandela Memorial website, 2,445 people also took action on behalf of Ethiopian journalist Eskinder Nega.

Total number of actions: 20,257

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman

Nigeria – Badia East community

Honduras – COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IRELAND

Total number of actions: 11,863
Estimated number of participants: 250

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

The Section created a webpage with information and online actions for each of the individual cases featured. Through this, they collected 3,000 signatures, which was a very effective way of increasing their total number of actions in 2013.

The section also designed postcards which were sent out to schools and local groups. Through this, they received almost 2,000 letters in return. Eight primary schools also signed on to take part in Write for Rights, adopting the COFADEH case and students designed their own solidarity cards to send to the organization. Almost 1,000 messages of solidarity were received, and the number of letters overall increased from 2012.

Total number of actions: 150

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ISRAEL

Amnesty International Israel's human rights education unit engaged its teacher's network to focus on the case of Badia East, and involved its school classes in letter writing activities. The letters were delivered to the Nigerian embassy in Tel Aviv. The section's activism unit took a playful approach to the Nabi Saleh case during a public action in a market in Tel Aviv, just 40 minutes away from the village of Nabi Saleh in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, whilst the villagers held their own demonstration at the same time. AI activists used the slogan "bringing the onion back to the kitchen" as a humorous way to pique the interest of Israelis on the topic, since onions are used by Palestinians in demonstrations to reduce the effects of tear gas, which is used by the Israeli army against the Nabi Saleh protesters. During this action they also collected petition signatures and encouraged letter writing as well as Facebook and Twitter actions.



Onions at an event at the Carmel market in Tel Aviv. © AI Israel

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ITALY

The most engaging activity carried out by Amnesty International Italy in the 2013 Write for Rights campaign was the Human Rights Defenders Tour, with Norma Cruz and other human rights defenders. This was an important opportunity for raising awareness about human rights as well as the difficult situations faced by human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience.

Total number of actions: 119,449
Estimated number of participants: 24,960

Individuals featured:
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

IVORY COAST

Total number of actions: 41,274

Estimated number of participants: 325

Individuals featured:
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

Amnesty International Ivory Coast gathered over 41,000 signatures during Write for Rights 2013. The section was also pleased to engage new and existing Amnesty International members and increased their membership in 2013!



An activist takes part in a Write for Rights sporting event in Ghana. © Hervey Delmas Kokou - Amnesty International Cote d'Ivoire

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL JAPAN

Amnesty International Japan's local groups and prisoners of conscience team hosted Write for Rights events in public places such as cafes, YMCA Christmas concert venues, human rights fairs, and an underground walkway. The section also used a blog to promote action throughout the length of the campaign: <http://writingmarathon.blog88.fc2.com/blog-category-15.html>

Total number of actions: 2,554
Estimated number of participants: 3,000
Individuals featured:
Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri



Paper lanterns featuring the cases from 2013's Write for Rights at AI Japan. © AI

LIBERIA

A volunteer organized a small Write for Rights event where 95 letters and petitions were signed.

Total number of actions: 95
Individuals featured:
Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LUXEMBOURG

Total number of actions:
3,140

Individuals featured:
Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Amnesty International Luxembourg began collecting signatures for the cases they featured as part of their annual candles fundraising campaign, beginning on 24 October 2013. A large solidarity action for Miriam Lopez was organized on 25 November.



A Write for Rights workshop at Lycee Technique pour Professions de Sante in Luxembourg © Sam van Maris

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA

Individuals featured:
Nigeria – Badia East community
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Russia – Bolotnaya Three

No information although we know that the Section participated

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MALI

Amnesty International Mali collected an impressive 16,100 petition signatures and organised capacity-building activities for local group members and published a press release, among other activities. Their youth network and groups were extremely active throughout the length of the campaign. In many grammar schools and universities, Amnesty International clubs helped increase the number of signatures collected.

Total number of actions: 16,100

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community

Honduras – COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

MALTA

(Activities organised through the online community managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Total number of actions: 200

Individuals featured:

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

A volunteer organized Write for Rights events in schools where over 200 letters and petitions were signed, doubling the number of actions taken in Malta during the previous year.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEXICO

Amnesty International Mexico participated in Write for Rights for the first time in 2013, with activities in seven cities organized by at least ten local groups in various venues. One of the most exciting activities was a concert in involving artists and activists from six cities.

Total number of actions: 4,213

Estimated number of participants: 2,500

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman

Nigeria – Badia East community

Honduras – COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **MOLDOVA**

Total number of actions: 4,024
Estimated number of participants: 3,000

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Amnesty International Moldova engaged more than 40 local groups in different regions of the country in Write for Rights 2013. It was their biggest national event which made members and activists feel part of a truly global movement and be inspired by the fact that thousands of activists around the world were also writing for the rights of the same individuals at risk. This resulted in over 4,000 letters being sent and more than 700 supporters making donations through their events, which had never happened in previous years.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **MONGOLIA**

Amnesty International Mongolia organized Write for Rights events in a variety of places in 2013, such as universities, secondary schools, public spaces and in local communities. They collected more than 20,000 petition signatures offline for the five cases they featured. Students and teachers of the Law Enforcement University held a Write for Rights event at their school and were very active in signing petitions as well. Youth members organized solidarity actions for Cambodian housing rights activist Yorm Bopha, which were very popular among students in the secondary schools. Local group members were active in organizing the Write for Rights events in their areas.

Total number of actions: 21,043
Estimated number of participants: 4,500

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists



Petitions are signed by students at The Law Enforcement University in Mongolia © AI

MONTENEGRO

(Activities organised through the online community managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

It was the first time a Write for Rights event was organised in Montenegro. A volunteer organised an event at a university and gathered 166 letters and signatures across all 12 cases.

Total number of actions: 166

Estimated number of participants: 200

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
 Nigeria – Badia East community
 Honduras – COFADEH
 Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
 Mexico – Miriam Lopez
 Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
 Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
 Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
 Russia – Bolotnaya Three
 Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
 Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
 Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MOROCCO

Total number of actions: 7,374

Estimated number of participants: 14,529

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
 Nigeria – Badia East community
 Honduras – COFADEH
 Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
 Mexico – Miriam Lopez
 Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
 Russia – Bolotnaya Three
 Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
 Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

Amnesty International Morocco took part in Write for Rights 2013 by mobilizing 13 of their local groups, as well as individual members and existing local partners to coordinate a wide range of actions. These actions included awareness-raising workshops in schools and universities, sit-ins with other human rights organizations on Human Rights Day (10 December), hosting Amnesty spaces at their partners' events, creating online actions on their webpages, and reinforcing all of this mobilization through their social network channels. Two of the main events they took part in were a national student conference on "Leadership & Social change" where about 400 university students from across the country took part, and the co-organization of the "Volunteerism World Day" on 5 December 2013 together with the UNDP and 20 other national and international youth and volunteerism associations. Both of these events allowed for greater

growth/mobilization prospects, reinforced youth membership and provided more overall visibility for Amnesty International.



An activist takes part in a Write for Rights event in Morocco. © AI

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **NEPAL**

Amnesty International Nepal supported actions both on and offline as part of Write for Rights 2013. For offline actions, local groups and youth members gathered signatures in their communities, and AI Nepal provided them with materials and advisory support. In Kathmandu, for example, local groups and youth networks integrated a signature-gathering event with a demonstration rally. In terms of online activity, AI Nepal developed a microsite with petitions on four cases. The site was also promoted through their Facebook page. Overall, about 3,000 signatures were collected both on and offline.

Total number of actions: 3,000
Estimated number of participants: 3,000

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **NETHERLANDS**

Total number of actions: 72,106

Estimated number of participants: 5,000

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
USA – Mohamed al-Qahtani*
USA – Abdullah al-Hamid*

Amnesty International Netherlands held many local activities as part of Write for Rights 2013 as well as a very successful 24-hour letter writing event. Many people participated in the 24-hour event, from local celebrities to young people getting involved with AI for the first time. The outside of the Amnesty International Netherlands office was lit up with the posters displaying the individuals' faces throughout the length of the campaign.



The offices of AI Netherlands are lit up with images of the individuals featured in Write for Rights 2013. © Karen Veldkamp / Iorn van Eck / Amnesty International

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **NEW ZEALAND**

Amnesty International New Zealand enjoyed a successful Write for Rights campaign in 2013 with between 15-20 letter writing events taking place throughout the country. There were more local events than ever before and greater engagement with new audiences. This was in part due to some new initiatives, such as choosing a smaller number of cases to feature and for each of these, sending a dedicated email to their supporters. Each case was also featured through their social media channels. The section also piloted a sponsored letter writing initiative in 2013, where they encouraged a small group of 'letter writing heroes' to set up a fundraising portal where their friends and family members could make donations. AI New Zealand used their stories in their promotional material. In addition, the section heavily promoted Write for Rights to their Urgent Action Network and encouraged activists to get friends and family to take action and attend events. This in turn saw membership to their Urgent Action Network increase as well!

Total number of actions: 4,716
Estimated number of participants: 1,500
Individuals featured:
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three

NIGERIA

Total number of actions: 727
Individuals featured:
Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

(Activities organised through the online community managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Volunteers in Nigeria organized two Write for Rights events and also promoted the cases via social media.



School children in Nigeria take action for Badia East Community © AI

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NORWAY

Amnesty International Norway held approximately 35 public events, and Amnesty representatives visited at least 42 school classes as part of Write for Rights 2013. Nearly 100,000 petition signatures and more than 1,500 solidarity letters were collected on behalf of the cases that the section worked on.

Total number of actions: 97,607
Estimated number of participants: 54,000
Individuals featured:
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Total number of actions: 2,197
Estimated number of participants: 200
Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PARAGUAY

Amnesty Paraguay organised its activists into teams and sent them off into streets, each tasked with trying to collect a higher number of signatures than the other!

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES

No information although we know that the Section participated

Individuals featured:
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **POLAND**

Write for rights events took place in over 450 locations, mostly schools but also universities, other NGOs and even a fitness club! Some 212,700 actions were taken. This year AI Poland added 3 local cases, which proved to be very successful with solidarity messages sent to a Roma community in Wrocław and letters to the Prime Minister regarding CIA torture victims in Poland during the War on Terror. The section also took action for the peaceful protestors in Ukraine.

Total number of actions: 212,700

Estimated number of participants: 21,000

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri
Poland - Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri,
Zajn al-Abidin Muhammad Husajn
(Abu Zubaidah), Walid bin Attash*
Poland - Roma community in
Wrocław*
Ukraine – Euromaidan*

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **PORTUGAL**

AI Portugal collected more than 96,000 signatures in 2014, doubling numbers from last year. 122 schools participated, collecting signatures and organizing events. Six schools were part of the Human Rights Friendly Schools project and two of them gathered the greatest number of signatures in all of AI Portugal's Write for Rights events.

The Section also organized the 'Live Freedom' concert in association with Write for Rights. The concert brought great media visibility and artists 'adopted' cases and drew attention to them: <http://bit.ly/1jcd5ld>

Total number of actions: 93,274
Estimated number of participants: 24,071

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh



AI Portugal received more than 200 postcards and letters from school children who wished to express their solidarity for the individuals featured in Write for Rights © AI Portugal

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **PUERTO RICO**

The Section celebrated 10 December with an event in a public square in the capital city, where a local author took part. In addition they focused activities on university groups and schools.

Total number of actions: 1,327
Estimated number of participants: 1,169
Individuals featured:
Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

Total number of actions: 960
Estimated number of participants: 500
Individuals featured:
Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

ROMANIA

(Activities organised through the online community managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Volunteers in Romania organized one online events and two off-line events.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S

RUSSIAN RESOURCE CENTRE

A Write for Rights event was organised in support of the Bolotnaya prisoners and four other cases. Despite submitting all the correct paper work, the authorities attempted to dissuade publicity by 'suggesting' that the Russian Resource Centre collect the signatures in front of the Sakharov Centre in an almost empty park! Instead, they organised a flash-mob in Moscow's Kursk district (where the Sakharov Centre is located). They put paper lanterns on the pavement with the words: "Freedom to Prisoners of Conscience".

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **SENEGAL**

Amnesty International Senegal mobilised 25 local groups and organised events in schools, universities and colleges to educate people on human rights. Other events were held at the International Trade Fair of Dakar and in villages. They used graphics, figures and theatre plays to help people understand the 4 cases.

Total number of actions:

33,206

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Senegal – Dominique Lopy



Students take part in a Write for Rights event at Lycee Blaise Diagne, Senegal © AI Senegal

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **SLOVAKIA**

The Section focused on 13 cases, the 12 global cases and one case of segregation of Romani children in Slovakia. They created a special microsite for schools, in cooperation with AI Czech Republic, where people could sign e-letters. In addition there was an outside exhibition of pictures of the cases in Bratislava; 4 workshops in secondary schools; 4 street actions (Bratislava, Banská Bystrica) and a concert for human rights followed by a discussion. 38 Elementary and Secondary schools took part and 1,700 children/pupils wrote and signed letters across the country. A video of a street action in Bratislava is available here: <http://vimeo.com/83672970>

Total number of actions: 4,520

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri
Slovakia – Romani children in Levoca*

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SLOVENIA

Total number of actions: 13,978

Estimated number of participants: 6,000

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman

Nigeria – Badia East community

Honduras – COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorn Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

Slovenia – Ali Berisha*

Activists took public actions to a new level at AI Slovenia this year. They collected more than 2,000 signatures at just two events in only 6 hours!

Schools took an innovative approach to educating students about human rights and in particular on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Section worked on the local case of Ali Berisha. Ali lives in Germany, but was able to visit Slovenia in February 2014 and the Section managed to secure high-level lobbying meetings for him and officials showed a strong indication that they were willing to work on Ali's case.

Ali and his family were featured in the well-regarded Saturday supplement of the most prominent newspaper in Slovenia. After a good pitch from the Section, Ali also appeared on a top weekly talk show and secured some of the highest ratings in the show's history.



Activists take part in an event in Metelkova City which is an autonomous social and culture centre in the capital city, Ljubljana where a lot of alternative artists, many subcultures and youth gather. © Denis Švigelj

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **SOUTH AFRICA**

Amnesty International South Africa's Write for Rights took place from 4 - 10 December. They held events in 5 communities; Senekal (Free State Province), Tzaneen (Limpopo Province); Orange Farm, Diepkloof, Doornkop and Jabavu (Gauteng Province) and held briefing meetings with the participating community leaders.

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Total number of actions: 34,451

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

SOUTH KOREA

Amnesty International South Korea created a poster with case stories and petition postcards and developed a twitter action tool. The tool allowed activists to send a tweet to a target from a special page on AI Korea's website.



Event at City Hall, Seoul, South Korea. © Ernest/Amnesty International

Total number of actions: 80,328
Estimated number of participants: 35,000

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
China – Yang Tongyan*

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SPAIN

In 2013 AI Spain worked on three cases of Freedom of Expression, with more than 60 local groups taking part. They had a specific campaign and website and achieved a great number of signatures.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SWEDEN

The campaign called *Skriv för frihet* was a great success and lasted from the 28 October until the 16 December. 104 Amnesty groups held 136 external activities out in the streets, in shopping malls, and in schools at 54 locations all around the country. Actions were taken via SMS, phone, email and Amnesty Sweden's campaigning website. The campaigning website was a success and because of the longer campaigning period they could focus on one of the five individuals/groups each week in their communications. They also engaged well known people to help spread the cases via social media, among them a famous writer.

Solidarity actions were taken through a digital application where you could create and send your own solidarity postcards to two of the imprisoned individuals. The users themselves chose the amount to pay, with the surplus going to Amnesty. Altogether 696 post-cards were sent and another 287 solidarity actions were taken by Amnesty groups. During the campaign AI Sweden also engaged in lobby activities, fundraising activities and managed to get positive media coverage of the campaign.

Total number of actions: 153,811
Estimated number of participants: 30,000

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Total number of actions: 21,118

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SWITZERLAND

Along with other cases, Amnesty International Switzerland focused on two campaigns about Russia with petitions online and offline, one about the Bolotnaya Three and also in relation to the Sochi Olympics.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TAIWAN

Total number of actions:
2,237

Estimated number of participants: 450

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman

Nigeria – Badia East community

Honduras – COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Bahrain – 13 Opposition

Activists

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

Amnesty International Taiwan produced a Write for Rights leaflet and blank postcards for activists. They held several letter writing parties, focusing on university and high school students. They also promoted online petitions through Facebook.



Activists from AI Taiwan take action for Yorm Bopha. © AI

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THAILAND

Amnesty International Thailand hosted an activist from the Boeung Kak community and a representative from a local NGO in November and worked with six groups to organise nine Write for Rights events in different parts of Thailand. They also held three other public events during the campaign.

Total number of actions: 2,679

Estimated number of participants: 1,000

Individuals featured:

Honduras – COFADEH

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **TOGO**

Total number of actions: 61,372

Estimated number of participants: 4,603

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman

Nigeria – Badia East community

Honduras – COFADEH

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

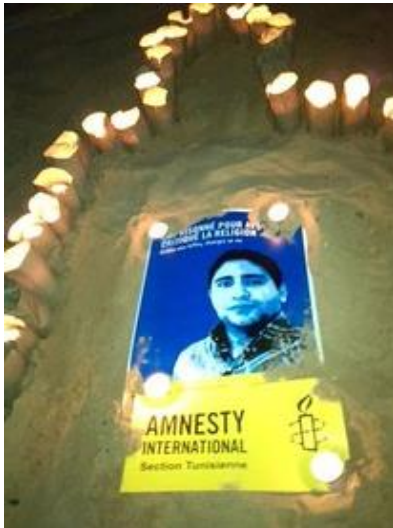
Amnesty International Togo put all their efforts into Write for Rights in 2013. They collected over 60,000 signatures and organised solidarity actions at local markets, schools and at even at the beach!

The events were not only aimed at informing the public about the cases, but also at helping people in Togo to be aware of human rights violations all over the world. An event called "a thousand lights" and a musical show was held at the Goethe Institute and mobilized activists and human rights defenders on the cause of freedom and dignity.



Activists in Togo hold candles at a Write for Rights event. © AI Togo

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **TUNISIA**



Many activities were held on the streets, in universities and local regions. About 100 people took part.

Total number of actions:
8,066
Estimated number of participants: 100
Individuals featured:
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Bahrain – 13 Opposition Activists
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Meiri

One of the photographs uploaded to Facebook during the Write for Rights events in Tunisia © Facebook AI Tunisia

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **TURKEY**

Individuals featured:
Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three



Activists in Turkey take action for Hakan Yaman © AI

The Section held an action for Hakan Yaman on 1 December. Hakan's image was projected onto the main courthouse in Istanbul with the words "what happened to Hakan Yaman?" to draw attention to the potential impunity in the case.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK



Cards received by activists from the UK. © AI

Total number of actions:

83,615

Individuals featured:

Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri
Brazil – Laisa Santos Sampo*
Bangladesh – Kalpana Chakma*

From launch at Amnesty International UK's student conference, where students took part in a flower solidarity action for Yorm Bopha, to local groups across the country holding events, singing Christmas carols and getting thousands of cards signed, AI UK's activists did an amazing job helping make the 2013 campaign successful. On the UK website, supporters added their names in their thousands to petitions for Yorm Bopha, Jabeur Mejri and Eskinder Nega. To mark human rights day, an event in Parliament was held and deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, mentioned Write for Rights and COFADEH in particular in his speech to mark the day. Supporters gave financial donations to help support the Section's year round work and showed what a creative group of people they are by designing and making some beautiful cards to be sent to featured individuals. Supporters demonstrated that people of all ages in the UK support human rights.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UKRAINE

Total number of actions: 16,539

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Honduras – COFADEH
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh
Ukraine – Alexandre Popov

No information although we know that the Section participated.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URUGUAY

In Uruguay, activists broke their own record for most signatures ever collected by the Section, with 4,500 signatures. They also broke their own record for a street action, by spending 9 consecutive days in a public park, talking to passers-by about the cases and about Amnesty International's work in Uruguay and the rest of the world.



Activists at a Write for Rights event in Montevideo © AI

Total number of actions:

4,501

Estimated number of participants: 1,200

Individuals featured:

Honduras – COFADEH

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA

Total number of actions: 154,937

Estimated number of participants: 10,525

Individuals featured:

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega

Mexico – Miriam Lopez

Cambodia – Yorm Bopha

Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung

Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk

Russia – Bolotnaya Three

Israel/OPT – Nabi Saleh

USA – Angola Two (Albert Woodfox)*

USA - Shaker Amer

Egypt - Azza Suleiman

China - Dhondup Wangchen

Quotes from released Prisoner of Conscience Yorm Bopha, torture survivor Miriam Lopez and prisoner Albert Woodfox were used to show supporters how important it is to achieve change in the lives of the featured individuals. The Section also set internal goals for member and activist retention and engagement in this year's Write for Rights. There was an increase in the total number of actions taken since 2011. While the number of participants dropped between 2011 and 2013, the approximate number of letters written per case decreased by only 9% and the number of online actions taken more than doubled. Retention rates also soared in 2013, a phenomenon that AI USA had not seen since they first started tracking retention in 2010. Finally, these gains were all made with a 60% reduction in total costs in materials and production between 2011 and 2013! Key Amnesty voices, including country specialists, staff and the Section's board chair, also helped shine a light on the individuals featured in this year's Write for Rights campaign. They raised visibility for the work of the Section and the cases by penning Op eds.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

VENEZUELA

Through great team work AI Venezuela went beyond their targets! They used Facebook and made contact with relevant embassies in the country.

Total number of actions: 20,024

Estimated number of participants:
20,565

Individuals featured:

Turkey – Hakan Yaman
Nigeria – Badia East community
Honduras – COFADEH
Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk
Russia – Bolotnaya Three
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

ZAMBIA

Total number of actions: 70

Estimated number of participants: 17

Individuals featured:

Mexico – Miriam Lopez
Cambodia – Yorm Bopha
Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung
Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri

(Activities organised through the online community managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Volunteers organized a Write for Rights event in Mufulira, Zambia.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ZIMBABWE

No information although we know that the Section participated.

Individuals featured:

Ethiopia – Eskinder Nega