



WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2025: CAMPAIGN REPORT

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WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2025 – SOME HIGHLIGHTS

The Write for Rights (W4R) campaign was back again for its 25th edition in 2025, working hard to bring positive change in the lives of eight individuals and groups at risk, and their families and communities.

At least **3,962,563** actions were taken worldwide.

64 national entities delivered inspiring campaigns. As ever, activists' creativity and dedication to Write for Rights shone through.

We saw **letter writing events** held in all sorts of locations, including a former prison in the Netherlands, human rights education activities in schools, **speaker tours**, concerts, **running events**, meetings with embassies, media interviews and campaigning in the streets!

What's more, more than **400,000 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE** were mobilized through human rights education alone.

It's early days to assess the human rights impact of the campaign, but we have already seen positive changes in some of the individuals and groups' situations.

One individual featured in Write for Rights 2025, **Sonia Dahmani**, was **RELEASED** on 27 November 2025. We have also seen positive steps towards justice in legal cases and slight improvements in prison conditions.

Damisoa, Guerreras por la Amazonía and the families of Juan López and Unecebo Mboteni have also been supported with **practical support** granted by Amnesty International's Global Relief Programme.

Beyond human rights impact and relief, Write for Rights is a **SOLIDARITY** campaign, showing the individuals at risk featured that people in all corners of the world are supporting them. Of the total numbers of actions, at least **327,737** were cards and letters of solidarity.

2025

highlights



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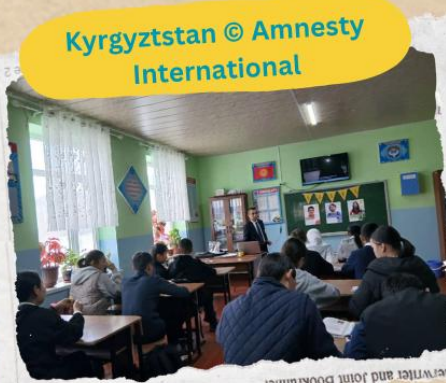
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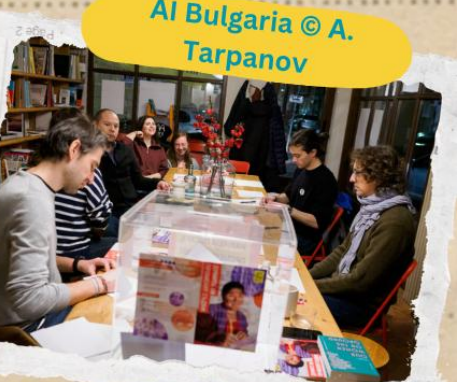
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INDIVIDUAL CAMPAIGN WRITE-UPS

On the following pages you will find write-ups of the campaigns for each of the eight individuals and groups featured in the campaign. The write-ups give a brief overview of the individual or group's story and how they came to be part of the campaign, any changes to the situation of the individual or group, some information on the wider context of human rights issues happening in the relevant countries that may have had an impact, highlights of campaigning activities, and lastly, how Amnesty International intends to keep up work with and for the individuals featured following the campaign.

As part of this write-up, the impact of the campaign on the individuals' situations is assessed. Impact assessments are carried out in several ways, including interviews with the individuals and groups themselves or their representatives, with family members and local partner organizations working with them. In addition to this, country experts look at signs of impact from the authorities, such as big obvious changes to laws or official procedures, to more incremental changes such as differences in the treatment of the individual or group. Since this assessment has been carried out shortly after the close of the campaign, we are still unable to see the full impact. We will continue to assess impact and keep national entities updated.

DAMISOA – MADAGASCAR



Introduction

Damisoa served as the area manager of a resettlement site in Boeny, north-western Madagascar, where authorities relocated approximately 164 Antandroy families displaced by drought-induced famine in the Androy region of southern Madagascar. The site consisted of small, poorly constructed huts, and living conditions were extremely harsh. The land was largely barren and unsuitable for cultivation, leaving residents at continued risk of hunger. During the rainy season, a temporary river would surround the settlement, isolating it and effectively trapping families who were already facing food insecurity. The fragile huts offered little

protection from rain or extreme heat, further compounding the hardship residents faced.

Damisoa's case was proposed for Write for Rights because drought-induced displacement from southern to northern Madagascar, exacerbated by climate change, represents a long-term crisis that has received little human rights scrutiny or accountability. Damisoa and his fellow residents are part of a broader pattern of displacement: between 2017 and 2024, more than 90,000 people were forced to flee their homes in southern Madagascar due to severe drought. Despite its scale and impact, drought-induced internal displacement in Madagascar has rarely been addressed as a human rights issue. The Write for Rights campaign therefore presented a strategic opportunity to reframe climate-related displacement not as an unavoidable tragedy, but as a matter of human rights and government accountability. The aim was to help shift national discourse away from a purely charitable response towards one grounded in the protection and fulfilment of human rights.

The land on which Damisoa and other residents were resettled was provided as humanitarian assistance. However, because this response was not guided by human rights standards, it fell far short of ensuring an adequate standard of living for the families who were relocated there.

The Write for Rights campaign called on the authorities to take urgent steps to guarantee the human rights of people displaced and now living in Boeny and across Madagascar and to actively seek the support of humanitarian agencies and other relevant actors to do this.

Context of human rights concerns in Madagascar

Between September and October 2025, protests erupted across Madagascar, triggered by frequent water and electricity outages. The unrest ultimately forced President Andry Rajoelina from power and led to the army seizing control. On 17 October, the head of the elite unit CAPSAT, who



An activist in Guinée signing Damisoa's petition
© AI Guinée

had mutinied in support of the protesters, was sworn in as President of the Refoundation of the Republic of Madagascar.

This political transition disrupted ongoing reform efforts. The new authorities, together with civil society organizations, initially prioritized forming a transitional government and addressing the grievances that had fuelled the protests, particularly access to water and electricity, as well as anti-corruption measures. Public debate focused on whether the new leadership would break with past governance practices.



Activists in Nigeria writing messages for Damisoa © AI Nigeria

Nearly six months later, however, climate change has slipped down the government's agenda. Plans by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to prepare Madagascar's third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the country's main framework for addressing climate impacts, including drought and related human rights concerns, have stalled amid cabinet reshuffles and shifting political priorities. Efforts to frame climate change and extreme

weather as human rights issues have yet to gain meaningful traction. The cabinet reshuffles also led to the replacement of the Director of the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management, who had been the primary target of the Write for Rights campaign and with whom Amnesty International researchers had already established a working relationship.

This gap became particularly evident in early 2026, when two successive cyclones caused severe damage to approximately 80 percent of the city of Tamatave. Despite the scale of the destruction, the government avoided linking the disaster to questions of human rights accountability under the 2015 Paris Agreement. Meanwhile, Damisoa, his fellow residents, and other drought-induced internally displaced people across Madagascar remain without meaningful state support.

Highlights of Damisoa's campaign

It was encouraging to see Amnesty International national entities actively promoting Damisoa's case on social media and other digital platforms. In addition to the solidarity cards and letters, international engagement around the case was particularly strong.

Notably, Amnesty Luxembourg organized an online event in late November 2025, in collaboration with Amnesty Belgium (Francophone) and Amnesty Switzerland, focusing on Damisoa's case. They requested to be connected with young activists from Madagascar who could participate and share their perspectives during the event.

Amnesty International France also planned a solidarity initiative encouraging primary school students in France to send messages and materials to the more than 80 children living with Damisoa at the resettlement site, many of whom remain out of school.

With Amnesty International France's support, Damisoa's case was raised with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). AFD subsequently proposed facilitating a roundtable to bring together humanitarian actors and identify practical solutions to the challenges facing the community.

At the policy level, the German Development Agency (GIZ) has been advising the Malagasy government on how to respond to drought-induced displacement from the Androy region, where Damisoa and his community fled, to Boeny, where they were resettled. GIZ aims to use this interregional displacement as a case study to anticipate and plan for similar climate-related movements across the country.

In late 2025, GIZ convened a workshop on drought-induced displacement. We proposed that our partner organization, People Power Inclusion (currently collaborating with us to strengthen the climate justice movement in Madagascar) participate in the discussion, given their in-depth knowledge of Damisoa's case, the situation at the resettlement site, and the broader dynamics of drought-induced displacement in Madagascar.



Total number of actions taken in support of Damisoa: 371,942

Outcomes of Damisoa's campaign

A key setback to campaigning was the change in institutional counterparts following a cabinet reshuffle under the new government. The Ministry of the Interior was replaced, along with the Director of the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management, who had been the primary target of the Write for Rights campaign. At the same time, plans to update Madagascar's climate strategy through its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) stalled. Prior to this disruption, Amnesty International and partner organizations had been working to ensure that the losses and damages experienced by Damisoa, his fellow residents, and others in similar situations were reflected in the NDCs. The aim was for the strategy to guide the government and other actors in addressing the human rights needs of people displaced internally by drought.

We were nevertheless able to secure limited relief funding from the Ford Foundation to support Damisoa and his community, who have been stranded at the resettlement site since the onset of the rainy season (December to April). While this represents a positive step, the assistance remains insufficient, and meaningful support from national authorities and development actors is still lacking.

Building on the momentum of the Write for Rights campaign, we have also reached an agreement with People Power Inclusion (Madagascar), a coalition of climate justice organizations, to train journalists on climate-related impacts in Madagascar, including climate-induced displacement. As part of this initiative, one journalist will be supported to report on the human rights situation at Damisoa's resettlement site, incorporating the Write for Rights solidarity messages sent to him and his fellow residents.

Next steps

Amnesty International plans to meet with the new authorities to deliver the signatures collected through the campaign. A date has not yet been confirmed, but we aim to do so by October 2026.

As part of our planned actions for 2026, Amnesty International will continue the work amplified by the Write for Rights campaign. We also plan to submit urgent appeals to relevant African Union and United Nations human rights mechanisms, as well as to the Pan-African Parliament, while directly engaging the Malagasy government to urge concrete measures to improve the situation of Damisoa and other drought-induced internally displaced persons in the country.

At the national level, we aim to convene a roundtable bringing together humanitarian actors operating in Madagascar to highlight the residents' human rights concerns and advocate for coordinated responses. In parallel, activities are planned in collaboration with Amnesty International France and the Amnesty International mission to the European Union - particularly important given European states' disproportionate contribution to the climate crisis - to further amplify Damisoa's case.

Finally, we intend to develop a human rights training course focused on the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention), which Madagascar has not yet ratified. Promoting ratification and implementation of this treaty will be central to strengthening protection for climate-change-induced internally displaced persons such as Damisoa and his community.



Activists in Morocco supporting Damisoa © AI Morocco

UNECEBO MBOTENI – SOUTH AFRICA



Introduction

Across South Africa, many schools and communities continue to live with the consequences of political and economic decisions made during the apartheid era. Deep inequalities in infrastructure and public services persist, meaning that a child's experience of education is still largely shaped by where they are born, the wealth of their community, and the colour of their skin.

These inequalities can have devastating consequences. On 18 April 2024, Unecebo Mboteni, a three-year-old boy, fell into a pit toilet at his pre-school in South Africa's Eastern Cape province. He was rushed to hospital and admitted to the intensive care unit, but tragically passed away the following day, on 19 April 2024.

Nearly two years later, Unecebo's family is still waiting for justice. None of the relevant institutions, including the Department of Basic Education and the Little Champions Day Care Centre, have taken adequate responsibility for the incident.

Unecebo's case was submitted to the Write for Rights campaign because both his family and Amnesty International South Africa believed that the visibility and international attention generated by the campaign could place meaningful pressure on the authorities and help advance the family's pursuit of justice.

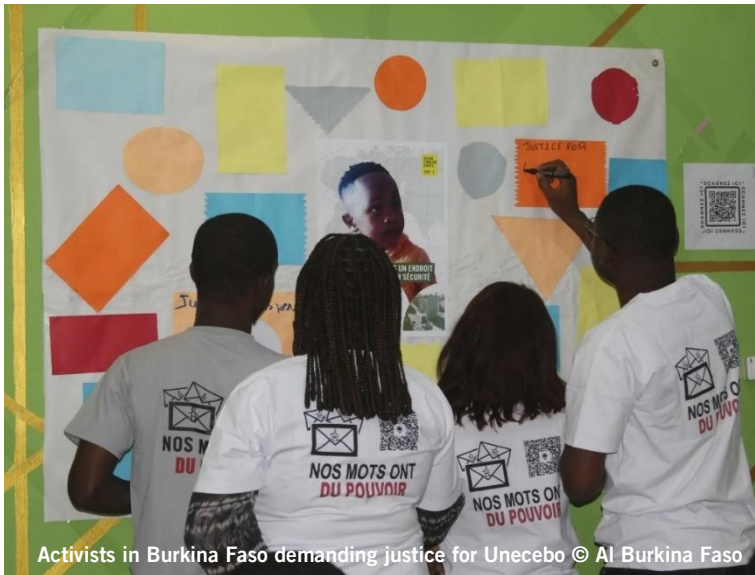
The campaign demanded that the investigation into Unecebo's death be expedited, the outcome made public and that those responsible be held accountable.

Context of human rights concerns in South Africa

In July 2025, South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal provincial police commissioner publicly alleged that political interference and corruption were undermining the country's criminal justice system. The allegations prompted President Cyril Ramaphosa to announce the establishment of a commission of inquiry to investigate the claims and led to the immediate leave of absence of the Minister of Police.



In the lead-up to and throughout the campaign period, the issue dominated national news coverage and online discussion. While



Activists in Burkina Faso demanding justice for Unecebo © AI Burkina Faso

this did not directly hinder the campaign's activities, it meant that Amnesty International South Africa was competing for attention within an already crowded and highly politicized media environment across both digital and traditional platforms.

Highlights of Unecebo Mboten's campaign

Amnesty International South Africa and Unecebo's family are grateful to all national entities that worked on Unecebo's case, in particular AI Burkina Faso's

solidarity action and the use of different mediums and tactics to raise awareness and collect over 14,000 signatures.

Total number of actions taken in support of Unecebo Mboten: 403,507

Outcomes of Unecebo Mboten's campaign

Positive developments have taken place in several areas since the campaign began. In November 2025, the South African Police Service confirmed that the investigation into Unecebo's death had been finalized and that the case had been handed over to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). This marked a significant shift from earlier communications with the family. In early 2025, the investigating officer had indicated that the investigation could take between three and four years to complete.

confirmed that the investigation into

Further developments followed in January 2026, when Amnesty International South Africa (AISA) received a call from an official at the NPA's office in Bisho, Eastern Cape. The official requested information on the police station and case number and confirmed that the docket had been forwarded from the local police station to the national office for a decision. The official also indicated that they would contact the national office to confirm the status of that decision.

There has also been renewed communication with Unecebo's family. In November 2025, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) contacted the family to ask whether they still required counselling



An activist in Canada writing a card to Unecebo's family © objectifexcellence

support. The following month, in December 2025, the department requested a meeting with them. According to the family, officials apologized for Unecebo's death during the meeting and confirmed that the pit toilet involved in the incident remains at the school. The family told AISA that they felt the department's outreach



Activists in Guinée demanding justice for Unecebo © AI Guinée

was influenced by the pressure generated through Amnesty's campaign, noting that officials specifically asked about counselling and about what the family wanted done regarding the toilet at the school.

The DBE also contacted AISA directly in November 2025. During this exchange, department officials asked why they were receiving between 25 and 30 emails each day from Amnesty International supporters. They also committed to responding to the letter that had been submitted on behalf of Unecebo's family.

Reflecting on the campaign, Andiswa, Unecebo's mother, said:

'We can see that Amnesty is doing well (with the campaign)... we thank you so much and we are hoping that justice will take place on our side.'

Next steps

AISA will use the momentum built during Write for Rights to continue campaigning for Unecebo. Various tools, including digital campaigning, media and advocacy, will be employed to continue the campaign for justice for Unecebo and his family.



Activists in Côte d'Ivoire demanding justice for Unecebo © AI Côte d'Ivoire

JUAN LÓPEZ – HONDURAS



Introduction

Juan López, a dedicated environmental defender, was shot dead in his car by a masked gunman as he left church on 14 September 2024 in the city of Tocoa. His killing is widely seen as emblematic of the risks faced by people who defend land, water, and natural resources in the country. While the alleged hitman and two suspected accomplices have been charged with murder and are currently in pretrial detention, no intellectual authors of the crime have so far been identified or brought to justice.

Juan served as coordinator of the Tocoa Municipal Committee in Defence of Public Commons (CMDBCP), where he worked tirelessly to protect the region’s rivers and the Montaña de Botaderos “Carlos Escaleras Mejía” National Park. These ecosystems have long been threatened by industrial development, including two open-pit iron oxide mines, a mineral processing plant and a petroleum coke thermoelectric energy project.

His murder occurred within a broader pattern of intimidation and violence against environmental defenders in the region. In 2023 alone, three members of communities in Tocoa were killed, and between 2019 and 2022 eight water defenders were arbitrarily detained after peacefully challenging the legality of mining projects affecting their territories.

Juan’s case was selected to highlight the urgent need for justice and to increase pressure on the authorities to ensure that his killing does not go unpunished, an outcome that too often characterizes attacks against environmental and land defenders.

The campaign demanded that the authorities ensure a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into the killing of Juan López to identify all those responsible for the crime, including those who ordered the murder, and to bring them to justice in fair trials.

Context of human rights concerns in Honduras

The general elections held in November 2025 were accompanied by multiple allegations of fraud and significant delays in the processing of results, creating a tense political environment during the transition of power. Following the inauguration of President Asfura and the appointment of his cabinet, concerns have emerged regarding the approach of the new Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.



Activists in Benin demanding justice for Juan López © AI Benin

In particular, the minister has made statements suggesting that environmental licences pending approval by the ministry should be viewed primarily as opportunities to attract foreign investment to the country. This position raises concerns that a greater number of licences could be approved, or that previously suspended licences might be reinstated. Such developments could have direct implications for contested projects, including those affecting the Carlos Escaleras National Park.

These shifts in policy direction will require close monitoring, given their potential impact on environmental protection and on communities that have long opposed extractive projects in the region.



Highlights of Juan López's campaign

In early October, three screenings on climate justice issues were organized in Mexico City in coordination with the global news platform AJ+. Each screening was followed by a public discussion, and one of the sessions focused specifically on Honduras. A member of the Tocoa Municipal Committee in Defence of Public Commons (CMDBCP) was able to participate in that discussion online, contributing firsthand perspectives on the situation facing environmental defenders in the region.

Amnesty International also worked closely with the CMDBCP on the production of the short documentary *Juan López, the Voice of the Mountain*, which was recently released on [YouTube](#) (Spanish). A version with English subtitles is also available [here](#).

Juan López's family and members of the Committee are aware that the Amnesty International Americas regional office has received numerous letters of solidarity for them. Plans for delivering these messages to them are currently being finalized.

Total number of actions taken in support of Juan López: 332,381

Outcomes of Juan López's campaign

In January, a court in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, ruled that the trial of three alleged perpetrators of Juan López's murder will begin on 15 June 2026. The decision represents an important step forward, particularly given the many obstacles that lawyers and members of the Tocoa Municipal Committee in Defence of Public Commons (CMDBCP) have faced in their efforts to ensure that

the investigation is conducted properly and that key evidence is presented.

However, those scheduled to stand trial are only the alleged hitmen. Ensuring accountability will therefore require continued pressure so that those who ordered the killing, the intellectual authors of the crime, are also identified and brought to justice.

It is not yet clear whether the Write for Rights campaign directly influenced the decision to move Juan López’s case to trial. Nonetheless, the international visibility generated by the campaign has undoubtedly helped keep attention on the case and strengthened calls for accountability.

Reflecting on the campaign, Leonel George from the CMDBCP said:

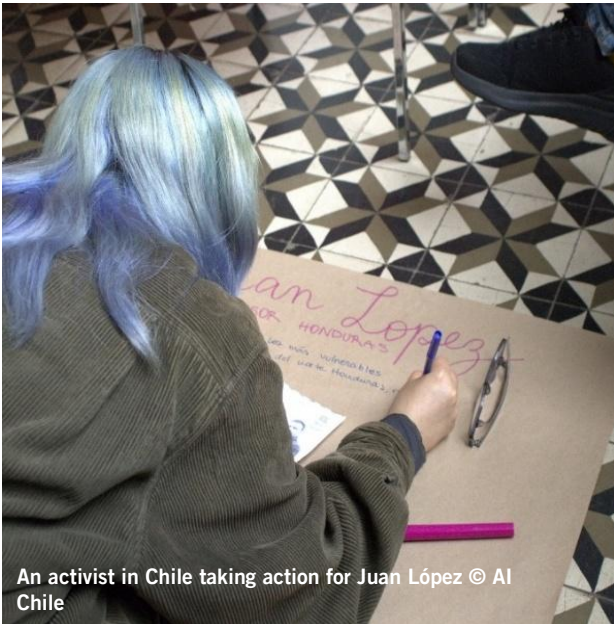
‘Thank you, Amnesty International, for your tremendous support and work in accompanying us and for your advocacy and communication campaign. We are very satisfied with the quality of the documentary, letters, and incidents that have been so useful to us in our environmental advocacy.

Amnesty International and its entire team have been a key ally in the community’s struggle, in the organizations’ demand for justice, human rights, and citizen participation, which have been violated. Thank you for the quality of your work, support, and commitment to allies around the world. We stand in solidarity with other territories and countries fighting for environmental defense and human rights.

We have made progress and your support has been fundamental. We hope to continue weaving networks of solidarity and love. Hugs from afar.’

Next steps

Amnesty International plans to deliver the petition signatures and letters of solidarity during a high-level mission to Honduras scheduled for June. As part of this visit, Amnesty International intends to attend the first day of the trial hearings and closely monitor the proceedings. Meetings will also be requested with the Public Ministry and representatives of the new government who took office in January. In addition, we plan to meet with Juan López’s family, members of the Tocoa Municipal Committee in Defence of Public Commons (CMDBCP), and the lawyers involved in the case.



Following the first trial against the alleged perpetrators in June, we will continue to accompany the CMDBCP and Juan’s family in their pursuit of justice. This will include developing further campaigning proposals aimed at maintaining pressure on the authorities so that those who ordered the murder are also brought to justice.

GUERRERAS POR LA AMAZONÍA (WARRIORS OF THE AMAZON) – ECUADOR



Introduction

Guerreras por la Amazonía is a group of 15 girls and young women from Ecuador’s northern Amazon who are leading a fight against gas flaring linked to oil extraction. Aged between 10 and 20, several members belong to Indigenous nationalities. They live in communities where gas flares burn continuously near homes, schools, and farms, exposing residents to toxic emissions, constant noise, strong odours, and environmental destruction. Some of the girls are plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the Ecuadorian state and the state-owned oil company Petroecuador, demanding compliance with a 2021 court ruling ordering the elimination of gas flaring.

United by their manifesto, the Guerreras describe themselves as “daughters of the land” and defenders of the Amazon and climate justice. Their participation in the Write for Rights campaign was fundamental to show the intersection of climate justice, children’s rights, Indigenous rights and gender justice.

The campaign demanded that the Ecuadorian authorities uphold the ruling to eliminate gas flares and ensure the safety of climate defenders. It fostered global solidarity to do this, highlighted the role of the Guerreras as climate justice defenders and contributed to broader action against fossil fuel sacrifice zones.

Context of human rights concerns in Ecuador

During the campaign period, Ecuador experienced multiple protests linked to the National Strike called by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE). The protests took place against a broader backdrop of long-standing demands related to economic inequality, extractivism and the marginalization of Indigenous peoples.



Activists in Zimbabwe supporting the Guerreras © AI Zimbabwe

The strike and related mobilizations were marked by multiple complaints of human rights violations, including the excessive use of force by security forces against protesters, arbitrary arrests, and the opening of abusive criminal proceedings against social leaders and

demonstrators. In addition, bank accounts belonging to several organizations and individuals involved in social protest were frozen, severely restricting their ability to operate.

One of the organizations affected by these measures was the Union of Affected People by Texaco (UDAPT), a key partner that supports the Guerreras por la Amazonía in their legal case and accompanies them in multiple aspects of their activism.

The freezing of UDAPT's bank accounts created significant obstacles to the implementation of Amnesty International's planned activities, like a psycho-social



support programme for the girls and adolescents involved in the case. As a result of these restrictions, the psycho-social support programme could not be implemented as originally planned and has been postponed until this year.

Highlights of the Guerreras por la Amazonía's campaign



A postcard sent to the Guerreras from Taiwan © AI Taiwan

One of the most significant highlights of the Write for Rights campaign was the international speaking tour undertaken by two members of the Guerreras, Dannya and Lency, accompanied by their tutors and a representative from the UDAPT.

The tour was hosted by Amnesty International entities in Spain, France, and Belgium in January 2026.

Through this tour, the Guerreras were able to directly amplify their case in Europe, sharing their lived experiences of gas flaring and environmental harm with activists, Amnesty International members and decision-makers. They connected with other young activists and human rights defenders, strengthening networks of international solidarity.

The tour also enabled targeted advocacy with European governments and institutions of the European Union, some of them considered essential for the campaigning strategy since the beginning of its conceptualization. This will open advocacy doors for advancing the case through international pressure and cooperation.

Total number of actions taken in support of Guerreras por la Amazonía: 491,465



An activist in Argentina writing a letter to the Guerreras
© AI Argentina

Outcomes of Guerreras por la Amazonía's campaign

During the Write for Rights campaign, the international speaking tour elevated the Guerreras' voices on a global stage and strengthened their confidence, leadership, and sense of collective power as climate justice and human rights defenders. The participating girls have expressed that the experience increased their trust in the collective process and in the support surrounding their struggle.

The advocacy generated through meetings with European governments, institutions of the European Union, and Sections is expected to contribute to sustained international pressure on the Ecuadorian authorities, supporting future progress toward implementation of the 2021 court ruling on gas flaring.

The full impact of the campaign will be assessed more precisely once the range of actions undertaken by Sections is consolidated and the total number of petition signatures is known. The delivery of these signatures to the Ecuadorian authorities will be a key moment in the campaign, as it will demonstrate the scale of international solidarity that Write for Rights can enable.

Reflecting on her experience of the campaign, Dannya Bravo, Guerrera por la Amazonía, said:

'It was very enriching, and it also gave us much more strength to keep going, because there were many letters, many people who were always telling us, "Don't give up, girls, don't give up. Even if the state violates your rights, it has to take responsibility for its actions"... They gave us lots of hugs, lots of letters, lots of gifts. It was really lovely, really nice, to know that we are not alone, and that we always have company, thanks to Amnesty International and other organizations that have supported us in this struggle and fought alongside us.'

Next steps

The current plan is to deliver the global Write for Rights petition signatures through an advocacy mission in Quito in April 2026. This mission will aim to formally present the signatures to the President of Ecuador, Daniel Noboa, and the Minister of Energy and Mines, Inés Manzano, and other relevant state authorities, calling for compliance with the 2021 court ruling ordering the elimination of gas flaring and for the protection of the rights of the Guerreras por la Amazonía and their communities.



An activist in Luxembourg supporting the Guerreras © AI Luxembourg

Subject to available resources and security considerations, the mission in Quito will also include public and cultural actions designed to increase visibility and media attention. In parallel, a second action is planned in the Ecuadorian Amazon in May 2026 to deliver letters of solidarity collected through the Write for Rights campaign directly to the Guerreras por la Amazonía and their communities.

Together, these actions aim to ensure that the global support generated through Write for Rights is translated into concrete advocacy, public visibility, and sustained pressure on Ecuadorian authorities.

Amnesty International will continue working with the Guerreras por la Amazonía and their representatives, including the Union of Affected People by Texaco (UDAPT), to support enforcement of the 2021 court ruling ordering the elimination of gas flaring. However, we will transition towards a role that prioritizes accompaniment rather than protagonism.

Additionally, Amnesty International will continue supporting their national and international advocacy efforts aimed at ensuring state compliance with its human rights obligations. Apart from the delivery for national advocacy, we will engage with United Nations Special Rapporteurs, particularly those working on climate change and the right to a healthy environment. Advocacy will also be pursued before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Finally, Amnesty International will provide capacity building for the Guerreras in social media and digital campaigning, strengthening their ability to communicate their demands, safely amplify their voices, and engage with broader audiences. With this exit strategy, Amnesty International will support sustainability efforts to help the Guerreras por la Amazonía collective continue its activities over time, reinforcing their organizational capacity and long-term resilience.



A choir in Canada supporting the Guerreras © objectifexcellence

SAI ZAW THIAKE – MYANMAR



Introduction

Following the devastation caused by Cyclone Mocha in 2023, photojournalist Sai Zaw Thiake travelled to Myanmar’s Rakhine State to document the impact of the disaster. At the time, he had been living and working underground in Yangon, continuing his reporting despite the increasingly dangerous environment for journalists since the 2021 military coup. Sai Zaw was working with the independent news outlet *Myanmar Now*, whose licence had been revoked by the military authorities after the coup.

To reach affected communities, he joined a relief team from a domestic organization travelling from Yangon to Rakhine State by ambulance. Over the course of about a week, he visited villages around the city of Sittwe, documenting the cyclone’s aftermath and the situation faced by displaced communities. During this time, his presence in the area was disclosed to military intelligence by unidentified individuals.

On 23 May 2023, Sai Zaw Thiake was arrested and accused of causing fear, spreading false news, and working for an outlawed media organization. He was later tried by a military tribunal and sentenced to 20 years of hard labour in prison, one of the longest known prison sentences imposed on a media worker since the 2021 coup.

While detained at Insein Prison, Sai Zaw continued to speak out about abuses. In January 2025, when members of the military council’s Human Rights Commission visited the prison, he reported human rights violations taking place inside the facility. According to *Myanmar Now*, this disclosure led to retaliation by prison staff. He was subjected to torture, including daily physical beatings, in what is believed to be punishment for informing the commission that prison authorities were violating the rights of fellow detainees.

The Write for Rights campaign demanded that Myanmar’s military immediately release Sai Zaw Thiake.

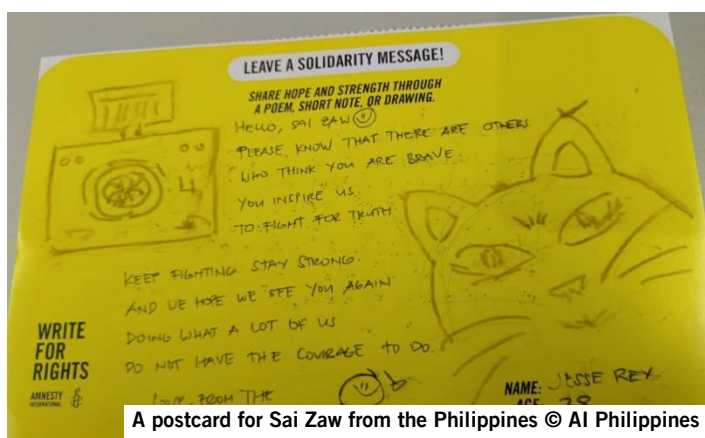
Context of human rights concerns in Myanmar

The campaign for Sai Zaw Thiake’s freedom is unfolding against the backdrop of widespread repression in Myanmar following the military coup of 1 February 2021. Since seizing power, the military junta has tightened its grip over nearly every aspect of public life while committing grave human rights violations. Over the past year in particular, the situation has deteriorated further, with the military carrying out atrocities that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.



An event attendee in Taiwan reading Sai Zaw’s story © AI Taiwan

Political repression has intensified alongside military operations. Elections held between December 2025 and January 2026 were widely dismissed as fraudulent and designed to secure victory for the military-backed party. In January 2026, the junta announced legal action against more than 400 individuals under an “election protection” law adopted in July. The law criminalizes criticism of the electoral process by prohibiting speech, organizing, or protests deemed to disrupt any stage of the election.



A postcard for Sai Zaw from the Philippines © AI Philippines

At the same time, the military significantly escalated its armed operations ahead of the polls. Air strikes have been used with increasing frequency, including deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in violation of international humanitarian law. Schools, hospitals, religious sites, and camps for displaced people have all been struck, resulting in thousands of deaths over the past year. The junta has also expanded its use of new forms of aerial warfare, including armed drones, paramotors, and gyrocopters in unlawful attacks. Since December 2024 alone, more than 135 paramotor strikes have been reported. Myanmar also remains one of the very few countries that continues to deploy internationally banned weapons such as cluster munitions and antipersonnel landmines.

Highlights of Sai Zaw Thiake’s campaign



Sai Zaw’s photographs on show at an exhibition in Bangkok © AI Thailand

One of the most powerful aspects of the campaign for Sai Zaw Thiake has been witnessing how solidarity can take on a tangible form when it resonates across borders. Messages and images shared by Amnesty sections around the world have illustrated the breadth of this support.

Photographs from different countries show tables filled with images and campaign materials dedicated to Sai Zaw, such as those organized

by activists in the Philippines and Sweden. In Malaysia, schools have hosted activities to raise awareness about Sai Zaw’s situation and the broader human rights crisis in Myanmar, with students and children learning about his case and the context in which it has unfolded. On International Human Rights Day, a supporter in Türkiye sent a particularly heartfelt message of solidarity addressed to Sai Zaw. In Thailand, an exhibition “Blooming in Crisis and Uncomfortable Truth in Myanmar” featured Sai Zaw’s photographs.

National entities continue to plan additional activities and public forums to discuss and raise awareness about his unjust detention. Although the Write for Rights campaign has been running

for many years, these moments remain striking each year. The letters, photographs, and creative campaigning efforts shared by supporters serve as a reminder of the power of collective action. They not only sustain the momentum of the campaign but also send a message of encouragement to the individuals and communities whose rights are at risk, affirming that they are not alone in their struggle.

Total number of actions taken in support of Sai Zaw Thiake: 521,693

Outcomes of Sai Zaw Thiake's campaign

While we continue to seek updates, there has so far been no discernible progress in Sai Zaw Thiake's legal case. The opaque and highly secretive nature of the Myanmar military authorities makes it particularly difficult to obtain reliable information about legal developments or prison conditions. Despite these challenges, some small but meaningful developments have been possible. Photographs of postcards sent from supporters around the world were shared with Sai Zaw's employer, Myanmar Now, which then passed them on electronically to his family. In this way, messages of solidarity from the campaign have been able to reach those closest to him.



Sai Zaw's representative has also indicated that, in recent months, he has not been subjected to the physical abuse previously reported, such as beatings or prolonged periods of solitary confinement. In addition, he has been allowed to meet with family members once a month. This is an important, though limited, form of contact while he remains in detention. The family member told Amnesty International:

'The attention brought to Sai Zaw helps ensure that he is treated with respect and dignity in prison. It reminds the authorities that friends and colleagues are closely monitoring his treatment, and that his life has not been forgotten, even though he has been behind bars since 2023.'

Next steps

Campaigning for Sai Zaw Thiake will continue, particularly as several Amnesty national entities have expressed interest in sustaining advocacy efforts on his behalf. Maintaining momentum will be important to ensure that his case remains visible internationally and that pressure on the Myanmar authorities does not diminish.

MOTHER NATURE CAMBODIA ACTIVISTS – CAMBODIA



Introduction

Founded in 2013, Mother Nature Cambodia (MNC) has become one of the country's most prominent environmental campaign groups. Led largely by young activists, the movement has resonated strongly with a generation eager to defend the environment and have a voice in a political system widely perceived to be dominated by powerful elites.

Through a combination of community mobilization, direct action, and public awareness campaigns, the group has achieved several major environmental victories.

In 2015, their advocacy helped persuade Cambodian authorities to abandon plans for a large hydroelectric dam in the Areng Valley, an area whose development would have threatened Indigenous communities and led to extensive deforestation of the Cardamom Mountains' rainforest. The following year, Mother Nature Cambodia exposed large-scale environmental destruction and human rights abuses linked to the mining and export of coastal sand. Their work contributed to another major policy shift, culminating in the Cambodian government announcing a nationwide ban on coastal sand exports.

Despite these achievements, the group's activism has come at a significant cost. Since 2016, Mother Nature Cambodia activists have faced persistent harassment, surveillance, and arrests by Cambodian authorities. On 2 July 2024, the Phnom Penh Capital Court convicted six activists and sentenced them to prison terms ranging from six to eight years on charges of "plotting" and "insulting the King" under Articles 453 and 437. These sentences are widely regarded as among the harshest imposed on activists in Cambodia in recent years and appear intended to send a chilling message to the broader public, particularly young people.



An activist in Bulgaria writing a letter for the MNC © Anastas Tarpanov

The Write for Rights campaign demanded that the five detained activists are immediately and unconditionally released, and all convictions against Mother Nature Cambodia activists are quashed. It provided an important opportunity to demonstrate international solidarity with the activists, raising awareness of their cases and mobilizing global support to call for their release.

Context of human rights concerns in Cambodia

Although the Cambodian government has publicly committed to addressing climate change, its actions have often fallen short of these pledges. Activists from Mother Nature Cambodia, alongside journalists and independent media, have repeatedly exposed human rights violations and corruption linked to environmentally destructive projects. Their investigations have highlighted issues such as illegal logging in the Prey Lang forest and sand mining operations along Cambodia's coast and the Mekong River.

Raising these concerns, however, has come at considerable personal risk. Cambodia has become an increasingly dangerous environment for human rights defenders, peaceful government critics, and independent voices. In recent years, the authorities have carried out a sustained crackdown on dissent. This has included the closure of most independent media outlets, the dissolution of major opposition political parties, and growing repression of civil society organizations, particularly those advocating for human rights and environmental protection.



The shrinking space for civic participation is reflected in Amnesty International's [2024 annual report](#), which documented a sharp deterioration in freedom of expression and civic space. The UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Cambodia has previously raised concerns about the misuse of incitement charges to silence dissent. In 2024 alone, at least 33 people were charged with plotting against the state, among them four members of the Khmer Student Intelligent League Association. Under Cambodian law, incitement can carry a prison sentence of up to two years, while plotting may result in penalties of up to ten years' imprisonment. These developments illustrate the increasingly restrictive environment in which activists such as those from Mother Nature Cambodia continue their work.



Highlights of Mother Nature Cambodia's campaign

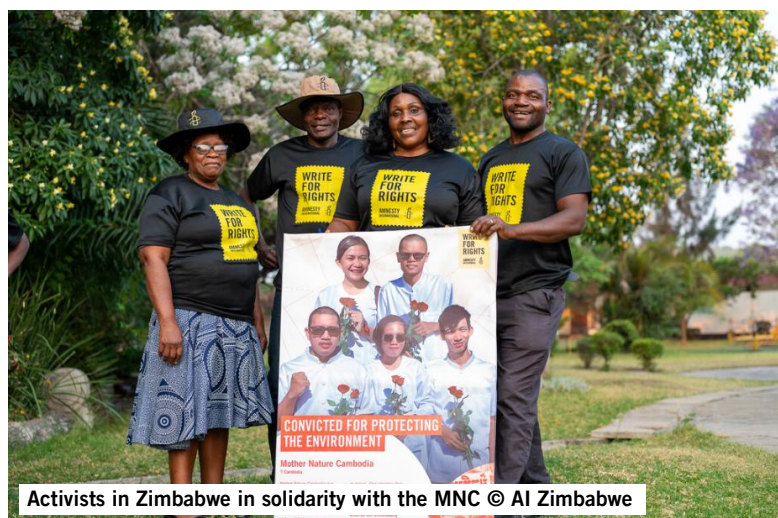
One of the most notable moments of the campaign took place between November and December 2025, when the Cambodia–Viet Nam regional campaigner worked with Amnesty International entities in France, Belgium and Sweden to organize a European tour with Ratha Sun, a member of Mother Nature Cambodia.

During the tour, Ratha Sun participated in a series of solidarity actions with Amnesty entities and supporters, took part in advocacy meetings with policymakers and gave a media interview on France 24, a world-renowned news channel. She also attended a Write for Rights event in Antwerp, Belgium. Through these engagements, she shared powerful personal accounts of the struggle faced by environmental defenders in Cambodia, inspiring supporters, diplomats, and journalists alike with her courage and optimism. The tour also helped bring the story of Mother

Nature Cambodia to a broader international audience while also introducing the Write for Rights campaign and Amnesty International to new audiences in Cambodia. According to Ratha Sun, the campaign has gained significant traction on Cambodian social media, where it has gone viral and encouraged more people in the country to send solidarity messages to Mother Nature Cambodia activists.

For the campaign team, the tour highlighted the important role Amnesty entities can play in amplifying the voices of activists and connecting their struggles to global audiences. It also provided a valuable opportunity for young activists including Ratha Sun to strengthen their skills in public speaking, mobilization and advocacy.

Total number of actions taken in support of the Mother Nature Cambodia: 391,164



Activists in Zimbabwe in solidarity with the MNC © AI Zimbabwe

Outcomes of Mother Nature Cambodia's campaign

The Write for Rights campaign generated significant attention for Mother Nature Cambodia at both domestic and international levels. This visibility has been an important source of encouragement for the activists, particularly for those currently imprisoned. Messages of global solidarity have helped strengthen their resolve and provided hope during difficult

conditions in detention, reinforcing their commitment to continue advocating for environmental protection and human rights.

Reflecting on the what the campaign meant to them, Ratha Sun, Mother Nature Cambodia member, said:

'The Write for Rights campaign is essential for us because you are showing that the world does not forget our friends and activists, so they don't feel alone inside the prison. It's important to keep solidarity and support our activists and the movement.'

At the same time, there have been concerning developments. The appeal hearing for the imprisoned Mother Nature Cambodia activists has been postponed indefinitely. The delay is widely seen as a tactic by the authorities to intimidate and silence young activists who challenge government policies. Despite this setback, Mother Nature Cambodia and their legal team remain determined to pursue the appeal and continue their efforts to secure justice.

Next steps

Amnesty International will continue to campaign for the release of the imprisoned Mother Nature Cambodia activists and to call for the charges against them to be dropped. Sustained advocacy and international solidarity will remain central to these efforts, with the aim of maintaining public attention on their cases and pressing the Cambodian authorities to respect the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and environmental activism.

ELLINOR GUTTORM UTSI – NORWAY



Introduction

Ellinor Guttorm Utsi is an Indigenous Sámi woman and spokesperson for her reindeer-herding community in Sápmi, the Sámi people’s traditional territory across northern Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Based in Norway, her community practices reindeer herding — a semi-nomadic livelihood central to Sámi culture and protected under national and international law.

Reindeer herding sustains food systems, clothing, crafts and cultural identity. It depends on seasonal migration across vast Arctic landscapes. Today, this way of life is under pressure from climate change,

with unstable ice, unpredictable weather and shifting grazing conditions disrupting traditional herding patterns.

Ellinor’s community migrates between winter pastures in Deatnu/Tana and summer grazing lands in Čorgaš on the Nordkyn peninsula. Their summer pastures are threatened by multiple proposed wind power projects that would install hundreds of turbines, roads and power lines, fragmenting essential grazing areas.

Ellinor advocates for her community’s land and rights, particularly the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), rooted in international human rights law. While Norwegian law requires consultation, it does not guarantee consent. The scale of proposed developments has overwhelmed the community, making effective and meaningful participation in decision-making increasingly difficult. This increases the risk of future human rights violations.

The Write for Rights campaign demanded that the rights of the Sámi reindeer-herding communities are protected by ensuring industrial wind-power projects that threaten their lands and way of life do not proceed without the free, prior and informed consent of the affected Sámi

Context of human rights concerns in Norway



An activist in Bénin in solidarity with Ellinor © AI Bénin

In late 2025 and early 2026, electrification of the gas processing plant at Melkøya/Hammerfest LNG continued to be politically contested. The Norwegian parliament considered multiple representative motions, including to halt further electrification of Melkøya and electricity supply to offshore oil and gas installations, and to explore alternatives such as gas power with carbon capture and storage. All of these proposals were rejected by the parliament in February 2026.



Ellinor interviewed by Radio Ara in Luxembourg © AI Luxembourg

NVE, Norway's energy regulator, has taken a notable decision affecting wind projects in Finnmark; In January 2026, it announced the rejection of the Davvi wind power application in Lebesby, citing its location in a major wilderness area with high cultural value. The Davvi wind power project would have indirectly affected Ellinor and her family, as the location was in the neighbour community. This decision gives hope that it is possible to also halt other projects. A range of other wind project applications remain under review and

impact assessment, reflecting both pressure from the "green transition" and strong local and cultural concerns. These projects include the seven projects directly affecting Ellinor and her community.

Highlights of Ellinor Guttorm Utsi's campaign

The highlight was Ellinor and her husband Ailu's mini tour in Europe in November, visiting AI Luxembourg and AI Switzerland. This travel opened up direct contact with Amnesty members and activists, as well as meetings with Amnesty staff, media and government representatives. Ellinor also participated in several online events through the campaign period. Lastly, a visit to the Amnesty Norway office in February, when she got to see and read some of the several thousand solidarity letters from all over the globe, was very heartwarming.

Total number of actions taken in support of the Ellinor Guttorm Utsi: 411,256

Outcomes of Ellinor Guttorm Utsi's campaign

The case is still ongoing, but the campaign has increased pressure on the Norwegian government to ensure effective participation from Sami rights holders in the decision-making process. Both the wind-power ambitions on important reindeer grazing lands and the electrification of the Melkøya LNG plant, continues to be controversial projects both locally and nationally. The overwhelming support shown to Ellinor and her family through thousands of solidarity letters from all over the world, gives strength in a very trying time.



Ellinor attending an event in Luxembourg © AI Luxembourg

Reflecting on her experience of the campaign, Ellinor said:

'When I was first asked to take part in the Write for Rights campaign, I hesitated. I was concerned that the exposure might negatively affect the processes we were involved in, and that my family and I would face unwanted attention for speaking out.'

Today, I am grateful that I said yes. It has been an incredibly valuable experience. Everyone should learn how grassroots human rights work is carried out — and how many people volunteer their time and energy for a more just and fair world. I feel fortunate to live in a part of the world where freedom of expression and democracy are protected. Through Write for Rights, I have also become aware of other realities — of people who have been persecuted or imprisoned simply for standing up against injustice and human rights violations.

What has meant the most to me are the personal encounters with individuals who share a deep sense of justice and who were willing to learn about our case and support it. That solidarity has given me strength and renewed optimism to continue my own work — and strengthened my belief in the goodness of people.'

Next steps

Amnesty International Norway will continue to support Ellinor and work on Indigenous rights and the right to free and prior informed consent (FPIC) in Norway.



SONIA DAHMANI – TUNISIA



Introduction

Sonia Dahmani is a prominent Tunisian media personality who has long appeared on television and radio programmes, where she has spoken openly on political and social issues. In recent years, however, she has faced five separate legal proceedings, all linked to her peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression. If convicted in all of these cases, she could have faced decades in prison. Her prosecution has become emblematic of the Tunisian authorities' broader crackdown on dissent.

Sonia's case was selected for the Write for Rights 2025 campaign after analysis indicated that coordinated international campaigning could help push for the charges against her, and other restrictions imposed on her, to be dropped. It called on the Tunisian authorities to quash Sonia Dahmani's unjust sentences, immediately drop all other charges against her and end the harassment and intimidation against her. The campaign also offered an important opportunity to raise wider public awareness about the growing repression of critics of President Saied and the deteriorating state of freedom of expression in Tunisia, including the authorities' abusive use of the cybercrime Decree-Law 54.

Context of human rights concerns in Tunisia

Since President Kais Saied's consolidation of power in 2021, the human rights situation in Tunisia has deteriorated sharply. Institutional safeguards designed to protect rights have been largely dismantled, and the judiciary has lost key guarantees of independence. In this



Activists in Morocco in solidarity with Sonia © AI Morocco

increasingly restrictive environment, both civilian and military courts have been used to prosecute critics of the president under repressive laws. At the same time, freedom of expression has narrowed significantly, with dozens of prominent figures (including politicians, journalists, lawyers, and human rights defenders) facing prosecution on what many observers consider spurious charges.

The turning point came on 25 July 2021, when President Saied invoked emergency powers to suspend parliament, dismiss the prime minister, and assume executive control of the country. Since then, he has reshaped Tunisia's political and legal

framework in ways that have concentrated power in the presidency. This has included changes to the constitution and the dismantling of key independent institutions that previously served as safeguards for human rights, such as the council responsible for overseeing the judiciary and the body tasked with ensuring that new legislation complied with the 2014 Constitution.

Amnesty International has been closely monitoring and documenting these developments since July 2021, highlighting the steady erosion of institutional checks and balances and the growing restrictions on fundamental freedoms in the country.

Highlights of Sonia Dahmani's campaign

Sonia Dahmani's family was deeply moved by the widespread solidarity conveyed throughout the campaign. They expressed strong appreciation for Amnesty International's involvement, particularly the range of campaigning activities undertaken, including digital advocacy and public mobilization.



Sonia received thousands of letters of solidarity from supporters around the world. These messages were delivered to Amnesty International Tunisia, which then passed them on to her family in Tunis. The volume and diversity of the messages provided a powerful demonstration of international support.

Several Amnesty entities actively campaigned on Sonia's behalf. Some invited her daughter and sister to speak at public events, giving them an opportunity to share Sonia's story and highlight the broader human rights concerns raised by her case. National entities also played an important role in advocating for her release through media engagement and advocacy with their national audiences and decision-makers, helping to maintain international attention on her situation.

Talking about what the campaign meant for her and her mother, Sonia's daughter Nour said:

'Thank you above all for Amnesty's commitment to this campaign. This campaign has been very important to me. When injustice becomes daily and brutal, and when you are fighting for your own mother, it's easy to feel alone, drowned in indifference or silence. But this campaign reminded me that I was never truly alone.'

'Seeing my mother's name alongside other silenced voices in Amnesty's campaign was an essential recognition — not only of the violence she is enduring, but also of the legitimacy of our struggle.'

'The letters, the petitions, the words and gestures of support repair something. They restore meaning and dignity where everything seems lost.'

'And for my mother, who continues to face heavy trials despite her conditional release, it is a light in the darkness.'

Total number of actions taken in support of Sonia Dahmani: 518,971

Outcomes of Sonia Dahmani’s campaign

On 27 November 2025, Sonia Dahmani was released from prison after spending 18 months in arbitrary detention. The Tunisian authorities ordered her conditional release, although several politically motivated judicial proceedings against her remain pending.

Amnesty International had been campaigning for Sonia since her arrest in 2024, when she was charged with “spreading false news.” Her case prompted urgent actions and later became part of the Write for Rights 2025 campaign, helping to mobilize international attention and solidarity. Her release represents a significant and encouraging development, demonstrating the impact that sustained advocacy and global solidarity can have. Amnesty International will continue to support Sonia and advocacy efforts, calling for all remaining charges against her to be dropped and for her full freedom to be guaranteed.



Activists in Indonesia taking action for Sonia © Green School

Next steps

Amnesty International will continue to closely monitor developments in Sonia Dahmani’s case, including any upcoming court proceedings and judicial decisions. As the legal situation evolves, we will adapt our campaigning strategy to respond effectively and ensure that continued attention is drawn to the risks she faces.

We remain in regular contact with Sonia and her family to stay informed about the latest developments and her current situation. Maintaining this close coordination helps ensure that our advocacy reflects their priorities and that campaigning efforts remain responsive to the realities on the ground. Amnesty International will continue to support Sonia and call for all remaining charges against her to be dropped so that she can exercise her right to freedom of expression without fear of further prosecution.



Activists in Guinea supporting Sonia © AI Guinée