

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

2014  
REPORT



# WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2014 FINAL REPORT

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# INTRODUCTION

**3,245,565 actions** taken BY

**HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS of people** in over **200**

**countries and territories<sup>2</sup>** AROUND THE WORLD

Every year for the past 12 years the Write for Rights campaign has increased its number of global actions. In 2014, for the first time ever, the number of actions broke the 3 million mark.

As the campaign continues to grow in numbers of actions, it also strengthens in terms of mobilisation. This year more countries than ever took part in the campaign, with particular successes in countries and territories with no official Amnesty presence: In 2013, 21 volunteers held events across the world, this increased to 84 in 2014. The work of Amnesty's Sections and structures (S/s) also improved, with many reporting unprecedented mobilisation among their activists.

We have seen some great human rights impact on the cases featured in the campaign in 2014, with real change in their lives. In December **Liu Ping's** daughter was able to visit her for the first time. In January this year, Amsterdam Clinic in **Mkhondo Municipality** increased the frequency of their antenatal care services from two days a week to seven days a week. The women and girls in the areas around the clinic can now access these services every day. On 6 March **Paraskevi Kokoni** met with the Greek Minister of Justice to hand over letters and signatures collected during the campaign. The Minister stated that the "current anti-racist legislation insufficient" and proposed measures to enhance the relevant provisions of the Greek Penal Code. On 27 March it was announced that an investigation would be opened regarding the torture of **Jerryme Corre** and on 6 April, it was confirmed that this was initiated because of letters received "by a human rights organisation" (which we can confidently say is Amnesty International). On 10 April a press conference was held in Norway, attended by **John Jeanette Solstad Remø**, where the Health Minister promised a legal proposal that will establish an open and accessible process for legal gender recognition in accordance with an individual's sense of gender identity.

**These are just some examples of human rights impact. In this report you will find more detailed human rights analysis and a comprehensive look at all the activities that took place throughout the world.**

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<sup>1</sup> The final number was reached by including: S/s responses to the survey, S/s who filled in the global counter, but did not respond to the survey, actions taken online and not via any S/s, international members, and all actions taken on all cases, included those outside of the global 12.

<sup>2</sup> 'Territories' here denote regions which are under the sovereignty of other national governments. Accounting for both countries and territories provides a better representation of the geographical reach of the Write for Rights campaign.

**Actions were taken by Amnesty International sections in 50 countries<sup>3</sup>, by activists managed by Amnesty's International Secretariat (IS) in countries without an Amnesty section, and by online supporters from all around the world. The following are the countries and territories where action was taken:**

Afghanistan, Algeria\*, Albania, American Samoa, Andorra, Angola, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Antilles, Armenia, Argentina\*, Australia\*, Austria\*, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Belgium\*, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Brazil\*, Burundi, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso\*, Canada\*, Cameroon, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Chile\*, Colombia, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire\*, Croatia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic\*, Denmark\*, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Finland\*, France\*, French Guiana, French Polynesia, Gabon, Gambia, Germany\*, Ghana\*, Gibraltar, Greenland, Grenada, Greece\*, Georgia, Guadeloupe, Guam, Guatemala, Guyana, Guinea, Hong Kong\*, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary\*, Iceland\*, Indonesia, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy\*, Ireland\*, Israel\*, Jamaica, Japan\*, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea\*, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Libya, Liechtenstein, Liberia, Luxembourg\*, Macao, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malaysia\*, Malta, Martinique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Moldova\*, Mongolia\*, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands\*, New Caledonia, New Zealand\*, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Norway\*, Oman, Palau, Palestinian Authority, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines\*, Poland\*, Portugal\*, Puerto Rico\*, Qatar, Reunion, Romania, Russia\*, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Senegal\*, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia\*, Slovenia\*, Somalia, South Sudan, South Africa, Spain\*, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden\*, Switzerland\*, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Taiwan\*, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo\*, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey\*, Uganda, Ukraine\*, United Kingdom\*, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay\*, United States of America\*, Uzbekistan, Venezuela\*, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (UK), Virgin Islands (USA), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The number 50 here was calculated counted using information from those S/s that filled in the official Write for Rights reporting and evaluation survey sent out in January 2015.

<sup>4</sup> \*Denotes countries with an Amnesty section where action took place, according to those that replied to the survey sent out in January 2015.

# HUMAN RIGHTS: IMPACT AND DEVELOPMENT

In the following section we report on how being a part of the Write for Rights campaign in 2014 has impacted the lives of those individuals featured as 'cases'. The huge number of actions that took place in 2014 broke all records, more activists than ever wrote letters, signed petitions, sent SMS, Facebook and Twitter actions and for the first time we went over the 3 million mark. All of this is exhilarating for us as a global movement. But in the end, they are just numbers. Our number one goal is to match the enthusiasm for the campaign with meaningful human rights impact. We want to change their lives for the better. So did we manage this in 2014?

## INDIA: BHOPAL COMMUNITIES



On 14 November 2014, the Indian government told Bhopal survivor groups it would revise the figures for the number of deaths and injuries for which it is seeking additional compensation from Union Carbide over the 1984 gas leak disaster, in line with medical research and hospital records. This was a hugely positive development, and if it duly follows up this pledge, the government will have taken a significant step towards ensuring that the companies pay compensation that reflects the true scale of the disaster.

This decision was made largely as a result of pressure from local activists in India. Five women survivors began a hunger strike on 10 November, demanding that the government pay adequate compensation to survivors, which received significant media coverage in the country and undoubtedly put pressure on the authorities. Their action was key, but this was also just one part of the incredible, tireless campaigning that has taken place by Bhopal survivors and activists in India. The local groups are also now in direct dialogue with central government officials, and are having regular meetings with the Ministry of Chemicals and the Ministry of Environment. This dialogue was not taking place previously, and is another very positive development, which will hopefully lead to further progress on the other issues that still need to be addressed.

This decision was undoubtedly a huge victory for local activists, and came before the Write for Rights actions targeting the government began. However, the campaigning by AI played an important role in rallying national and international support for this struggle. AI's campaign also delivered high-profile and in-depth media coverage by key international and national media outlets. Our media work meant that the stories and messages of survivors reached a wider audience, and helped to propel the issue on to the global agenda. This was aided by the development of strong materials, such as the survivor testimonies and the commissioned photography by Raghu Rai.

These media efforts culminated in the visit of AI's Secretary General Salil Shetty to Bhopal for the 30th anniversary, which generated even more coverage in India and increased the pressure on the Indian Government. Perhaps even more importantly, his presence provided a powerful and symbolic demonstration of the long-term commitment of AI to the cause, and this was very welcomed by the communities and activists at what was a hugely important time for them. He met with key community and NGO representatives, and took part in one of their main events. This show of high-level solidarity was incredibly valuable in providing support for their ongoing campaign.

Over 220,000 actions were taken by AI members and supporters directed at the Indian government in at least 33 countries across the world. While there have not been any concrete signs that this has been registered by the authorities, we believe this high-level of action will have got their attention. This helped add global voices to the calls that were already coming from within India, which we hope will have an impact on the ongoing campaign.

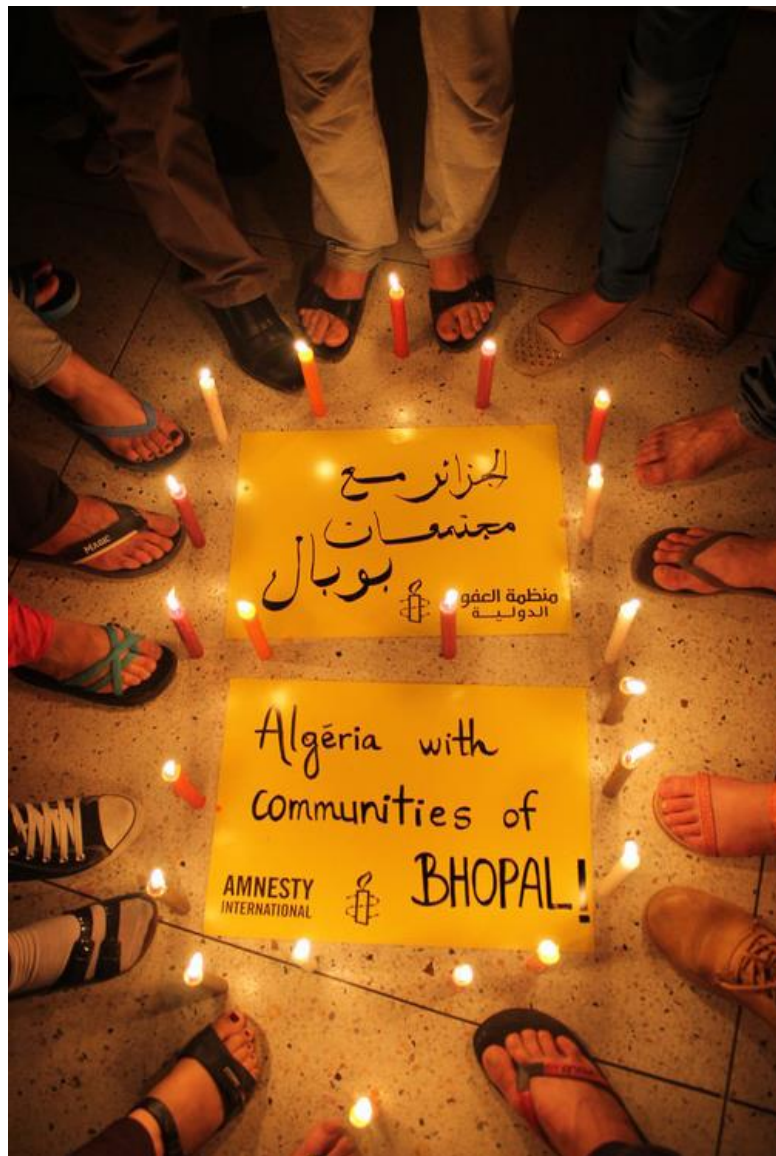
Salil Shetty, at a vigil in Bhopal © Amnesty International



The intention was always for AI to be a contributor to what was already a very strong, experienced, committed campaign being run in the country. It was important that our efforts were in collaboration with the communities and local activists, and the feedback received indicates that this was achieved. Community representatives and NGO partners have said that they valued AI's inputs over the whole anniversary period, including the Write for Rights actions, and were very pleased

that many pieces were developed in absolute partnership with them, including designing the campaign calls and Write for Rights actions. Examples of the Write for Rights materials were sent to the community, and Rampyari Bai and Safreen Khan, who were featured on the images, were really happy with them. Sanjay Verma, another activist and survivor from Bhopal, was thrilled to visit AI France and AI Italy in December and take part in their Write for Rights activities, and the sections reported that his presence was hugely valuable. There is no doubt that an achievement of the campaign was the way in which AI ensured it was amplifying the voices of the Bhopal survivors and local activists, rather than dominating and over-shadowing their work.

If the government fulfils its promise to revise the figures for the number of deaths and injuries for which it is seeking additional compensation, this will be a fantastic step for the communities in their struggle for justice, and the provision of adequate compensation was one of our key calls for the campaign. However, this is only one of the issues that needs to be addressed, with the site remaining heavily contaminated, the communities continuing to face the consequences of the resulting pollution, poor provision of healthcare, and the lack of accountability for the corporate actors involved. The local activities and communities will therefore be continuing their campaigning, and we will be discussing what AI's next steps will be to ensure that the government fulfils its pledge and addresses the other outstanding issues.



Algerian activists take part in a solidarity action with the Bhopal Communities © Amnesty International Algeria

# PHILIPPINES: JERRYME CORRE



On 27th March AI Philippines organized a petition delivery of signatures collected during Write for Rights to the Philippines police calling for the opening of an investigation into the torture suffered by Jerryme Corre. Immediately after the petition delivery, the Philippines police informed Jerryme and his family that an investigation would be opened by the PNP Internal Affairs Service (IAS) - in line with our calls - and a hearing was scheduled for shortly after.

On Monday 6th April Amnesty International attended the first hearing of the investigation, together with Jerryme and his representatives. During the hearing it was confirmed that the IAS initiated the investigation based on letters received "by a human rights organisation" (which we can confidently say is Amnesty International).

This is a definitive success and a great development in Jerryme's case. It is also the second time something like this has happened in the country - the PNP IAS opened a similar investigation for Alfreda Disbarro last year. While this development is hugely positive, opening an investigation is just a start - we have yet to see justice and accountability for either Jerryme or Alfreda. We will continue to follow the investigation to ensure it leads to meaningful justice for Jerryme and his family - including with regards to the ongoing criminal proceedings.

Jerryme Corre remains behind bars in the Philippines, over three years since he was arrested, allegedly tortured, and charged with drugs possession. The promise of an investigation comes somewhat unexpectedly, as there have been several factors at play that suggested an investigation might be far off. Firstly, the top-ranking police officials have been focused on the various high-level inquiries that have been taking place, such as the joint hearing between the Committee on Justice and Human Rights and the Committee on Public Order, which was announced as a direct result of AI's report on police torture in the Philippines, launched in December 2014. In addition, the Chief of Police, who was the main target for the Write for Rights action, was suspended on 4 December due to accusations of corruption, and he resigned on 6 February. There is a new interim Chief of Police, and we were concerned that he might have been reluctant to open an investigation at this time.



There has also been a strong focus recently on the mission in Maguindanao, Mindanao in January, during which 44 elite officers lost their lives. This has both dominated the attention of high-ranking police officials and politicians, and also led to an outpouring of support for local police. Despite these obstacles, an investigation has been instigated. The fact that the police specifically referred to letters from a human right organization as a major reasoning behind launching the investigation is testament to the level of impact we can achieve with the campaign.

Alongside this fantastic concrete development in Jerry's case, AI's campaigning solidarity campaigning has undoubtedly given Jerry much needed support. Jerry said that he received many letters directly to the prison, and passed on the following message:

**"I can never give enough thanks. These [letters] give me strength. It even changed the course of my case as compared to before. It also gives courage to my wife. We are not alone in this fight. Many people also seek justice for us."**

The warden even commented that Jerry became quite the celebrity as letters from different parts of the world started pouring in. Jerry said that he believes the authorities are more careful in handling his case due to the international attention, and that this has provided security to him and his wife. His wife commented:



**"I used to be very afraid before. I was even afraid to go out of the house and visit him [Jerry]. These letters changed all that. Now I know that we are not alone. These letters for Jerry inspired me to carry on. We will continue to fight until we get justice."**

They both said that his general disposition is better as a result of Amnesty's support. His health has improved, his appetite has grown and he is exercising more regularly. Jerry was visited by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in January upon the request of the German Embassy in the Philippines. The NBI assumed that it was a case of a German national they were asked to look into, and were very surprised to learn that he is a Filipino with no connections from Germany aside from AI Germany. They interviewed him, asked him about updates on his case and other concerns that he might have. Jerry's case is clearly becoming more widely-known, and the Write for Rights action has contributed to this.

Jerry with letters from AI supporters © Amnesty International

# CHINA: LIU PING



In December 2014, Liu Ping's daughter, Liao Minyue, was able to visit her in prison. She had previously been denied permission, despite other family members being allowed to visit her. Our analysis is that the international attention on Liu Ping's case during Write for Rights contributed to this positive development. Liao Minyue is very grateful for all the support from AI, and she sent the following message:

**"I'm very moved by all the action for my mother; I want to send my thanks to everyone who has been campaigning on her case".**

Liao Minyue visited her mother again on 16 February. She reported that Liu Ping looked thinner and older than the last time they met in December.

Liu Ping said her stomach problem was getting worse, and although she was given medication, she had not been sent for a medical assessment. Liu Ping also said that she is still not allowed to read a bible, and that her eyesight has deteriorated but she has not been given glasses. However, Liao Minyue said her mother was in good spirits. When she told her that AI supporters had sent her thousands of letters, Liu Ping said that although she had not received any of these, she was very moved knowing that so many people were supporting her and that she was not forgotten.

Over 300,000 actions were taken for Liu Ping around the globe, primarily appeals targeting the Chinese authorities and also solidarity messages sent to the prison. In addition, over 200 photos and messages were also posted on a tumblr page for her. These moving and creative expressions of support act as a visible representation of the concern and action that took place around the world, and we plan to share these with her family, her supporters, and hopefully Liu Ping herself, when it is possible to do so. We believe that this international solidarity is extremely valuable in providing support to those who have and continue to put themselves at risk by speaking out for human rights.

One of our objectives for Liu Ping's case in Write for Rights was to showcase the global concern for her to activists in China, as an act of solidarity but also to increase their understanding of what AI does. Activities took place in at least 64 countries, and this widespread action was also helpful in countering the argument by the Chinese authorities that organisations like AI and activists such as Liu Ping are promoting “Western” values and trying to undermine “socialism with Chinese characteristics”. We therefore created a series of graphics specifically for Liu Ping which were shared on Chinese-language social media platforms. These graphics did fare better overall in comparison to the other Chinese-language social media content published during Write for Rights, receiving in some instances ten times the number of views as other similar content posted during the same period. Images taken from the tumblr page and posted on Twitter also generated a lot of interest. Although it is hard to quantify the long-term impact of this, the relative popularity of the graphics suggests that this was a useful way of communicating with audiences in China.

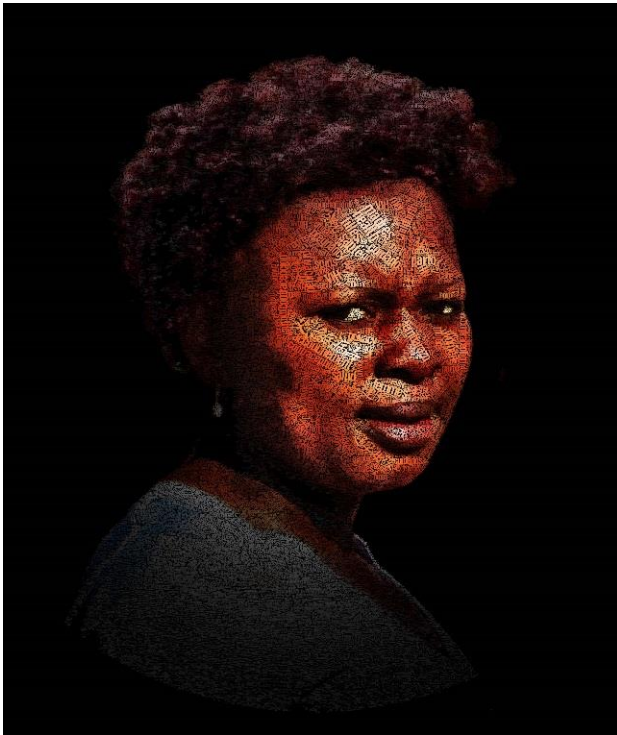
Liu Ping should not be in prison in the first place, and our ultimate goal is for her to be released. There are also increasing concerns for her health, particularly as she has not been given a medical assessment. She is however allowed regular visits from her family and lawyers, and the harassment of her daughter has decreased, which were also two of our objectives. While it is difficult to know for sure the reasons for this, the huge amount of action that took place for Liu Ping during Write for Rights will have definitely got the attention of the Chinese authorities, and it is likely that this has helped give her some degree of protection.

It is important that action for Liu Ping continues, as we need to show the authorities that the international community continues to be concerned about her situation. Our analysis is that sustained pressure on her case will help protect her from the torture and other ill-treatment, and poor conditions of detention, often experienced by prisoners of conscience in China. We will therefore be discussing the next steps for the campaign.



A graphic about Liu Ping's case created for Chinese speaking social media © Amnesty International

# SOUTH AFRICA: WOMEN AND GIRLS IN MKHONDO MUNICIPALITY



Since 2008, maternal mortality has been on the rise in Mkhondo Municipality, Mpumalanga Province in eastern South Africa leading to it being ranked as one of the worst-performing health districts. Pregnant women and new mothers in the area are at increased risk of dying needlessly as several barriers prevent them from accessing early and ongoing antenatal care. South African National data shows that nearly 25% of avoidable maternal deaths are related to late or infrequent access to antenatal care. Some of these barriers include: the high cost of transport to clinics, limited public transport, a shortage of healthcare workers, unprofessionalism among nursing staff at clinics, concerns about privacy and confidentiality in the clinics, and limited knowledge of the benefits of antenatal care on the part of women and girls.

South African government guidelines recommend that women and girls should go for their first ante-natal visit at 14 weeks so that an HIV test can be conducted and, if necessary, treatment provided. However, most women and girls only sought medical antenatal care after 14 weeks despite it being provided for free in the public health system. Amnesty International started a campaign in October 2014 with the aim of ensuring that women and girls can access better health services.

During Write for Rights, over 150,000 actions were taken in 116 countries and in January 2015, Amsterdam Clinic in Mkhondo Municipality, Mpumalanga Province increased the frequency of their antenatal care services from two days a week to seven days a week. The women and girls in the areas around the clinic can now access these services every day. This improvement has drastically reduced waiting times and is particularly beneficial for women who are employed as they no longer need to take time off work to attend the clinic. Women and girls who work on the farms around Amsterdam are not paid for the time that they take off to attend the clinic, which was another barrier to them seeking antenatal services.



In addition, the attitude of nurses, who before were frequently unprofessional and rude to the women and girls, has improved greatly. This attitude change can also be attributed partially to a group of women and girls in the community who have been educating health staff, boys and men on reproductive rights as the southern Africa team learnt during their March 2015 visit to Mkhondo.

Armed with four heavy boxes containing over 1,000 solidarity messages from almost 20 countries, the team went to meet the inhabitants of Mkhondo, including women and girls, men and boys and healthcare workers. The solidarity messages moved the community members present and they expressed their desire to continue to improve health care in the area.

**“There was one letter from a little girl,”** a young woman called Thandeka Lamented said. **“I think she was very young, from the way it was written. But she said she is thinking of us, she wants the best for us. It was so sweet. We are so thankful.”**

**“We are happy about the letters because we see that many countries are giving us hope that one day that things will come right,”** said Maria Shongwe, a health volunteer in Mkhondo. **“This makes us want to work harder than before.”** Maria Shongwe has also been educating women and girls in the area, a number of whom are exposing themselves to the risk of HIV by selling their bodies, on how to keep themselves healthy. Having contracted HIV years ago after a rape incident, Maria uses her life experience in an area considered to have one of the worst health care in South Africa to encourage other women and girls on how to take better care of themselves.

The inhabitants of Mkhondo are grateful to Amnesty International and its members for their support. “We are really thankful to Amnesty. The first time you came, you opened our eyes. This campaign is a stepping stone.” Thandeka expressed.

Thus far there has been no government communication in regards to the case.



Solidarity messages are delivered to inhabitants of Mkhondo, South Africa © Amnesty International

# NIGERIA: MOSES AKATUGBA



At sixteen, Moses Akatugba was arrested under suspicion of armed robbery in November 2005. Moses has reiterated that he never committed the crime. During his three month detention, he claims that he was severely tortured to sign two pre-written confessions. He told Amnesty that police tied him and hung him up for several hours, and then used pliers to pull out his toe and finger nails. In March 2006 he was remanded in prison after he was brought before a Magistrate Court and accused of armed robbery. He was allowed only two family visits a month. Moses was sentenced to death in 2013, based on his confession. Since he was a child at the time of the arrest international law dictates that he should not have been sentenced to death.

Amnesty International undertook a social media campaign calling for the Nigerian authorities to commute Moses' death sentence. During a public event in October 2014, the Governor of the Niger Delta Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan acknowledged Amnesty International's campaigning actions for Moses and indicated his willingness to pardon Moses. He is quoted as saying, "the process of releasing him is on course." However, he would only be able to pardon Moses if an appeal at the Nigerian appeal court is withdrawn.

Governor speaking about Moses case: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0BtxvkUpcM>

Moses Akatugba's case was picked up for the 2014 Write for Rights and over 360,000 actions were taken for Moses in 118 countries all over the world.

In November, Amnesty International produced a short three minute film of Moses' brother, Jones Akatugba writing and voicing his letter to his brother. In the letter, Jones voices his displeasure at the arrest, forced confession, and eventual imprisonment of Moses. He encourages Moses urging him to stay strong as there are many people even 'strangers' who have been appealing for his release. Jones is optimistic that Moses will be released and will re-join his family. The video was used to promote Moses' case during Write for Rights.

In an interview conducted in February, Moses said he was overwhelmed by all the support he was getting from Amnesty International together with its members and activists from all over the world. Moses is grateful to all those who have taken action on his case. The solidarity messages he has received while in prison have made him very happy and have raised his optimism about the future. He hopes that the governor will consider pardoning him without the withdrawal of his appeal so that he can reunite with his family and go back to school.

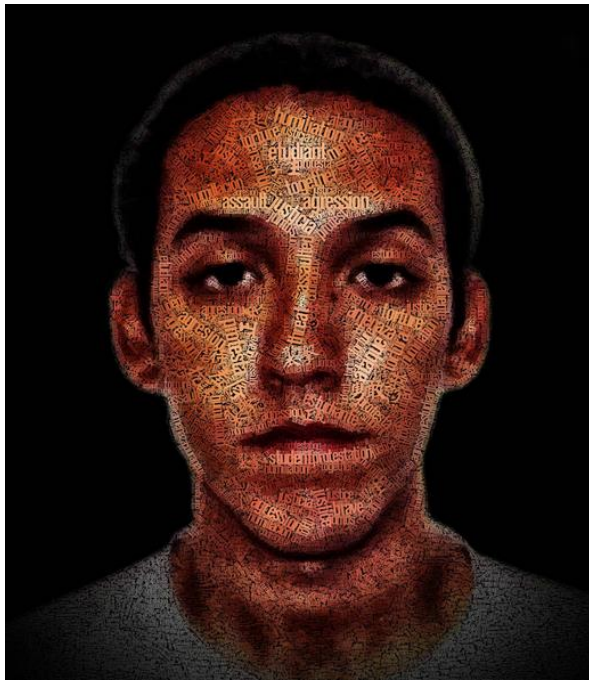
Unfortunately, the Governor has been unresponsive to letters from Amnesty and requests from Moses lawyer for a meeting to discuss viable options for Moses receiving his pardon. Therefore, Amnesty launched a new social media campaign on 3 March (the ninth anniversary of Moses' first appearance in court) to put pressure on the Governor to meet with Moses' lawyer as soon as possible. The action was supported by a blog and a new graphic for social media.

The criminal justice system in Nigeria continues to be weak, blighted by corruption and human rights violations. The use of torture is widespread and widely reported in Nigeria but most of the cases of torture by the security forces remain largely un-investigated.



AI Togo photo action in support of Moses Akatugba © Amnesty International Togo

# VENEZUELA: DANIEL QUINTERO



Daniel Quintero, 21, was beaten, intimidated and threatened with rape by members of Venezuela's national guard, after he was arrested on the way home from an anti-government demonstration in February 2014.

As part of Write for Rights 2014, almost 160,000 actions were taken on Daniel Quintero's case, around 150,000 of which demanded that the President of Venezuela ensure a full, independent investigation into allegations of torture against Daniel, and to help bring those responsible to justice. Of the total number of actions, at least 8,966 solidarity messages were sent to Daniel via Al Venezuela, offering him encouragement and support in his fight for justice. Activists from 27 Amnesty International sections/structures campaigned on Daniel's

behalf, writing letters and signing petitions, but also taking action in creative ways, such as at concerts, festivals and bicycle rides.

These thousands of solidarity messages helped boost Daniel's morale and give him a feeling of security throughout his fight for justice. When Amnesty International delegates spoke to Daniel in January 2015 about what it meant for him to be part of the global Write for Rights campaign, he said:

**"[Amnesty International's campaign] has been more than a blessing; more than luck; more than support. I felt shielded with you. This is amazing. I had a great time during the holidays and a lot of that is thanks to you. There are really no words to express the gratitude for what you do."**

To mark one year since the beginning of the 2014 protests in Venezuela, many sections/structures took part in a coordinated petition delivery the week of 9 February 2015 to hand over signatures gathered on Daniel's case. Sections such as AI Algeria, Chile, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, Italy and Norway, among others, delivered petitions/signatures to Venezuelan embassies around this date to provide a powerful reminder to the authorities not only to take action on Daniel's case, but also for all the victims of human rights violations in the context of the protests that are still awaiting justice.





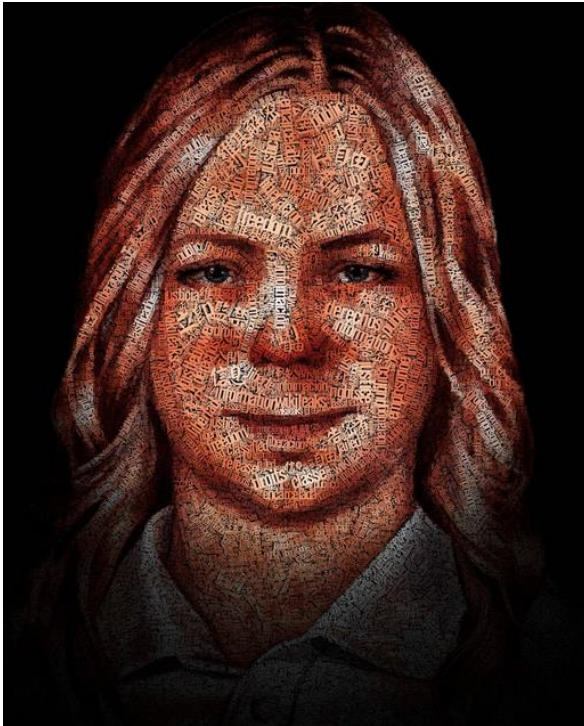
More than 1,000 signatures and solidarity letters for Daniel Quintero sent from AI Luxembourg to Venezuela © Amnesty International Luxembourg

Sections/structures took photos during the petition handover at Venezuelan embassies in their countries where possible, and tweeted the photos for further public exposure. Although many sections were unable to secure meetings with embassy officials, those who did were able to highlight the fact that one year after the protests began, there have been no significant advances in the investigations of the related human rights violations, and victims such as Daniel Quintero and their relatives are still awaiting justice and reparation. During a meeting with AI Norway delegates, for example, one embassy official thanked Amnesty International for its work on human rights and said that Venezuela will always work toward promoting human rights for all. She stated that no matter who you are or what position you hold in society, you have to be held responsible for your actions. She assured the AI Norway delegates that the Venezuelan government was against impunity and that the Attorney General and the Ombudsman will hold perpetrators accountable for human rights violations committed in the context of the protests, whether they are police, military or civilians. She added that some military and police officials are now in prison for abuse of power.

Unfortunately, the Public Prosecutor's office informed Amnesty International in February 2015 that it has requested that the case for Daniel Quintero's complaints be closed (*sobreseimiento*). This is a great concern because it will mean the end of the investigation into torture and ill-treatment suffered by Daniel, and that those responsible will not be brought to justice. Amnesty International delegates are now verifying with Daniel whether or not he is aware of this decision by the authorities and whether he is planning to appeal it.

Daniel Quintero's case features in the March 2015 report *The faces of impunity: A year after the protests, victims still await justice* (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AMR53/1239/2015/en/>), examining the stories of those who died or were arbitrarily arrested and tortured in detention during and after the February-July 2014 protests in Venezuela. Amnesty International will continue to monitor his case and take further action to demand justice for the torture he has suffered as appropriate.

# USA: CHELSEA MANNING



US Army Private Chelsea Manning was sentenced to 35 years in prison on 21 August 2013, after leaking classified US government material to the website Wikileaks. Some of the documents pointed to potential human rights violations and breaches of humanitarian law by US troops abroad, as well as by Afghan and Iraqi forces operating alongside the US army, and the CIA.

As part of Write for Rights 2014, over 240,000 actions were taken on Chelsea Manning's case, Around 220,000 of which urged President Obama to ensure that Chelsea Manning is released immediately; that any serious abuses she exposed are promptly and effectively investigated; and to protect whistle-blowers who reveal information that the public has a right to know. Of that total number of actions, over 17,000 solidarity messages were sent to Chelsea

in prison at Fort Leavenworth, of which she said, **"I took the time to read each one of them!"** Activists from 36 Amnesty International sections/structures campaigned on Chelsea's behalf throughout the campaign period.

Although unable to respond to every solidarity letter she received in prison, Chelsea Manning has indeed received the thousands of letters of support and was able to write back to a number of activists in countries such as Germany, Canada, Spain and Austria, as well as to the International Secretariat. In her letters, Chelsea expressed her thanks for the support of AI during the campaign, saying:

**"Thank you so very much for your thoughtful cards and letters. I am so grateful for all the incredible and heartfelt support from the tens of thousands of people out there...who took the time to write to me and the President. The cards and letters literally flooded the mail room and my cell during my birthday, the holidays, and the Write for Rights campaign".**

**"I wish that I could write to each and every person like you, but I just don't have the time or resources here in prison to respond to tens of thousands of letters and cards. The best that I can do, though, is say 'Thank you!' and hope that this is enough to convey my sincere gratitude to all of you."**

In her letters to AI activists and supporters, Chelsea also shared that she keeps busy each day, working at a vocational wood shop during the week and taking college correspondence courses to update and complete her bachelor's degree. She is regularly exercising in order to stay healthy and reading newspapers and magazines to stay up-to-date on current events. Chelsea says she remains positive about the progression of her case with her various lawyers, as well as the support of Amnesty International and the Chelsea Manning Support Network.



A member of a local group in Buxton, UK taking part in a whistle action for Chelsea Manning as part of Write for Rights 2014 © Amnesty International

From 2-11 December 2014, Chelsea Manning's appeals attorney, Nancy Hollander, visited AI Spain in Madrid, taking part in various advocacy activities and media work related to Chelsea's case. Nancy attended advocacy meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as a number of Spanish political parties. She was also interviewed on the radio, television, and for print and digital newspapers, including El País, El Mundo and TVE, among others. In an interview with Pikara, a Spanish magazine, Nancy reported that Chelsea feels safe in her current prison; that she is no longer handcuffed, has a cell to herself where she can work, have her papers, write and call her lawyers. Nancy specified that she remains hopeful in their call for clemency in Chelsea's case. Although the appeal process is lengthy and they may have to take the case to various courts, she says **"we will not stop unless we run out of courts to draw upon"**.

The Spanish section reported that the visit went very well, with positive results in advocacy and media work, and a great relationship between Nancy and the section's staff, volunteers and activists. Nancy Hollander's visit to AI Spain was complimented by a visit by journalist Alexa O'Brien, who has written extensively on Chelsea Manning's case. Alexa took part in activities with local AI groups in nine different cities, which the section reported had a positive impact on the work of the local groups, allowing them to understand the case better and feel they had a more direct link to it. The visits of both Nancy and Alexa provided a great opportunity to amplify AI's work on Chelsea's case in local and national media and motivate activists to continue working on it.



Jandira Queiroz and Maurício Santoro of AI Brazil, together with Brazilian activists at the US consulate, Rio de Janeiro, delivering letters and signatures for Chelsea Manning's case © Wesley Prado

On 5 February 2015, the US military authorities agreed to provide hormone therapy treatment to Chelsea Manning for her gender dysphoria. Although not part of Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign objectives, ensuring that Chelsea is granted hormone therapy treatment is part of AI's secondary objectives on her case in the longer term, and is of course a positive development as the treatment will help Chelsea in her transition to live as a woman. Although the military approved hormone therapy treatment, it did not approve Chelsea's request to grow her hair, which according to reports will be reviewed by the military seven months after the hormone treatment begins.

The decision was welcomed by Chelsea's lawyer, who said it was **"an important first step"** in her treatment regime, but noted that the delay in getting the hormone treatment **"came with a significant cost to Chelsea and her mental health"**. This decision to provide hormone therapy marks the first time the US Defense Department has authorized such treatment for an active service member. The Federal Bureau of Prisons and many states and local corrections agencies administer hormone therapy to prisoners with gender dysphoria, but Chelsea Manning is the first transgender military prisoner to request such treatment.

On 4 March 2015, the US Army Court of Criminal Appeals ordered the US military to stop using male pronouns when referring to Chelsea Manning in all future legal papers filed in her appeal. The Court's order comes after the military filed an opposition to requests by Manning's attorney in February to use her legal name and female pronouns when referring to her in court documents. Nancy Hollander, Chelsea Manning's lawyer, welcomed the judgement, saying:



**“This is an important victory for Chelsea, who has been mistreated by the government for years. Though only a small step in a long legal fight, my co-counsel...and I are thrilled that Chelsea will be respected as the woman she is in all legal filings”.**

In a letter to the International Secretariat on 9 March 2015, Chelsea Manning stated that she began her prescribed hormone therapy treatment in February to begin her “overdue” gender transition. She shared:

**“It’s been such an amazing relief for my body and brain to finally come into alignment with each other. My stress and anxiety levels have tapered off quite considerably”.**

On 11 February 2015, the Editor in Chief of Guardian US confirmed that Chelsea Manning has joined the Guardian as a contributing opinion writer, writing on war, gender and freedom of information and on 3 April 2015 a new Twitter account was set up in Chelsea Manning's name, @xchelsea, which is being operated remotely via the US-based communications firm Fitzgibbon Media. Dictating tweets to her representatives over the phone from prison, Chelsea said she hopes to tweet daily or at least weekly, and engage in conversation with her followers. One of her first tweets was a message of thanks to Amnesty, among others, for our ongoing support. She tweeted:

**Starting with a shout out to the friends who have always stood by me @ggreenwald @amnesty @carwinb @savemanning and so many others #thankyou**

Although these achievements were not part of AI’s campaign objectives, Chelsea’s ability to be a contributing writer for a major newspaper and communicating via Twitter shows that her freedom of expression is not severely restricted where she is currently held in prison.

Despite the lack of progress in terms of specific Write for Rights campaign objectives, AI’s campaigning has undoubtedly given Chelsea Manning’s case great visibility and support to her via solidarity action, which will hopefully lead to more positive impact in the longer-term, It has also impacted on the US authorities in terms of raising awareness with them of the huge amount of international public concern there is around the case and the issue of freedom of information. Chelsea continues to work with the Chelsea Manning Support Network and her appellate team, including Nancy Hollander, who are working on her court-martial appeal. Speaking on Chelsea’s involvement in the campaign overall, Nancy Hollander stated:

**“Chelsea is overwhelmed with the incredible support she received from Amnesty International and its supporters...It is encouraging for her to know that so many people around the world support her and want to see her out of prison. Thank you from Chelsea and from me to Amnesty International for organizing the events and actions on her behalf and to all the good people who made it happen. We are exceedingly grateful.”**

Amnesty International will continue to campaign on behalf of Chelsea Manning, urging that she be granted clemency and released, and calling to ensure that she receives the hormone therapy treatment she has been granted.

# UAE: DR MOHAMMED AL-ROKEN



Dr Mohammed al-Roken is a prominent human rights lawyer and university professor from Dubai who is serving a 10-year prison sentence following a huge crackdown since 2011 on political and human rights activists in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Dr Mohammed al-Roken is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression and association, including his work as a human rights lawyer defending and promoting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others, and we called for his immediate and unconditional release.

Amnesty International activists have been campaigning on his behalf since he was sentenced, and increased their work on his case during the 2014 Write for Rights

campaign, when almost 100,000 actions were taken for him. This includes online actions through [amnesty.org](http://amnesty.org), as well as actions by international members. Activists have also sent thousands of cards and letters to Amnesty International, expressing solidarity with Dr Mohammed al-Roken and his family.

Amnesty International understands that the Write for Rights campaign for Dr Mohammed al-Roken has raised much attention to his case in the UAE, especially with the help of Twitter, which is very popular in the country, where activists and families of prisoners shared pictures of all the actions that have been taken around the world in support of him. The campaign has helped to raise awareness among UAE nationals about the case of not only Dr Mohammed al-Roken, but also that of other prisoners of conscience imprisoned alongside him following the mass trial. Amnesty International understands that they were happy to see that his case and that of others are actively ongoing and attracting international support, and that they were able to interact with it in the UAE through social media networks. The campaign has helped activists, families of prisoners, and other UAE nationals feel that they are not isolated from the world. An Emirati activist told Amnesty International that:

**“This campaign is something you are doing not only for Dr Mohammed, but for any person you think is a human rights activist who you think has been deprived of his freedom. We should not stop talking about it. Once we stop defending such people, there is no hope.”**

There has been no official word from the government in reaction to the campaign. However, the government very rarely reacts in public to these campaigns but they take notice of them. We have recently seen one of the officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicate that the foreign embassies in the UAE have been raising questions about human rights violations and we believe this campaign may have played a part. The campaign for Dr Mohammed has probably had an effect but the government refuses to acknowledge this in public.

Dr Mohammed al-Roken was in prison since well before the campaign began and his circumstances have not changed, though Amnesty International believes that the publicity generated around his case has helped to raise awareness within the UAE, which is very important.

A high-profile human rights activist whom Dr Mohammed al-Roken defended during the “UAE 5” trial in 2011 said:

**“Everyone here really values this campaign. It is the campaign of the voiceless people in the UAE. Activists and families of prisoners were very happy to see this support. Such support really raises the morale of prisoners and lets them know they are not left alone inside prison and there are so many voices out there calling for their release. We are very hopeful that these kinds of campaigns will bring about some sort of awareness in the public and might pressure the government into taking more positive steps in human rights. The only way right now for Dr Mohammed al-Roken (and other prisoners of conscience from his trial) to be released is to be pardoned by the His Highness the UAE President, even though he did not commit any crime for him to be pardoned, but the legal system in the UAE does not provide a way for him to appeal the verdict of the Federal Supreme Court. My best hope is for the system to change in accordance with international human rights standards so that he (and they) will have the right to appeal and will be free through this system.”**



Mohammed Al-Roken stunt outside the Emirates football stadium in London. #Wishyouwerehere postcard  
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# SAUDI ARABIA: RAIF BADAWI



*The following information includes an overview of the incredible activities that took place all over the world. Following Raif's public flogging in January. Please be aware that while extensive, this is not completely exhaustive.*

The level of activism around Raif's case has been phenomenal and we have seen unprecedented mobilisation from S/s to work on his case, both during and in particular following Write for Rights 2014 when Raif was flogged on 9 January after Friday prayers outside a mosque in the Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah.

Amnesty International has been working on Raif Badawi's case since his arrest in 2012, beginning with an Urgent Action (UA) issued after contacts on the ground in Saudi Arabia informed the country team of his detention by the Saudi Arabian authorities. A number of S/s began working

on his case then and have continued to do so throughout his incarceration, especially AI Norway and AI Netherlands.

In May 2013 the team submitted Raif's case to the Write for Rights 2014 campaign and in July was informed that it was taken up. Raif's case proved popular with S/s, receiving the third highest pick up - partly due to the pre-existing work on his case by S/s. While there was certainly a lot of work done for Raif during Write for Rights, the real mobilisation began after his flogging on 9 January.

It is very clear however that being part of Write for Rights had allowed S/s to become familiar with his case and enabled them to mobilise quickly. A good working relationship between the Saudi Arabia team and the Write for Rights campaign project manager, established before and during the campaign, gave a level of continuity that enabled quick reactive responses to the ongoing situation. S/s were poised to work on the case, already having many materials to help them with their campaigning.

Ensaf Haidar, Raif's wife told us:

**"When the Saudi Arabia team at Amnesty International told me that my husband's case was chosen as part of their big annual campaign I was thrilled because it meant more work would be done for him. But I did not realise what being a part of the campaign actually meant or how big it is until I started seeing the thousands of tweets in solidarity and support sent to our accounts! I was even more surprised by the amount of letters that were sent to me and the kids. I can't thank you all enough for every word, every tweet and every letter that was sent to us. Because of you Raif and my family have felt supported at a time when we thought no one cared about our suffering."**



On 8 January Ensaf informed the Saudi team that Raif had been told he would be flogged the next day. A UA was immediately drafted and overseen by the Write for Rights campaign project manager, and delegated as meeting the criteria to become a Super UA for the Stop Torture global campaign. The criteria outlines that the situation presented in the UA should have a strong link with the narrative of the Stop Torture global campaign, that of standing between the torturer and the tortured and where prevention or intervention to stop torture from happening, as opposed to accountability which will often be a longer term aim, are central. Raif's case very obviously met these requirements. Super UAs are sent to all the existing networks working on UAs and in addition to a wider pool of activists and partner organizations. Super UAs are also recognised as having extra potential when it comes to creating content for activists to use in their work. The existing materials from Write for Rights and a campaign team familiar with his case and ready to create new content enabled a higher level of work on Raif's case.

The media team at the IS was also quick to respond and contribute. They issued a press release that was picked up by international media and sent out via S/s to national media.

May Romanos, the regional programme campaigner on Saudi Arabia believes that the level of S/s participation at this time as enabled by work done before and during Write for Rights:

**"I still cannot find a clear cut answer as to why our campaign and work on Raif generated this level of interest. I definitely believe that it is a combination of several factors: robust research and documentation coupled with a long standing relationship with the family built on trust are definitely the cornerstones in this case. However, the fact that the case was chosen for Write for Rights 2014 made the biggest difference. It meant that Raif was not just an activist known only to the very few sections interested in our work on Saudi Arabia, but after the campaign was known by the whole movement and beyond. By the time Raif received his first set of lashes, he was already known to Amnesty International activists, who were already familiar with his case and ready to act."**

Following the issuing of the Super UA on 8 January, S/s mobilisation was immediate, with many creating online actions to support work on the UA. S/s shared these on social media and this along with media interest caused the case to go viral online. Many S/s organized their activists to make phone calls to their Saudi Arabian embassies, such as in Norway and the USA. The USA were quickly identified as being a strategically important due to the country's relationship with Saudi Arabia and their potential for influence. AI USA mobilised staff, interns and high level activists to make telephone calls to the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Washington DC. Operators at the embassy informed callers that their calls had been 'noted'. The head of AI USA's board told us:

**When I identified myself as the Chair of the Board I was immediately forwarded to the Ambassador's Office. He was out but his personal assistant told me that she was aware of all the letters that had been written already and she forwarded [my call] to the Deputy Chief of Mission's Office, a Mr Sami Alsadhan, and there I spoke to his Deputy, Murab Alsuad. He told me he was aware of [Amnesty's] concerns but that Raif has been charged and found guilty under due process of law, that Saudi Arabia does not practice torture, the implication being that they do not consider flogging torture. He also promised to get back to me with an update.**

AI USA also contacted Department of State officials urging them to press on Raif's case and on the same day the government issued an official response:

**We are greatly concerned by reports that human rights activist Raif Badawi will start facing the inhumane punishment of a 1,000 lashes, in addition to serving a 10-year sentence in prison for exercising his rights to freedom of expression and religion. The United States Government calls on Saudi authorities to cancel this brutal punishment and to review Badawi's case and sentence. The United States strongly opposes laws, including apostasy laws, that restrict the exercise of these freedoms, and urges all countries to uphold these rights in practice.<sup>5</sup>**

On the day of the flogging more S/s began to increase their work on Raif, such as Korea, Morocco, Iceland, Spain and Sweden. The French and Flemish speaking Belgium S/s joined forces to do an organized petition delivery. Al Australia provided their activists with details on how they could go to their embassy. Many more S/s started organising embassy demonstrations and petition deliveries and were able to use the letters and petitions they had gathered during Write for Rights to make a bigger impact when going to embassies. A media advisory was sent out by the IS and shared by the S/s. Following the media advisory Al Uruguay, Ivory Coast, Taiwan, Ireland, Slovenia, Poland and Austria all reported that they were actively working on his case and pushing the UA out to their activists and organising Embassy visits and demonstrations. On the evening (London time) of the day of Raif's flogging we were able to send out a blog based on an eye witness account of the flogging, this was used and shared by S/s and was picked up by the media. The blog received almost 50,000 unique page views on Amnesty's Livewire blog page, a massive increase on usual numbers and in fact the highest performing blog ever put out by the IS.

By the 12 January, many more S/s were reporting via the Write for Rights basecamp on their work. Basecamp proved to be a great tool for immediately sharing all news on Raif and for S/s to post their activities and share materials. Communications were then duplicated on to the MENA Crisis basecamp and the Stop Torture basecamp. Although duplication is not always useful, as people are often signed up to more than one of these basecamps, it was used at this time because we wanted communications to go out as far and wide as possible and it was identified that cross posting was worth doing in this instance.

January 13 was Raif's birthday and we used this as a hook, preparing and sending out guidance for a Twitter action to S/s the day before. Al Canada held a vigil for his birthday in front of a federal building urging the Canadian authorities to speak out and call for Raif's release. Raif's wife, Ensaf, attended the vigil as she and her children are based in Quebec and have regular contact with Al Canada Francophone. In the evening of 13 January the IS released a document entitled "How to help Raif in five simple ways", this was designed to be a multi-use piece of content that S/s could use however they liked, as a blog, an article, a talking point, a social media post – whatever suited their audience. As a blog on the IS run Livewire was hugely successful with over 15,000 unique page views.

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<sup>5</sup> US Department of State *Statement on the Sentence of Saudi Human Rights Activist Raif Badawi* Jen Psaki, Department Spokesperson, Washington, DC, January 8, 2015: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2015/01/235704.htm>

On 14 January, ahead of the proposed second flogging that Friday, the IS sent out another Press Release. AI UK reported that they had done six press ads in 6 different newspapers, asking people to text and add their names to their petition. On 15 January AI Spain informed us that 20 Spanish Members of Parliament had signed a letter to the Saudi Arabian embassy in Madrid and AI France held a stunt outside the embassy in Paris, in collaboration with Reporters Without Borders and Raif's case received good media coverage in the country. AI Italy staged a sit-in outside the embassy with around 50 people and they launched an action on Facebook. AI Netherlands held a huge demonstration outside their embassy in The Hague, with over 350 activists in attendance, the demonstration as covered on the country's two national TV stations. The Executive Director of AI Netherlands attempted to deliver a letter and to talk to a representative, but the embassy refused to open their doors.

On the same day news also came from the European Institutions Office that MEP Ana Gomes (Portuguese politician and Rapporteur on Saudi Arabia) sent two letters to Frederica Mogherini, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. In addition, although Saudi Arabia was not on the agenda the flogging of Raif was raised directly to Mogherini in Parliament Plenary on 13 January by German MEP Reinhard Butikofer. Thanks to pressure from AI Spain, Elena Valenciano MEP and Chair of the Human Rights Subcommittee released a statement on 14 January and Barbara Lochbihler (German MEP) coordinated a cross action party letter signed by 33 MEPs to the Saudi Arabian Ambassador. Over in the US, Amnesty's UN Office in New York City circulated a statement from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein appealing to Saudi Arabia to halt any further punishment.

On 16 January, the day of Raif's proposed second flogging many S/s reported that they were holding events, with Norway reporting that they had delivered Write for Rights letters that week. AI France did one social media push on the case that resulted in 12,000 signatures in less than 48 hours, an unprecedented result at the S/s. AI USA demonstrated outside the embassy in Washington DC, which coincided with a fashion show the embassy was holding.

A News Flash was sent out at around 12pm (London time) with information that the proposed flogging was not carried out for medical reasons, followed by an update of the UA to reflect the developments. The news spread and was shared widely on social media. AI Austria held a spontaneous vigil with around 200 people attending, media coverage of the event was fantastic, with journalist from newspapers, radio stations and television reporting from the event. AI Switzerland collected almost 10,000 signatures at a protest outside the embassy.

After the first flogging Ensaf told us:

**“When I heard that Raif had been flogged, I was filled with despair. I couldn't talk to anyone. Telling the children what had happened to their father was awful. But over the next weeks I gained such strength from all the messages and letters of support. Whenever I felt depressed I would read them and know that out there, all around the world, were people standing with me. I believe that all the protests and amazing support have contributed to preventing any more floggings.”**

By the 19 January S/s engagement was so high, that a Global Action Counter was created. The counter was a direct copy of that used for Write for Rights and this again shows how we were able to utilise tools created for Write for Rights and repurpose them for reactive campaigning on Raif.

On 22 January the IS informed the movement and the media that Raif had been found medically unfit again, this time by a panel of doctors. A UA update was issued the same day. We can see that the huge level of global engagement (both from Amnesty and externally) had certainly made the Saudi Arabian authorities more cautious in their treatment of Raif.

Information that King Abdullah had died on 23 January shook up work once again and the IS issued internal lines of response to the King's death followed by a blog written by Sevag Kechichian, Saudi Arabia researcher at the IS. There were concerns that the king's death would negatively impact campaigning on Raif, as we knew the country would go into national mourning and diplomats would be called away from embassies and back to Riyadh. S/s were advised of the change to target and asked to continue their planned protests, but to assert common sense when it came to showing appropriate respect for the King's death. While the death of the King may have led to an adjustment in the way we campaigned, the threat to Raif had not lessened and so it was decided that the level of work should not decrease. Media interest in Raif continued to grow, with many S/s giving multiple interviews to their national media. Al Norway gave over 10 interviews in one day! By the end of the 23 January the global counter had reached over 870,000 actions.

Ahead of his scheduled flogging on 30 January, the IS issued a press release on Thursday 29 January detailing the impact further floggings could have on Raif Badawi. Dr Juliet Cohen, Head of Doctors at Freedom from Torture, said the impact of a second set of lashes is likely to be even worse than the first and could cause debilitating long-term physical and mental damage. On Friday 30 January Raif was again not flogged, this time for unknown reasons as he was not even taken to see the prison doctor. Again on the same day a UA update was issued. On 2 February a rumour circulated that Raif would be included in pardons issued by the new King, the IS issued an internal clarification to S/s that there was nothing to indicate this. The internal note was followed by a more detailed public statement analysing the royal pardon. Protests continued despite the cold weather in many places.

In response to the increase in interest in Saudi Arabia, the regional team worked with the Write for Rights campaign project manager to create a toolkit that would enable S/s to increase their work to include other Prisoners of Conscience in the country. The toolkit was shared on 5 February and was well received, with a lot of positive feedback from S/s.

On 3 February we received official confirmation that the Criminal Court had received Raif's case back from the Supreme Court the day before. The news was firstly shared internally with sections and a UA update was later sent out. However, no further details of this transfer were available, and it remained unclear whether Raif's flogging has been halted or postponed.

Throughout the rest of February work continued on Raif's case at an unprecedented level, with new S/s reporting on their activities, including Burkina Faso, Moldova, Chile, Luxembourg, Venezuela, Brazil, and Argentina. Although demonstrations outside embassies are continuing, they do so at a lower level. However, the IS has continued to try and provide S/s with new content to battle any potential fatigue and to readjust the focus on what Raif's case represents in terms of the broader landscape of human rights violations in Saudi Arabia as a whole. This content included a news article entitled *10 brutal facts beyond the Raif Badawi case* that was sent out on 5 March to coincide with the eighth week that Raif was not flogged.



Raif's legal situation remains stagnant and ambiguous. It is hard to predict what will happen next, but we are certain that the authorities cannot continue in the vein they have. On the legal front, the IS has been regularly updating S/s internally on all developments. The case has been sent back and forth between different courts since 3 February; however at all times the communication was kept secret and confidential even to Raif's legal representative. It remains vague what the next legal and procedural steps are, but the IS is following the developments closely and will keep sending updates to the movement as soon as more details are available.

What we do know for certain is that the huge response to Raif's case has led to an exceptional level of critical public scrutiny of Saudi Arabia's human rights record. This reflected on a number of levels, including public condemnations by Western political figures. For example the Swedish foreign minister expressed outrage on the flogging, leading to severing of diplomatic ties between Sweden and Saudi Arabia. Another extraordinary outcome was the strongly worded resolution adopted by the European Parliament calling for Raif's unconditional release, as well as other Prisoners of Conscience in Saudi Arabia. This was the first critical EU resolution on Saudi Arabia because of its human rights record.

Raif's case, and more specifically, Al's campaigning work on Raif has no doubt led to a number of unprecedented events related to human rights in Saudi Arabia. It directly contributed to Sweden's cancelling of an arms deal with Saudi Arabia, after the Swedish foreign minister publically expressed outrage on the flogging. It also led to a unique and strongly-worded EU resolution demanding that Saudi Arabia releases Raif and all other prisoners of conscience (this was the first critical EU resolution on Saudi Arabia because of its human rights record), led major newspapers in the West and international magazines like the Economist to call for a re-evaluation of ties with Saudi Arabia, prompted US congressmen and world leaders to publicly raise his case and concerns about human rights in Saudi Arabia, and pushed the level of discussion on Saudi Arabia's human rights record to unprecedentedly critical levels. This has in many ways shattered the image that the Saudi Arabian authorities have attempted to create about the country's human rights record.

In terms of solidarity Raif and his wife feel they benefitted from being part of Write for Rights. Ensaf told us:

**“A year ago, I was trying to organise a protest for Raif, just one, in front of the Saudi Embassy in Canada; only one vigil felt like a dream for me! But recently, and with Amnesty International's activists, this impossible dream became a frequent reality in most of the worlds' capitals; yes, with your weekly protests you have made this despotic regime postpone Raif's flogging. When I am allowed to speak with Raif directly I brief him about what is happening and he asks me about the number of sit-ins taking place and their locations. He even knows which sections are organising the vigils and the names of most of Amnesty's activists. Last time he was deeply moved when I told him that the activists are still holding protests for him. To you, free people still standing up for Raif, your protests are making a difference! Please do not stop until Raif is released.**

The work we have so far done on Raif's case has brought much benefit and public exposure to the cases of other prisoners of conscience in Saudi Arabia, many of whom had received little to no international attention before Amnesty's work on Raif. This includes the case of Raif's lawyer Waleed Abu al-Khair, a well-known human rights defender, who had a significant role in promoting human rights in Saudi Arabia and for which he was sentenced to 15 years in prison. We will continue to work on Raif's case until he is free.

# GREECE: PARASKEVI KOKONI



On 13 October 2012, Paraskevi Kokoni, her then 11-year-old son and Kostas, her mentally disabled 23-year-old nephew were visiting the centre of Etoliko. Paraskevi told Amnesty International that she was singled out as a relative of a local Roma leader by a man sitting at a nearby café and right after six or seven men ran out of the café and attacked them. Paraskevi and her nephew were kicked, punched and beaten with wooden logs taken from a nearby truck.

The attack took place amid a series of vicious racist raids on Roma families in Etoliko. In August 2012 and then again in January 2013 groups of locals, allegedly instigated by members of Greece's far-right party, Golden Dawn, attacked Roma in their houses, terrorized them and vandalized their properties. Some Roma were injured and many more, such as Paraskevi and her family, fled their homes.

The campaign to support Paraskevi and Kostas in their fight for justice started before Write for Rights, at the beginning of 2014. Amnesty International colleagues first met Paraskevi Kokoni while researching the report *"We ask for justice" Europe's failure to protect Roma from racist violence*, published in April 2014. It was identified as a very strong case and as one emblematic of the discrimination and lack of access to justice that Roma people face, especially at a time when Greece was seeing a steep increase in racially motivated attacks and xenophobia. It was felt that Paraskevi and Kostas' chances of achieving justice could increase as a result of international pressure and visibility. In addition, given the obvious physical and psychological repercussions of the attack, we knew that the solidarity actions would play a crucial role in supporting them.

In November 2013 three men were charged with serious bodily harm for the attack against Paraskevi and her nephew. Although legal provisions aimed at combating hate crimes have been in place in Greece for several years, investigators frequently fail to examine possible racist motives and prosecutors rarely present such evidence in court. In the case of Paraskevi and her nephew the context of previous racist attacks in Etoliko was not taken into account and the investigation did not look into the possible racist motive for the attack.

Cases of alleged hate crimes in Greece very rarely reach the courts. This made Paraskevi's case very important as it provided an opportunity to set a precedent and see those responsible brought to justice.

The trial was finally scheduled for 4 November 2014 and a number of actions, including a media strategy, were put together in order to support Paraskevi and Kostas' case. They received excellent legal advice from Greek Helsinki Monitor (a local NGO) and Amnesty sent an observer to the trial, which took place in a provincial court in the town of Messolonghi. The fact that Paraskevi's case was being promoted as part of Write for Rights and that the campaign on her case had already started earlier in the year, was a key factor in the trial's preparation and outcome.

Solidarity messages were a great psychological support for Paraskevi and her nephew ahead of the trial. It was a very important moment and Paraskevi was feeling worried and scared for weeks. Paraskevi and her husband told Amnesty about all the solidarity letters and postcards they were receiving and explained with pride how people could not believe all those letters were real.

In all public statements Amnesty focused on the importance of the racist motive behind the attack to be taken into account. This was aimed at providing visibility to such a serious and neglected issue and to send a clear message that justice would not be full if the court did not take into account the strong evidence of the racist motive behind the attack.

The trial went very well and Paraskevi and Kostas were excellently prepared and gave very moving and powerful testimonies during the trial. Their legal case was very well presented, including strong evidence of the racist motive. The three men were convicted to eight months imprisonment, suspended for three years, in what was seen as a "first step towards justice". The fact that a provincial court handed down a harsher than usual sentence to individuals with reported links to Golden Dawn was qualified as "historic".

Paraskevi was both surprised and happy with the outcome of the trial. She was thankful for all the support received but said that her and her family, especially her children, were still afraid to go back to their home in Etoliko.

Following the conviction of Paraskevi's attackers, the objectives and recommendations of the Write for Rights campaign were adapted to make sure positive steps were consolidated for Paraskevi and her family and to ensure the calls extended to other members of Paraskevi's community, who had also been victims of violence. This remains an important case to highlight the discrimination of Roma, the lack of justice and the persistent situation of fear in the face of racism and risk of attacks.

On 6 March 2015 Paraskevi herself handed the Greek Minister of Justice 82,234 signatures and calls for action gathered during Write for Rights, in which activists from 111 countries were supporting her and Roma people in Greece.

The Minister noted that he finds "**current anti-racist legislation insufficient**" and proposed measures to enhance the relevant provisions of the Greek Penal Code. During the meeting, Amnesty International and the Network for Recording Racist Incidents discussed their recommendations regarding hate crimes and their investigation.

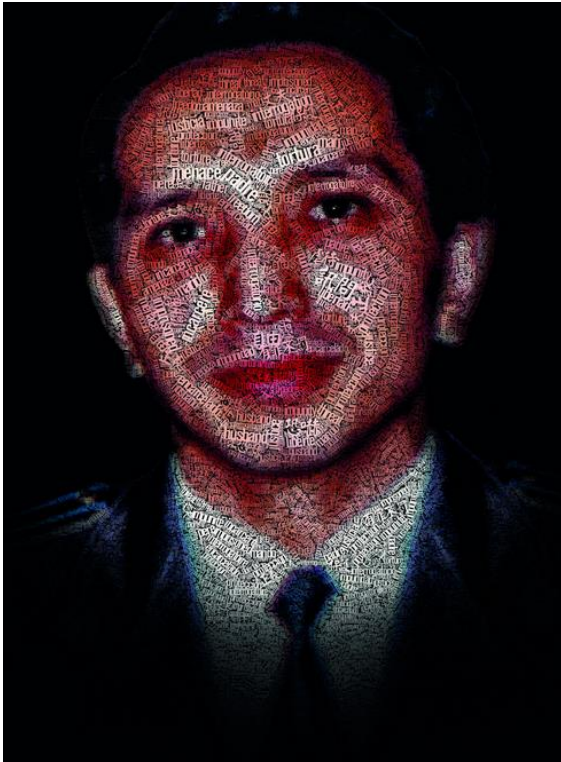
Paraskevi had a chance to explain directly to the Minister what happened to her and what her current situation is. She explained that she and her family are still afraid of another racist attack and that this is the reason why they still have not returned to Etoliko. Nevertheless she was very positive about the campaign and the successes already achieved and said **“I felt touched by the letters I received”**.



Paraskevi and the Greek Minister of Justice. Paraskevi handed the Minister 82,234 signatures and calls for action gathered during Write for Rights  
© Amnesty International



# UZBEKISTAN: ERKIN MUSAEV



Erkin Musaev was sentenced to a total of 20 years' imprisonment on politically motivated charges of treason and abuse of office following three separate unfair trials in 2006 and 2007. He is currently serving his sentence in a penal colony in Navoi region, north-western Uzbekistan.

In a country where the prisons are notorious for their appalling conditions, Erkin's situation remains dire. Following a visit in January 2015, his parents reported that Erkin's health is poor, he lacks access to adequate medical treatment and is being purposely isolated by the prison authorities from other prisoners and the outside world.

Despite numerous complaints submitted by Erkin, his lawyer and his family, to date, no effective investigation has taken place into allegations that he was tortured in detention in order to force him to confess. The authorities continue ignoring the 2008

opinion by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the 2012 decision by the UN Human Rights Committee, which unequivocally stated that Erkin's human rights have and continue to be violated. In January 2015, Erkin's father received once again a letter from the Supreme Court declaring that no procedural violations had taken place in his case.

It is precisely in such a difficult and discouraging context that Write for Rights has played a crucial role. Despite Uzbekistan's apparent determination to shirk its international obligations, there have been clear indications that the authorities are not immune to international pressure and that such pressure can have a positive impact. By articulating such a visible and wide international campaign on a country as Uzbekistan, a clear message has been sent to the authorities that the world is watching and that all those languishing in prison as a result of confessions extracted under torture are not forgotten.

Although none of the letters sent by activists to the prison reached Erkin, prison authorities became aware of the international attention received by the case. Erkin's family, who have been in permanent contact with the country team and have actively participated in the campaign, have been Erkin's connection to the outside world and they have been able to explain to him about all the support he has been receiving from activists worldwide.

Additionally, as Aidzhan Musaev (Erkin's father) explained, support and solidarity are invaluable for a family fighting such a difficult and long battle:

**"I am writing to you to thank you for all the noble things that you are doing, including supporting my son Erkin Musaev and us. It is very difficult for me to express in words our family's deep feelings of gratitude and appreciation. When we look at the photos [of the actions you took] we are deeply touched that somewhere far away from us, there are people who care about the fate of my son who was convicted unjustly. Thank you for your efforts and I am grateful for all your letters with good wishes, hope and support which are so necessary in these difficult times."**

Aidzhan Musaev 1 March 2015.



Erkin Musaev's parents © private

# NORWAY: JOHN JEANETTE SOLSTAD REMØ



In Norway, transgender people wishing to legally identify themselves by their chosen gender can only do so by completing a “real sex conversion” which includes psychiatric diagnosis and compulsory medical treatment, such as hormonal treatment and gender reassignment surgery, including irreversible sterilization. That is the reality that John Jeanette Solstad Remø has been fighting for years, not only for her, but for all transgender people.

John Jeanette describes receiving the proposal to be part of the campaign for legal gender recognition in Norway with surprise and excitement. As she puts it **“I thought thoroughly about it for approximately three seconds before I answered: Yes! I realised that this [being part of Amnesty’s campaign] would be a ‘once in a lifetime’ opportunity to present the unacceptable discrimination**

**and human rights violations transgender persons are exposed to, not only in Norway but in most European countries”**. She also explained how she felt fully integrated in the campaign from day one and how the cooperation has continued and evolved throughout.

Good news didn’t take long to arrive. In September 2014 the Norwegian Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud replied positively to a complaint presented by John Jeanette and concluded that the decision by the Ministry of Health to deny her the possibility to change her legal gender unless she met a number of highly intrusive requirements, breaches the law on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

In October 2014, on the occasion of Amnesty International Norway’s Annual General Meeting, Minister Vidar Helgesens (Minister of EEA and EU Affairs and Chief of Staff at the Office of the Prime Minister) announced that the government would change the present practice of demanding irreversible sterilization as a requirement for changing legal gender. He also declared that the government would not appeal the positive decision of the Ombud and that an Expert Committee would be created to look at the broader issues concerning transgender people’s rights and make recommendations. The Minister acknowledged and praised Amnesty’s contribution to this development.

When discussing with John Jeanette the implications that Write for Rights could have for her, the public exposure of her image and personal life was a source of concern for Amnesty. John Jeanette told us that she understood the level of visibility the campaign was going to bring to her, in the media and online. She also wanted to fully engage with activists and agreed to receive solidarity messages by email (for which she created a new email account).

She also agreed to be the face for Transgender Day of Remembrance on 20 November on Amnesty's Facebook page and was extremely brave in engaging with people who did not always sympathise with transgender people and their struggle. Following Write for Rights he said: **"I figured that I would be exposed to hate speech and perhaps even threats... but I'm glad to report that this has been almost totally absent."**



Amnesty International Norway's Secretary General, John Peder Egenae, and John Jeannette Solstad Remo, delivering 15, 487 signatures to the Norwegian Minister of Health and Care Services, Bent Høie. © Amnesty International/Ina Strøm

John Jeanette also shared with us how she experienced being recognized walking in the streets of Oslo: **"most people are kind and accepting. It is indeed a good experience when strangers come up to me on the street and say that they support my case and convey that I am both tough and brave."** Another interesting impact that the campaign had on John Jeanette's personal life was that the level of involvement in Write for Rights resulted in her having to decrease her previous activism, so that she could fully participate in the campaign. Since then she has been asked to give lectures in Norway and in other European countries and has been, and continues being invited, to numerous events to speak for transgender rights and share her experiences. Speaking of her engagement she said: **"[It] has taught me that it is crucial to speak out loud and clear to gain acceptance and to achieve results."**

As John Jeanette explained, the campaign has played an important role in raising awareness about this issue: **"I am also glad to be part of spreading this knowledge. Knowledge is the key to acceptance and to transgender persons being integrated in society. Everything indicates that, thanks to the commitment of Amnesty International, this knowledge has also reached the Norwegian government."**

In addition to all the solidarity messages John Jeanette received directly to her email during Write for Rights, Amnesty Norway handed to her 4444 solidarity letters from Amnesty sections around the world and more kept coming in. When asked about solidarity expressions during Write for Rights John Jeanette said **"I was somehow prepared for what might happen during Write for Rights, but this massive support is really overwhelming. So many personal letters, so many warm and encouraging words, drawings and cards. To be honest, tears have come to my eyes quite often lately."**



On 3 February John Jeanette and Amnesty International Norway's Secretary General, John Peder Egenaes delivered over 15,000 Write for Rights signatures to the Norwegian Minister of Health and Care Services, Bent Høie, calling for the legal recognition of John Jeannette's gender. They urged the minister to ensure that John Jeanette and other transgender people in Norway have the opportunity to change their legal gender in accordance with their perception of their gender identity, by a simple and transparent procedure and without conditions that violate their human rights. The Minister, who acknowledged receiving many letters about John Jeanette's case, conveyed that Norway wants to set an example when it comes to human rights and that he wants Norway **"to put its own house in order."**

On 10 April, the Expert Committee on Legal Gender Recognition and Access to Health Services for Transgender People (whose creation was announced during Amnesty International Norway's Annual General Meeting) presented its report *Right to Right Gender – Health to all Genders* during a highly anticipated and emotional press conference in Oslo. The Expert Committee recommended the establishment of a timely, transparent and accessible procedure for legal gender recognition based on the individual's perception of her or his own gender identity, a procedure that is in accordance with Amnesty International's recommendations.

The Norwegian government has now the opportunity to end an appalling practice that has violated transgender people's rights for more than three decades and build the recommendations of the Expert Committee into law.

John Jeanette, who attended the press conference said: **"This is everything I have dreamt of and hoped for. It was worth the fight. It took a long time, but when the results of our work finally came, it felt great.**

**I can't imagine that Parliament won't make this law now. And when the new law is in place, you will be able to choose your own legal gender.**

**Without Amnesty's support we wouldn't have got to where we are today. Even Health Minister Bent Høie said it made a big difference to the process within the government. The support we have had from people worldwide has been fantastic. I didn't expect it, and am very happy about the positive attention my case has received. I'd like to warmly thank everyone who has supported me and others in this fight."**

# DEVELOPMENTS IN PREVIOUS WRITE FOR RIGHTS CASES

Although we have seen some amazing impact already, human rights change rarely happens immediately and as such the real impact on cases that have featured in Write for Rights is often not seen until many years later. The next few pages detail any developments that have happened during 2014 and 2015 with cases featured in past Write for Rights campaigns. Background information on all the cases featured can be found on the Individuals at Risk Portfolio, please contact the Individuals at Risk Team for access: [individuals@amnesty.org](mailto:individuals@amnesty.org)

## WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2008

IRAN: CAMPAIGN FOR EQUALITY

**Bahareh Hedayat** was granted medical leave in July 2014 for surgery to remove her kidney stones. She should now be eligible for parole, as she has served over half her sentence.

## WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2009

GREECE: KONSTANTINA KUNEVA

In May 2014 **Konstantina Kuneva** was elected member of the European Parliament for a five year term, as part of the GUE group (Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left).

COLOMBIA: PEACE COMMUNITY OF SAN JOSÉ DE APARTADÓ

In February and July 2014 we issued two Urgent Actions as members of the Peace Community remain in danger; one after an explosive device reportedly planted by guerrillas went off near a police station and a school in San José de Apartadó and armed forces continued to threaten community members (UA 27/14), and another after members of the armed forces threatened to “exterminate” the Peace Community (UA 187/14).

## WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2011

SRI LANKA: RAGIHAR MANOHARAN

The Trinco 5 case proceeded extremely slowly in 2014, with several postponements. Despite the disappointment **Dr Manoharan** has expressed with the non-transparent and slow proceedings, he thanked Amnesty activists for the ongoing support.

NORTH KOREA: YODOK POLITICAL PRISON CAMP

There were reports in November 2014 based on unnamed sources that **Yodok** had been closed. We commissioned analysis of the latest satellite images of the area in an attempt to verify these claims. The information obtained is inconclusive, and we are unable to know for sure the fate of those held at Yodok. If the camp had been closed, we would not consider this 'good news', as the prisoners were said to have been moved to a different camp.

#### INDONESIA: FILEP KARMA

We have heard from **Filep Karma**'s family that he is doing well. According to them his prison conditions have improved and they have better access to him. He also continues to receive solidarity letters from Amnesty members which he is thankful for. He was allowed to go to his daughter's wedding in November 2014, and on 10 March 2015, Filep became a grandfather.

#### TURKEY: HALIL SAVDA

**Hailil Savda** faces no ongoing criminal prosecutions against him and there is no current risk to him. As such his casefile was closed in March 2015. This followed the overturning of his conviction in 2013.

#### NIGERIA: PORT HARCOURT

On 10 June 2014, ten residents from Bundu Ama, a community in **Port Harcourt**, won their case against the government over the shooting of unarmed protestors and bystanders close to five years ago. At least one person dead and 12 seriously injured. The protestors opposed the planned demolition of their community by the government. The total number of dead remains unknown because the government refused to undertake an inquiry into the incident and also denied the incident happened.

The judgement states that there was no justification for the shootings. It also holds that the Nigerian government has breached its obligation to protect and respect the right to peaceful association and assembly. The court awarded a total of 11 million Nigerian Naira – nearly \$70,000 USD - in damages.

#### MEXICO: INÉS FERNÁNDEZ ORTEGA & VALENTINA ROSENDO CANTÚ

In January 2014 four members of the armed forces accused of torture and sexual violence committed against **Inés** and **Valentina** were detained and now face trial by the civilian justice system. This represents an important step towards obtaining justice for Inés and Valentina and in complying with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights judgments. It is the result of the long struggle by the two women and all other human rights defenders who have accompanied them to seek justice.

In May 2014, after many years of campaigning, victims of human rights violations and NGOs have managed to secure positive legislative change: the Mexican Congress has reformed the military justice code to exclude human rights violations (against civilians) from military courts. The reform is a positive step forward in Inés and Valentina's case, although it does not totally comply with the four rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights against Mexico.

#### WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2012

##### NIGERIA: RESIDENTS OF BODO

In January 2015 Shell agreed to an out-of-court compensation settlement of £55m (\$84m) for thousands of residents of the **Bodo** area of the Niger Delta whose livelihoods had been destroyed by two oil spills in 2008. Although some individuals have begun receiving compensation from Shell, clean-up of the Bodo area is yet to start.

#### SUDAN: GIRIFNA

The **Girifna** group remains active in Sudan despite close monitoring by the NISS and arbitrary arrests with the most recently documented arrest being that of Widad Derwish who was arrested and interrogated while in detention in Khartoum on 22 September 2014.

#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: JUAN ALMONTE HERRERA

28 September 2014 marked the fifth anniversary of the disappearance of Dominican activist **Juan Almonte Herrera**. The Dominican authorities have failed to ever properly investigate his disappearance and the police continue to deny ever having detained him. Juan's family and lawyers continue to be the victims of repeated threats and harassment, which led the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to issue precautionary measures in order to provide them with security.

In September 2013 Amnesty International organized a public photo exhibition in Santo Domingo, the capital of Dominican Republic, based on hundreds of photos taken by AI activists around the world standing in solidarity with Juan and his family. Amnesty International delegates also met with the Office of the Public Prosecutor (OPP) during this visit, who confirmed his determination in completing the ongoing investigation and exploring the option of Juan being a victim of enforced disappearance by the police. There is widespread acknowledgement from local activists and Juan's family that AI campaigning has been crucial in achieving this change, and even from the OPP authorities that AI pressure contributed successfully to this new position. The Public Prosecutor even reported to have received express order from the President of the Republic to investigate the case following AI campaigning from Write for Rights 2012.

Campaigning on the case continued throughout 2014, particularly around the fifth anniversary of Juan's disappearance in September 2014, and a strong emphasis was put on taking solidarity action and sending messages of support to Juan's family. Juan's wife, Ana Montilla, shared this message of thanks on the AI Caribbean Facebook page on the anniversary of Juan's disappearance on 28 September 2014:

"Thank you, Amnesty International Caribbean, for all the work you have done for Juan Almonte over the past five years. Thank you for your research, for getting other Amnesty offices to participate. Thank you for all of the actions that showed you are fighting against human rights violations in this month in particular. This 28 September I felt that I was not alone in this horrible situation that I've had to live in, I will not tire of saying thank you to every member of Amnesty who has worked for Juan's case through their actions, letters, messages, signatures, and emails. Thank you for being there for Juan, I have nothing but words of gratitude for you. Thank you, thank you."

#### GUATEMALA: MARÍA ISABEL FRANCO

On 30 July 2014 the Inter-American Court of Human Rights found that the Guatemalan State had failed to protect **María Isabel's** right to life and personal integrity as well as her family's right to a fair judicial process and legal remedy. Serious concerns were raised about the investigation into the teenager's death. The ruling explains that: "Gender stereotypes [in Guatemala] had a negative influence on the investigation in that they laid the blame [for the murder] on the victim and her family, closing off other lines of investigation".

The court ordered the State to conduct an efficient investigation to identify, process and punish those responsible for the death of María Isabel, and to strengthen and develop its legal framework protecting women and girls against violence.

The casefile was reviewed and changes were made to the campaigning strategy in August 2014; Amnesty International is now calling on the Guatemalan government to heed and completely implement the court's ruling. Following the ruling, Rosa Franco shared this message of thanks:

"To everyone at Amnesty International, to the people who write to me from all over the world, I have no way to thank you. I have a banner at home with pictures of my daughter and all cards from Amnesty members. I look at them and say to myself, "Keep going!" I miss my daughter but justice has come. The state needs to arrest those who killed her, that will not be forgotten. The support of Amnesty International is very special to me".

#### USA: HUSSAIN SALEM MOHAMMED ALMERFEDI

In late 2014, **Hussain Almerfedi** and four other Guantánamo detainees were transferred out of the detention facility. Hussain Almerfedi was transferred to Slovakia on 20 November 2014, along with Tunisian, Hisham Sliti. Three others: Salah Mohammed al Thabbi (Saudi Arabian origin, Yemen citizen), Abdel Ghalib Hakim (Yemen) and Abdul Khaled al Baidani (Yemen) were transferred to Georgia.

Hussain Almerfedi is currently undergoing an integration plan in Slovakia. He lives in a small flat and has expressed a desire to meet with his family, with whom he presently talks to via Skype. He is learning Slovakian. Al Slovakia has recently met with Almerfedi's lawyer and Almerfedi himself (via Skype), along with a representative from the International Organisation for Migration, which will be helping Almerfedi with daily living practicalities.

A huge thank you to sections for all of their work on this case, particularly during Write for Rights 2012, where 44 sections undertook activities on Almerfedi's behalf. We were able to achieve our campaign objective of Hussain Almerfedi being released. Additionally, Al's work on the case raised awareness with the US authorities of concern around the continuing detentions at Guantánamo, and provided solidarity and support to Almerfedi, who was aware, through his lawyer, that these actions were taking place. Following his transfer, Hussain Almerfedi's attorney sent this message to Amnesty International: "Thanks greatly for all that you and your AI colleagues and members did to free Hussain. My reports of your efforts always lifted his spirits, and I know he was grateful".

#### ROMANIA: COASTEI STREET FAMILIES

In January 2014 the Cluj-Napoca County Court decided that the Mayor's decision to forcibly evict around 300 Roma in December 2010, to a site adjacent to a waste dump, was illegal.

In October 2014, following the appeal of the municipality against the decision of the Court, the Cluj Court of Appeal decided to remit the case to the Cluj District Court on the grounds that the case was a matter of private – rather than administrative – law, as the municipality had acted in its capacity of landlord/landowner rather than as a public authority. In practice, such development means that the case will need to be examined by the Cluj District Court and at least another year of legal battles is expected by the community.



#### BELARUS: ALES BIALIATSKI

**Ales** was released from prison under a general amnesty on 21 June 2014 after serving almost three years of his sentence. In November 2014 he wrote a short article for Wire magazine in which he said: “When I received them [letters from Amnesty activists] I was very, very happy – I spent time looking at all of them. It was the letters and drawings from school children that made the biggest impression. I would like to thank everyone so so much.”

#### CHINA: GAO ZHISHENG

**Gao Zhisheng** was released on 7 August at the end of his sentence. He now has his political rights suspended for one year, in line with China's Criminal Law and his original sentence. This means that he continues to be subject to close monitoring, needs to report to the police and cannot travel outside Urumqi (where his hukou is registered) without their permission. He also cannot issue, publish, or distribute comments, literature, or audio and visual products, inside or outside of [China's] borders, that among other things are harmful to the nation's honor or interests, or are otherwise harmful to society.



Ales Biatlatski after his release © Amnesty International

Despite these continued restrictions, his situation seems relatively stable. Although his calls are monitored, he is able to speak to his family in the U.S. every few days. Gao Zhisheng continues to have problems with his teeth, but apart from that his health has improved since his release. His wife told Radio Free Asia that he sounds ‘very confident and optimistic’ when they speak.

Geng He, Gao Zhisheng’s wife, who is currently residing in the U.S. with her daughter and son, sent the following message:

“Thank you very much to Amnesty International for its concern for Gao Zhisheng's case in the past few years. Gao Zhisheng’s ability to leave prison alive and to go home was inextricably linked to Amnesty International’s concern - it was your practical actions that brought hope and encouragement to human rights activists who have suffered gravely in prisons and their family members. Your help and support will bring glory to human rights work. Once again we thank you for your help and support!”

#### WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2013

##### ETHIOPIA: ESKINDER NEGA

**Eskinder** was named as the recipient of the 2014 Golden Pen of Freedom award, the annual press freedom prize of the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA).

In his speech to mark the launch of the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights on 27 February 2014, US Secretary of State John Kerry mentioned several country situations and several thematic areas, and at the end 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". Amnesty campaigning had the US government as one of its targets.

However, from early 2014 Eskinder has been subjected to restrictions on who can visit him in prison. He was made to provide the names of four people, who had to be related to him, who would from then on be his only permitted visitors.

#### MEXICO: MIRIAM LÓPEZ

Campaigning on Miriam's case continued in 2014 and will continue in 2015 in the context of the global Stop Torture campaign. Amnesty International staff met with **Miriam López** once again in September 2014. The meeting took place in Tijuana city, on the US border, in the context of the launch of the report, *Out of control. Torture and other ill-treatment in Mexico*. Miriam told AI delegates that she remained hopeful about her case and she was grateful to us again for all our action. Since then, AI staff have been in regular contact with her by email and phone, and through her human rights lawyer.

#### HONDURAS: COFADEH

In July 2014, an Urgent Action was issued (UA 156/14) after members of **COFADEH** reported being the subject of surveillance and attacks over several weeks. Amnesty International continues to campaign on the case, calling on the Honduran authorities to fully comply with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights order to implement effective protection measures for members of COFADEH and their families.

#### BAHRAIN: 13 OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS

The son of one of the 13 passed on his gratitude to Amnesty in January 2015: "We thank Amnesty International. Bahrain is not on the international radar and I hope Amnesty continues to work on it. We still have victims, prison conditions are not better and are still crowded and time is becoming longer and longer so whatever Amnesty can help with is appreciated. We have a deep respect, admiration and appreciation of Amnesty staff and members."

#### TUNISIA: JABEUR MEJRI

**Jabeur** was released on 18 October 2014. The Tunisia team were in Tunisia when Jabeur was pardoned on 14 October and was able to finally meet him in person in Sousse, in southern Tunisia. Jabeur told us how much it meant to him that an organisation like Amnesty International which, to him, epitomizes free speech and respect for basic rights, took on his case. He was grateful for the many actions taken by the organisation's members but also the fact that it raised awareness about his case in Tunisia and he believes this has had a great impact on his release. He also spoke of how much receiving a book with photos of Amnesty activists meant to him and is very happy that he now has two copies at home.

Jabeur's release is provisional as there is still an ongoing case against him in relation to accusations of theft in his previous work in the train station, accusations he strongly denies. The team will stay in touch with Jabeur to stay updated on this case and on his plans and any possible risks to his safety.

#### RUSSIA: THE BOLOTNAYA THREE

**Mikhail Kosenko** was released from psychiatric hospital on 11 July 2014, one month after the Checkhov Town Court decision. He will be kept under psychiatric supervision, but can stay at home. Mikhail is enjoying his time at home, he says he doesn't want to travel anywhere and just enjoys being with his family. He has also taken part in actions for other Bolotnaya prisoners and told Amnesty: "I want to express deep gratitude to everyone who supported me, to Amnesty International, to all those who sent me their letters. Your letters had influence upon my release."

After serving his sentence, **Artiom Saviolov** was released on 31 December 2014 from Penal Colony #6 in Ryazan region, near Moscow. Artiom said: "I am grateful with all my heart to everyone who supported me. This is the first thing I want to say. It was so important to know that people were waiting for me out there. It would have been much harder without all your support".

#### BELARUS: IHAR TSIKHANYUK

Although there have not been any developments on his case and the situation in Belarus remains difficult, **Ihar** remains a very active as a defender of LGBTI rights. Ihar participated in the 2014 Write for Rights activities organized by Amnesty Italy, between 3 and 10 December 2014.

#### TURKEY: HAKAN YAMAN

**Hakan Yaman** visited the Netherlands, France, Belgium and Germany between 26 October and 13 November 2014 with the aim of highlighting the ongoing risk of impunity and raising awareness with authorities in those countries about his case.

#### MYANMAR: DR TUN AUNG

On 19 January 2015 **Dr. Tun Aung** was released from Insein prison in Yangon. He is currently in Yangon, and is enjoying being reunited with his family.

Our analysis is that international campaigning, including by AI, contributed to his early release. Shortly after Write for Rights 2013, an AI member received a letter from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), stating that they had received "letters from various chapters of Amnesty International", and as a result they "conveyed them to the authorities in order that the concerns expressed in the letters receive carefully consideration", and visited him in Sittwe Prison. The letter confirmed that Dr Tun Aung had been transferred to Insein prison, that he was provided with regular medical treatment, and had received several sentence reductions. This demonstrated that our campaigning was having an impact, and we believe our continued pressure also contributed to his recent release.

## DETAILS OF ACTIONS ON EACH CASE<sup>6</sup>

Case	# Countries and territories where action took place <sup>7</sup>	Estimated total # actions <sup>8</sup>	Actions sent to authorities	Estimated solidarity actions
<b>Uzbekistan</b> Erkin Musaev	115	209,065	201,082	7,983
<b>Norway</b> John Jeanette Solstad Remø	94	122,647	119,657	2,990
<b>Greece</b> Paraskevi Kokoni	111	82,234	75,772	6,462
<b>Venezuela</b> Daniel Quintero	115	158,771	149,805	8,966
<b>USA</b> Chelsea Manning	145	241,289	224,098	17,191
<b>India</b> Bhopal Communities	129	225,998	217,125	8,873
<b>Philippines</b> Jerry Corrae	153	71,313	66,133	5,180
<b>China</b> Liu Ping	123	304,956	292,163	12,793
<b>Nigeria</b> Moses Akatugba	118	360,987	348,348	12,639
<b>South Africa</b> Women and Girls of Mkhondo	116	152,218	141,454	10,764
<b>Saudi Arabia</b> Raif Badawi	187	297,399	281,095	16,304

<sup>6</sup> Please be aware that this table only includes numbers of actions on the official Global 12 cases collated via the survey sent out after the campaign. The total number of actions for the whole campaign however (as indicated by the global counter), includes cases outside of the global 12, actions where S/s were unable to give us a breakdown by case and actions from S/s that filled in the global counter, but did NOT answer the survey following the end of the campaign.

<sup>7</sup> 'Territories' here denote regions which are under the sovereignty of other national governments. Accounting for both countries and territories provides a better representation of the geographical reach of the Write for Rights campaign.

<sup>8</sup> The estimated total actions include all actions taken in countries with an Amnesty section, actions taken in countries without an Amnesty section where volunteers were managed by the International Secretariat, and online actions taken independently by activists around the world.

# ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRY<sup>9</sup>

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ALGERIA

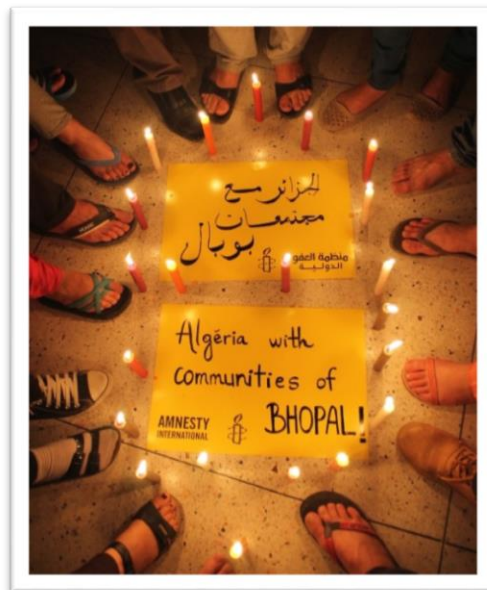
AI Algeria organized more than 40 events across 12 cities in Algeria, involving 11 youth groups and individual members who managed to raise more than 33,000 signatures. Events included exhibitions, conference, flash mobs, stalls, and concerts. The National Secretariat held a press conference (with over 15 journalists) to launch the campaign, followed by a cultural activity in partnership with the "L'escalier des Artistes", a famous café theatre in Algiers. Moreover, for the second consecutive year, AI Algeria had a media partnership with the first Algerian online French speaking media "TSA-Algeria". The majority of the activities were organized together with more than 20 Civil Society Organizations.

**33, 818 Total actions**

8,250 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Daniel Quintero  
Bhopal Communities  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Mohammad Al-Roken



Al Algeria activists showing support for the Communities of Bhopal, India. © AI Algeria.

<sup>9</sup> We have not included in this section information about the countries where actions were simply taken independently by online by activists. While these activists may have been reached by Amnesty International's online presence, they were not involved with Amnesty in any other way. Please also be aware that this list only includes numbers of actions collated via the survey sent out after the campaign. The total number of actions for the whole campaign however (as indicated by the global counter), includes actions from S/s that filled in the global counter, but did NOT answer the survey following the end of the campaign.



## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ARGENTINA

2014 was the fourth year in which AI Argentina participated in Write for Rights. With planned improvements to street actions for collecting letters, the movement is likely to expand further in the coming years.



Letter writing event in Buenos Aires, Argentina, © AI Argentina

### 990 Total actions

1,200 Estimated Participants

### Featured individuals:

Daniel Quintero  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Moses Akatugba  
Felix Diaz

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

AI Australia ran Write for Rights 2014 via the new Activists Portal. This was a 24/7 online hub where people could find case information, campaigning materials, action kits, teaching resources, and promote their planned events. It was live from 16 October, and the Write for Rights event ran from 25th November to 10th December. Over 100 local events were held around Australia. Special effort was made to reach new people resulting in forty-one percent of the participants being new to the Australian section. Some events combined AmnesTEA with Write for Rights and focused on the cases of Liu Ping and Jerryyme Corre. 22 media stories were generated during the event.

### 85,050 Total actions

60,208 Estimated Participants

### Featured individuals:

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Daniel Quintero  
Liu Ping  
Raif Badawi  
Jerryyme Corre  
AI Jazeera staff - Egypt

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **AUSTRIA**

Local Amnesty groups in Austria organized over 29 letter writing events in cafes, pubs, libraries, shops, public streets, and squares around the country. More than 160 school classes and more than 3,000 school students took part. Amnesty Academy and letter writing marathon project team organized a big Letter-Writing-Marathon-Event on 10<sup>th</sup> December in Vienna with approximately 150 participants. It was a big multi-design event with a public lecture with Umida Niyazova, short films, letter writing sessions, meet and greets with experts on the subject of torture, performances of Amnesty Austria's choir and the Amnesty Austria drama group. A speaker tour with Umida Niyazova was also organized throughout Austria. Additionally, a petition for Moses Akatugba was handed over to the Deputy of the Ambassador and Counsellor at the Nigerian Embassy in Vienna on 18 December 2014. The Amnesty team had a 40 minute talk with him/her to discuss the case of Moses and more generally torture in Nigeria.

**36, 335 Total actions**

16, 955 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba

## **BANGLADESH**

**3,974 Total actions**

1,785 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Jerryme Corre  
Liu Ping  
Bhopal Communities  
Raif Badawi  
Chelsea Manning  
Women and Girls of  
Mkhondo

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

5 different volunteers organized events for Write for Rights 2014 in Bangladesh. These ranged from events in universities, including a university for women, to gatherings in a vocational training centre as well as an incredibly successful street campaign.



An event held in Bangladesh by international members

© Amnesty International

# BARBADOS

*(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)*

Amnesty's long standing volunteer from Barbados organized two events for Write for Rights 2014. One was held in a café and the other in a church. Both were supported by the local United National Human Rights Officer for Barbados.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

# BELGIUM (FLEMISH)

AI Belgium conducted a 12-hour event from midday till midnight involving a number of activities. Famous individuals attended and wrote letters, while bands and comedians performed. The event also had a human rights movie theatre where people could relax and watch a movie. There was a bar, food, a lounge corner, and even someone who gave hand massages for free! 2,184 letters were collected on that day alone. Local Amnesty Groups also organized letter writing marathons and schools held writing events. Moreover, online action was taken for all the twelve cases during the month of December.



Letter writing event in Antwerp, Belgium © Nina Berghmans

### 406 Total actions

30 Estimated Participants

#### Featured individuals:

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerryyme Corre

### 26, 498 Total actions

#### Featured individuals:

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerryyme Corre

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

# BELGIUM (FRANCOPHONE)

AI Belgium Francophone promoted Write for Rights 2014 digitally – via email, website, social media, and its action version of Amnesty.be. Alongside this they organized a traditional candle campaign, selling 130,000 candles. The entire Section, including volunteers were included and mobilised for this candle campaign.

### 23,946 Total actions

4,000 Estimated  
Participants

#### Featured individuals:

John Jeanette Solstad  
Remø  
Chelsea Manning  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi

### 6,084 Total actions

300 Estimated Participants

#### Featured individuals:

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roke  
Jerry Corne

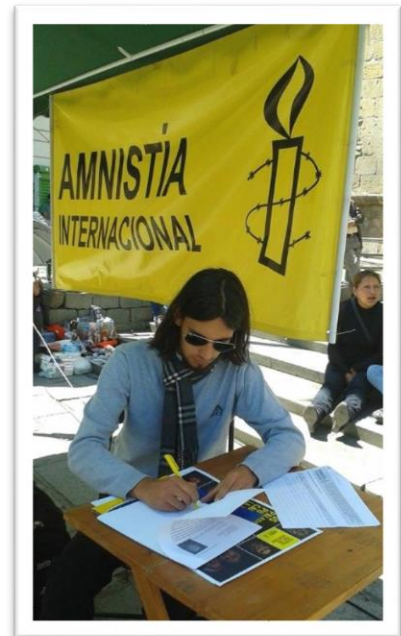
# BOLIVIA

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

One of Amnesty's long standing volunteers created several fantastic events which generated over 6,000 actions. One four-day event took place in a public square in La Paz whilst another two-day event was held at a university in the city. At these events the volunteer, and those who helped her, ensured that they took the time to talk to people and explain the

individual cases before asking them to sign the letters. Their events were visited by two famous models and two well-known artists in La Paz.

A third event was held in Oruro at the house of a volunteer, where participants had more time to further discuss each case in-depth and were able to write personalised letters to the individuals at risk.



Event held in Bolivia © Ines Perez

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **BRAZIL**

The launch event generated a lot of awareness of AI Brazil's work. AI Brazil held a concert in Sao Paulo with known singers, which was also live streamed. More than double the number of signatures were collected compared to the year before with over 1,500 letters signed on the day. Activists also actively participated in the collection of signatures until the end of the campaign in many cities in Brazil. Overall these activities resulted in a significant increase in the number of actions.



Rapper Flora Matos's performance at Write for Rights 2014's launch event in Brazil.  
© João Pires

**18,564 Total actions**

3,500 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Sergio Silva  
Charco community

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## **BURKINA FASO**

AI Burkina Faso created their own toolkit to help activists work on the campaign. They also did some excellent Human Rights Education work with group discussions and meetings. They also achieved some good media coverage, conducting interviews that were broadcast on radio and used online.

**11,046 Total actions**

3,500 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Jerry Corre



# CAMEROON

*(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)*

**1,001 Total actions**

329 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken

A number of different events were held in Cameroon which mainly focused on young people. Events were held in student associations, universities, schools and town halls. The volunteers encouraged debate about the different cases through speeches, round table events, and even driving around towns with Amnesty International posters on a car!

One volunteer commented, "In all, I believe we had a great campaign, not just because of the letters but because we were also able to educate youths on human rights".

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CANADA (ENGLISH)

AI Canada maintained its level of activist support for Write for Rights 2014, with over 300 events held across Canada. It achieved broad outreach on mainstream media, social media, email, digital advertising, and celebrity endorsement which helped attract over 30,000 participants. Third party fundraising was successfully reintroduced into the events which helped raise \$40,000. The events also experimented with street theatre.



Event held in Canada © Amnesty International

**24, 500 Total actions**

30, 000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerryme Corre  
Stolen Sisters  
Syrian refugees  
Huseyin Celil

## COSTA RICA

*(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)*

Volunteers from Costa Rica worked together to put on a three-day event in a university which generated some fantastic results.

### 195 Total actions

15 Estimated  
Participants

### Featured individuals:

Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal  
Communities  
Liu Ping  
Raif Badawi

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CHILE

### 4,270 Total actions

2,870 Estimated  
Participants

### Featured individuals:

Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Women & Girls of  
Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi

AI Chile organized a range of events in support of Write for Rights 2014. A stand was set up in a park asking people to sign the offline petitions and write solidarity messages. A canvas was also painted for Daniel Quintero and people were asked to join the painting and write solidarity messages on the canvas. Moreover, a 24hrs marathon was conducted where people were asked to sign petitions and write messages. This was held in there different locations in the city; a public square, a coffee shop with live music, and in the Amnesty office where a pyjama party was hosted for the activists while they wrote messages. Lastly, the 'Shine a Light' event was held in a public square with live music. Here a canvas was painted for Chelsea Manning and people were encouraged to participate in the activity. At the end of the event, lit up balloons were released.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

# COTE D'IVOIRE

AI Cote D'Ivoire had access to army headquarters for its Write for Rights 2014 and public events such as information stands helped increase membership. Meetings were also conducted in schools which involved the distribution of case details and discussion of human rights standards and how these were violated in the selected cases. AI Cote D'Ivoire targeted the Write for Rights Campaign in two additional areas in rural communities alongside its traditional targets. This included the village of Zemenafila.



An event at a school in Cote D'Ivoire © AI Cote D'Ivoire

**27, 832 Total actions**

50, 000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

# CZECH REPUBLIC

AI Czech Republic held 145 events in 67 cities and towns across the country – doubling its 2013 record. Action took place in schools, cafes, Scout units, and churches among other locations. AI Czech Republic also collaborated with other sections such as AI Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia to share tools.

**20,600 Total actions**

7,000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerryyme Corre

# CYPRUS

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Our volunteer from Cyprus organized an event at her school, advertising it through assemblies, posters and Facebook. The event took place in the school computer lab so participants could type out their own letters or send emails and online actions directly to the targets.

**64 Total actions**

15 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Chelsea Manning

Raif Badawi

Mohammad Al-Roken

**6,164 Total actions**

2,650 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Chelsea Manning

Liu Ping

Moses Akatugba

Women & Girls of Mkhondo

Raif Badawi

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Despite the difficult security situation in the country, two volunteers were able to hold successful Write for Rights events in the DRC. A long standing volunteer organized five huge events in universities and schools where he gave speeches and encouraged debate amongst the students before asking them to contribute to the campaign.

The other volunteer was forced to cancel his event in a university, but, undeterred, he invited people into his home instead. There he told participants about the work of Amnesty International and encouraged them to write letters to the individuals at risk.



One of the five events held by a long standing Amnesty volunteer in DRC © Private.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DENMARK

AI Denmark organized an event for lower secondary school pupils. 340 pupils (age 13-17) and around 20 teachers from 9 different schools participated from 9.00-14.30. Six different workshops/stands were set up and pupils were divided into groups allowing them to try all the different workshops. The event allowed AI Denmark to educate pupils on the activism they could get involved in for each case. For instance, for the Raif Badawi workshop a twitter competition was held where the winning class was the one which wrote the most tweets in 15 minutes. AI Denmark also managed to mobilise significant numbers of hand written letters with many people taking the time to sit down with their family and friends to write the letters.

**89,825 Total actions**

19,000 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Two volunteers organized successful events in the Dominican Republic in 2014. One volunteer held an event in a school in which the students learnt about Daniel Quintero's case before being invited to write a letter on behalf of him. The other event was held in a public park in conjunction with the Foundation of Community hope and International Justice.



**310 Total actions**

250 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Daniel Quintero

An event held in Dominican Republic by international members © Amnesty International



# ECUADOR

**1,073 Total actions**

1,360 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

- Paraskevi Kokkoni
- Daniel Quintero
- Chelsea Manning
- Bhopal Communities
- Liu Ping
- Women & Girls of Mkhondo
- Raif Badawi

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

In Ecuador, two volunteers arranged events at their universities, in cafés, and in one of Quito's main squares. The volunteers put extraordinary effort into the events and decorated universities beautifully with Amnesty International's materials. The events included workshops and a human rights march as well as specific stands where volunteers could share information about the various cases.

An event held by international members in Ecuador © private



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FINLAND

AI Finland reached new audiences with stories and online solidarity cards. 22 events were organized by local activists including workshops, letter writing events, and events for the International Human Rights Day. Hand written letters and solidarity messages were prepared by local activists and those attending the local events. Activists also organized a letter writing work shop in a local school. Overall, the campaign also got local media coverage.



A Snowman demonstration in front of the Saudi Arabia embassy in Finland. © Amnesty International.

**41, 053 Total actions**

29 400 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

- John Jeanette Solstad Remø
- Daniel Quintero
- Liu Ping
- Moses Akatugba
- Women & Girls of Mkhondo

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **FRANCE**

AI France organized hundreds of public activities with tens of thousands of individuals. An interactive action, called “Don’t close your eyes on human rights violations” was a huge success. Online, people added their own eyes to a live mosaic gallery and shared it on social media. During local activities, people’s eyes were photographed, printed and added live onto big walls of open eyes. Write for Rights was also a great opportunity for human rights defenders to talk to large audiences and the media, and to do advocacy work: Sanjay Verma, a survivor and activist from Bhopal and Jason Wright, former military attorney for Guantanamo detainees, were among the guests. On 10th of December at Gaité Lyrique, during a whole day of activism and human rights debates, Edward Snowden made his first public video-appearance in France to talk about illegal surveillance and the use of torture in the name of security.



Event held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 © Amnesty International France

**518, 248 Total actions**

150,000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugb  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Ta Phong Tan, Vietnam  
Ebrima Manneh, Gambia  
Shaker Aamer, USA  
Maher, Adel, Douma, Egypt  
Juwan Khaled, Syria

## **GEORGIA**

*(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)*

A fantastic three-day event was organized at the University of Georgia which included many innovative ways to engage students with Amnesty International's work. An open discussion about women's rights took place with four experts from the field, and a representative from Amnesty International's International Secretariat visited the university to give two presentations on the work of the organisation. A representative from Human Rights House also attended the event and there were screenings of films with a connection to the cases that were being focused on.

**1,409 Total actions**

45 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Raif Badawi

**1,544 Total actions**

1,544 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Jerryme Corre

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GHANA

AI Ghana participated in the Letter Writing Marathon Event in December, 2014 to mark International Human Rights Day.

The participants of the 2014 event were mostly students from Human Rights friendly schools.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GERMANY

AI Germany managed to conduct more group activities and a higher number of letters sent compared to last year - more than doubling the total number. The section organized events at schools, created an online page usable with smartphones. A special pop up shop was opened for ten days in Berlin and was a very successful.



Action against the flogging of Raif Badawi, © Hannibal Hanschke

**249, 769 Total actions**

50, 000 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken

**2,599 Total actions**

400 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Mohammad Al-Roken

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GREECE

AI Greece organized a central event at a cultural space in Athens which was attended by many NGOs and activists. Activists read out the five cases that were being featured and the guests wrote letters to support them. Other activist groups held similar events in other cities across Greece.

# GUINEA

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Despite having been affected by Ebola, volunteers in Guinea still wanted to bring Write for Rights to their towns. They organized small gatherings in their neighbourhoods. Usually Write for Rights events are held in schools but because schools were closed, volunteers were able to connect with other people they wouldn't have otherwise been in touch with.

**1,123 Total actions**

500 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba

**6,689 Total actions**

1,200 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Jerryme Corre

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HUNGARY

AI Hungary largely focused on targeting schools and integrating Write for Rights into their Human Rights Education project. The annual event to support Write for Rights was launched on 10th December in commemoration of Human Rights Day.

# HONDURAS

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

A volunteer in Honduras held an event at his university which involved a workshop carried out in order to raise awareness of the individuals at risk. In the workshop participants discussed the various cases from the point of view of different disciplines which included anthropology, law, sociology, education, psychology, health, and history.

**108 Total actions**

13 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Raif Badawi  
Jerryme Corre

**368 Total actions**

483 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

John Jeanette Solstad Rem  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HONG KONG

AI Hong Kong hosted 3 school 'writathons' to encourage letter writing for the selected cases. A street based photo action was also conducted in support of Raif Badawi and his family.



Write for Rights event in Hong Kong, © Amnesty International

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ICELAND

19 areas across Iceland participated in the campaign activities. Many public libraries took part, together with 15 schools which held a competition based on the greatest numbers of signatures on 12 action cards in a package. Individuals held large events in 5 areas across the country and many were also found contacting AI Iceland in order to plan events.

Write for Rights 2014 also got exceptional media coverage in both of the largest TV news broadcasting channels in Iceland together with 8 radio interviews. Overall, the campaign got coverage 32 times across different mediums including TV, radio, and newspaper. These activities culminated in a record breaking number of signatures.

**49, 116 Total actions**

6,500 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerryme Corre  
Abortion ban in El Salvador  
Raif Badawi



**300 Total actions**

100 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Raif Badawi

## INDONESIA

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Two events were held by an Amnesty volunteer in Indonesia. The first event took place in Jakarta and included a discussion on freedom and the internet as part of a Human Rights training course for young people from 15 different provinces in Indonesia. Raif Badawi's case was a perfect example of the threat to freedom on the internet, which many Indonesians could relate to as they are also victims of online restrictions.

The second event took place in a university in Cirebon where a public discussion was held and students conducted their campaign within the campus area. The volunteer remarked that "both events got a very positive response".

**18, 871 Total actions**

450 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerry Corne  
Ibrahim Halawa

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IRELAND

AI Ireland created a webpage where the 12 cases were uploaded with information of each case and online actions and videos. Over 4,000 online signatures were collected. The Write for Rights pack was sent out in the middle of November with case files, posters, pens, badges, and sample letters to 15 local groups and 8 colleges. Primary schools signed up to the campaign and adopted the case of Paraskevi Kokkoni. Children designed their own postcards to show solidarity with Paraskevi Kokkoni. The biggest successes came with Christmas Markets where 6,500 letters were collected.

**139 Total actions**

500 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ISRAEL

While AI Israel collected a relatively small number of actions, its performance was impressive given that the section had almost no previous experience with the campaign and there was no one to work on it full time. This was the first year that AI used a social media and member engagement strategy in their Write for Rights work. Next year the section hopes to have an activism coordinator who will be able to promote and work on Write for Rights full time in order to get wider media reach.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ITALY

AI Italy organized two speaking tours as part of Write for Rights 2014 and also created a website specifically for the campaign. 74 events were organized by groups and 14 meetings were held in 11 different schools. The online platform proved to be very successful.

**137, 522 Total actions**

150,000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Daniel Quintero  
Bhopal Communities  
Moses Akatugba  
Raif Badawi

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL JAPAN

**6,546 Total actions**

2, 800 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerryme Corre  
Hakamada  
Okunishi

AI Japan held a photo competition during the weeks of the Write for Rights campaign.

About 500 photos with messages were collected as solidarity actions. Most of participants were new to Amnesty which showed that the campaign was able to increase its reach.



Event held held in Kashiwara city © Amnesty International Japan

## KENYA

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

The volunteer in Kenya emphasised that many participants were extremely receptive to the information she provided and were very willing to write letters. Furthermore, she commented that many people expressed their desire to participate in events related to Amnesty International in the future.

**80 Total actions**

45 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Women & Girls of Mkhondo

173 Total actions

50 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Liu Ping  
Raif Badawi  
Chelsea Manning  
Jerryyme Corre

## LEBANON

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

A new volunteer in Lebanon held a two-day event in a school which focused on four different cases.

## LIBERIA

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Despite the severe problems occurring in Liberia, two volunteers carried out successful events in the country. One volunteer commented on how, prior to the events, nobody seemed to know anything about Amnesty International. Therefore, he found that sitting down and discussing the cases with people in small groups was a great way to get Amnesty's message across and to convince people to write letters and sign petitions.

1,758 Total actions

819 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Bhopal Communities



Event held by volunteers in Liberia © Amnesty International

# LITHUANIA

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

The International Student Association at Mykolas Romeris University organized an extremely successful Write for Rights event in collaboration with the European Foundation of Human Rights. The event included presentations, a talk on 'Your rights as a foreigner', film screenings and even a 'human rights picnic' where a discussion on Lithuanian migration policy took place.



Write for Rights event in Lithuania © Amnesty International

## 809 Total actions

200 Estimated Participants

### Featured individuals:

Erkin Musaev  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Chelsea Manning  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LUXEMBOURG

AI Luxembourg successfully organized a torchlight demonstration followed by a letter writing evening in a café. The closing of the Write for Rights campaign coincided with the closing of the candles campaign, bringing a significant numbers of participants and with it media impact. The use of social media together with activities concerning Human Rights Education helped improve overall results.

## 5,000 Total actions

3,225 Estimated Participants

### Featured individuals:

Erkin Musaev  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Raif Badawi

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA

AI Malaysia set up online petitions for Liu Ping, Mohammad Al-Roken, and Chelsea Manning. Online solidarity actions were also carried out for Liu Ping and Mohammad Al-Roken.

For Write for Rights 2014, AI Malaysia focused on online actions. Petitions and solidarity actions were uploaded on to their website and promoted through social media. The campaign was able to reach more than 84,500 people in Malaysia.

**4,376 Total actions**

4,000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Chelsea Manning

Liu Ping

Mohammad Al-Roken

**100 Estimated Participants**

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev

John Jeanette Solstad Remø

Paraskevi Kokkoni

Daniel Quintero

Chelsea Manning

Bhopal Communities

Liu Ping

Moses Akatugba

Women & Girls of Mkhondo

Raif Badawi

Mohammad Al-Roken

Jerry Corre

## MAURITIUS

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

Our volunteer in Mauritius organized a street event in which passers-by were provided with flyers and educated on the different cases. Some members of the public chose to write letters whilst others signed petitions.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVA

AI Moldova almost doubled its number of letters in 2014! The number of locations where activities were held increased from 35 to 45. The section was also able to more than double the amount of money raised. Information and awareness sessions were also conducted in schools, together with poster exhibitions and photo challenges. Overall, Write for Rights 2014 also gained more media and public attention.



Write for Rights organized in a local school © Amnesty International Moldova

**7,500 Total actions**

4,000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev

Paraskevi Kokkoni

Liu Ping

Raif Badawi

**100 Total actions**

Featured individuals:  
Not known

## MONTENEGRO

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

In Montenegro several small events were held in cafes and bookstores and also included film screenings, discussions and a main event on Tbilisi square.

## NIGERIA

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

33 volunteers organized events, some in volunteers' houses, and others at universities and schools, market places, churches and town halls. Although some volunteers struggled to carry out their planned events because of the deteriorating security situation in Nigeria, they did not give up and several volunteers showed real dedication to the campaign, going from house to house to encourage people to write letters in the safety of their homes. Furthermore, volunteers organized football matches, youth conferences, dances, parties, rallies, and radio and television interviews in order to raise awareness of the cases and to attract people to the events.



Unsurprisingly, the case on Moses Akatugba received a huge response within Nigeria, and several special events were held in Moses's home state of Delta. One volunteer described an occasion in a school, saying "The fact that the students understood the cases still amazes me...before we ended the event I asked the students what they learnt and one boy, Segun, said he wants to be a lawyer so that he can fight for people's rights".

**16,015 Total actions**

5,159 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerryyme Corre

Event held in Nigeria by International members © private



**120,953 Total actions**

30,000 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

John Jeannette Solstad Remø  
Daniel Quintero  
Liu Ping  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerryme Corre

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **NORWAY**

AI Norway chose to extend the campaign period from ten days to six weeks in order for groups to get the opportunity to work better with the materials. More than 40 groups were involved in organizing stands, school visits, and events. Approximately 60 public events were held, and more than 35 schools took part. Schools also engaged with Human Rights Education (HRE) activities and also took action themselves. The HRE material was widely used by teachers themselves and the webpage with online HRE material had approximately 7,000 visits during the period.



Staff at AI Norway and John Jeannette Solstad Remø hand over signatures to Norwegian Minister of Health © Helge Lien.

**72, 437 Total actions**

25, 000 Estimated  
Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Raif Badawi  
Yevgeni Vitishko

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **NETHERLANDS**

More than 400 local writing events took place and more than 70,000 actions were taken. Most of these actions involved handwritten letters. More than 900 people joined the 24 hour letter writing marathon in the office in Amsterdam. Many celebrities, volunteers, musicians, yoga teachers, masseurs, DJ's and caterers helped to create a special event. The live and skype attendance of international activists helped to create a sense of urgency and importance. The presence of the Human Rights Tattoo project attracted new people, particularly young people.

In several other places in the Netherlands, other 24-hour events were held. All 400 mayors were invited of which about 100 attended. Several commercial companies including Google Netherlands wrote letters in their offices.

For each of the six featured cases, a Dutch celebrity (writers, columnists, musicians) wrote a personal solidarity letter. The campaign had very good coverage in local, regional, national, and social media. Around noon the campaign was trending on Twitter in the Netherlands.



Photographs of all individual cases of Write for Rights 2014 are featured on the windows of AI Netherlands' offices © Karen Veldkamp.

# PAKISTAN

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

In 2014 many new volunteers from Pakistan offered to hold Write for Rights events, as well as several experienced Amnesty volunteers. Events were held in a whole host of different venues including universities, colleges, banks, markets, hostels, council buildings, outdoor squares, volunteers' homes and even in a garments factory! Volunteers organized discussions, guest talks and competitions to encourage people to take interest in their events.

Sadly, a few events were due to be held in the days following the devastating Peshawar school massacre, when many educational institutions were forced to close. This meant that some events had to be cancelled, rescheduled or dramatically downsized. However, the hard work put in by the volunteers in organising events is appreciated, even if some could not be carried out in the end due to matters out of their control.

Many events were hugely successful as volunteers worked hard to educate people on the work of Amnesty International and on the individual cases. One volunteer, particularly moved by the case of Raif Badawi, organized a separate event for the Saudi Arabian blogger in January in which he collected 1,500 signatures on two huge Amnesty International banners.

One first-time volunteer commented, "I had no previous experience in organising these kinds of events as the conditions here in Pakistan are not very favourable, but I feel very proud of myself for being part of this campaign."

## 7,863 Total actions

5,909 Estimated Participants

### Featured individuals:

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerryme Corre



An event held in Pakistan by international members © Amnesty International

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES

**27, 000 Total actions**

11, 000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Chelsea Manning  
Moses Akatugba  
Jerryme Corre  
Alfreda Disbarro

AI Philippines Write for Rights 2014 efforts were focused on many of the group's Human Rights Week activities. The Write for Rights campaign activities were made the action component of the forums, exhibits, and Human Rights Education activities that were being conducted in universities, schools, and communities. Signatures were also collected whenever possible during public actions. One of the highlights was bringing the photos of Jerryme Corre and statements that 'torture still exists in the Philippines' in key tourist and public places in the cities of Baguio and Manila. A number of participants went beyond the letter writing and made paper dolls and origami pieces for Jerryme Corre and Liu Ping.



AI Philippines staff visit Jerryme Corre along with his wife, the day before his birthday, to deliver some of the many letters sent to him from Amnesty activist across the world.

© Amnesty International.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL POLAND

AI Poland held letter writing events in more than 500 places in Poland, mostly in schools but also in cafes, libraries, and other organisations. 2014 was a record-breaking year for Write for Rights in Poland; students from one school wrote over 19,000 letters!

One girl - Marysia from Katowice wrote almost 130 letters herself. She said "Can we help? Of course we can – at least we can try. The more letters we write, the more powerful they are."

**268,703 Total actions**

53, 000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Oleg Sentcov

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PORTUGAL



Right, including a debate with two former prisoners of conscience arrested during the dictatorial regime in Portugal, a walk for human rights, film festivals, street events, and human rights education events. During the Cities for Life Day, Lisbon's biggest monuments were lit up to talk about Moses Akatugba's case. Activists who participated in the annual Youth Camp also showed their solidarity with the cases. Since most of the signatures and actions come from schools a

Picture (above) on the 10th February 2015 AI Portugal delivered more than 29 thousand signatures gathered during Write for Rights 2014 to the South Africa embassy in Portugal.  
© Ricardo Rodrigues da Silva

**127, 188 Total actions**

31,797 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Chelsea Manning  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo

AI Portugal collected more than 127,000 signatures with the participation of 29 groups and 127 schools. A music concert was held together with several other activities associated with the Write for Rights 2014. A story teller was asked to record a video about Liu Ping's case in order to better explain it to the children.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PUERTO RICO

AI Puerto Rico organized a 12 hour long public event with music to gather support for the featured individuals.

**845 Total actions**

500 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo



# ROMANIA

**3,837 Total actions**

4,323 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Daniel Quintero

Liu Ping

Women & Girls of Mkhondo

Raif Badawi

Jerryme Corre

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

A couple of extremely successful events were held in Romania in 2014, which used innovative and interesting ways to raise awareness and collect actions for the individuals at risk. One volunteer organized a piece of theatre and a discussion on women's rights in connection to the case in South Africa, as well as a flash mob and a presentation in a shopping centre to raise awareness for Raif Badawi's case. Both events produced great results. This volunteer also organized letter writing events in 11 different schools and universities in Bucharest and 6 other Romanian cities. The commitment and dedication she displayed was extraordinary.

Another volunteer arranged for events to take place in local schools in which talks from teachers and volunteers educated the students on Amnesty International's work, before encouraging them to write letters to the individuals at risk. The volunteer commented, "The collaboration for such an event was considered one opportunity our students had for developing their sense of duty and respect towards others, an opportunity for them to become aware of the impact their actions have on others".



An event held by international members in Romania © www.fotografultau.ro



# RUSSIAN RESOURCE CENTRE

The office in Russia organized street action for the featured Write for Rights cases. A mini site was also launched in Moscow.

**2,500 Total actions**

1,500 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Liu Ping  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SENEGAL

**50, 704 Total actions**

9,134 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Chelsea Manning  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Aladji Konate  
Antoine Robert Sambou

AI Senegal used women's networks to collect petitions for the Woman and Girls of Mkhondo. Overall, the section experienced a greater level of mobilisation in 2014 than previous years. In particular, the Senegalese cases gained a lot of support. Write for Rights 2014 helped AI Senegal develop its activism and provided more contacts from potential supporters and activists.



A Letter writing event held in Senegal © AI Senegal

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SLOVAKIA

### 4,378 Total actions

4,500 Estimated Participants

#### Featured individuals:

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerry Corne  
Oleg Sentsov

AI Slovakia worked on 12 global cases and a locally relevant case of Oleg Sentsov who was arrested in Crimea and transferred to Moscow and charged with terrorism offences simply because he used his right to freedom of expression and association. A separate website was established in cooperation with AI Czech Republic for the coordinators of Write for Rights who mostly consisted of schools and activist groups. Individual participants could choose to sign the letters online either via the website, or through Urgent Action cases. Some of the cases were featured before the campaign in order to gain more support around dates that were important to the specific cases for instance Nigeria Day of Independence, and the day of the court hearing of Paraskevi Kokkoni. Activist groups participated and promoted letter writing at public events related to the fall of communism (in Bratislava), campaign against extremism (in Banská Bystrica), and in three public events around Christmas (Bratislava and Košice). Letters were also signed at a concert and Moses Akatugba's case was presented at Joan Baez concert in Bratislava before the start of the campaign. 43 schools participated, and around 2,000 students.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SLOVENIA

More than 64 Write for Rights events took place around the country. Activities were held at youth clubs, public squares, libraries, co-working space, a movie theatre, and in 46 schools. AI Slovenia added a local case - for the right to water and adequate housing of Roma communities in Slovenia.



Write for Rights event, Slovenia © AI Slovenia

### 10,861 Total actions

5,500 Estimated Participants

#### Featured individuals:

Erkin Musaev  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Roma communities in  
Slovenia

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

# SOUTH KOREA

AI Korea focused on producing comprehensive materials and toolkits to assist members and supporters with their human rights defending activities. Web based actions were also promoted while a photo action and letter writing event was held at a cafe.



An event held by AI Korea in Seoul for Write for Rights 2014. © Private

**42, 972 Total actions**

3,139 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Jerryme Corre  
Sungmin

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SPAIN

AI Spain focused its efforts on 3 cases related to torture and ill treatment. It developed several resources and organized a whole program of actions including local group street actions and events such as performances, collecting signatures, and solidarity messages in at least 60 cities. A speakers' tour was held with Nancy Hollander, Chelsea Manning's lawyer and Alexa O'Brian a journalist and expert on Chelsea's case. A microsite was set up to collect both signatures and funds. Moreover, a marketing campaign for Chelsea Manning involved large digital adverts displayed in the most crowded tube stations in Madrid. There was media work around the speakers' tour which also focused on the 30th anniversary of the Committee Against Torture.

**94,500 Total actions**

92,550 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
Chelsea Manning  
Moses Akatugba

# SRILANKA

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

One volunteer organized a successful event in Sri Lanka as part of a World Human Rights Day Commemoration Programme.

**120 Total actions**

Featured individuals:  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba

**187,225 Total actions**

20,000 Estimated Participants

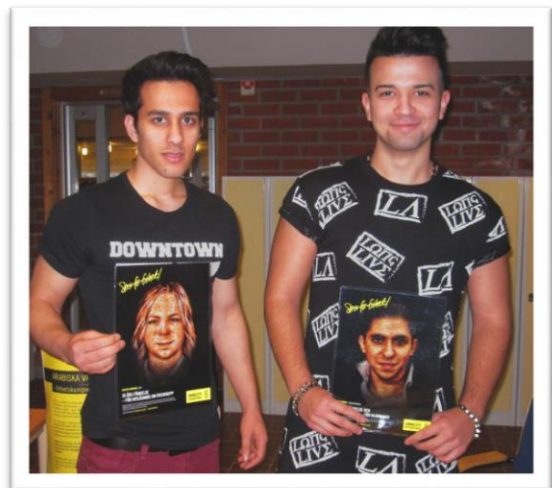
**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Raif Badawi

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SWEDEN

AI Sweden used e-mail and social media to mobilise both Amnesty members and other activists. Through its ambassadors, AI Sweden was able to

reach thousands of people unfamiliar with Amnesty. Members were prepared for campaigning on a completely new topic - allowing transgender people to change their legal gender.



An event held by AI Sweden in Arboga. © AI Sweden

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SWITZERLAND

Local groups in AI Switzerland used a comprehensive approach on Write for Rights, including Human Rights Education and public events. Overall, these activities contributed significantly to the number of letters written.

**24,000 Total actions**

Featured individuals:  
Erkin Musaev  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Raif Badawi

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **TAIWAN**

AI Taiwan successfully reached out to new audiences such as primary and middle school students as well as hospital personnel. Write for Rights 2014 brought in new contacts including teachers and potential activists. In addition, AI Taiwan managed to further engage current volunteers and activists through three coffee shop events. The section hopes to deepen its relationship with the newly-recruited activists and partners in 2015.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **TOGO**

Event held in Togo © AI Togo.



AI Togo worked with 25 schools to promote Human Rights Education (HRE). The activities included signing petitions, a musical concert, a poem competition, and an action on the beach. musical concert in particular helped improve the visibility and popularity of the campaign leading to an increase in members and supporters.

**4,951 Total actions**

3,700 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

John Jeanette  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Jerryyme Corre

**28, 710 Total actions**

2, 200 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaeu  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugb  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerryyme Corre

The

**1,367 Total actions**

2,000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Chelsea Manning  
Hakan Yaman

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **TURKEY**

For the first time, AI Turkey organized a letter writing workshop on the 10th of December. This attracted a lot of interest, not only from existing activists but also new ones. Moreover, the workshop also helped AI Turkey collect solidarity letters.

## **UGANDA**

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

One volunteer organized a series of events in Uganda, the main one took place at the Hockey Stadium in Kampala during the East African University games. Other events took place during hostel visits, at various parties, in a human rights centre, and at the end of year church celebrations in a primary school.

**120 Total actions**

125 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Daniel Quintero  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Jerryyme Corre

**155, 418 Total actions**

46,941 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Chelsea Manning  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Raif Badawi  
Hadiya Pendeleton (gun violence, USA)  
Jose Lazaro (gun violence, Brazil)  
Women of El Salvador (My Body, My Rights)  
Chicago torture survivors

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **USA**

AI USA's Write for Rights 2014 grew significantly compared to the previous year. It set aggressive goals which allowed it to increase the total number of reported actions by 30%, the number of letters written by 25%, the number of letter writing participants by 22%, and the number of events by 260% with a 100% report back rate from event organizers who signed up on the website.



Graphic used at an AIUSA Write for Rights event © William Butkus



## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UKRAINE

AI Ukraine organized letter writing events in 37 cities, towns and villages all over Ukraine, including Russia occupied Crimea, but excluding the territories de facto controlled by separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The activities in Kiev were mostly organized by AI Ukraine activists with the support of the office. The activists organized a concert called “Make Some Noise. Human Rights Concert”. Events were organized in schools, universities, local NGOs, churches, local councils, and even in a penitentiary institution. Half of the coordinators were new to Amnesty. AI Ukraine used a new web-site developed by AI Czech Republic both to communicate with the coordinators and to collect actions.

**31,644 Total actions**

5,000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
Daniel Quintero  
Bhopal Communities  
Liu Ping  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Oleg Sentsov  
Iryna Rabchenyuk

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK

**86,301 Total actions**

**Featured individuals:**

Erkin Musaev  
John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Chelsea Manning  
Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba  
Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken  
Kalpana Chakma  
Yolanda Oqueli  
Alfreda Disbarro  
Hakan Yaman  
Prageeth Eknaligoda

AI UK’s 2014 campaign featured 12 individual cases. To really celebrate ‘the power of the pen’ new visuals were introduced – with line drawings of all of the 12 individual people in the campaign. Activists across the country wrote letters and cards in their thousands, in schools and universities, town centres, churches, pubs and homes. More materials were provided to help organize events in their local areas, such as a ‘how to’ guides and downloadable resources. Online action was focused on Chelsea Manning, with a petition signed by over 26,000 people, and a solidarity message board.

A social media campaign was started for Dr Mohammed al-Roken. Starting with a stunt on the streets of London and Edinburgh, where a giant photo frame featuring Dr al-Roken’s picture was carried when visiting the sights. Many supporters replicated this action in their local areas – all with the same ‘wish you were here’ message to Dr al-Roken. This virtual tour of the UK and beyond brought the sights of the UK and a strong sense of solidarity to Dr al-Roken.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URUGUAY

AI Uruguay organized a public event at the performance of the play "La marca en el orillo" about the life of Victoria Montenegro who was illegally adopted during Argentina's dictatorship, at the PITCNT (National Workers Union). AI Uruguay activists promoted some of the Write for Rights 2014 cases before and after the play.



Staging of the play "la marca en el orillo" © Private

**1,035 Total actions**

1,000 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Paraskevi Kokkoni  
Chelsea Manning  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Jerryme Corre

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL VENEZUELA



Event held in Venezuela © Amnesty International Venezuela

**15,232 Total actions**

150 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

John Jeanette Solstad Remø  
Daniel Quintero  
Chelsea Manning  
Liu Ping  
Women & Girls of Mkhondo  
Raif Badawi  
Familia Barrios

AI Venezuela conducted a fantastic campaign in which activists were able to take solidarity actions in support of victims of human rights abuses. More than 15 local networks participated, making it possible to gather more than 15,000 actions. Actions were also taken to support an extra Venezuelan case as part of Write for Rights 2014.

# YEMEN

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

One volunteer in Yemen organized a two-day event at a school and a public place, where he managed to collect hundreds of signatures.

**320 Total actions**

**Featured individuals:**

Raif Badawi  
Mohammad Al-Roken

**193 Total actions**

253 Estimated Participants

**Featured individuals:**

Liu Ping  
Moses Akatugba

# ZAMBIA

(Activities organized by international members managed by Amnesty International's International Secretariat)

A dedicated volunteer organized events in Zambia at a church, a library and via a 'working breakfast' at a local restaurant. The volunteer emphasised how his innovative events helped to raise awareness of the organisation, saying that now "our new members appreciate that AI work on global human rights concerns and not just local concerns".