



FINAL REPORT

LETTER WRITING MARATHON
2010

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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1. SUMMARY

"I wanted a laptop for Christmas, but I got my father back - the biggest Christmas present ever. I want to thank Amnesty International from the bottom of my heart...I'm very very happy...it's good to have my dad back."

FEMI PETERS, SON OF GAMBIAN POLITICAL LEADER FEMI PETERS SENIOR, WHO WAS IMPRISONED FOR ORGANIZING A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION, AND WAS FREED AFTER INTENSIVE CAMPAIGNING, ON 10 DECEMBER 2010.

In December 2010, hundreds of thousands of people across the world came together to take action on behalf of individuals at risk of human rights violations. The aim of "Write for Rights", Amnesty International's Letter Writing Marathon, was to bring about change in the individuals' lives and also show the individuals that people around the world were thinking of them.

IMPACTS

The Letter Writing Marathon focused on ten individuals in 2010. Activism has contributed to significant change in five of the cases:

- Gambian prisoner of conscience **Femi Peters**, an opposition politician, was released early from prison in December 2010.
- In January 2011, **Mao Hengfeng**, a Chinese prisoner of conscience, was allowed to meet with her family for the first time since she was detained at a Re-Education Through Labour facility in Beijing
- The Mexican authorities have now provided two bodyguards to help protect Catholic priest **Father Alejandro Solalinde Guerra**. His life is at risk because he has dedicated his life to providing a place of safety for migrants.
- **Walid Yunis Ahmad** has finally been charged, after ten years in detention in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. He is now awaiting trial.
- **Norma Cruz** has said the Letter Writing Marathon led to media attention in Guatemala about the threats against her. She thinks that this will mean that

the authorities have no alternative but to keep protecting her and her organization, and to keep following her case.

Three of the ten featured individuals have told Amnesty International that they hugely appreciated the sense of solidarity they felt from being part of the global event.

“Thank you for your help... I'm deeply touched by the fact that people living far away from Senegal are concerned about my situation.”

KHADY BASSÈNE, WIFE OF JEAN DIANDY, WHO IS CAMPAIGNING FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HER HUSBAND AFTER HE WAS ARRESTED BY SOLDIERS IN SENEGAL IN 1999

- **Khady Bassène's** husband, Jean Diandy, was arrested by soldiers in Senegal in 1999. No one has seen him since, and she is fighting for the truth about what happened to him. She has said that she is deeply touched that people living far away from Senegal are concerned about her situation, and that it is a comfort to know that people are sending letters to the authorities.
- **Zelimkhan Murdalov** has not been seen since 2001 when he was detained in Chechnya, in the Russian Federation. His sister has said to us: “We are very happy that Amnesty International has done this campaigning for my brother Zelimkhan. The more attention to his case, the better. We have appealed to so many officials without any result but the authorities can not stay silent every time. They will have to respond.”
- We have heard from the **Roma families**, who were forcibly evicted from their homes in Romania. They were very pleased to receive all the letters of solidarity from activists, and hear about all the appeals that have been sent to the Mayor on their behalf. They said "Thank you! We have received hundreds of letters already and there are even more waiting for us at the post office. We would very much like to respond to the people who wrote to us."

“We are very happy that Amnesty International has done this campaigning for my brother Zelimkhan. The more attention to his case, the better.”

SISTER OF ZELIMKHAN MURDALOV, WHO HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE 2001, WHEN HE WAS DETAINED IN CHECHNYA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ACTIVITIES

The Letter Writing Marathon took place in 51 countries in 2010:

Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh*, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda, Bolivia*, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador*, Egypt*, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India*, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria*, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia*, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, UK

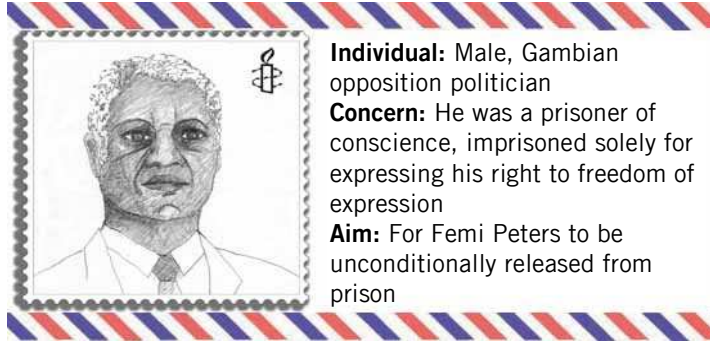
and Yemen*.

Activities were mainly organized by the Amnesty International section in that country. However, Amnesty International's International Secretariat also facilitated campaigning in countries without national Amnesty sections (those countries marked *).

The Letter Writing Marathon generated over 636,000 appeals globally (with an "appeal" meaning a letter, card, fax, email or SMS sent, or a petition signed, either to the authorities on behalf of an individual, or directly to the individuals in solidarity). Over 410,000 of these actions focused on the ten individuals that were featured globally. The remainder were made for other individuals with whom Amnesty International is also working.

2. IMPACTS AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE INDIVIDUALS

FEMI PETERS



On 10 December 2010, Gambian opposition politician, Femi Peters, was released from prison early. He had been given a mandatory prison sentence of one year in April 2010, charged with “control of procession and control of use of loud speakers in public” during a peaceful demonstration by his party.

He was not officially pardoned by the government and there is no legal explanation for his release, so is likely to have been a political move. Femi Peters' lawyer does not think that his release was a response by the government to manoeuvring within the opposition. Our local partners in Gambia have found no evidence of any trigger for the release of Femi Peters aside from Amnesty International's campaigning.

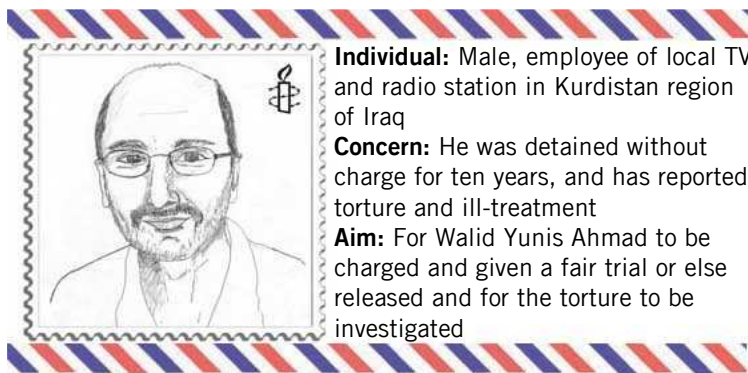
Femi Peters' lawyer confirmed that Amnesty International's campaigning about Femi Peters has raised the profile of the issue in Gambia. There had not been any international attention for Femi Peters until Amnesty International raised his case for the first time during a Gambia Global Day of Action in July 2010. The next big burst of activity was the Letter Writing Marathon.

Femi Peters was released in the middle of the Letter Writing Marathon, meaning that some of the letters calling for Femi Peters' release may not yet have reached the Gambian government. However, the online presence of the Letter Writing Marathon is likely to have had an effect: preparations began in November 2010, with Amnesty International sections across the world featuring Femi Peters on their websites.

We conclude that the high profile Amnesty International gave to Femi Peters' case, combined with the Gambian government's sensitivity to international attention, contributed to his release. The government may have decided that it was counter-productive to keep Femi Peters in prison.

Femi Peters' family were keen to be involved in Amnesty International's campaigning. Femi Peters' son was extremely happy to take part in an interview about his father's release a few days after it happened. He said: "I wanted a laptop for Christmas, but I got my father back - the biggest Christmas present ever. I want to thank Amnesty International from the bottom of my heart for helping, for putting the pressure on the government, for writing letters and demonstrating. I just feel like a kid again, I'm very very happy...It's good to have my dad back"

WALID YUNIS AHMAD



After over ten years of detention without charge, Walid Yunis Ahmad was finally informed of the formal charges against him in January 2011. He is now waiting for a trial. He has been charged under the anti-terrorism law, and Walid's lawyer told Amnesty International that he believes the charges against him have been fabricated.

Amnesty International's analysis is that campaigning activities about Walid over the past two years have contributed to this development, with the recent and huge push of the Letter Writing Marathon also playing an important part.

We still have major concerns about the case: Walid may now face fabricated charges in an unfair trial. There is still a great need to continue to support him at this crucial stage, or he could be locked up forever without the opportunity to be fairly tried.

MAO HENGFENG

Individual: Female, China, activist who supports victims of forced eviction and women's sexual and reproductive rights

Concern: She is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for expressing her right to freedom of expression. She has been tortured

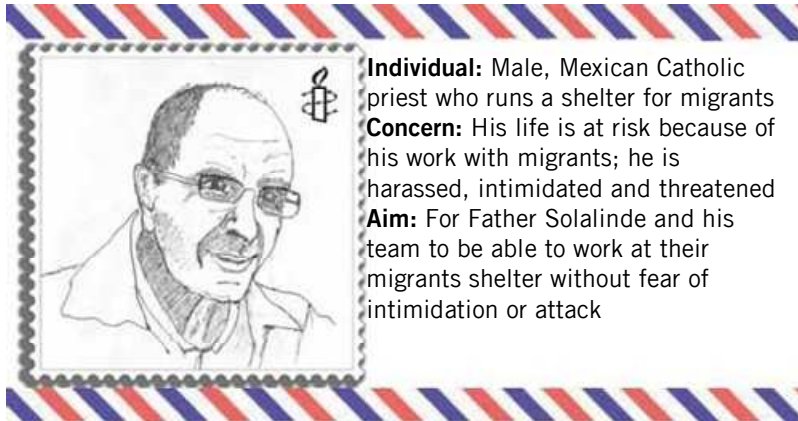
Aim: Mao Hengfeng to be unconditionally released, and in the meantime, for her to be protected from torture and allowed to see her family

Mao Hengfeng's family were finally allowed to meet with her on 19 January 2011. This is the first time they were permitted to meet with her since she was sentenced to 18 months in the Anhui Provincial Women's Re-education Through Labour (RTL) facility in Beijing. They last saw her at her appeal on 21 July 2010, but were not allowed to meet with her. The RTL facility suddenly called her family on 18 January and told them they could visit. Amnesty International's analysis is that our campaigning through the Letter Writing Marathon, along with other international and domestic pressure, helped contribute to this.

During the meeting, Mao Hengfeng was tightly monitored and was not allowed to speak to her family freely. The RTL facility officers ordered them to speak in Mandarin, and not in Shanghai dialect, to make sure they could understand the conversation. During the meeting, Mao Hengfeng reported being tortured and ill-treated again. It is hoped that the fact that the authorities allowed this visit is a sign that Mao Hengfeng receive better treatment in the future.

Mao Hengfeng's husband Wu Xuewe said he was heartbroken when he saw her on 19 January. She is very slim, pale and weak; even her voice was weak and tired. However, she has a strong will and she has hope, and was very happy to hear that pro-democracy activist Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Mao Hengfeng was sent to the RTL facility for protesting in support of Liu Xiaobo.

FATHER ALEJANDRO SOLALINDE GUERRA



Father Solalinde has said that working alongside Amnesty International has raised his profile high enough that he is now able to arrange high level meetings to discuss issues about irregular migrants. For example, he has arranged meetings with Senators in Mexico. He is also going to attend the UN Migrant Workers Committee meeting in Geneva in April.

He says that his involvement in the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon and the campaigning actions that people took on his behalf have helped to raise his profile. Prior to the Letter Writing Marathon, Father Solalinde was involved in the launch of "The Invisibles" film, and the Amnesty International report 'Standing up for Justice and Dignity - Human Rights Defenders in Mexico'. These activities have also significantly boosted his profile.

In addition to helping Father Solalinde gain a platform from which to discuss migrants' issues, Amnesty International thinks that the Letter Writing Marathon may have contributed to Father Solalinde receiving protection from two state-appointed bodyguards to combat the harassment and threats he has received from xenophobic members of local communities for carrying out his work.

The solidarity letters, which activists sent directly to the migrants shelter that Father Solalinde runs, had a positive impact on the staff there, who like Father Solalinde are harassed and threatened for the work they do. Many of the staff opened the letters themselves and are making a banner from the letters that they will hang in the shelter, so that the migrants who use their services can see that they are not alone, and that people from all over the world support the work of the shelter.

NORMA CRUZ



Individual: Female, Human Rights Defender in Guatemala who runs a women's rights organization

Concern: She has been repeatedly threatened with death because of her work standing up for women who have survived violence

Aim: The death threats against her are investigated and those responsible are brought to justice

Norma Cruz has told Amnesty International that unfortunately there has been no progress in the investigations into the threats against her. The Prosecutor's Office has yet to call for the initial hearing of the investigations into the 2009 threats, and have yet to produce any results in the investigations of the 2010 threats.

Norma Cruz has said a huge thank you to the whole of the Amnesty International movement for the activism through the Letter Writing Marathon. She and her colleagues are overwhelmed by the amount of solidarity they have received from all over the world, which she was very impressed by. She said that all the letters and postcards are being displayed in the wall of their offices and the shelter, to continue reminding them that they are not alone. She has said that she would like to find a way to thank every single person.

Norma Cruz has also said that the increased international attention on her case through the Letter Writing Marathon has had a positive effect due to media attention. The media in Guatemala has made public the threats and harassment that Norma and her colleagues received. The media attention has greatly helped increase their profile and make people aware of their situation. She expects that because of the media focus, the authorities will have no alternative but keep giving Norma and her organization protection, and to keep pursuing her case.

KHADY BASSÈNE



Individual: Female, Senegal

Concern: She is in a precarious financial situation as a result of the enforced disappearance of her husband in 1999

Aim: For her to find out the truth about what happened to her husband, and receive financial reparation for his disappearance

Khady has told us that unfortunately, there has been no progress in her case. However, she said that making a film about her husband for the Letter Writing Marathon, which was featured on many Amnesty International websites, made her feel that she is no longer alone, after feeling that she has had to suffer in silence for so many years. She also said: "Thank you for your help. I was in a difficult situation, but thanks to your help, I'm much better. I'm deeply touched by the fact that people living far away from Senegal are concerned about my situation. I have no news regarding my husband. I would like you to continue to help me know the truth, to put pressure on the authorities. It is a comfort to know that people are sending letters to the authorities."

ROMA FAMILIES



Community: Around 100 Roma families including young children in a Hungarian speaking region of Romania

Concern: The families have been forcibly evicted from their homes and are now living in unsanitary conditions and need to be rehoused

Aim: Relocation of the families following a genuine consultation

We have heard from the Roma families, who were forcibly evicted from their homes in Romania, who say they were very pleased to receive all the letters of solidarity from activists and hear about the appeals that have been sent to the Mayor on their behalf. They said "Thank you! We have received hundreds of letters already and there are even more waiting for us at the post office. We would very much like to respond to the people who wrote to us."

ZELIMKHAN MURDALOV



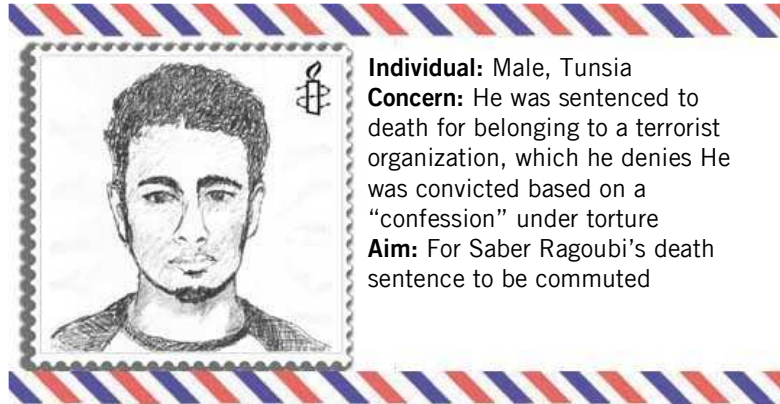
Individual: Male, Chechnya, Russian Federation

Concern: He has not been seen since 2001, when he was detained. A court has found that he was tortured in custody, and the last people to see him were state agents. One police officer was sentenced to ten and a half years imprisonment for crimes connected with Zelimkhan Murdalov's torture. Two others are still at large.

Aim: For the authorities to tell Zelimkhan's family where he is and all those responsible for his torture and enforced disappearance are brought to justice.

There has unfortunately not been progress in Zelimkhan Murdalov's case. However, his sister has said to us: "We are very happy that Amnesty International has done this campaigning for my brother Zelimkhan. The more attention to his case, the better. We have appealed to so many officials without any result but the authorities can not stay silent every time. They will have to respond."

SABER RAGOUBI



Individual: Male, Tunisia

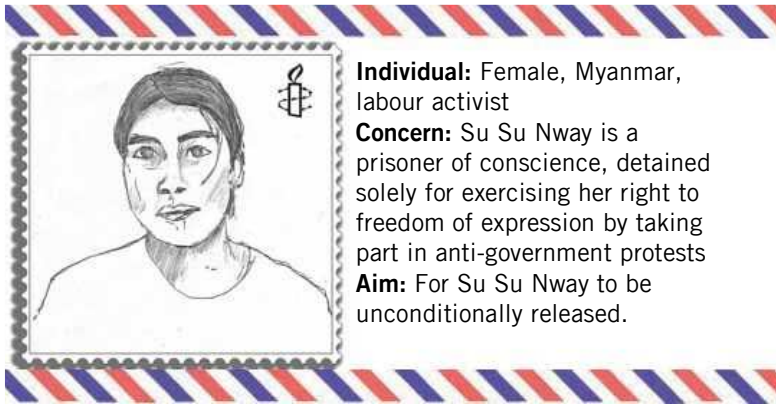
Concern: He was sentenced to death for belonging to a terrorist organization, which he denies. He was convicted based on a "confession" under torture.

Aim: For Saber Ragoubi's death sentence to be commuted.

We have been unable to confirm the exact situation with Saber Ragoubi's case following the Letter Writing Marathon. The unstable political situation in Tunisia since the beginning of 2011 has made it very difficult to get information.

Further information will be shared if it emerges that the Letter Writing Marathon did have an impact on Saber Ragoubi's case.

SU SU NWAY



There is no new information about Su Su Nway since the Letter Writing Marathon took place. This is partly because it is difficult to stay in regular contact with local partners in Myanmar. Further information will be shared if it emerges that the Letter Writing Marathon did have an impact on Su her case.

3. BREAKDOWN OF ACTIVISM BY COUNTRY

Algeria	included in "international" figure	Germany	19027	Norway	4000	Ukraine	4663
Austria	18180	Greece	4216	Peru	unknown	USA	60,441
Bangladesh	5687	Hong Kong	100	Poland	145195	Yemen	unknown
Belarus	132	Hungary	101	Portugal	5611	International	12,143
Belgium	10,000	India	450	Puerto Rico	298		
Benin	15,000	Iceland	2921	Russia	1224		
Bermuda	180	Ireland	unknown	Senegal	50		
Bolivia	326	Israel	150	Slovakia	1924		
Burkina Faso	900	Italy	40,000	Slovenia	4132		
Canada	21036	Japan	2035	South Korea	10194		
Croatia	378	Luxembourg	325	Spain	35646		
Denmark	43700	Mali	3,031	Switzerland	31355		
Ecuador	unknown	Mauritius	550	Thailand	761		
Egypt	unknown	Morocco	3200	Togo	2712		
Finland	571	New Zealand	394	Tunisia	200		
France	120,000	Nigeria	3,000	Turkey	unknown	TOTAL	636,139

The total number of appeals, **636,139**, includes only confirmed actions.

In 2009, the global total of appeals was reported as 733,120. However, this figure included "pledged" appeals as well as confirmed appeals, due to the system that Amnesty International USA uses to record Letter Writing Marathon activism. In 2010, the USA section collected 243,891 pledges and activists have confirmed 60,441 of these. However, Amnesty International USA expects that many more of these pledges were actually "converted" than they know about. So, the global total of actions could even be as high as 819,589, taking the total significantly greater than the 2009 result.

4. BREAKDOWN OF ACTIVISM ON EACH CASE

INDIVIDUAL	# APPEALS	ORIGIN COUNTRY
Femi Peters	34607	Algeria, Bangladesh and Bangla speaking region of India, Bermuda, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Israel, Japan, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Puerto Rico, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, Togo, USA, Yemen, International
Khady Bassène	19770	Algeria, Bangladesh and Bangla speaking region of India, Bermuda, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, India, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Senegal, Slovenia, Togo, Tunisia, Yemen, International
Roma families	55649	Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh and Bangla speaking region of India, Benin, Bermuda, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, India, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, USA, Yemen, International
Zelimkhan Murdalov	17906	Algeria, Bangladesh and Bangla speaking region of India, Bermuda, Bolivia, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Hungary, India, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, Ukraine, Yemen, International
Walid Yunis Ahmad	30971	Algeria, Bangladesh and Bangla speaking region of India, Bermuda, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, South Korea, Thailand, Ukraine, USA, Yemen, International
Saber Ragoubi	36981	Algeria, Bangladesh and Bangla speaking region of India, Bermuda, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, Yemen, International
Mao Hengfeng	62152	Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh and Bangla speaking region of India, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Yemen
Su Su Nway	45664	Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh and Bangla speaking region of India, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivia, Burkina, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Puerto Rico, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, Yemen, International
Norma Cruz	56171	Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh and Bangla speaking region of India, Bermuda, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, USA, Yemen, International
Father Solalinde	54988	Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh and Bangla speaking region of India, Benin, Bermuda, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, India, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, Yemen, International

These figures are estimates, as some Amnesty International sections did not record the exact number of appeals generated for each individual. In these cases, an estimate has been generated based on the total number of appeals, the individuals featured and a judgment about whether the activism was evenly spread across all cases. There is a difference between the total number of appeals generated through the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon (636, 139) and the total number of appeals for the ten featured individuals (414,849). This is because some Amnesty International sections campaigned on behalf of other individuals, too.

5. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRY



2010 Letter Writing Marathon Materials at an AI Morocco event



Letters received by Father Solalinde following the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon

■ ALGERIA

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: Included in international total, as sent through www.amnesty.org

Activities: Amnesty International Algeria gave a particularly high profile to the Tunisian case, Saber Ragoubi and printed posters about him. They organized a panel discussion and an exhibition at universities in Bejaia and asked activists to take action online. They also sent an email to all their members.

■ AUSTRIA

Individuals featured: Mao Hengfeng, Su Su Nway, Norma Cruz, Father Solalinde, Roma families

Appeals sent: 18,180

Activities: Amnesty International Austria activists took action online and offline. Their number of appeals for 2010 is almost double their 2009 total. Casesheets with instructions about how to take action were sent directly to some activists, and there were around 40 events organized by local groups, student groups and individual activists. These varied from collecting signatures at concerts and co-operations with fair trade shops to appeals collected at mass. At least 35 schools also took part in the Letter Writing Marathon.

■ BELGIUM

Individuals featured: Mao Hengfeng, Su Su Nway

Appeals sent: 10,000

Activities: The francophone Amnesty International section in Belgium focused their weekly e-actions on Mao Hengfeng and Su Su Nway at the time of the Letter Writing Marathon. They emailed activists and asked them to take action online. They selected these specific individuals to tie in with media coverage in Belgium of China and Burma at the time. The Flemish Amnesty International section in Belgium did not take part in the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon.

■ BENIN

“Today, we must give our support to Amnesty International and all those people. They need us. Who knows if tomorrow we will be in similar situations?”

AN ACTIVIST FROM AI BENIN

Individuals featured: Roma families, Father Solalinde, GAPWUZ (Zimbabwe), Abuzar al Amin (Sudan), Ibragim Gazdiev (Russia), Chekib el Khiari (Morocco) AI Me'adessa residents (Egypt), Campaign for Equality (Iran), Nurmemet Yasin (China), Okunishi Masaru (Japan), Ingrid Vergara (Colombia), Father Solalinde (Mexico), Jordan Brown (USA). These are the same cases as Amnesty International France as the two sections worked in partnership.

Appeals sent: 15,000

Activities: Teams of young activists from Amnesty International Benin set up stations in internet cafes in the cities of Cotonou and Abomey Calavi. Visitors to the cafes were encouraged to take action through the website shared with Amnesty International France. The teams of activists invited keen recruits to the Letter Writing Marathon to also attend a film screening and discussion on 10 December.

One activist said: "Today, we must give our support to Amnesty International and all those people. They need us. Who knows if tomorrow we or one of us will be in similar situations?"

■ BERMUDA

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 180

Activities: Amnesty International Bermuda organized a Human Rights workshop at a school on 10 December, at which schoolchildren sent greetings cards. A local Amnesty school group also took part in the Letter Writing Marathon, as well as individual members.

■ BURKINA FASO



Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz and GAPWUZ (Zimbabwe), Abuzar al Amin (Sudan), Ibragim Gazdiev (Russia), Chekib el Khiari (Morocco) Al Me'adessa residents (Egypt), Campaign for Equality (Iran), Nurmemet Yasin (China),

Okunishi Masaru (Japan), Ingrid Vergara (Colombia), Jordan Brown (USA). AI Burkina Faso worked in partnership with both AI France and the International Secretariat.

Appeals sent: 900 through AI France site plus additional appeals through IS site.

Activities: Amnesty International Burkina Faso's 2010 Letter Writing Marathon was bigger than in 2009, now taking place in four cities – Ouagadougou, Bobo-Dioulasso, Ouahigouya and Koudougou. Amnesty International Burkina Faso built partnerships with eight different internet cafes, including one at a university campus and two in high schools. They recruited and trained 14 activists to encourage people at the internet cafes to sign the Letter Writing Marathon online petitions.

■ CANADA

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz, Zarganar (Myanmar), Lubicon, Indigenous people in Colombia, Porgera Mine (Papua New Guinea)

Appeals sent: 21,036



Marilyn McKim shows activists gathered at the Toronto office's Open House photos from internet cafes in Burkina Faso earlier on Human Rights Day 2010.

Activities: The Amnesty International section for English-speaking Canada organized online and offline activities. Three particular highlights in 2010 were 1) that Write for Rights and Liu Xiaobo were mentioned on Canada's popular late night talk show on December 9; 2) A tweet was sent out by Canadian author Margaret Atwood to 90,000 followers; 3) Partnership with the Canadian branch of PEN, the international organization that promotes literature and freedom of expression across the word.

■ CROATIA

Individuals featured: Walid Yunis Ahmad, Roma families, Mao Hengfeng, Su Su Nway and Zelimkhan Murdalov.

Appeals sent: 378

Activities: Amnesty International Croatia took part in the Letter Writing Marathon for the first time in 2010. All their appeals were handwritten letters, which were written at three separate events – at a Human Rights Film Festival in the Croatian capital Zagreb, at a primary school and at a high school.

■ DENMARK

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz (particular focus on Norma Cruz)

Appeals sent: 43,700

Activities: Amnesty International Denmark took part in the Letter Writing Marathon for the first time in 2010. Appeals were generated through traditional offline letter writing at events organized by individuals, groups and

schools (the section produced a letter writing kit). Appeals were also made through an online tool and by SMS. One case was featured per day, and activists who signed up received an email or SMS about that case. Facebook was used as an easy way of advertising the cases, and Amnesty International Denmark's 10 000 Facebook fans were encouraged to write solidarity messages directly on the Facebook page. Groups and individual activists were equipped with a press kit, which they have used very successfully in the local media, generating more than 20 news clips. The Danish novelist Naja Marie Aidt got involved in the campaign. She wrote a personal solidarity letter for Norma Cruz, which was used to gain media coverage on 10th December.

■ FINLAND



Individuals featured: Father Solalinde, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Muralov, the Roma families and Chen Zeping (another Chinese prisoner of conscience). Also solidarity letters were written to Liu Xiaobo.

Appeals sent: 571

Activities: Amnesty International Finland's actions were all offline in 2010, with letters written and petitions signed at events held in a variety of venues from libraries to rock club nights. Amnesty International Finland co-operated with PEN Finland around the visit of Chinese democracy activist and writer Chen Maiping. Media coverage was good, with national and local newspapers, a commercial nationwide TV station and local radio stations covering the Letter Writing Marathon. The coverage focused on the events and on the visit of Chen Maiping to Helsinki.

■ FRANCE



Individuals featured: Roma families, Father Solalinde, GAPWUZ (Zimbabwe), Abuzar al Amin (Sudan), Ibragim Gazdiev (Russia), Chekib el Khiari (Morocco), Al Me'adessa residents (Egypt), Campaign for Equality (Iran), Nurmemet Yasin (China), Okunishi Masaru (Japan), Ingrid Vergara (Colombia),

Father Solalinde (Mexico), Jordan Brown (USA)

Appeals sent: 120,000

Activities: Amnesty International France's main activity for the Letter Writing Marathon is to mobilise the public to sign petitions on behalf of the featured individuals at risk. More than 200 local groups and youth networks took part in the Letter Writing Marathon in 2010. Public activities took place in at least 200 cities in France. Online, Amnesty International built a specialised website www.marathondesignatures.com, which was a shared online tool with the sections in Burkina Faso, Benin and Tunisia. 47,000 signatures were collected between 4 and 14 December. Local groups had lots of local media interest, with coverage on the radio, newspapers and websites. Amin el Khiari, a Human Rights Defender and brother of imprisoned Human Rights Defender Chekib el Khiari, spoke publicly as part of the Marathon. A highlight of the Marathon was an event at a university in Villeteuse (a suburb of Paris). Hip hop band Milk Coffee and Sugar gave a concert, then Amin el Khiari gave a testimony of his brother's situation to the audience. Students signed petitions and signed a big map representing the path towards universal human rights across the world. Many students asked to get more involved with Amnesty International, and Moroccan and other North African students were particularly interested to talk to Amin and pledge their solidarity with him and his brother.

■ GERMANY



Individuals featured: Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Norma Cruz, Saber Ragoubi

Appeals sent: 19,027

Activities: Amnesty International Germany launched an online tool for the Letter Writing Marathon for the first time in 2010. Around 50 local groups took part in the Letter Writing Marathon, and collected signatures on behalf of the four cases. Amnesty Germany organized a central action in Berlin and a "mobile marathon" van displaying huge pictures of the four individuals was driven around the city.

■ GREECE

Individuals featured: Father Solaline, Roma families, Mao Hengfeng, Walid Yunis Ahmad and a general case about justice for women in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Appeals sent: 4,216

Activities: Amnesty International Greece's key activity for the Letter Writing Marathon was "Taste for Justice". The Letter Writing Marathon materials were distributed in 35 restaurants in Athens around 10 December. Pupils from four

schools wrote letters for the Marathon, and six local groups organised events, mostly out in the streets and in busy shopping centres. One student group organised an event at the University of Thessaloniki. Some individual activists organised events at their homes and workplaces. Amnesty International Greece promoted the Marathon through the website, mailing lists and Facebook.

■ HONG KONG

Individuals featured: Mao Hengfeng, Su Su Nway, Femi Peters and Liu Xiaobo

Appeals sent: 100

Activities: Amnesty International Hong Kong took the Letter Writing Marathon to the Human Rights Day Fair, an annual fair involving over 25 NGOs in Hong Kong. Activists were asked to write a simple message on behalf of the four cases, and some had their photo taken with instant cameras. People wrote their names on their photos and they were sent along with the messages. Some schools took part in the Letter Writing Marathon too, and the actions were promoted through mailing lists and online.

■ HUNGARY

Appeals sent: 101

Activities: Letter writing.

■ IRELAND

Activities: Amnesty International Ireland sent details of the Letter Writing Marathon to teachers the section has worked with in the past.

■ ISRAEL

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 150

Activities: Amnesty International held one national youth event, and two local youth groups devoted a meeting to write letters for the Letter Writing Marathon. "The devotion and dedication our youth activists showed was inspiring," the section reported.

■ ITALY

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 40,000

Activities: Amnesty International Italy produced posters and pins for the local groups, which organized events in different places across Italy. The section organized two conferences (one in northern Italy and one in southern Italy), they organized activities for their youth networks about Mao Hengfeng, had a collaboration with two trade unions about Su Su Nway and collaborated with the Italian association of foreign languages teachers for all the cases.

■ IVORY COAST

Amnesty International Ivory Coast planned to take part in the Letter Writing Marathon in December 2010, but was unable to do so due to the post-election conflict.

■ JAPAN

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 2,035

Activities: Amnesty International Japan organized events in 26 places for the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon. The Letter Writing Marathon was also promoted at music concerts and in the street. There were dedicated web pages on Amnesty International Japan' website, which were promoted by Twitter and email.

■ LUXEMBOURG

Individuals featured: Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng and the Roma families

Appeals sent: 325

Activities: Amnesty International Luxembourg achieved two articles in national

newspapers about the Letter Writing Marathon. The cases were published on the section's website and they sent an email to members and supporters to invite them to sign the appeals online. One local group organized an event in a church in Echternach (northern Luxembourg), which specifically focused on Father Solalinde. Amnesty International Luxembourg's partners from a school in the city of Diekirch collected signatures for the Roma families during the Christmas market at the school.

■ MALI



Individuals featured:

Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 3,031

Activities: Amnesty International Mali launched the Letter Writing Marathon at an event on 4 December in Bamako, Mali's capital. National press attended, as well as students, pupils and staff from ten schools and Amnesty International Mali's partners. The youth network set itself a target of 1,800 appeals by 14 December. This seemed like a tough target but they were pleasantly surprised how interested and committed pupils and teachers were at the ten schools involved and the target was easily surpassed.

■ MAURITIUS

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 550

Activities: Amnesty International Mauritius organized several events for the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon. Local groups were encouraged to collect signatures and events were designed to coincide with existing activities so as to have the greatest impact. One event was at a team-building seminar for new and existing Amnesty International members, who all took part in letter writing for the Marathon.

■ MOROCCO



Individuals featured:

Saber Ragoubi,
Walid Yunis Ahmad,
Khady Bassène, Femi Peters,
Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng,
Zelimkhan Murdalov,
Roma families, Father Solalinde,
Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 3,200

Activities: Amnesty International Morocco organized numerous events in partnership with human rights groups, in Marrakech, Rabat, Kenitra, Settat, Fes, Tangier, Casablanca, Salé and El Jadida. At all of these events, signatures were collected for the Letter Writing Marathon. In addition, around thirty young people were mobilised to take action at Amnesty International's "forum for young people". Amnesty International Morocco organized a poster exhibition at the German Cultural Centre in Rabat and on 10 December, groups of young activists went to the exhibition and asked visitors to sign petitions for the Letter Writing Marathon. In addition to these offline activities, Amnesty International Morocco posted information about the ten individuals on their website and collected over 2,000 signatures, from inside and outside Morocco. People from France, UK, USA, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Brazil, Mongolia, Nigeria, Algeria, Qatar, Egypt, Tunisia and Ghana all took action through Amnesty International Morocco's website.

■ NEW ZEALAND

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 394

Activities: Amnesty International New Zealand hosted Letter Writing Marathon events at seven locations, including schools, homes and cafes. Three cases (Mao Hengfeng, Father Solalinde and Su Su Nway) featured in Amnesty International New Zealand's membership magazine "Flame". The New Zealand Urgent Action Network and all members were urged by email to take action through the website. The Children Rights Network featured the Roma families case; the Legal Network featured Norma Cruz. The case of Su Su Nway was circulated to the Burmese community and the trade union community in New Zealand. The two Latin American cases were circulated to the Latin American community in New Zealand. "It was very powerful and very

moving to see some of the heartfelt pleas that activists made to governments on behalf of the individuals," Amnesty International New Zealand reported.

■ NORWAY

Individuals featured: Zelimkhan Murdalov, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 4,000

Activities: Amnesty International Norway focused on two cases for the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon. These cases were promoted on their website and through their email networks.

■ PERU

Individuals featured: WOZA, Troy Davis, Father Solalinde and a case from Peru.

Activities: Amnesty International Peru organized a fair for human rights, in partnership with the National Co-ordinator for Human Rights and other social organizations. The fair lasted two days and Amnesty International Peru's booth was dedicated to the Letter Writing Marathon.

■ POLAND

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz, Arash Alaei and Kamiar Alaei (Iran), Aleksandr Rafalski (Ukraine), Emin Abdullajev and Adnan Hajizade (Azerbaijan), Sakineh Mohammadi Asztiani (Iran), Liu Xiaobo (China), Kartam Joga (India), Aasia Bibi (Pakistan), Ilkhom Ismanov (Tajikistan), José Alberto Donis Rodr guez (Mexico).

Appeals sent: 145,195

Activities: An exciting highlight of Amnesty International Poland's 2010 Letter Writing Marathon was that 14,967 written in one location alone, a school in Bircza, a small town in south-eastern Poland. There are only 1,000 inhabitants in the whole town, making an average of 15 letters per head!

The Letter Writing Marathon was launched by former Amnesty International Polish prisoner of conscience, J zef Pinior. He championed the impact of Amnesty International's letter writing on the evening news on Polish TV: "The prison authorities and the Prosecutor received scores of letters on my behalf. It changed the guard's attitude."

■ PORTUGAL

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Khady Bassène, Mao Hengfeng, Norma Cruz, Roma families

Appeals sent: 5,611

Activities: Amnesty International Portugal organized both online and offline activities in 17 locations. Some local groups organized events, mainly in schools, to promote the Letter Writing Marathon. They set up stands where people could sign letters. The Letter Writing Marathon was also actively promoted both on Amnesty International Portugal's website and Facebook page.

■ PUERTO RICO

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 298

Activities: Amnesty International Puerto Rico organized activities in universities where they have Amnesty groups and in cafes and bookstores. They reached a new audience and made some important new connections that they think will be very useful in the future. The Director of Amnesty International Puerto Rico promoted the Letter Writing Marathon on two radio programmes on 10 December.

■ SENEGAL

Individuals featured: Femi Peters, Khady Bassène

Appeals sent: 100

Activities: Amnesty International Senegal organized an event in Mbour for the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon with youth activists, at which they encouraged people to sign letters on behalf of Femi Peters. Amnesty International Senegal also sent emails to their activists asking them to send solidarity messages to Khady Bassène.

■ SLOVAKIA

Individuals featured: Su Su Nway Saber Ragoubi, and a case about war crimes and sexual abuses in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Appeals sent: 1,924

Activities: Amnesty International Slovakia organized eight events for the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon, in Bratislava, Banska Bystrica, Liptovsky Mikulas, Turany and Trnava. Amnesty International Slovakia chose crowded locations for their events so as to collect the most appeals, for example in the main square in Bratislava and a railway station while people were waiting for trains. The public could also join the Letter Writing Marathon online through the Amnesty International Slovakia website and Facebook page.

■ SLOVENIA

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters (this was the most popular), Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 4,132

Activities: Amnesty International Slovenia ran the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon at approximately 30 schools. Pupils wrote appeals as part of their formal letter writing lessons in English and Slovene; some took part through Geography and History and some through extra-curricular activities. Primary and secondary schools participated as well as one kindergarten and some youth centres. Many teachers expressed enthusiasm to take part next year too.

■ SOUTH KOREA

Individuals featured: Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz, Su Su Nway, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Roma Families, Mao Hengfeng

Appeals sent: 10,194

Activities: Amnesty International South Korea organised their main Letter Writing Marathon, called "Letter Night" in Seoul. They produced Letter Writing Marathon kits comprising an introduction leaflet and a postcard for each case. These kits were distributed at the event and also sent to activists' homes. People fed back that it was easy to get involved. Teachers also got involved with Marathon, encouraging their students to take part and even advertised it within the teachers' community, which made it even more successful. Activists could take action online through Amnesty International South Korea's website, too.

■ SPAIN



Individuals featured: Roma families, Saber Ragoubi, Mao Hengfeng, Norma Cruz, Femi Peters

Appeals sent: 35,646



Activities: 60 of Amnesty International Spain's local groups organized events in towns and cities across Spain. The tools at the events were eye-catching, with very large freestanding posters of the individuals and counters so that activists could keep a track of how many appeals had been generated at each point during the day. Amnesty International Spain ran an online action during the Letter Writing Marathon.

■ SWITZERLAND

Individuals featured: Mao Hengfeng (this was the main focus), Saber Ragoubi, Roma families, Su Su Nway, Father Solalinde

Appeals sent: 31,355

Activities: Amnesty International Switzerland's main case was Mao Hengfeng, which linked well with also campaigning around Liu Xiaobo and the Nobel Peace Prize on 10 December. They made a special website where people were able to "send a letter" online and send a twitter-solidarity message. They used their Facebook page, a Facebook page of a famous Swiss singer and emails to activist lists to promote the actions. On 10 December, they delivered a birthday cake for Mao Hengfeng to the Chinese embassy.

Two young activists visited the different gatherings and events across Switzerland, taking pictures and making videos, which were then posted on Amnesty International Switzerland's Facebook page. This helped show people that the Letter Writing Marathon wasn't just online, but also out in their towns and cities too, which motivated activists.

■ THAILAND



Individuals featured: Norma Cruz, Femi Peters, Father Solalinde, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Mao Hengfeng and Su Su Nway

Appeals sent: 761

Activities: Amnesty International Thailand organized events for the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon at three different locations. Working in collaboration with ExPPACT! (Ex Political Prisoners- Assistance, Counselling & Training), an event was held in Mae Sot, in north-western Thailand. The amount of letters for the Burmese individual case, Su Su Nway, was doubled because of the partnership with ExPPACT!

■ TOGO



Individuals featured: Khady Bassene, Femi Peters, Mao Hengfeng

Appeals sent: 2,712

Activities: Amnesty International Togo generated ten times as many appeals for the Letter Writing Marathon in 2010 than in 2009. The appeals were generated through both online and offline activism. The section organised several events, including a launch at the national office, which was attended by around fifty young people, who all took action online. There were also events at several schools and colleges, including Lome Port High School and the University of Lome.

■ TUNISIA

Individuals featured: Roma families, Father Solalinde, GAPWUZ (Zimbabwe), Abuzar al Amin (Sudan), Ibragim Gazdiev (Russia), Chekib el Khiari (Morocco), Al Me'adessa residents (Egypt), Campaign for Equality (Iran), Nurmemet Yasin (China), Okunishi Masaru (Japan), Ingrid Vergara (Colombia), Father Solalinde (Mexico), Jordan Brown (USA).

Appeals sent: 200

Activities: Amnesty International Tunisia partnered with Amnesty International France and drove activists to take action through the shared website.

■ UKRAINE

Individuals featured: Father Solalinde, Mao Hengfeng, Roma families, Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Su Su Nway, Zelimkhan Murdalov

Appeals sent: 4,663

Activities: For the first time, Amnesty International Ukraine ran the Letter Writing Marathon in 24-hour period. It had good media coverage and Amnesty International Ukraine engaged some celebrities. They also invited Tamara Rafalska to be their special guest. She is the mother of Alexander Rafalsky, who Amnesty International is campaigning for because he has reported being tortured. Tamara Rafalska came with letters written by Amnesty members from the different place of the world. It was touching moment; she was crying and said that the letters are important source of support for her son. Another tool in Amnesty International Ukraine's Letter Writing Marathon this year was "chain letters", which people were asked to read and send on to their friends, asking them to take action.

■ USA

Individuals featured: Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Femi Peters, Norma Cruz, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Roma Families, Maternal Mortality in Burkina Faso, Violence against women in DRC, Filep Karma, Majid Tavakkoli, Women of Atenco, Reggie Clemons.

Appeals sent: 60,441

Activities: Amnesty International USA organized nearly 1,300 events for the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon, engaging around 75,000 people. There was at least one public event in every state. Events ranged from intimate gatherings of friends and family to major happenings involving hundreds of people. A media-oriented event at Amnesty International USA's New York office on 10 December featured actor Patrick Stewart and former prisoner of conscience Saad Eddin Ibrahim. Amnesty International USA also implemented new online tools, including a map of events and participants.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

■ MOBILISING ONLINE COMMUNITIES TO ORGANIZE OFFLINE EVENTS

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 9,595

Amnesty International's international online communities was mobilized to organise offline events for the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon. The countries in which events were organised include Bangladesh, Bolivia, Egypt, Ecuador, India, Morocco, Nigeria and Yemen. This tactic enabled the Letter Writing Marathon to take place in countries where there is no official Amnesty International section or structure. It was the very first time that events were organized in India and Yemen and events were even organized in the sensitive Jammu area and remote villages in West Bengal. At these events, activists took action by writing letters.

■ **ONLINE ACTIVISM**

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 11,466

www.amnesty.org, the international website for Amnesty International, featured a web action for each of the ten individuals at risk, with each action available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. As well as action from international members, Amnesty International sections in Algeria and Burkina Faso drove activists to take action through the site. One of the ten individuals was featured each day throughout the Letter Writing Marathon, with a link from the homepage of the website, a link from the Activism Center and a series of Facebook posts and Tweets about the individual. Mexican actor Gael García Bernal sent a Tweet to all his followers to promote the Father Solalinde web action. Activists were also emailed and encouraged to take action. Paid Facebook advertising was used to particularly engage activists in Bangladesh, Colombia, India and Pakistan. Blogs were commissioned from individuals featured in previous marathons, which were also used to promote the web actions.

■ **EVENT AT THE I.S OFFICE**

Individuals featured: Saber Ragoubi, Walid Yunis Ahmad, Khady Bassène, Femi Peters, Su Su Nway, Mao Hengfeng, Zelimkhan Murdalov, Roma families, Father Solalinde, Norma Cruz

Appeals sent: 677

Activities: Staff gathered on 9 December to sign petitions in support of the ten individuals at risk featured in the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon

■ YOUTH ACTIVISM

Amnesty International's International Secretariat helped facilitate youth co-ordinators in Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritius, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia to take part in the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon. Youth co-ordinators in West Africa specifically requested a "takeaway" product with which they could engage youth activists at events. The International Secretariat organized the production of badges with the slogan "Letter Writing Marathon 2010 – Africa Youth Network" (in French), in Amnesty International colours.

■ RUSSIA RESOURCE CENTRE

Individuals featured: Mao Hengfeng, Norma Cruz, Father Solalinde, Roma families

Appeals sent: 1,224

Activities: Amnesty International's Russia Resource Centre promoted the 2010 Letter Writing Marathon on their website and in their campaigning newsletter. Special events were held in several cities and regions of Russia - in Moscow, Togliatti, Cheboksary, in Mariy El autonomous republic and in the city of Voronezh. These events were held by students at schools, universities or colleges, or at libraries, Cinema Clubs or Book Fairs. Junior Urgent Actions were drafted about casefiles of Mao Hengfeng, Norma Cruz and the Roma families. These were sent out to teachers in schools that are cooperating with Amnesty International.



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

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

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

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