

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



WRITE A LETTER

CHANGE A LIFE

WRITE A LETTER

CHANGE A LIFE

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
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Welcome to Amnesty's Write for Rights letter-writing kit. In it you'll find everything you need to join in with the Write for Rights 2023 campaign. This year the campaign features people from around the world, all of whom are connected because their human rights have been violated. Some by their governments, others by the police, or even by big corporations.

You're here because you want to make a difference. You want to speak truth to power. Whether you do this with a group of friends, classmates, your family or by yourself, the words you write will change lives.



“I feel so relieved and I thank you for the amazing Write for Rights campaign. I am forever indebted. It is like a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders. Reading all the letters and cards made me feel so loved and appreciated.”

Cecillia Chimbiri from Zimbabwe

Opposition activists Cecillia Chimbiri, Joanah Mamombe and Netsai Marova were abducted, tortured and imprisoned after attending a protest. They were charged with “communicating falsehoods” and “obstructing the course of justice”. Following their participation in Write for Rights 2022, on 4 July 2023 Cecillia and Joanah were acquitted by the High Court.

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WHAT IS WRITE

FOR RIGHTS?

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Sometimes a letter can change someone's life. That's the idea behind Write for Rights, our global letter-writing campaign.

Over two decades ago, a small group of activists in Poland decided to run a 24-hour letter-writing marathon for 10 December – Human Rights Day. The idea took off and today, Write for Rights has grown into the world's biggest human rights event.

Every December, supporters across the globe write millions of letters, cards and tweets, and sign petitions for those whose basic human rights are being attacked.

These supporters form a vibrant community of people like you, continuing a long tradition of writing letters to right some of the world's biggest wrongs.



HOW DOES WRITE FOR

RIGHTS WORK?

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1 People in more than 200 countries and territories take part in all kinds of events

2 Writing millions of letters, emails and tweets and signing petitions

3 Supporting people who've been harassed, threatened and jailed just for who they are and what they do

4 Putting pressure on governments, leaders and decision makers

5 Showing love and support for people and their families

6 And making change happen – releasing activists, securing justice for those whose rights have been wronged and protecting people who advocate for change

WHY DO WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION?

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In country after country, people's freedoms – to speak out against injustice, to not be discriminated against – are under threat. Your letters, words and actions will put pressure on authorities to take immediate action, so that people's rights are protected and those who abuse people's rights will be brought to justice.

WHO DO WE WRITE TO?

Every year, we ask supporters to write two types of letters. One is to the person in authority – it could be a king, president or head of police – who can help make change happen. The other letter is to the person (or group of people) we are fighting for, so they know we will never forget them.

DOES IT WORK?

Yes! Every year, real change happens because of your letters and actions. People wrongfully imprisoned are released. Abusers are brought to justice. And people in prison are treated more humanely.

WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN?

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Human Rights Day on 10 December is the moment when everyone around the world will be writing letters. But precise dates will vary depending on where in the world you live. Check your local Amnesty website for details.

“[You] gave me hope of freedom and now I am free. I am now with my family, I am now with my daughters, I am now with my partner. My mother has already cried with happiness to see me free. Thanks to each one of you for circulating and sharing my letters.”

Human rights defender Bernardo Caal Xol, freed in March 2022 after spending four years in prison in Guatemala. Supporters took over half a million actions for his release through Write for Rights 2021.



HOW TO WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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JUSTYNA WYDRZYŃSKA

Poland

Justyna Wydrzyńska's own abortion experience, with no support or access to reliable information, gave her the strength and motivation to help others make informed decisions about their reproductive lives. Justyna co-founded Abortion Dream Team, an activist collective campaigning against abortion stigma and offering advice on accessing safe abortion in Poland, where abortion laws are among the most restrictive in Europe.

In February 2020, Justyna was put in contact with Ania (not her real name). Ania was in an abusive relationship, pregnant and desperate, saying she would rather die than continue with her pregnancy. Justyna, a survivor of a violent relationship herself, knew she had to help. She sent Ania her own abortion pills through the post, but Ania's partner intercepted the package and contacted the police, who confiscated the pills.

In November 2021, the public prosecutor brought charges against Justyna for "helping with an abortion". In March 2023, she was found guilty and sentenced to eight months' community service. Her lawyers have appealed.

Justyna's conviction sets a dangerous precedent. Without the support and trustworthy information that she and other activists provide, people like Ania would be alone and without access to safe abortion.

Demonstrating her courage in spite of the hostility she faces, Justyna says: "I was driven by the will to help when no one else wanted to or could help. For me, helping Ania was an obvious, decent, and honest thing to do."

Demand the prosecutor general take all necessary measures to ensure that Justyna's unjust conviction is overturned.

WRITE TO THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL

Tell them to take all necessary measures to ensure that Justyna's unjust conviction is overturned and to refrain from bringing any other charges against her for carrying out her legitimate defence of human rights.

ADDRESS:
Prosecutor General
National Prosecutor's Office
ul. Postepa 3
02-676 Warszawa
Poland
EMAIL: biuro.podawcaz.pk@prokuratura.gov.pl
TWITTER / X: @PK_GOV_PL
SALUTATION: Dear Prosecutor General
HASHTAGS: #AmJustyna, #M4R23

HELP KEEP JUSTYNA'S SPIRIT STRONG

Send her your message of solidarity and hope.

ADDRESS:
Justyna Wydrzyńska
c/o Amnesty International Polska

JUSTYNA WYDRZYŃSKA

PROSECUTED FOR DEFENDING SAFE ABORTION

Poland

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1. READ THE STORIES

This year, Write for Rights features a range of people, young and old, all of whom have had their freedoms attacked.

They are from 10 countries, and you will find 10 information sheets enclosed at the end of this kit, summarizing their stories. Take a look.

2. PRINT OUT OUR SPECIALLY DESIGNED STATIONERY

We've created some special stationery which you can download and print. You can use it for any of your Write for Rights letters.

3. WRITE YOUR LETTERS

At the back of each information sheet are two addresses.

One is to a government or similar authority: that's the target address. This is the person in authority we are trying to persuade to help the person or people featured in that case. (To make things easier, we've put these addresses on the sample target letters as well: see point 4 for more.)

The second is for a solidarity letter to the person we want to help, or someone they are close to. This is your chance to write them a personal message of friendship or support. Feel free to draw pictures – be creative.

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4. USE THE SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS IF YOU NEED THEM

This kit contains 10 sample letters to your target. You can either copy these out in your own handwriting (great!), or rewrite them, adding your own words (even better!).

You can do as few or as many as you like.

5. POST YOUR LETTER ONLINE AND TAG US

Once you've written your letter, please take a photo of it (or a part of it) and post it on your social media channels, tagging it #W4R23. Please also tag @amnesty in your posts on Twitter and Instagram so we can find you.

We'll try to retweet and post the best letters during Write for Rights.

6. POST YOUR LETTER OFFLINE!

You've written to an authority or to someone who really needs your support right now. Please remember to put that letter in an envelope, stamp it and send it on its way. Your words will change someone's life. Thank you!

WHY DOES

SOLIDARITY MATTER?

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You might think that writing to someone you don't know will make no difference, or that they won't want to hear from you. But when you're locked up or in fear for your life for calling out injustice, having someone tell you they believe in you matters a lot. Whoever you choose to write to, remember that they will love to hear from you. They may feel anxious and alone, and your words will bring comfort and hope to them.

Through the thousands of messages she received in 2022, singer songwriter Aleksandra Skochilenko felt the embrace of a global community of allies, spurring her on after she was imprisoned in Russia for opposing the war in Ukraine. Aleksandra, or Sasha as she is known, was charged with “public dissemination of knowingly false information about the use of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation” – a new article of the criminal code hastily introduced by the Russian government in March 2022 to try and stop Russian people criticizing the invasion of Ukraine. She replaced price tags in a local supermarket in Saint Petersburg with little paper labels containing information about the invasion.

Following the campaign, Aleksandra's lawyer sent this message on her behalf:

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“I wholeheartedly thank you for your support for Sasha. Your attention warms us up at this difficult time and lets us feel that we are not left alone... In gratitude, Sasha asked me to share with you this drawing that she'd made in prison especially for you...

She sends you a big hello and thanks for the postcards! A lot of postcards came from Amnesty International; thank you for the emotions that you give her! Now Sasha devotes all her time to communicating with you and preparing for the courts.”



SAMPLE TARGET

LETTERS

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There are 10 sample target letters. Feel free to either copy these out in your own handwriting or, even better, rewrite them, adding your own words. You can use the special printable stationery we've provided, or your own paper. You can do as few or as many as you like. If you've already taken action online, please write a solidarity letter instead. If you only want to write a solidarity letter, that's brilliant, too!



SAMPLE TARGET

LETTERS

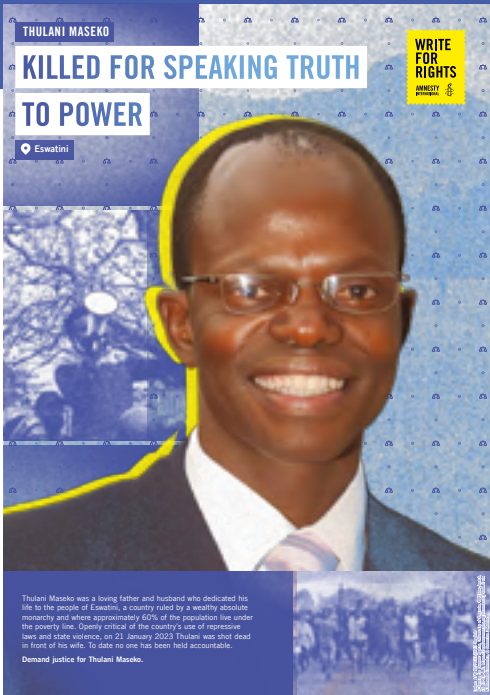
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THULANI MASEKO, ESWATINI

His Majesty King Mswati III
Office of the King
Lozitha Palace
PO box 1
Kwaluseni
Eswatini



Your Majesty

I call on you to initiate a prompt, thorough, transparent and impartial investigation into the killing of Thulani Maseko and to ensure that anyone suspected to be responsible is brought to justice in a fair trial. You must also ensure that Thulani's family is provided with access to justice and effective remedies.

Thulani Maseko was a loving father and husband who dedicated his life to the people of Eswatini. He was openly critical of the country's repressive laws and excessive state violence used to silence peaceful protest. He was killed in his home, in front of his wife, for speaking out.

Yours sincerely

THAPELO MOHAPI AND THE ABAHLALI BASEMJONDOLO MOVEMENT, SOUTH AFRICA

Minister of Police
Private bag X463
Pretoria
0001
South Africa

Dear Minister

I demand a thorough, impartial, independent, transparent and effective investigation into the killing and harassment of members of the Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM) movement, including Thapelo Mohapi.

You must ensure that suspected perpetrators are brought to justice in fair trials and work to end the attacks against AbM members and their families.

Twenty-five AbM members have been killed since 2009 and countless other members have been attacked and their properties destroyed.

This has included attempted murders, threats of violence, targeted harassment, assault, damage to property, unlawful and forced evictions and trumped-up legal charges. This injustice must end.

Yours sincerely



SAMPLE TARGET

LETTERS

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ROCKY MYERS, USA

Governor of Alabama
Office of the Governor of Alabama
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130
USA

Dear Governor

I urge you to use your power to grant clemency to Rocky Myers and commute his death sentence.

Rocky Myers's trial was flawed, with inconsistent testimonies and allegations of police pressure. One key witness against him later recanted his testimony, stating that he had lied. The overwhelmingly white jury recommended a sentence of life imprisonment, yet the judge sentenced Rocky Myers to death. This practice is now illegal in Alabama.

Rocky Myers was burdened with ineffective legal representation and abandoned by his post-conviction lawyer, meaning he unknowingly missed deadlines for appeal. He also has an intellectual disability. Please do not let Rocky Myers be executed.

Yours sincerely



ANA MARIA SANTOS CRUZ, BRAZIL

General Prosecutor of Bahia
Ministério Público do Estado da Bahia
Quinta Avenida, nº 750, 1º andar
sala 129, do CAB (Centro Administrativo da Bahia)
CEP 41.745-004 Salvador, BA Brazil



Dear General Prosecutor

I call on you to immediately take all necessary measures to ensure an independent, impartial and thorough investigation into the killing of human rights defender Pedro Henrique Santos Cruz, who was murdered on 27 December 2018 in Tucano, Bahia. All those responsible for the crime must be brought to justice in fair trials.

While seeking justice for her son, Pedro Henrique's mother, Ana Maria Santos Cruz, has faced repeated threats and harassment. I call on you to take all necessary measures to ensure an end to the continuing judicial and procedural harassment against Ana Maria.

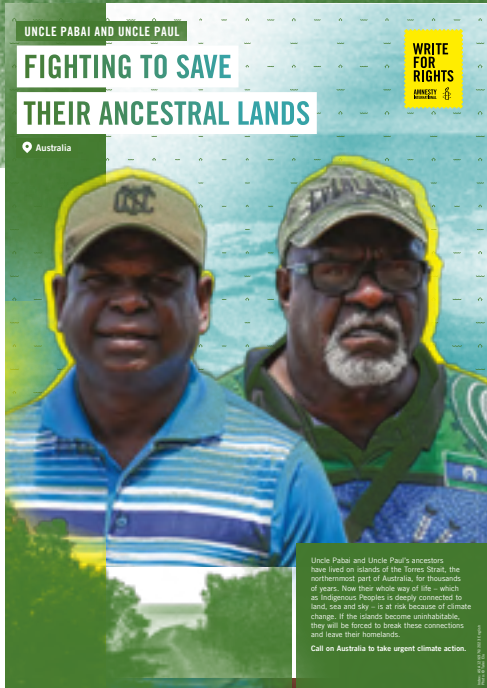
Yours sincerely

SAMPLE TARGET

LETTERS

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UNCLE PABAI AND UNCLE PAUL, AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister of Australia
PO box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Prime Minister

To protect the Torres Strait Islands and the human rights of First Nations Peoples, I call on your government to take adequate and human rights-consistent climate action by rapidly reducing carbon emissions in line with the world commitment of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and in line with the best available scientific research.

Your government currently states that by 2030 it will reduce emissions 43% below 2005 levels. This is not enough to save the Torres Strait Islands. Leading climate scientists on the Climate Targets Panel calculate Australia's greenhouse emissions need to be reduced by 74% by 2030.

Yours sincerely

MAUNG SAWYEDDOLLAH, MYANMAR

Mark Zuckerberg
Meta CEO
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025
USA

Dear Mark Zuckerberg

I call on you to take responsibility, through effective and meaningful remedy, for your company's contribution to the atrocities committed against the Rohingya people in Myanmar. Meta's algorithms amplified anti-Rohingya incitement, fuelling the Myanmar military's violence.

Maung Sawyeddollah and his family were forced to flee Myanmar in 2017, when he was only 15 years old. Since Meta enabled hatred and discrimination against Rohingya people to thrive on the Facebook platform, Sawyeddollah and his community are calling on your company to pay reparations and fund education programmes in Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh, where they now reside.

Sawyeddollah believes that education will help rebuild the shattered lives of people in his community.

Yours sincerely



SAMPLE TARGET

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RITA KARASARTOVA, KYRGYZSTAN

General Prosecutor
A. Toktonaliev Street, 139
Bishkek
720040
Kyrgyz Republic

Dear General Prosecutor

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release human rights defender Rita Karasartova from house arrest and drop all charges against her.

Rita Karasartova has been persecuted for exercising her right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. It is essential that the authorities allow her to carry out her legitimate human rights activities without fear of retaliation.

Yours sincerely

A sample target for Rita Karasartova, featuring a portrait of her and a text box with the following content:

RITA KARASARTOVA
FACING 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR PEACEFULLY PROTESTING
Kyrgyzstan

Rita Karasartova loves yoga, travelling and sewing traditional Kyrgyzstani jackets with her daughter. Now she is under house arrest, having spent months detained in a cramped cell unable to see or speak to her family. Worried about her people's access to water, Rita peacefully opposed a border agreement giving control of a freshwater reservoir to Uzbekistan. She has been charged with attempting to "violently overthrow the government" and faces 15 years' imprisonment.

Demand Rita Karasartova's freedom.

JUSTYNA WYDRZYŃSKA, POLAND

Prosecutor General
National Prosecutor's Office
ul. Postępu 3
02-676 Warsaw
Poland

A sample target for Justyna Wydrzyńska, featuring a portrait of her and a text box with the following content:

JUSTYNA WYDRZYŃSKA
PROSECUTED FOR DEFENDING SAFE ABORTION
Poland

Activist Justyna Wydrzyńska felt compelled to help a woman in an abusive relationship access a safe abortion. But it's a crime in Poland to help a woman access an abortion outside the two remaining legal grounds, in the case of pregnancy resulting from an illegal act such as rape or incest or danger to a woman's health or life. Now Justyna has been convicted, setting a dangerous precedent and making access to safe abortion even harder for those who seek one.

Demand the prosecutor general take all necessary measures to ensure that Justyna's unjust conviction is overturned.

Dear Prosecutor General

I call on you to take all necessary measures to ensure that Justyna Wydrzyńska's unjust conviction is overturned and to refrain from bringing any other charges against her for carrying out her legitimate defence of human rights.

Justyna and other activists provide essential support and trustworthy information to women seeking the healthcare they are entitled to. She was convicted for helping a woman in an abusive relationship access a safe abortion. Her conviction sets a dangerous precedent.

Yours sincerely

SAMPLE TARGET

LETTERS

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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CHAIMA ISSA, TUNISIA

The President of Tunisia
Email: contact@carthage.tn

Your Excellency

I call on you to immediately drop all charges and other restrictions brought against political activist Chaima Issa, who is unjustly banned from travelling and “appearing in public spaces”. She is being investigated for alleged “conspiracy” after meeting with foreign diplomats alongside other Tunisian opposition figures. A military court, which lacks independence, is also investigating Chaima for criticizing the authorities on a radio show. She faces decades in prison for her peaceful political activism.

Human rights in Tunisia have deteriorated, many courts lack independence, and freedom of expression is under assault. I urge you to refrain from adopting further measures that threaten human rights and to commit to upholding Tunisia’s obligations under international law.

Yours sincerely



AHMED MANSOOR, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

President of the United Arab Emirates
Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
c/o UAE embassy in your country, or a country near you.



Your Highness

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Ahmed Mansoor and to quash his sentence and conviction, as he has been imprisoned solely for his peaceful human rights activism.

Pending his release, he should be detained in conditions that comply with international standards and must not be subjected to torture or other ill-treatment. He must be granted immediate and regular access to his family and any healthcare he may require.

Yours sincerely

**WRITE
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A large white rectangular area containing 15 horizontal red lines, intended for writing.

THULANI MASEKO

KILLED FOR SPEAKING TRUTH

TO POWER

Eswatini

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Centre for
Human Right
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

VERA CHUMA A

THULANI MASEKO

 Eswatini

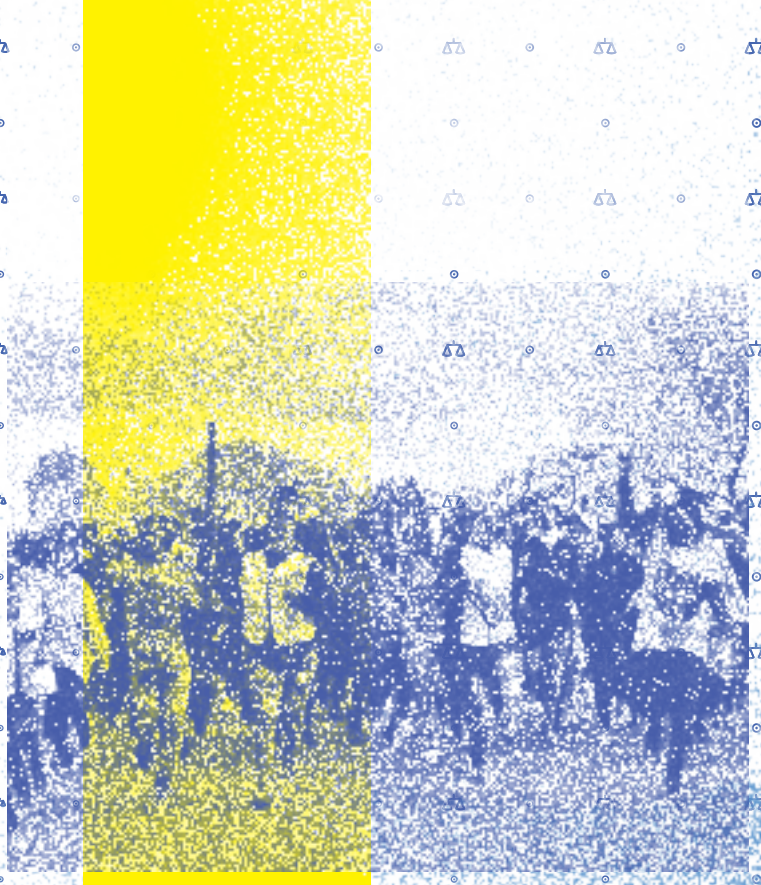
Thulani Maseko was a loving father and husband. He was a committed member of the Methodist church, a devoted human rights defender, and an ally to LGBTI people. People who knew Thulani described him as humble and friendly, with an incredible sense of humour.

After qualifying as a lawyer, Thulani fought tirelessly for the people of Eswatini, a country ruled by a wealthy absolute monarchy, and where approximately 60% of the population live under the poverty line. Thulani was openly critical of the country's repressive laws and excessive state violence used to silence peaceful protest.

Thulani knew the risk of speaking out was high. In 2014 he was arrested and charged with criminal contempt of court after writing two news articles denouncing the lack of judicial independence and integrity in Eswatini. He spent over a year in prison. Undeterred, Thulani continued his human rights work, stating in 2016: "We shall never surrender, for we know there is a price to pay for the truth."

On 21 January 2023, Thulani paid the ultimate price. He was shot dead at close range, through the window of their home, in front of his wife, Tanele. Just hours earlier the king gave a speech stating that those calling for democratic reform would be "dealt with" and "people should not shed tears and complain about mercenaries killing them." To date no one has been held accountable for Thulani's killing.

Demand justice for Thulani Maseko.



WRITE TO THE KING OF ESWATINI

Demand the unlawful killing of Thulani Maseko is effectively investigated, the people suspected of responsibility are brought to justice in a fair trial and that Thulani's family is provided access to effective remedies.

ADDRESS:

His Majesty King Mswati III
Office of the King
Lozitha Palace
PO box 1
Kwaluseni
Eswatini

SALUTATION: Your Majesty

EMAIL: clerktoparl@swazi.net

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/EswatiniGov/

TWITTER / X: @EswatiniGovern1

HASHTAGS: #JusticeForThulaniMaseko, #W4R23

SHOW THULANI'S FAMILY THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE

Send Thulani's wife, Tanele, messages of hope and support.

ADDRESS:

Tanele Maseko
c/o Amnesty International, Southern Africa
97 Oxford Road
Saxonwold
Johannesburg
2196
South Africa

INSTAGRAM: @Tanele70

HASHTAGS: #JusticeForThulaniMaseko, #W4R23

December 2023

Index: AFR 55/7022/2023 English

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Back page image: © Pierre André, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0> via Wikimedia Commons, © Ndimiso J Mabila

THAPELO MOHAPI AND

THE ABAHLALI BASEMJONDOLO MOVEMENT

THREATENED FOR DEFENDING

HIS COMMUNITY

South Africa

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THAPELO MOHAPI

AND THE ABAHLALI BASEMJONDOLO

MOVEMENT

South Africa

Thapelo Mohapi loves listening to jazz and supporting his favourite football teams, the Mamelodi Sundowns and Manchester City. But right now he can't enjoy these things like he used to. Since 2021, he has been forced to live in hiding because of threats to his life.

As general secretary of Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM), a vibrant and courageous grassroots movement, Thapelo has dedicated his life to fighting for the rights of people across South Africa, particularly in areas suffering economic hardship.

One such place is eKhenana, in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Most residents are economic migrants from rural South Africa who have moved to seek a better life. They cannot afford the high costs of living in the area and often end up making homes from tin, with little to no access to water or sanitation. They also face police brutality, forced evictions and poor public services, amongst many other challenges.

Determined to improve lives in the community, AbM members in eKhenana have spoken out against cases of local government corruption and worked hard to improve life in their community by starting a school, farm, communal kitchen and shop. In return, they have been met with not just resistance but threats, harassment and intimidation from state officials who have incited violence against them. They have been victims of attempted and actual murders, violence, harassment, and damage to their homes. In 2022 alone, three AbM members were killed in eKhenana.

Tell the police to thoroughly and effectively investigate the harassment and killings of AbM members.



WRITE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

Demand a thorough, impartial, independent, transparent and effective investigation into the harassment and killings of AbM members, bringing suspected perpetrators to justice in fair trials and an end to the attacks against AbM members.

ADDRESS:

Minister of Police
Private bag X463
Pretoria
0001
South Africa

SALUTATION: Dear Minister

TWITTER / X: @SAPoliceService

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/SAPoliceService

INSTAGRAM: @sapoliceservice_za

HASHTAGS: #ProtectThapelo; #ProtectAbM; #W4R23

SHOW THAPELO AND ABM YOU'RE WITH THEM

Send your messages of friendship and hope, so they can keep up their fight for their communities.

ADDRESS:

Thapelo Mohapi and the AbM movement
c/o Amnesty International South Africa
97 Oxford Road
Rosebank
Johannesburg
2196
South Africa

TWITTER / X: @abahlalibm

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/abahlalibasemjondolo

INSTAGRAM: @abahlalibasemjondolo

HASHTAGS: #ProtectThapelo; #ProtectAbM; #W4R23

December 2023

Index: AFR 53/6952/2023 English

Front page image: © Private, © Andrew Suderman, AbM Facebook, © AbM

Back page image: © Andrew Suderman, AbM Facebook, © AbM

ROCKY MYERS

THREE DECADES ON DEATH ROW DESPITE FLAWED PROCEEDINGS

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USA



ROCKY MYERS

USA

Rocky Myers is described by those who know him as gentle and kind. He loves his siblings, children, and grandchildren, and they adore him. He played drums in his church choir. At age 11, Rocky was diagnosed with an intellectual disability. He finds reading hard and can't keep dates or times straight in his head. One night in 1991, in the town of Decatur, Alabama, his life changed forever.

An elderly white woman was murdered in a predominantly Black neighbourhood. Rocky, who is Black, lived across the street. Despite no evidence linking him to the scene of the murder, except for a video cassette recorder belonging to the victim which Rocky maintains he found abandoned in the street, Rocky was convicted of the crime.

Testimonies were tainted by inconsistencies and allegations of police pressure – one key witness later stated that he had lied. An overwhelmingly white jury found him guilty but recommended a sentence of life imprisonment. The judge instead sentenced Rocky to death. Overruling a jury in this way is now illegal in Alabama.

The US Supreme Court ruled that defendants with intellectual disabilities “face a special risk of wrongful execution”. This is certainly true for Rocky. Burdened with ineffective legal representation and abandoned by his post-conviction lawyer, Rocky missed deadlines for appeal. His execution could be scheduled at any time, and his only hope is for the governor of Alabama to grant him clemency.

Tell the governor of Alabama to grant clemency to Rocky Myers.



WRITE TO THE GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA

Demand they use their authority to grant clemency to Rocky Myers and commute his death sentence.

ADDRESS:

Governor of Alabama
Office of the Governor of Alabama
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130
USA

EMAIL: info@governor.alabama.gov

SALUTATION: Dear Governor

LOCKED IN A CELL WITH NO WINDOWS, TAKE ROCKY ON A WORLD TOUR THROUGH POSTCARDS

Send Rocky postcards or pictures of where you live, where you go on holiday, or places you love. Remember, Rocky has a hard time reading, so keep your messages simple.

ADDRESS:

Rocky Myers, AIS 0000Z563
Holman Correctional Facility, M-44
Holman 3700
866 Ross Road
Atmore, AL 36503
USA

Please add your full address to ensure the prison authorities allow Rocky to receive his mail.

December 2023

Index: AMR 51/6958/2023 English

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Back page image: © Private

ANA MARIA SANTOS CRUZ

A MOTHER'S FIGHT

FOR JUSTICE

 Brazil

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ANA MARIA SANTOS CRUZ

 Brazil

Ana Maria Santos Cruz is a loving mother. She enjoys attending concerts and cultural events with her daughter in Salvador, Brazil. However, since the death of her son, Pedro Henrique, Ana Maria feels like a part of her has been taken away.

In his short life, Pedro Henrique achieved a lot. An activist and advocate of racial justice and human rights, Pedro Henrique organized “Walks of Peace” in Tucano, Bahia, Brazil. These annual marches brought people together to speak out about police abuses primarily against Black communities.

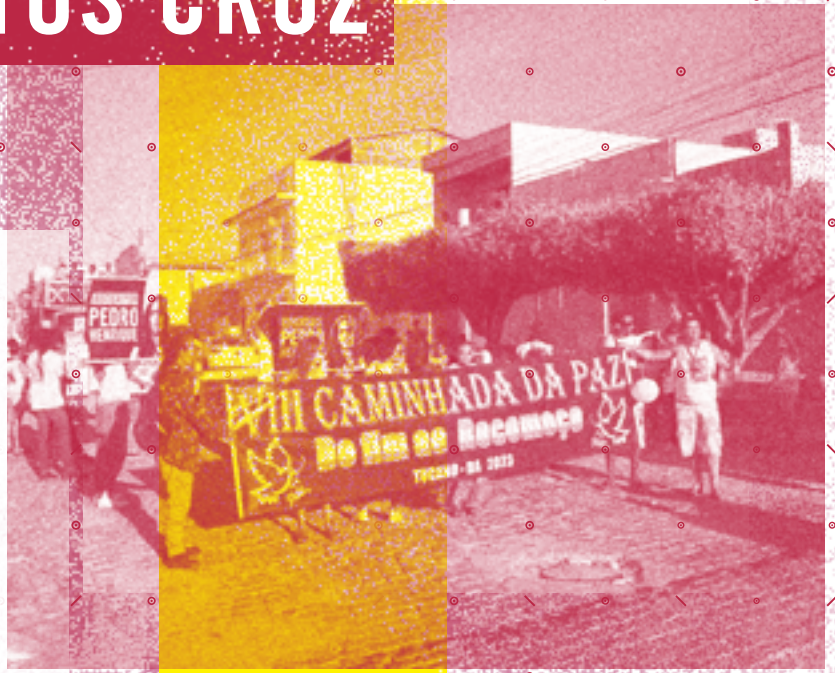
These moments of solidarity were met with hostility and intimidation from the police.

Officers began to monitor Pedro Henrique. They threatened and violently attacked him for his activism. On 27 December 2018, Pedro Henrique was killed, aged 31. His house was raided by three hooded men as he slept next to his girlfriend. He was shot eight times in the head and neck. His girlfriend recognized the three men as police officers.

The officers suspected of killing Pedro Henrique were indicted in 2019. But almost five years on, they are still active in the police force. The investigation into the killing has not been concluded and the trial has yet to begin.

Despite ongoing threats and the grief of losing her child, Ana Maria has bravely sought the truth about his death, calling on the authorities for a thorough investigation and trial.

Support Ana Maria in her fight for justice.



WRITE TO THE GENERAL PROSECUTOR

Demand they take all necessary measures to ensure an independent, impartial and thorough investigation into Pedro Henrique’s murder and bring those responsible to justice in fair trials.

ADDRESS:

General Prosecutor of Bahia
Ministério Público do Estado da Bahia
Quinta Avenida, nº 750, 1º andar
sala 129, do CAB (Centro Administrativo da Bahia)
CEP 41.745-004
Salvador, BA
Brazil

SALUTATION: Dear General Prosecutor

TWITTER / X: @MPdaBahia

HASHTAGS: #JusticeForPedroHenrique, #W4R23

SHOW ANA MARIA SHE’S NOT ALONE

Send your messages of solidarity to help keep Ana Maria’s spirits strong.

ADDRESS:

Ana Maria Santos Cruz
c/o Amnesty International Brazil
Rua da Glória, 344
Rooms 302 and 304
Glória
CEP: 20241-180
Rio de Janeiro
Brazil

INSTAGRAM: @justicaparapedrohenrique

HASHTAGS: #JusticeForPedroHenrique; #W4R23

December 2023

Index: AMR 19/6948/2023 English

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MAUNG SAWYEDDOLLAH

TAKING ON FACEBOOK FOR ITS

ROLE IN MYANMAR

ATROCITIES

📍 Myanmar

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS

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MAUNG SAWYEDDOLLAH

Myanmar

Six years ago, life wasn't easy for Maung Sawyeddollah, but he enjoyed playing football and dreamed of becoming a doctor. However, in 2017, when he was 15, his life was upended.

The Myanmar military unleashed ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya – an ethnic minority who have faced decades of severe state-sponsored discrimination in Myanmar. Thousands of Rohingya were killed, raped, tortured, and their villages burned.

Fearing for their lives, Sawyeddollah and his family walked 15 days to Bangladesh. They reached Cox's Bazar refugee camp, where they still live.

Sawyeddollah now wants to be a lawyer, seeking justice for the suffering around him. In addition to studying, he campaigns for Facebook's owner, Meta, to take responsibility for its contribution to the atrocities. Years before the attacks, Meta's algorithms amplified anti-Rohingya incitement on the Facebook platform, fuelling the Myanmar military's violence.

Sawyeddollah and his family have lost everything, but he still has hope. He and his community are calling on Meta to pay reparations for its role in the atrocities, including funding for educational programmes in Cox's Bazar. He believes that education will help rebuild the shattered lives of people in his community.

Demand Meta provide an effective remedy to Sawyeddollah and Rohingya communities.



WRITE TO META CHIEF EXECUTIVE MARK ZUCKERBERG

Demand that Meta provides an effective remedy to Sawyeddollah and affected Rohingya communities, as it enabled hatred and discrimination against Rohingya people to thrive on the Facebook platform.

ADDRESS:

Mark Zuckerberg
Meta CEO
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025
USA

SALUTATION: Dear Mr Zuckerberg

EMAIL: humanrightsteam@meta.com

INSTAGRAM: @zuck

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/zuck

HASHTAGS: #PayUpMeta; #RohingyaRemediation;
#RohingyaReparations; #W4R23

HELP KEEP SAWYEDDOLLAH'S SPIRIT STRONG

Send your messages of hope and solidarity, so Sawyeddollah knows he has your support in his fight for reparations.

ADDRESS:

Maung Sawyeddollah
c/o Amnesty International South Asia Regional Office
23/2 Horton Place
Colombo 7
Sri Lanka

TWITTER / X: @M_Sawyed

HASHTAG: #W4R23

December 2023

Index: ASA 16/6961/2023 English

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© Reza Shahriar Rahman/Amnesty International

Back page image: © Reza Shahriar Rahman/Amnesty International

UNCLE PABAI AND UNCLE PAUL

FIGHTING TO SAVE

THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS

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RIGHTS

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INTERNATIONAL



Australia



UNCLE PABAI AND UNCLE PAUL

Australia

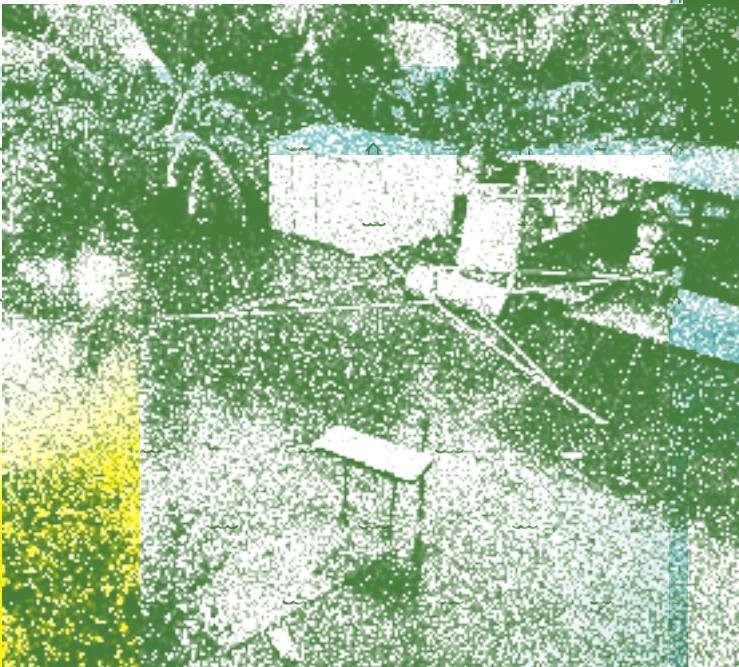
Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul are community leaders from the Guda Maluyligal Nation at the northernmost part of Australia in the Torres Strait. Their Indigenous ancestors have lived on the islands for thousands of years.

Now, because of climate change, their way of life, traditional knowledge systems, cultural practices and spiritual connections that have been passed down from generation to generation could be broken forever. Rising sea levels are causing more destruction each year by eroding beaches, destroying sacred cultural sites and cemeteries where ancestors are buried, wrecking food gardens, and putting the islands' infrastructure at risk.

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul, who are referred to as "uncle" by their communities as a sign of respect, have turned to the courts. They argue that the Australian government is taking insufficient action to prevent harm from climate change, resulting in the destruction of their lands and culture.

Unless urgent action is taken, many Torres Strait Islanders will be forced to leave their homelands as large parts become uninhabitable. This would be devastating to the communities. As Uncle Pabai says: "We are born to these islands, they are our mothers, our identities, who we are. For thousands of years, our warrior families fought off anyone who tried to take our homelands from us. But now, we could lose the fight to climate change."

Call on Australia to take urgent climate action.



WRITE TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Demand the rights of First Nations communities in the Torres Strait are protected, by rapidly reducing carbon emissions in line with the world commitment of limiting global warming to 1.5°C in line with the best available scientific research.

ADDRESS:

Prime Minister of Australia
PO box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

SALUTATION: Dear Prime Minister

EMAIL: www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/AlboMP

TWITTER / X: @AlboMP

INSTAGRAM: @albomp

HASHTAGS: #PabaiVCmth, #W4R23

SHOW UNCLE PABAI, UNCLE PAUL AND THEIR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU SUPPORT THEM

Send your messages of support to show the Peoples of the Torres Strait that you support them in their fight to protect their island homes.

ADDRESS:

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul
c/o Amnesty International Australia
Locked bag 23
Broadway, NSW, 2007
Australia

December 2023

Index: ASA 12/6977/2023 English

Front page image: © Talei Elu

Back page image: © Talei Elu, © Pabai Pabai

RITA KARASARTOVA

FACING 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR PEACEFULLY PROTESTING

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Kyrgyzstan



RITA KARASARTOVA

 Kyrgyzstan

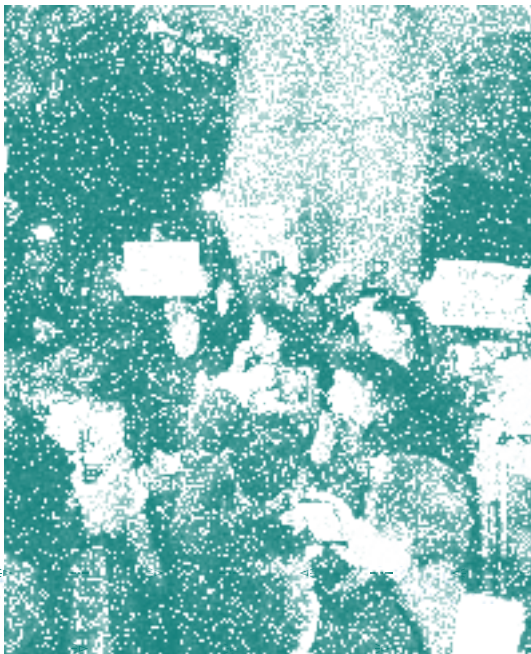
Rita Karasartova loves spending time with her children, practising yoga, and sewing *chapans*, the traditional quilted jackets worn by people in Kyrgyzstan. But since October 2022 Rita's life has been turned upside down. She was arrested and spent months detained in a cramped cell, denied access to healthcare and unable to see or speak to her family. Now she is under house arrest and a strict curfew.

Rita is a human rights defender and an expert in civic governance. For over a decade she dedicated her life to providing independent legal advice, helping people whose rights had been violated by a corrupt and unreliable legal system. She leads the non-governmental Institute for Public Analysis and is a member of the United Democratic Movement of Kyrgyzstan, fighting against poverty and injustice.

Alongside 26 others, Rita was arrested for opposing a new border agreement that gave control of a freshwater reservoir to Uzbekistan. The group called for people to peacefully demonstrate against the agreement, demanding transparency from the government. Like others, Rita feared Uzbekistan would restrict or prohibit access to water, a scarce resource in the region where loss of access could have devastating consequences.

Rita and the others were initially detained for organizing "mass disorder", and she was charged with attempting to "violently overthrow the government", which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment.

Demand Rita Karasartova's freedom.



WRITE TO THE GENERAL PROSECUTOR

Demand Rita is immediately released from house arrest, all charges against her dropped and that she can carry out human rights activities without fear of retaliation.

ADDRESS:
General Prosecutor
A. Toktonaliev Street, 139
Bishkek
720040
Kyrgyz Republic
EMAIL: statement@prokuror.kg
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/prokuraturakg
SALUTATION: Dear General Prosecutor
HASHTAG: #W4R23

KEEP RITA'S HOPE ALIVE

Let Rita know she is not alone by sending your messages and drawings of friendship and hope.

ADDRESS:
Rita Karasartova
c/o Civic Initiatives
Abdrakhmanova 204
Office 14
Bishkek
710040
Kyrgyz Republic
EMAIL: freedomrita@protonmail.com
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/rita.karasartova
HASHTAG: #W4R23

December 2023

Index: EUR 58/6989/2023 English

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Back page image: © Kloop.kg, © Toychubek Artyk uulu/Kloop.kg

JUSTYNA WYDRZYŃSKA

PROSECUTED FOR DEFENDING

SAFE ABORTION

Poland

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FOR
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JUSTYNA WYDRZYŃSKA

Poland

Justyna Wydrzyńska's own abortion experience, with no support or access to reliable information, gave her the strength and motivation to help others make informed decisions about their reproductive lives. Justyna co-founded Abortion Dream Team, an activist collective campaigning against abortion stigma and offering advice on accessing safe abortion in Poland, where abortion laws are among the most restrictive in Europe.

In February 2020, Justyna was put in contact with Ania (not her real name). Ania was in an abusive relationship, pregnant and desperate, saying she would rather die than continue with her pregnancy. Justyna, a survivor of a violent relationship herself, knew she had to help. She sent Ania her own abortion pills through the post, but Ania's partner intercepted the package and contacted the police, who confiscated the pills.

In November 2021, the public prosecutor brought charges against Justyna for "helping with an abortion". In March 2023, she was found guilty and sentenced to eight months' community service. Her lawyers have appealed.

Justyna's conviction sets a dangerous precedent. Without the support and trustworthy information that she and other activists provide, people like Ania would be alone and without access to safe abortion.

Demonstrating her courage in spite of the hostility she faces, Justyna says: "I was driven by the will to help when no one else wanted to or could help. For me, helping Ania was an obvious, decent, and honest thing to do."

Demand the prosecutor general take all necessary measures to ensure that Justyna's unjust conviction is overturned.



WRITE TO THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL

Tell them to take all necessary measures to ensure that Justyna's unjust conviction is overturned and to refrain from bringing any other charges against her for carrying out her legitimate defence of human rights.

ADDRESS:
Prosecutor General
National Prosecutor's Office
ul. Postępu 3
02-676 Warsaw
Poland
EMAIL: biuro.podawcze.pk@prokuratura.gov.pl
TWITTER / X: @PK_GOV_PL
SALUTATION: Dear Prosecutor General
HASHTAGS: #IAmJustyna, #W4R23

HELP KEEP JUSTYNA'S SPIRIT STRONG

Send her your message of solidarity and hope.

ADDRESS:
Justyna Wydrzyńska
c/o Amnesty International Polska
Sapieżyńska 10A
00-215 Warsaw
Poland
EMAIL: dla.justyny@amnesty.org.pl
HASHTAGS: #IAmJustyna, #W4R23

December 2023

Index: EUR 37/6950/2023 English

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Back page image: © Grzegorz Żukowski, © Amnesty International

CHAIMA ISSA

FACING YEARS IN PRISON

FOR SPEAKING OUT

Tunisia

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CHAIMA ISSA

Tunisia

Speaking out for what she believes is right runs in activist Chaima Issa's blood. The daughter of a former political prisoner, Chaima speaks truth to power. Even if the cost is her freedom.

When Tunisian president Kais Saied suspended parliament, dismissed the prime minister and took executive control of the country in July 2021 citing emergency powers, Chaima was one of the first to publicly oppose him. Since his power grab, human rights in Tunisia are more fragile than ever. Freedom of expression is under attack. Military courts target critics of the government, and the legal system lacks independence.

After meeting foreign diplomats along with other Tunisian opposition figures to discuss the political situation in Tunisia, Chaima was arrested on 22 February 2023 as part of an investigation for alleged "conspiracy". She was released on 13 July after more than four months of arbitrary detention, but the legal case is ongoing and the authorities have banned her from travelling abroad and "appearing in public spaces". A military court, which lacks independence, is also investigating Chaima for criticizing the authorities on a radio show. She faces decades in prison.

But Chaima will not give up. In the judge's office Chaima exclaimed: "Is this Tunisia? Is this the Tunisia where we studied, you and me? Is this the Tunisia we dreamed of?" As she was taken to prison, surrounded by police officers, Chaima smiled, raised her fist and sang the national anthem.

Demand Chaima Issa's full freedom.



CONTACT THE PRESIDENT OF TUNISIA

Call on the Tunisian authorities to immediately drop the baseless investigation and other restrictions against Chaima Issa as they are related solely to the exercise of her human rights.

ADDRESS:

President of Tunisia

EMAIL: contact@carthage.tn

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/Presidence.tn

TWITTER / X: @TnPresidency

HASHTAG: #W4R23

SALUTATION: Your Excellency

SHOW CHAIMA THAT SHE IS NOT ALONE

Send Chaima messages of hope and solidarity. Let her know you support her in her fight for human rights in Tunisia.

ADDRESS:

Chaima Issa

c/o Amnesty International

Tunis Regional Office

24 Avenue de la livre

Les Berges du Lac 2

Tunis

Tunisia

TWITTER / X: @IssaaChaima

HASHTAGS: #FreeChaima, #W4R23

December 2023

Index: MDE 30/6954/2023 English

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AHMED MANSOOR

LOCKED UP FOR SPEAKING

TRUTH TO POWER

United Arab Emirates

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



AHMED MANSOOR

United Arab Emirates

Ahmed Mansoor is a loving father and husband. He's a poet, blogger, and human rights defender. Right now, he is locked away in a cell in al-Sadr prison, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. He spends his days in an isolation cell, with no access to books, pens or paper. He does not even have a bed.

His crime? Speaking the truth. Before his arrest, Ahmed was one of the few voices within the UAE providing the rest of the world with credible independent information about human rights violations in the country. He regularly raised concerns about the detention, torture and unfair trials of dissenting voices. He spoke about problems with the justice system and of domestic laws that breach international ones.

For this Ahmed is paying a high price. In March 2017, UAE security forces raided his home and arrested him. For over a year, no one, not even his family, knew where he was detained. In May 2018, Ahmed was sentenced to a decade in prison on charges including "insulting the UAE and its symbols".

Protesting about his prison conditions, Ahmed has twice resorted to hunger strikes, losing dangerous amounts of weight and putting his life at risk. Despite this he is only allowed outside three times a week, when guards remove all other prisoners from the yard and Ahmed spends the little time he has in the sunlight, alone.

Demand the UAE immediately and unconditionally release Ahmed Mansoor.



CONTACT SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

Tell him that Ahmed Mansoor must be immediately and unconditionally released, as he has been imprisoned solely for his peaceful human rights activism.

ADDRESS:

President of the United Arab Emirates
Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
c/o UAE embassy in your country,
or a country near you.

TWITTER / X: @MohamedBinZayed

INSTAGRAM: @mohamedbinzayed

SALUTATION: Your Highness

For the best chance of the president seeing your letters, please take photos of them and post on Twitter and Instagram, tagging the president's handles.

HASHTAGS: #FreeAhmed, #W4R23

HELP KEEP AHMED'S SPIRIT ALIVE

Send him your message of solidarity and hope.

ADDRESS:

Ahmed Mansoor
c/o Ms S.F
Gulf Centre for Human Rights
PO box 245
Saida
Lebanon

TWITTER / X: @Ahmed_Mansoor

HASHTAGS: #FreeAhmed, #W4R23

Please post photos of your cards and letters for Ahmed on social media, so his family can see them.

December 2023

Index: MDE 25/6956/2023 English

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Back page image: © Private

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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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United Kingdom

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English, December 2023

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

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

