

BURKINA FASO:

Girls forced into marriage as young as 11

"Join your husband, or I will kill you." Her father's words hurt 13-year-old Marie. He was making her marry a 70-year-old man with five other wives.

Across Burkina Faso, families are forcing thousands of girls and young women like Marie into early marriage. One in three girls is married off before they turn 18. They are expected to have as many children as their husbands want, regardless of their own wishes or the threat that early pregnancy poses to their health and life. From dawn to dusk, they must cook, clean, fetch water and work in the fields. Few have the chance to go to school.

Some girls are doing all they can to escape a forced marriage, even though there is huge pressure from their families and wider society. Marie walked nearly 170km over three days to seek refuge at a shelter for young girls.

Forced and early marriages are banned by Burkina Faso's Constitution and by international law, but the authorities keep turning a blind eye. This has to stop.

Ask Burkina Faso's government to enforce the law and protect girls and young women from forced marriages. To take action, go to the next page.



Everyone ...is entitled to the realization...of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 22

Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Activate your pens and your keyboards!

Please write to the Minister of Justice and Human Rights.

- ◆ Start with Dear Minister.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about forced marriages of girls between 11 and 18.
- ◆ Ask her to uphold her country's obligation to prevent forced and early marriages.

Send your message to

Madame Joséphine Ouédraogo-Guissou
Ministre de la Justice et des Droits humains
Avenue de l'Indépendance
BP 526
Ouagadougou 01, Burkina Faso

Postage: \$2.50

Facebook: www.facebook.com/1479006358987436

Please make a copy for

His Excellency Amadou Adrien Kone
Ambassador for Burkina Faso
48 Range Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8J4

Postage: \$.85

Fax: (613) 238-3812

Email: contact@ambabf-ca.org

Via website: ambabf-ca.org/en/contact/



A teen seeks safety in a shelter
© Sophie Garcia/Corbis for Amnesty International

Show the girls they are not alone!

Write a letter or send a card to the girls and young women who have fled early marriages and to the shelter workers who help them defend their human rights.

Send your message to:

Amnesty International Burkina
Av. Houari Boumedienne
BP 11344
Ouagadougou 08, Burkina Faso

CANADA

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: www.writeathon.ca

CANADA:

**Help make Canada
“Open for Justice”**



The Canadian mining, oil and gas industry has a poor record when it comes to respecting human rights in other countries.

Many people around the world have been forced from their homes and off their land so that Canadian companies can extract oil, gold and other minerals. People have reported threats, injuries, rapes and even deaths for protesting against Canadian mining companies near their communities. Environmental destruction from Canadian mining, oil and gas activities has also violated people's rights to water, food and health.

Those who have been harmed by the operations of Canadian extractive operations abroad need to be able to defend their rights and to protect their livelihoods and ecosystems. When their rights are not respected, they need to have somewhere to go to seek recourse .

When people living in other countries are harmed by Canadian companies, it is often very difficult for them to defend their rights and to obtain justice and compensation. They face so many legal, financial and political barriers that justice becomes nearly impossible.

The Canadian government needs to take action to ensure that people who have been harmed by Canadian companies have access to remedy in Canada.

Urge Canada's prime minister to make sure that Canada is “Open for Justice”.

Photo caption: Farmers confront riot police at the site of the formerly Canadian-owned, now Chinese-owned, Letpadaung copper mine near Monywa in central Myanmar on 22 December 2014. On the same day, a protester was shot and killed by police. Local people are protesting against forced evictions from their land to make way for the mine. © AP/Press Association Images

Principle 27: States should provide effective and appropriate non-judicial grievance mechanisms, alongside judicial mechanisms, as part of a comprehensive State-based system for the remedy of business-related human rights abuse.

Principle 27

**UN Guiding Principles
on Business and Human Rights**

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Activate your pens and keyboards!

Please write to Canada's prime minister.

- ◆ Start your message Dear Prime Minister Trudeau.
- ◆ Describe who you are and why you are concerned about the human rights practices of Canadian mining, oil and gas companies in other countries.
- ◆ Emphasize that people who are harmed by Canadian companies in other countries have difficulty obtaining justice and must have access to remedy in Canada.
- ◆ Call on the Prime Minister to ensure that Canada is "Open for Justice" through the creation of an extractive sector ombudsperson and by ensuring access to Canadian courts for people who have been harmed by Canadian companies in other countries.

Send your message to

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Postage: None required
Fax: (613) 941-6900
Via website: <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/contactpm>



on 27 September 2009, Adolfo Ich Chamán (pictured on the photograph beside Angelica) was killed, witnesses say, by private security guards contracted to Compañía de Niquel Guatemala, a subsidiary at the time, of HudBay Minerals. Criminal charges have been laid in Guatemala in connection to his death. Adolfo was a respected Indigenous Maya-Q'eqchi community leader and an outspoken critic of mining activities in his community. Angelica Choc, his widow, has launched a precedent-setting civil claim in Canadian courts (*Choc v. HudBay*). © James Rodríguez MiMundo.org

You can support the men and women of El Estor, Guatemala, who courageously filed a lawsuit in Canada against a Canadian mining company!

Tell Angelica, Germán, Rosa, Margarita and the others who filed the lawsuits that they are not alone, that they are not forgotten in their long struggle to seek justice in Canada, and that many Canadians support their call for justice.

You may use the following message in Spanish. It will be translated into the Maya-Q'eqchi' language and shared with them: No están solos! No están olvidados!

Send your message to
Angelica and Friends
Klippensteins, Barristers & Solicitors
160 John St., Suite 300
Toronto ON M5V 2E5

CANADA

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: writeathon.ca

CANADA: Welcome refugees

In the face of the largest refugee crisis in over sixty years, Canadians have overwhelmingly expressed a desire to sponsor and assist more refugees from Syria.

Prime Minister Trudeau has promised to keep his commitment to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees by the end of 2015.

These gestures of goodwill follow a period of time where public attitudes about, and support for, refugees have been on a steady decline. Harsh language often portrays refugees as welfare cheats, criminals, terrorist threats and an economic burden. There has been a series of cost-cutting to programs that support refugees. There have also been harsh changes to law, policy and practice that restrict refugees' access to Canada. These changes affect both refugees applying for resettlement from abroad, either through government or private sponsorship, and refugees who travel to Canada and make a claim for refugee protection.

Given the strong public support which has been demonstrated in response to Syrian refugees, there is a new opportunity for Canada to be a world leader in protecting **ALL** refugees.

Canadian government action and leadership is urgently required. Call on the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to ensure that Canada provides safety to **More Refugees**, **More Fairness** to Refugees, and **More Welcoming** communities.

To take action, go to the next page.



Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Articles 19 and 20
Universal Declaration of
Human Rights

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Activate your pens and your keyboards!

Begin your message with Dear Minister McCallum.

Thank the Minister for following through on Prime Minister Trudeau's promise to resettle 25,000 refugees from Syria.

Then choose two or three of the points below to write in your own words. Ask him

- ◆ to introduce flexible measures (such as Temporary Resident Permits*) for Syrians with family in Canada;
- ◆ to make sure that the commitment to resettle Syrian refugees does not come at the expense of refugees from other parts of the world;
- ◆ to provide the necessary resources to government agencies and service-provider organizations to ensure that refugees from ALL countries are processed in a timely manner and are treated with dignity and respect;
- ◆ to engage in meaningful consultation with key stakeholders to develop fair, effective and non-discriminatory programs for refugee resettlement to Canada;
- ◆ to ensure that individuals making refugee claims in Canada are not treated differently according to the country they are from, or how they arrive in Canada;
- ◆ to embrace language, policies and practices which communicate that Canada welcomes refugees.

Send your message to

The Honourable John McCallum
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Postage: None required
Email: minister@cic.gc.ca
Fax: (613) 952-5533



*Temporary Resident Permits are faster to process and can respond to Syrians still in Syria as well as those outside. Family-linked admissions make sense because having family here makes it easier to settle. If achieving the Liberal Party goal of 25,000 *government-assisted* refugees by the end of 2015 proves logically difficult, *family-linked* admissions will ensure that significant numbers of Syrians are able to quickly find refuge in Canada.

CANADA

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: www.writeathon.ca

CANADA:

Respect the rights Of Indigenous Peoples

On a sunny fall afternoon, Della Owens and Yvonne Tupper stand by the banks of the Peace River in north-eastern British Columbia. They talk about the profound importance of the river valley in their lives and the lives of the many First Nations and Métis communities in the region.

Della is a respected elder and educator from the Saulteau First Nation. Her friend Yvonne, a health worker, is also from Saulteau but lives off reserve. Together, they share stories about the long history of the Indigenous peoples who have lived in the valley and depended on the river, and about the many ancestors who are buried on the mountain slopes.

Della says, "When you see the land, you see beauty." Unfortunately, not everyone sees it that way.

The provincial government plans to flood an 80 km long stretch of the valley in order to generate electricity. An environmental impact assessment concluded that the dam would "severely undermine" Indigenous peoples' use of the land, would make fishing unsafe for at least a generation, and would submerge burial grounds and countless other crucial cultural sites.

The potential loss of the valley is especially concerning because of extensive resource development already taking place throughout the region. Chief Roland Willson of West Moberly, one of the First Nations that is currently fighting the dam's construction in court, has said, "It's the last chunk of valley that we have and it's vitally important."

The British Columbia government claims to have consulted with Indigenous peoples about the dam. But it's clear that the province plans on building the dam no matter what First Nations said.

Something is not right here. Canadian and international law recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to maintain their cultures and traditions, and make their own decisions about their lands. To take action, go to the next page.

Photo caption: A growing movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples has come together to protect the Peace River. Pictured above from left to right, are Arlene Boon, Yvonne Tupper, Della Owens and Amy Meyer.



Indigenous peoples
shall not
be forcibly removed
from their lands
or territories.

Article 10
UN Declaration
on the Rights
of Indigenous Peoples

**WRITE
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AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Activate your pens and keyboards!

An arms-length provincial utilities board rejected this dam, known as Site C, once before, in 1983. Yvonne Tupper, who was a child at the time, remembers her grandfather taking her to a First Nations meeting organized to oppose the dam. Today, Yvonne remains determined that this stretch of the Peace River valley must be protected. "One day I'm going to be a grandmother," she says. "We have to leave something for our grandchildren."

Please write to the premier of British Columbia.

- ◆ Start with Dear Premier Clark.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about plans to construct the Site C dam without respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples in the Peace Valley.
- ◆ Point out that the province must uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples. These are rights that are protected under Treaty 8, the Canadian Constitution and international human rights law.
- ◆ Ask her not to rush ahead with a project that will violate human rights. Insist that she halts the construction of the Site C dam.

Send your message to

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
Box 9041, Station Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (250) 387-0087
Email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Please send a copy to

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Postage: None required
Fax: (613) 947-4622
Email: carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca



Jason Dick and Dakota Kesick dance on the banks of the Peace River.

See the beauty of the land for yourself!

Visit www.amnesty.ca/peaceriver for a slideshow of the Peace Valley, panoramas and unique 3D images that you can download and view with Google Cardboard.

CANADA

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: writeathon.ca

GREECE: BEATEN UP FOR BEING IN LOVE

Picture a stroll in central Athens on an August day last year. Costas was with his partner who is a refugee. Thugs approached. They repeatedly punched and kicked the pair. "I think they could tell we are a couple, and they targeted us because of that, and because of my partner's skin colour," said Costas. No one has been punished for the attack.

Costas' leg was broken in three places. "When the police arrived, I was treated as if I'm contagious," says Costas. More than a year later, no suspects have been identified, let alone punished. The mental trauma still won't go away: "My leg is okay now, but whenever I see any kind of violence, all the horror and fear comes back." Both Costas and his partner are constantly afraid. In March 2015, Costas' partner was attacked again.

Between 2014 and 2015, the number of reported attacks against gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) people in Greece has more than doubled. Racist attacks remain an ongoing issue.

Across Greece, police and the government are failing to tackle rising violence motivated by hatred. And they're treating same-sex couples as second-class citizens. They consistently fail to properly investigate any hate motive behind attacks, and to protect everyone affected.

The lack of recognition of same-sex relationships makes Costas and the LGBTI community feel even more vulnerable: "It's like the government condones the attacks by not acknowledging we are real," he said. "It's as if we don't exist."

Help get justice for Costas and his partner. Urge the Greek government to order a full investigation into this hate crime, bring their attackers to justice, and give Costas and his partner the compensation they deserve. To take action, go to the next page.



Everyone has the right to...
security of person.
No one shall be subjected to
torture or to cruel, inhuman or
degrading treatment
or punishment.

Articles 3 and 5
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

**WRITE
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AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Activate your pens and your keyboards!

Please write to the Minister of Justice.

- ◆ Start with Dear Minister.
- ◆ Make your first sentence unique. Describe who you are or from where you are writing.
- ◆ Explain that you are writing about the attack on Costas and his partner in Athens in August 2014.
- ◆ Urge him to investigate this hate crime and compensate Costas and his partner for the injuries and trauma they have suffered.
- ◆ Insist that LGBTI people, refugees and migrants, people of colour, and all people affected by hate crimes in Greece live free from harassment and violence.
- ◆ Please also urge the Greek government to recognize and protect relationships of all gender combinations.

Send your message to

Nikos Paraskevopoulos
Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights
96 Mesogeion Avenue
115 27 Athens, Greece

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: 011 30 775 5835
Email: grammateia@justice.gov.gr

Please send a copy to

His Excellency George L. Marcantonatos
Ambassador for the Hellenic Republic
80 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0K6

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 238-5676
E-mail: gremb.otv@mfa.gr



Tweet your support for Costas and his partner!

Use social media to show your solidarity and tell the Greek government (@govgr) to end hate crimes. Tweet a photo of yourself kissing your partner or holding a friend's hand in a public place. Be sure to include the hashtag #CostasW4R.

Create your own message or use one of these:
#CostasW4R: not invisible, not alone. You have the #righttolove without fear. @govgr must end #HateCrimes!

#CostasW4R: @govgr must end #HateCrimes & stand against racism, homophobia & transphobia!

#CostasW4R: @govgr must recognize & protect same-sex relationships & End #HateCrimes! #LGBTI

CANADA

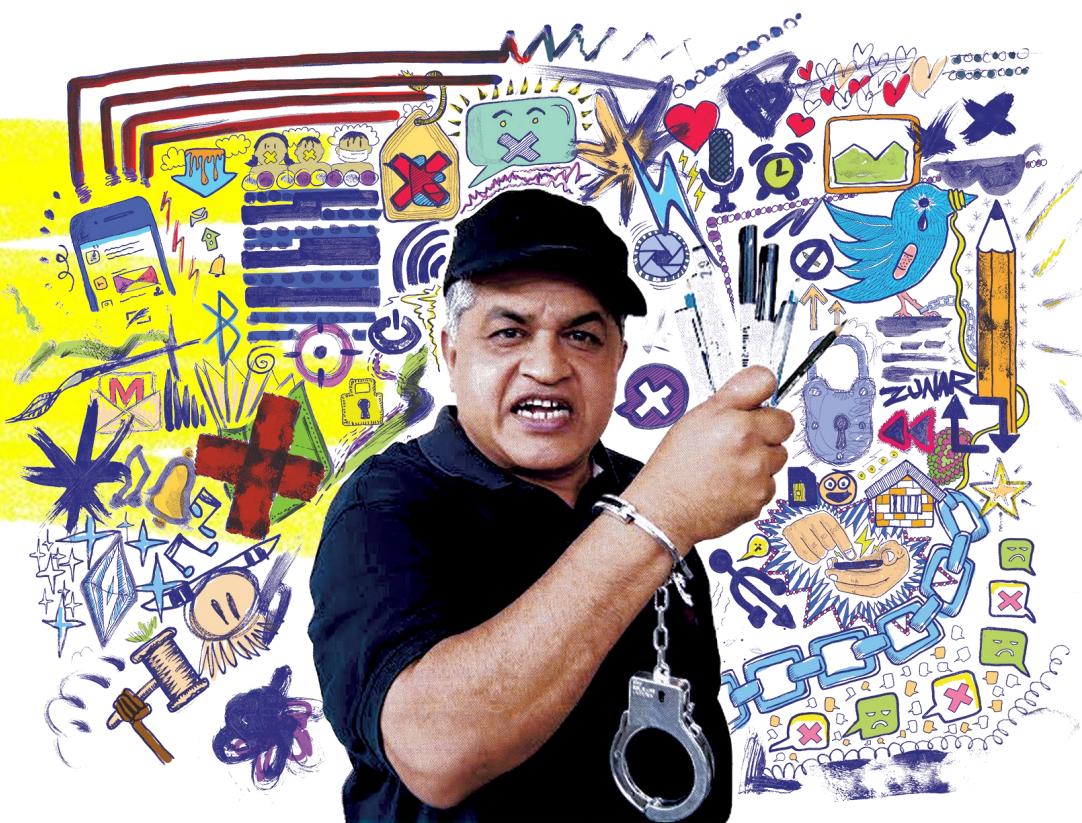
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: www.writeathon.ca

MALAYSIA: TWEETING IS NOT A CRIME

The Malaysian government is going to enormous lengths to silence dissent and debate, and lock up its critics. One of them is Zunar.



Zulkiflee Anwar "Zunar" Ulhaque is a political cartoonist well known in Malaysia for his satirical attacks on government corruption and electoral fraud. He got upset when the government jailed opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, and expressed his views on Twitter. For that, Zunar now faces nine charges -- the most anyone has -- under the Sedition Act. The Act is unreasonably severe, dating from 1948 when the government wanted wide-ranging powers to persecute its critics.

It's not the first time Zunar has fallen foul of the authorities. Since 2009, when his offices were first raided by police, he has been intimidated, arrested and imprisoned. Police also confiscated and banned his books, and threatened to close down his printers.

Zunar is not alone. In the first six months of 2015, more than 40 journalists, academics, political activists and lawyers were interrogated, arrested or charged under the Sedition Act. They were simply exercising their right to freedom of expression and opinion. The space for dissent and debate in Malaysia is disappearing fast.

At the moment, Zunar is not in prison. Our appeals will insist that the government drop the charges against him so that he is not jailed. Our actions will also draw international attention to other people who have been wrongly jailed and who could face up to 20 years in prison if they are convicted of sedition. To take action, go to the next page.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Article 19
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

**WRITE
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RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Activate your pens and your keyboards!

Please write to the prime minister.

- ◆ Start with Dear Prime Minister.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the targeting of Zunar.
- ◆ Ask him to drop the politically-motivated charges against Zunar because he was exercising his right to freedom of expression peacefully.



Send your message to

Prime Minister Najib Razak
Main Block, Perdana Putra Building
Federal Government Administrative Centre
62502 Putrajaya, Malaysia

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: 011 603 8888 3444
Email: ppm@pmo.gov.my

Please send a copy to

Her Excellency Hayati Binti Ismail
High Commissioner for Malaysia
60 Boteler Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8Y7

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 241-5214
E-mail: mwottawa@kln.gov.my

Zunar expects to hear from you!

He would love you to create something visual to show your support for him and for freedom of expression. It could be a cartoon or a simple doodle of solidarity. It could be a drawing to show what free speech means to you.

Then upload your creation to Instagram and tag with #Zunar and #w4r. Please add your age/country as a caption and a message to Zunar if you wish.

Or mail your message to
Zunar
c/o Amnesty International
3-1992 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario M4S 1Z7

CANADA

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: www.writeathon.ca

MEXICO:

CONFESION AFTER TORTURE TRAPS YECENIA ARMENTA IN PRISON

Three years ago, police tortured Yecenia Armenta and threatened to harm her children. That forced her to sign a statement she never read. That "confession" is now being used to keep her in prison.

In July 2012, Yecenia Armenta was driving relatives to the airport when undercover police pulled her over. They forced her out of her car, blindfolded her and drove her away. They accused her of ordering her husband's murder, and they stopped at nothing to make her confess.

Yecenia was hung upside down by her ankles, suffocated and beaten. "They said they would bring my two children, rape them and cut them up into pieces," she told Amnesty. "After many hours of torture and after they'd raped me, I signed the confession. I was still blindfolded. I never even read what I had signed." Her ordeal lasted 15 hours.

In detention, doctors examined Yecenia's injuries but did not document them. Months later, medical forensic staff from the Federal Attorney General's Office also examined her but concluded that she had not been tortured because the previous doctors had found no signs of ill-treatment. Independent medical experts have since examined her and on both occasions, have concluded that she was indeed tortured. Rape and sexual violence are torture techniques often used to exert physical and psychological control over women.

Yecenia has spent the last three years in prison, charged without proof on the strength of her "confession" for a crime she says she did not commit. Yecenia deserves to be free. Her torturers deserve to be brought to justice. "I don't want to spend another day here," she says. "I want my story to be heard, and I'm asking you to help me."

The Mexican authorities need to know the world is watching. Insist on the release of, and justice for, Yecenia now. To take action, go to the next page.



No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest.

Articles 5 and 9,
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

**WRITE
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RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Activate your pens and keyboards!

Please write to the Attorney General of Mexico's Sinaloa State.

- ♦ Start with Dear Attorney General.
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the treatment and continued detention of Yecenia Armenta.
- ♦ Ask him to drop the charges against Yecenia and release her immediately. He must also carry out a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into her torture, and bring those responsible to justice.

Send your message to

Marco Antonio Higuera Gómez
Procuraduría General de Justicia
del Estado de Sinaloa
Blvd. Enrique Sánchez Alonso No. 1833
Desarrollo Plan Tres Ríos, C.P. 80030
Culiacán
Sinaloa, México

Postage: \$2.50
Email: pgjgp@sinaloa.gob.mx
Twitter: @gobsinaloa

Please send a copy to

His Excellency Francisco Suárez Dávila
Ambassador for Mexico
45 O'Connor Street, Suites 1000 & 1030
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1A4

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 235-9123



Yecenia in prison in May 2015 © Fernando Brito

You can comfort Yecenia!

Spending a third Christmas in prison will be difficult for Yecenia. Send a Christmas card, or any type of card via a Centre that is supporting her. Or wait until January and send her a card for her birthday on February 3. You may mention Amnesty and include your address.

Yecenia Armenta
c/o CECJUDE
Carretera a Navolato Km. 95
Col. Aguaruto
C.P. 80370, Culiacán
Sinaloa, México

CANADA

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: www.writeathon.ca

MYANMAR: STUDENT LEADER FACES LONG JAIL SENTENCE

At a mostly peaceful protest last March, police attacked students with batons and arrested more than 100 of them. Among them was one of the organizers, Phyoe Phyoe Aung (pronounced Pee-oh Pee-oh Ang). She and the others now face jail terms as long as nine years. It's just not right for peaceful protesters to be imprisoned.

What prompted the protest? The government had introduced a new law. The students claimed it would limit academic freedom. They organized a march into Yangon but as they got closer to the city, police blocked them. That's when the beatings began. Many were injured.

After their arrests, police released some marchers but charged Phyoe Phyoe Aung and more than 60 other student activists with a range of questionable criminal offences. Many of the students have been locked up ever since. Some are in solitary confinement with limited access to lawyers.

Across the country, young people and student leaders continue to be harassed and intimidated by police and other authorities in what appears to be a systematic clampdown on the student movement.

Despite this, there is good reason to believe that the authorities can be pressured into releasing Phyoe Phyoe Aung and the others. Myanmar's government is hungry for foreign approval and investment. President Thein Sein is keen to demonstrate that his country is still on the road towards political reform and respect for human rights.

Let's insist on the release of Phyoe Phyoe Aung and all the students who remain in prison just for protesting peacefully. To take action, go to the next page.



Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Articles 19 and 20
Universal Declaration of
Human Rights

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Activate your pens and your keyboards!

Please write to the president.

- ◆ Start with Your Excellency.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the detention of Phyoe Phyoe Aung and the many other students.
- ◆ Urge him to free, without delay or conditions, any students held only for peacefully protesting last March in Yangon.

Send your message to

President Thein Sein
President Office, Office No.18
Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: 011 95 1 652 624
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
myanarpresidentoffice.gov.mm](https://www.facebook.com/myanarpresidentoffice.gov.mm)

Please send a copy to

His Excellency Hau Do Suan
Ambassador for Myanmar
336 Island Park Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 0A7

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 232-6999
Email: meottawa@rogers.com

Photo: Phyoe Phyoe Aung at court hearings in May 2015



You can send greetings to the students!

Message them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/1617301761814639 Or use any type of card or letter. If you wish, you may include mention of Amnesty International, your return address and "I support Myanmar students". The students might enjoy a postcard from your community, a picture of your school, or a family photo. Amnesty International will distribute your greetings among the students. Phyoe Phyoe Aung loves animals so she would welcome cards, photos or drawings of animals.

Send your greetings to
Phyoe Phyoe Aung
Amnesty International
3-1992 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario M4S 1Z7

CANADA

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: www.writeathon.ca

SAUDI ARABIA:

An activist is not a terrorist

Fifteen years is a long time to be in jail. Human rights lawyer Waleed Abu al-Khair needs to know he is not forgotten. He was jailed under a cruel terrorism law yet he is a prisoner of conscience, having peacefully challenged the widespread crackdown on human rights across the country.

In July 2014, Waleed Abu al-Khair was sentenced to 15 years in prison. The long sentence followed years of harassment, arrests, threats and court cases.

Since 2012, the authorities have led a ruthless crackdown on their critics, and have handed out long prison sentences to people who have dared to call for greater freedoms. Waleed has represented many peaceful activists, including his brother-in-law Raif Badawi, the blogger who is jailed and was sentenced to 1,000 lashes.

Waleed was found guilty by a special counter-terrorism court of, among other farcical charges, insulting the judiciary, disobeying the ruler, and harming the reputation of the Kingdom. He was offered a reduced sentence of ten years if he apologized for his 'offences', but when he refused, an appeal judge ordered him to serve the full term.

Waleed suffers from diabetes, and while in prison he has been beaten, deprived of sleep and kept in solitary confinement. He has been regularly moved from one jail to another making it difficult for his wife and child to visit him.

Waleed is a prisoner of conscience, not a terrorist. Join the call for his immediate release and to drop all charges so he can be reunited with his family. To take action, go to the next page.



No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

or punishment.
Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Articles 5 and 19
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

**WRITE
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RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Activate your pens and your keyboards!

Please write to the King of Saudi Arabia.

- ◆ Start with Your Majesty.
- ◆ Say who you are and what concerns you about the 15-year prison sentence on human rights lawyer Waleed Abu al-Khair.
- ◆ Ask the king to reverse this miscarriage of justice and insist on his immediate, unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience.



Send your message to

King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques
Office of His Majesty the King
Royal Court, Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: 011 966 11 403 3125 (This is via the Ministry of the Interior and is hard to reach.)

Please send a copy to

His Excellency Naif Bandir A. Alsudairy
Ambassador for Saudi Arabia
201 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1K6

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 237-0567
Email: caemb@mofa.gov.sa
Via website: <http://bit.ly/1LBzli9>

Remind Waleed that he is not forgotten!

Send him a colourful greeting, via his wife Samar, to decorate his cell. You may include your return address, but **please avoid any mention of Amnesty International**. It would be best to avoid religious cards, especially those that contain images of people or animals in case they causes offence. Your greeting will lift his spirits but also show the authorities that he has wide support and respect around the world.

Send your greeting to

Samar Mohammad Badawi
al-Nahda street, King Abdulaziz Road
PO Box 117377
Postal code 21391
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Postage: \$2.50

CANADA

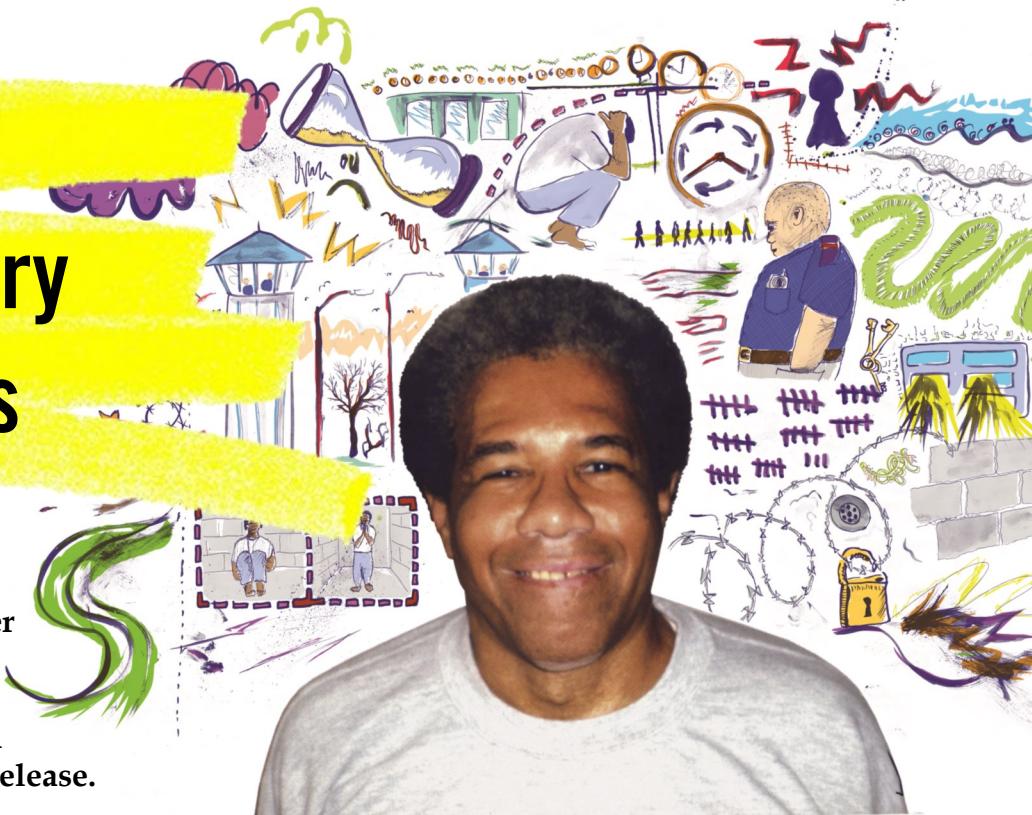
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: writeathon.ca/SaudiArabia

USA: Still in solitary after 43 years

Of 43 years in prison, Albert Woodfox has spent 40 in solitary confinement for a murder he says he did not commit. His conviction has been overturned three times, yet the authorities in Louisiana continue to block his release.



Albert's cell is tiny and for 23 hours a day, he has little natural light. Decades of isolation have taken an appalling toll on Albert's health. "I do not have the words to convey the years of mental, emotional and physical torture I have endured," he says. Even the United Nations says Albert's treatment amounts to torture.

Although no physical evidence linked him to the crime, Albert was convicted for the murder of a prison guard in 1972. Judicial authorities relied primarily on the questionable testimony of another prisoner who received a pardon in return. Albert believes his conviction was politically-motivated because he was a member of the radical black rights movement, the Black Panther Party.

The legal process was so flawed that his conviction has been overturned three times. In June 2015, a federal judge ordered his immediate release, but Albert's freedom has been blocked at every turn by the Louisiana authorities. The one person standing in the way of his freedom now is Louisiana's Attorney General, who is waging a campaign of vengeance against him.

"They might bend me a little bit," says Albert. "They might cause me a lot of pain. They may even take my life. But they will never be able to break me."

Justice is long overdue. Call on the Attorney General to release Albert Woodfox now. To take action, go to the next page.

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 5
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
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Activate your pens and your keyboards!

Please write to Louisiana's Attorney General.

- ◆ Start with Dear Attorney General.
- ◆ Say who you are and what concerns you about the continued detention of Albert Woodfox.
- ◆ Ask him to end decades of cruel and inhumane treatment and to release Albert Woodfox immediately.

Send your message to

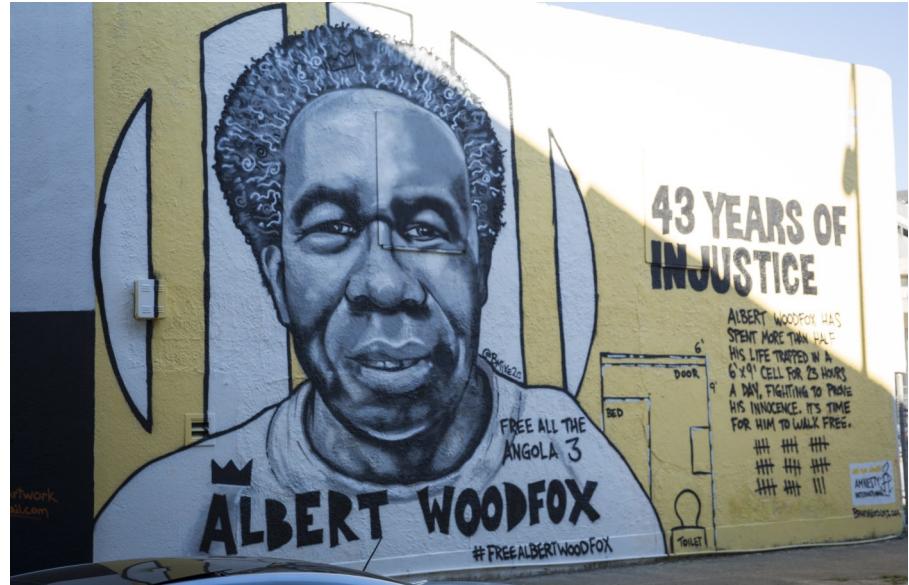
Attorney General Buddy Caldwell
Office of the Attorney General
1885 North Third Street
Baton Rouge
LA 70802, USA

Postage: \$1.20
Email: executive@ag.state.la.us
Fax: 1-225-326-6793
Twitter: @LouisianaAGO

Please send a copy to

His Excellency Bruce Alan Heyman
Ambassador for the USA
PO Box 866, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5T1

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 688-3088
Twitter: @BruceAHeyman



In September 2015, Amnesty USA created this 25-foot mural depicting Albert Woodfox. It is located in New Orleans at 237 S. Claiborne Avenue.

Comfort Albert with a postcard.

Be the window to a world that Albert hasn't seen for 43 years. Send a postcard -- perhaps one of nature or of your community -- with words to encourage him until he is free.

Mail your greeting to

Albert Woodfox #72148
West Feliciana Parish Detention Center
PO Box 2727
St. Francisville
LA 70775, USA

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TAKE PART: www.writeathon.ca