

We express ourselves in different ways. Students add drawings to their handwritten letters. A community activist asks others to add their signatures to his own appeal. The professional writes on letterhead. The result is a rich mix of expressions that portray a sincerity and widespread concern about human rights protection. This diversity increases Amnesty International's effectiveness.

Here are three sample letters. If you would like more help, please contact the Urgent Action Coordinator at [urgentaction@amnesty.ca](mailto:urgentaction@amnesty.ca).

For a Death Penalty case

*Your Excellency,*

*I extend respectful greetings to you from \_\_\_\_\_, where I work as a \_\_\_\_\_.*

*When individuals commit horrible crimes, some of their rights must be denied for a time. The right to liberty is one example. Other rights, however, must never be denied in any circumstance. The right to life and the right to freedom from cruel, inhuman treatment are two examples.*

*I write today about the \_\_\_\_\_. I am shocked at his cruel act of murder. But as a defender of human rights, I cannot tolerate the denial of his inalienable rights as laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I rejoice that your country has committed itself to respecting the rights in the UDHR and trust now that you will turn that commitment into reality with quick action to grant clemency to \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Very sincerely yours,*

For a Death Threat case

Dear Minister,

Much to my dismay, I have received news through Amnesty International that human rights workers \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ who work with the \_\_\_\_\_Group, were subjected to threatening telephone calls on \_\_\_\_\_. I encourage you to initiate a full and impartial investigation to determine the source of the calls and to lay charges against those who are responsible for these unlawful actions. Please contact the two human rights activists to determine together how best to protect them from harm.

I urge your government to adhere to its obligations to protect all human rights defenders in accordance with international human rights standards.

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

For a Disappearance case

Dear President,

Amnesty International has alerted me to the disappearance of a youth by the name of \_\_\_\_\_ . She was apparently abducted near her home in \_\_\_\_\_ and her family has not heard from her since.

It is vital to her safety and the protection of her legal rights that her location is made public. Please find \_\_\_\_\_ immediately. If she is in detention, please make sure that she has access to a lawyer of her choice. Allow close family members to see her, and provide medical attention for any physical needs she may have.

May I have confidence that you will act swiftly to ensure that the legal and physical rights of \_\_\_\_\_ are upheld?

Thank you.