

AUSTRALIA:

End the abuse of people seeking safety and freedom



"I feel they keep us as hostages," Halimeh said. "They make us suffer as an example to others who might think of fleeing to Australia."

Halimeh is one of the more than one thousand men, women and children who are forced to live in appalling conditions in an Immigration Processing Centre on the small island nation of Nauru and Manus Island in Papua New Guinea. Halimeh said she fled Iran in search of safety in Australia after several of her friends were executed. Now she and thousands of others who fled wars, who lost family members and friends, or who were tortured by repressive regimes, are stuck on small islands where they live in anguish and despair about their future.

Refugees seeking to enter Australia by boat are denied entry. They are forced to remain on the islands while their asylum applications are processed. Those recognized as refugees are denied the opportunity to settle in Australia.

People in Nauru remain in what has been described as an open-air prison. Amnesty International researchers say the conditions are among the worst they have investigated. Self-harm and suicide are common. Children as young as nine openly speak about ending their lives. Women report sexual harassment and assault. People with life-threatening health conditions are at times denied adequate medical treatment.

The Australian Government is deliberately driving adults and even children to the breaking point in order to deter other people from arriving by boat. These refugees have escaped nightmares in conflict-ridden countries only to meet with more suffering in the detention centres run by the government.

It is also troubling that doctors and humanitarian workers could face prison in Australia for speaking out about anything they witness while working. Facebook is banned, and journalists and human rights monitors are repeatedly denied access.

Refugees are simply searching for safety and a welcome place to rebuild their lives. Their suffering on Nauru and Manus Island must stop now.

Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

Article 14,
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

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To take action, go to the next page.

Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to Australia's Minister for Immigration.

- ◆ Start with Dear Minister.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about how the government is treating the refugees in Nauru and Manus.
- ◆ Insist that the Australian Government end the abuse of people seeking safety and freedom. First, they must close the Regional Processing Centres on Nauru and Papua New Guinea. Then they must ensure that all those who were granted refugee status on Nauru and Manus have the right to settle in Australia.



Send your message to

The Honourable Peter Dutton MP
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Postage: \$2.50
Email: minister@border.gov.au
Fax: 011 2 6273 4144

Please send a copy to

His Excellency Tony Negus
High Commissioner for Australia
Suite 710 - 50 O'Connor Street
Ottawa ON K1P 6L2

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 786-7621
Facebook: AustraliaInCanada

Check out the blog

Nauru: Australia's shame and a warning for Europe
at <http://bit.ly/2dqvw5d>

Listen to an NPR Interview with refugees on Nauru:
A Refugee's Tale: He Escaped Iran, Now He's Stuck on a Pacific Island at <http://n.pr/2dcX1I9>

CANADA

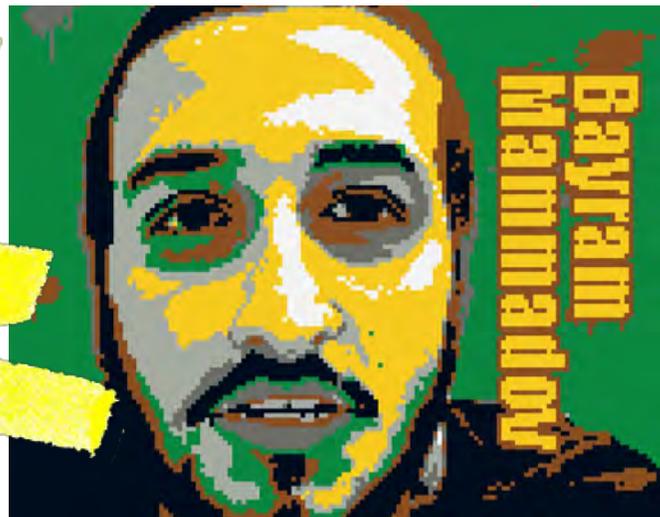
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: writeathon.ca

AZERBAIJAN:

Tortured and jailed for graffiti



© Ai Weiwei

Two young students, Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov, dared to criticize the state in the most public way they could. They painted a defiant message on the statue of Azerbaijan's former president – on the eve of his birthday.

The following day, 10 May 2016, they were arrested and jailed on trumped up charges. Authorities beat both young men into confessing to carrying heroin. "They took my pants off and threatened to rape me with a baton," Bayram later wrote from prison. "I had to 'confess' and sign a statement drafted by them."

Bayram and Giyas protested in the only way they knew how. Fed up with an increasingly authoritarian state, Bayram and Giyas sprayed an angry message on the statue of Azerbaijan's former president, whose son currently rules the country. The message read "Happy slave day", a play on the slogan "Happy Flower Day" which is celebrated on 10 May, the former president's birthday. The young men posted a photo of their action on Facebook on 9 May 2016. They were arrested within a few hours and charged with possessing drugs.

Bayram and Giyas say that the police planted heroin on them. The fact that they were arrested shortly after painting the statue, and that they were only interrogated about the graffiti, exposes the charges for what they are: a complete fabrication.

On October 25, Giyas received a sentence of 10 years in prison. Bayram is locked up awaiting trial. If convicted, he faces up to 12 years in prison - all for a Facebook post criticizing the government.

Urge Azerbaijan's president to make sure that Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov are released right away.

No one shall be subjected to
cruel,
degrading treatment.
Everyone has the right to
freedom of expression and
opinion.
Articles 5 and 19,
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

**WRITE
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RIGHTS**

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INTERNATIONAL**



To take action, go to the next page.

Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to the President of Azerbaijan.

- ◆ Start with Dear President.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the detention of Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov.
- ◆ Ask him to ensure that Bayram and Giyas are released immediately and that false drug-related charges brought against them are dropped.

Send your message to

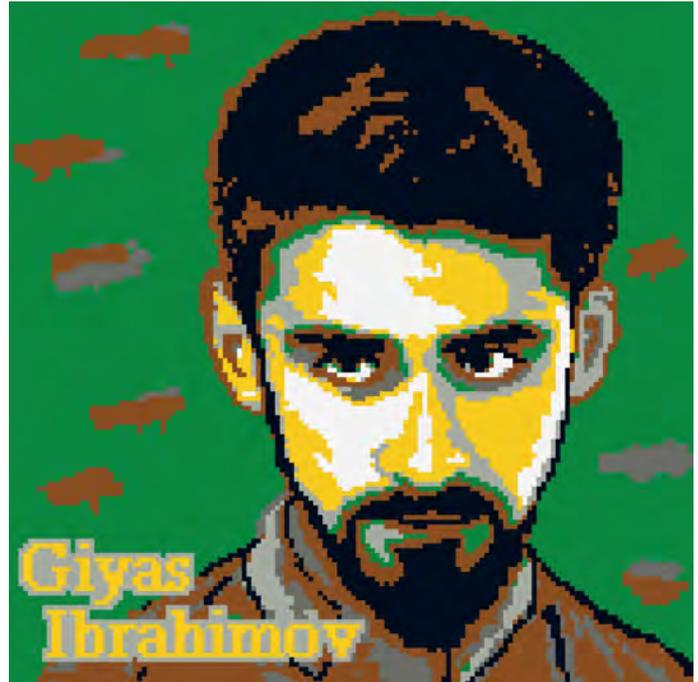
Ilham Aliyev
Office of the President
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street
Baku, AZ 1066
Azerbaijan

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: 011 994 12 492 3543 or
011 994 12 492 0625
Email: office@pa.gov.az
Twitter: @presidentaz

Please send a copy to

Mr. Ramil Huseynli
Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Azerbaijan
275 Slater Street, Suite 1203
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H9

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 230-8089
Email: azerbaijan@azembassy.ca



© Ai Weiwei

Show Bayram and Giyas that you support them. Send them cards, letters or drawings. Please include "Möhkəm ol" ("Stay strong") in your message.

Bayram Mammadov / Giyas Ibrahimov
Baki Investigation Isolator
(Kurdakhany Detention Facility)
Sabunchu District
Zabrat 2 settlement
AZ 1104
Azerbaijan

CANADA

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TAKE PART: writeathon.ca

CANADA:

Stand up for the rights of Indigenous peoples

George Desjarlais, a Dane-Zaa man from the West Moberly First Nations in northeast British Columbia, is in training to be a spiritual leader for his people.



© Andrea Morison, PVEA

When the time is right, George will carry out a sacred ceremony on a small island in the middle of the Peace River known as Vision Quest Island.

However, if the provincial government completes construction of the massive Site C dam, Vision Quest Island and many other place of vital importance to Indigenous peoples in the region will be lost.

The \$8 billion plus hydroelectric dam would flood more than 100 km of the Peace Valley and its tributaries. The flooding would submerge hundreds of cultural and historic sites, and destroy vital wildlife habitat and lands where the Dane-Zaa, Cree, and Métis peoples hunt, trap, and gather berries and medicines.

The federal and provincial governments approved construction of the dam even though their own environmental review process concluded that flooding the valley would “severely undermine” the ability of Indigenous peoples to carry out hunting, fishing, and other traditions protected by treaty, the Canadian Constitution and international law.

The two governments have claimed that the need for electricity “justifies” these harms. However, the province has pushed ahead with the dam without properly considering less harmful alternatives - or even if the electricity is really needed.

The West Moberly and Prophet River First Nations have challenged the dam in court, arguing that their treaty rights have been ignored. Even though the case is still before the courts, the provincial government has pushed ahead with construction.

“The damage that this Site C is going to do, I don’t even know how to explain it,” George says. “My people, they’ve used that river as a corridor, almost like what you call a major highway, for years and years and years. There are grave sites and graveyards and village areas where they used to camp in the summer or the winter. It’s prime wildlife habitat. It’s a good place to hunt. And now in the last hundred years or so, it’s become prime farmland. So, you know, there’s a lot to be lost there.”

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To take action, go to the next page.

Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Starting with Dear Prime Minister,
please write to

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

Starting with Dear Premier Clark,
please also write to

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
Box 901, Station PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Call for an immediate halt to construction of the Site C dam. Write in your own words and include the following points:

The Site C dam's harmful impact on the lives and well-being of Indigenous peoples in northeast British Columbia is beyond dispute. The joint federal-provincial environmental assessment found that the Site C dam will have serious, permanent impact on the ability of Indigenous peoples to carry out traditional activities like hunting and fishing that are central to the cultural identity and to the health and well-being of their communities. Numerous cultural and sacred sites including graves will be lost.

Indigenous peoples' rights to health, culture and livelihood are protected in both Canadian and international law. These rights require a rigorous standard of protection that has not been met. At the very least, the province should have carefully examined other, less destructive alternatives.



Map by Joss MacLennan Design, adapted from the report of Site C dam environmental impact assessment

The big picture

The Site C dam is just one example of how human rights have been pushed aside in the rush to develop the energy resources of northeast BC. See Amnesty's new report and take action at www.amnesty.ca/our-work/campaigns/site-c

CANADA

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TAKE PART: writeathon.ca

CAMEROON:

Locked up for sending a text message

Fomusoh Ivo Feh, known by his friends as Ivo, was about to start university when a text message changed everything.

Late in 2014, the 25-year-old received a text from a friend in the military. The sarcastic message joked that joining the armed group Boko Haram would be easier than getting into university or finding a good job without much experience. The text read “Boko Haram recruits young people from 14 years old and above. Conditions for recruitment: 4 subjects at GCE, including religion”.

Ivo thought the message was funny and forwarded it to a high school friend. The next thing he knew, the student’s teacher had seen it and showed it to the police. Officers arrested the student in October. On December 13, they arrested Ivo, too.

Ivo has not been treated well. For the first month, his family did not know where he was. From mid-January to April, prison officials bound his ankles, and the ankles of his friend, with chains.

The authorities have charged Ivo and his friend with trying to organize a rebellion against the state.

Right now, they are in prison facing trial in a military court where proceedings are conducted in French. Ivo and his friend speak English best but, of their six appearances in court, they have been provided with a translator just once. They could be sent to prison for between 10 and 20 years.

Sending a text message is not a crime. Insist that Cameroon drops all charges against Ivo and lets him go.



© Ai Weiwei

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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To take action, go to the next page.

Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to the president of Cameroon.

- ◆ Start with Dear President.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the detention of Fomusoh Ivo Feh and his friend.
- ◆ Ask him to drop all charges against them and free them without delay.

Send your message to

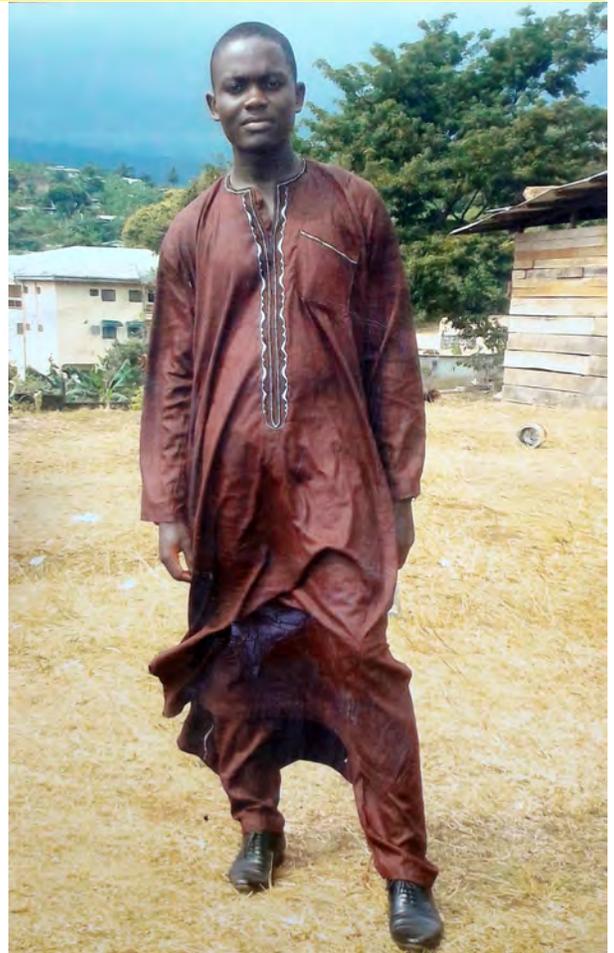
President of the Republic of Cameroon
His Excellency Paul Biya
P.O. Box 95
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: 011 3722 221 9376
Email: cellcom@prc.cm or
contact@presidenceducameroun.com
Twitter: @PR_Paul_Biya

Please send a copy to

His Excellency Anu'a-Gheyle Solomon Azoh-Mbi
High Commission for Cameroon
170 Clemow Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1S 2B4

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: (613) 236 3885
Email: cameroun@rogers.com



Show Ivo you're with him.

Send messages of solidarity and hope to Ivo and his friend to help keep their spirits strong. Postage is \$2.50.

Fomusoh Ivo Feh

Délégation régionale de l'administration pénitentiaire

Prison principale de Yaoundé

s/c Prison centrale de Yaoundé

B.P. 100

Yaoundé, Cameroun

CANADA

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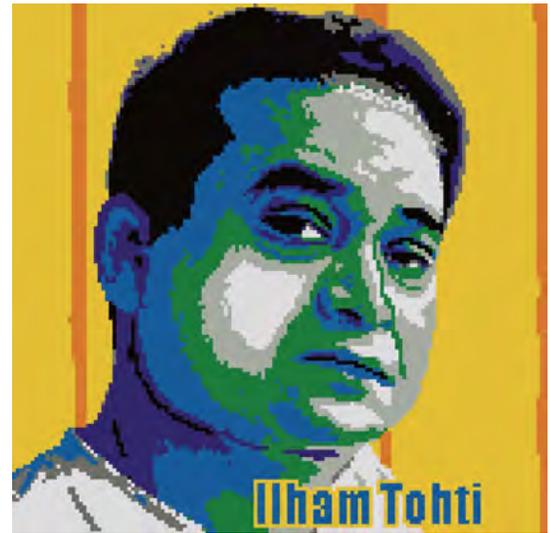


TAKE PART: writeathon.ca

CHINA:

Peaceful activist jailed for life

Ilham Tohti worked tirelessly to build bridges between ethnic communities in China. He always opposed violence in his writing and lectures, and sought to encourage cooperation and understanding among them. But he has been jailed for life – ironically for inflaming ethnic tensions.



© Ai Weiwei

Ilham Tohti is a well-respected university professor, known for his moderate views on ethnic issues in China. Yet in January 2014 he was taken from his home in Beijing by police.

For five months, family and friends were not told where he was. He was denied food for 10 days and had his feet in shackles for 20 days straight. Then in September 2014 he was given a life sentence – supposedly for stirring up ethnic hatred.

Ilham comes from the Uighur community, a largely Muslim ethnic group that faces widespread discrimination in his home region, the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. Tensions between ethnic groups have been rising there in recent years, as have the number of violent attacks.

Ilham adamantly opposed violence and worked tirelessly to build bridges and encourage cooperation between communities. “The path I have pursued all along is honourable and peaceful. I have relied only on pen and paper,” he said. It was for that reason that, in October, he was awarded the 2016 Martin Ennals Award Laureate For Human Rights Defenders.

Through his writing and lectures, he also highlighted government practices that discriminated against many aspects of Uighurs’ lives. But now he faces a lifetime in jail. He’s being cruelly punished for peacefully challenging the Chinese government’s policies towards ethnic minorities.

Demand action. Tell China to release Ilham Tohti immediately and unconditionally.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary detention.

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression and opinion.

*Articles 9 and 19,
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights*

To take action, go to the next page.

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Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to the prison director.

- ◆ Start with Dear Director.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the continued detention of Ilham Tohti.
- ◆ In your own words, ask him to release Ilham Tohti without delay or conditions on his freedom.

Send your message to

Director Fan Jun
Prison Administration Bureau of Xinjiang
Uighur Autonomous Region
No.626 Xinquanjie, Tianshanqu
Urumqi
Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region
People's Republic of China 830002

Postage: \$2.50

Please send a copy to

His Excellency Luo Zhaohui
Ambassador for the People's Republic of China
515 St. Patrick Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5H3

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 789-1911
Email: chinaemb_ca@mfa.gov.cn (unreliable)



Show Show your support for Ilham Tohti.

Send him a letter or postcard to tell him you are calling for his release. Your messages will let the authorities know the world is watching. You will need a \$2.50 stamp.

Ilham Tohti
Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region No. 1 Prison
No. 215 Hebei Donglu
Urumqi, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region
People's Republic of China 830013



EGYPT:

**1000+ days in jail
for taking a photo**

It was tense in the centre of Cairo on 14 August 2013. Demonstrators, angry that the government had thrown the former president out of office, filled a public square. Police were armed with teargas,



© Ai Weiwei

In the middle of it all was Mahmoud Abu Zeid, better known as Shawkan. The photojournalist was doing his job: taking photos of the mayhem around him.

Suddenly violence erupted. "It was like a Hollywood movie," said Shawkan. "It felt like we were in the middle of a war." Except the bullets were real. The teargas was real. And the tanks descending on protests across Egypt were real. The security forces killed 1,000 people that day.

When police found out that Shawkan is a journalist, they grabbed him and tied his hands together with plastic cables that cut through his skin, bloodying his wrists. They punched him and used a belt to whip him. At one point, someone snapped a belt buckle across his eyes.

For taking photos, Shawkan was arrested, tortured and jailed. The many charges against him include "disturbing public peace" and "joining a criminal gang". His trial is ongoing. If he is found guilty, he could be sentenced to death.

Today Shawkan is in Cairo's Tora Prison. It is known for its terrible conditions. And although he has Hepatitis C, he isn't getting the medical care he needs.

It's been three years since Shawkan was jailed. When he appeared in court in May, he told the judge: "Taking pictures isn't a crime." He's right. Urge Egypt to drop all charges against Shawkan and free him immediately.

No one shall be subjected to torture.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest.

Articles 5 & 9, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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INTERNATIONAL



To take action, go to the next page.

Unleash your pens and keyboards!



Show Shawkan he's not alone.

Write or tweet messages of support for Shawkan. He might like to know what freedom of expression means to you. Send your message to his friend:

Free Shawkan
Ahmed Abu Seif
211 E. Ohio St. Apt #2523
Chicago, Illinois 60611, USA

Postage: \$1.20
Twitter: @ShawkanZeid
(use the hashtag #FreeShawkan)

Please write to the Public Prosecutor.

- ◆ Start with Dear Counsellor.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the ongoing detention of Mahmoud Abu Zeid, or Shawkan.
- ◆ In your own words, ask him to drop all charges against Shawkan and release him without delay.

Send your message to

Nabil Sadek
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat Al-Rihab
New Cairo, Egypt

Postage: \$2.50

Please send a copy to

His Excellency Motaz Munir Zahran
Ambassador for the Arab Republic of Egypt
454 Laurier Avenue East
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6R3

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 234 9347 or (613) 234 4398
E-mail: egyptemb@sympatico.ca



IRAN:

Release an outspoken human rights defender



Meet Narges Mohammadi: women's rights activist, mother of twins, professional engineer, journalist, fan of Iranian music and avid mountain climber (she has twice ascended Iran's highest mountain, Damavand). Add prisoner of conscience to that list. She is marking Human Rights Day 2016 in custody, again.

Narges Mohammadi's difficulties began in 2009 when she was charged with "propagating" against Iran's Islamic system. She was not permitted to travel abroad and was prevented from delivering a speech about the role of women and democracy in Iran at a conference organized by the Nobel Women's Initiative. She was convicted in September 2011 of "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security" and "spreading propaganda against the system" - charges connected with her human rights work. In April 2012, Narges began serving an 11 year prison sentence, later reduced to 6 years.

She was released three months later due to poor health. Narges has several serious health problems including seizures, temporary loss of vision and some paralysis in her muscles. Her health has been made worse by her imprisonment. She cannot receive the daily medication and ongoing specialized medical care she needs.

In spite of her serious health problems, Narges was arrested again in May 2015 and taken to Tehran's Evin Prison to continue serving her sentence. In October 2015, she suffered several seizures and was hospitalized. Against the advice of her doctor, she was forced to return to prison. In May 2016, Narges was sentenced to another 16 years in prison after an unfair trial on security-related charges that relate to her peaceful human rights work.

As if this is not enough, Narges Mohammadi has been denied access to her children. Her twins, now nine, had to leave Iran to live with their father in France. She will be separated from them for many years. In June 2016, she was on a hunger strike for 20 days to demand phone access to her children. The hunger strike was successful.

No one shall be subjected to
cruel,
degrading treatment.

Everyone has the right to
freedom of expression and
opinion.

Articles 5 and 19,
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

**WRITE
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INTERNATIONAL**



To take action, go to the next page.

Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei.

- Start with Your Excellency.
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the detention of Narges Mohammadi.
- Ask Ayatollah Khamenei to release her without delay or conditions on her freedom.
- ♦ Until she is free, ask him to make sure that she receives all necessary medical care, unrestricted visits and telephone calls from her family including her children, and access to a lawyer of her choice.

Address your message to

Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
Office of the Supreme Leader
c/o Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of
Iran to the United Nations
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA

Postage: \$1.20
Fax: 1 212 867 7086
Email: iran@un.int
Twitter: @khamenei_ir



Narges with her twins Kiara and Ali
© Amnesty International

Send a card to lift Narges Mohammadi's spirits!
Non-religious cards are best. Write in Persian,
Arabic or English. You may mention Amnesty
International and if you wish, you could write
her name in Persian.

یدمحم سگرن

Mail your greeting to
Narges Mohammadi
c/o Amnesty International
3-1992 Yonge St
Toronto ON M4S 1Z7

CANADA

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TAKE PART: writeathon.ca

PERU:

A farmer defies one of the world's biggest gold mines

This peasant farmer in northern Peru has taken on one of the biggest gold and copper mines in the world.



© Ai Weiwei

Máxima Acuña is in a legal battle with Yanacocha, one of the biggest gold and copper mines anywhere, over the ownership of the land where she lives with her family. She has braved violent attacks from local police for refusing to leave. Máxima believes the harassment from police is an attempt to drive her away from her home so that the mining company can use her land. But she will not give in.

Police have attacked her family numerous times and as recently as 18 September 2016 after which she was hospitalized. They have beaten her and her children, damaged her house and demolished an extension she was building. On one occasion, Yanacocha's own armed security guards even destroyed her crops.

It's a campaign of intimidation designed to make her want to give up her fight and leave. But Máxima is not going anywhere. "I will never kneel before Yanacocha," she says.

Her bravery has won Máxima Acuña the 2016 Goldman Prize. It's the world's most respected environmental award.

Community members look up to Máxima Acuña as a leader who defends the land. They have banded together to protect her. We must, too. Tell Peru to protect her from violence and intimidation.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home...

Article 12, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 17, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**WRITE
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INTERNATIONAL



To take action, go to the next page.

Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Write to the Minister of Interior.

- ◆ Start with Dear Minister.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the safety of Máxima Acuña.
- ◆ In your own words, ask him to protect Máxima from the harassment and intimidation she faces every day.

Send your message to

Carlos Basombrío
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n Urb. Corpac
San Isidro
Lima, Perú

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: 011 511 418 4030
Email: dm@mininter.gob.pe or
sg@mininter.gob.pe
Twitter: @CarlosBasombrio or
@MininterPeru

Please send a copy to

Her Excellency Doraliza Marcela López Bravo
Ambassador for Peru
130 Albert Street, Suite 1901
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 232-3062
E-mail: emperuca@bellnet.ca



Máxima Acuña

© Raúl García Pereira / Amnistía Internacional

Show Máxima that you stand with her
Tell her that you are speaking up to protect her and
her family. Use a \$2.50 stamp.

Máxima Acuña
c/o Amnistía Internacional Perú
Calle Manuel A. Fuentes 894
San Isidro
Lima
Perú

CANADA

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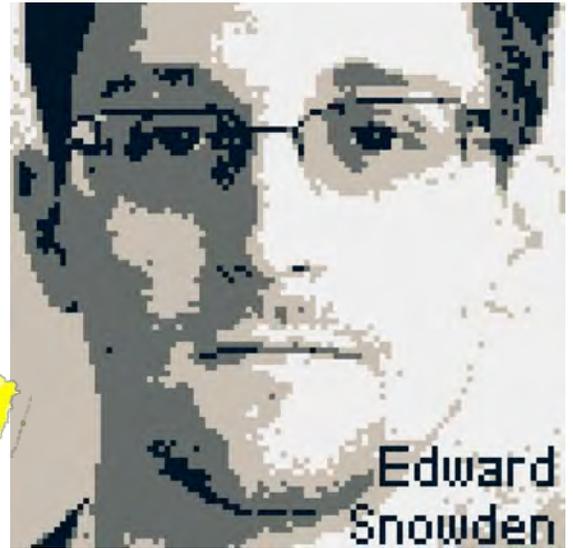


TAKE PART: writeathon.ca

USA:

**His courage changed
the world**

When Edward Snowden shared USA intelligence documents with journalists in June 2013, he revealed the shocking extent of global mass surveillance. He's a hero, not a traitor. Yet he's forced to live in exile and faces decades in prison.



© Ai Weiwei

What Edward Snowden revealed when he shared US intelligence documents was how governments were hoovering up our personal data. The data includes phone calls and phone locations, private emails, and web histories. All without our consent.

He claimed that his only motive for leaking the documents he obtained was "to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them."

His actions sparked a global debate which changed laws and protected our privacy. For the first time in 40 years, the USA passed laws to control government surveillance. Globally, technology companies including Apple and WhatsApp are now doing more to protect our personal information.

None of this would have happened without Edward Snowden. Former US Attorney General admitted that Snowden's revelations "performed a public service". Even President Obama affirmed that this debate about surveillance "will make us stronger".

Edward Snowden should never have been charged with offences that relate to human rights disclosures. Yet he faces decades in prison, accused of selling secrets to enemies of the USA. With no guarantee of a fair trial in his home country, he is living in limbo in Russia. His current status also puts at risk his rights to liberty, to freedom of movement, and to seek asylum.

Ask President Obama to pardon Edward Snowden, a whistleblower who acted solely in the public interest, before he leaves office in January 2017.

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression and opinion. This right includes freedom to seek, receive and impart information through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 19, UN Declaration of Human Rights

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INTERNATIONAL**



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Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to President Obama.

- ◆ Start with Dear President.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about how the USA is jeopardizing Edward Snowden's basic human rights.
- ◆ Ask him to grant a Presidential Pardon to Edward Snowden as a whistleblower who spoke out to defend our human rights.

Send your message to

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
USA

Postage: \$1.20
Via website: www.whitehouse.gov/submit-questions-and-comments
Twitter: @POTUS

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
Mail, fax or tweets are best, otherwise email:
ottawareference@state.gov



Edward Snowden in 2014

© The Guardian, Glenn Greewald and Laura Poitras

Tell Edward he's a human rights hero.

Write a message or draw a picture to show that the world is with him. Post it with \$2.50 postage to

Edward Snowden
c/o Individuals at Risk team
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW, UK

Or tweet @Snowden using #PardonSnowden and #W4R16.

CANADA

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: writeathon.ca

AZERBAIJAN:

Students jailed for graffiti

Youth Action (Ages 9+)



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Have you ever done something a bit naughty?

Bayram Mammadov and his friend Giyas Ibrahimov have.

On May 9, 2016, they carried some paint to a statue of Azerbaijan's former president. To express how unhappy they are with the government's rules, they sprayed "Happy slave day" on the statue. They posted a photo of their action on Facebook.

Guess who is ruling the country now? The former president's son. You can imagine how much trouble they were in.

The day after the spray-painting, officials arrested Bayram and Giyas. Amnesty International is upset about that. For one thing, they were beaten very badly. Secondly, they should have been charged with spray-painting the statue. Instead, the officials made something up and charged them with possessing a powerful drug, heroin.

On October 25, Giyas received a sentence of 10 years in prison. Bayram is locked up, waiting for his trial. He could receive a sentence of 12 years in prison - all for spray-painting a message that criticizes the government and posting it to Facebook.

Bayram and Giyas protested in the only way they knew how, by using their right to say what they think, and doing it in a peaceful way. Their action may have been naughty but it was not violent.

Urge Azerbaijan's president to make sure that Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov are released right away.

No one has the right to hurt you.

Everyone has the right to express what they think.

Articles 5 and 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



To take action, go to the next page.

Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to the President of Azerbaijan.

- ◆ Start with Dear President.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the detention of Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov.
- ◆ Ask him to free Bayram and Giyas right now.

Send your message to

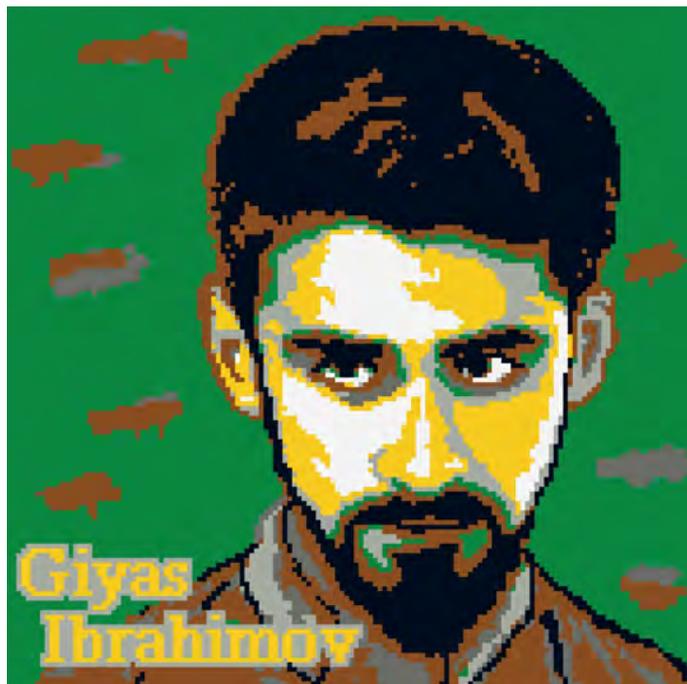
Ilham Aliyev
Office of the President
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street
Baku, AZ 1066
Azerbaijan

Postage: \$2.50

Fax: 011 994 12 492 3543 or
011 994 12 492 0625

Email: office@pa.gov.az

Twitter: @presidentaz



© Ai Weiwei

Show Bayram and Giyas that you support them. Send them cards, letters or drawings. Please include "Möhkəm ol" ("Stay strong") in your message.

Bayram Mammadov / Giyas Ibrahimov
Baki Investigation Isolator
(Kurdakhany Detention Facility)
Sabunchu District
Zabrat 2 settlement
AZ 1104

CANADA

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKE PART: writeathon.ca

EGYPT:

**1000+ days in jail
for taking a photo**
Youth Action (Ages 9+)



© Ai Weiwei

Shawkan loves his camera. He uses the photos he takes to tell stories. Then he shares those reports with the public.

That is what Shawkan was doing on August 14, 2013. He grabbed his camera when he heard there was a huge crowd in downtown Cairo, Egypt's capital city. The crowd was angry that the government had thrown the former president out of office. Things got tense when police arrived with guns and even tanks.

Shawkan began snapping photos. He planned to use them to report on the protest. It was important, he thought, to inform people inside and outside of Egypt about what was happening.

Suddenly bullets started flying. "It was like a Hollywood movie," said Shawkan. "It felt like we were in the middle of a war." Except the bullets were real. And the tanks were real. Many people died and many were hurt.

When police found out that Shawkan is a journalist, they grabbed him and tied his hands together. They punched him and used a belt to whip him.

Today Shawkan is in Cairo's Tora Prison.

For taking photos, Shawkan was arrested, hurt and jailed. When he appeared in court in May, he told the judge: "Taking pictures isn't a crime." He's right. Urge Egypt to free Shawkan now.

No one has the right to hurt you.

No one has the right to imprison you unjustly.

Articles 5 & 9, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

To take action, go to the next page.

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**





Show Shawkan he's not alone.

Write or tweet a message of support for Shawkan.

He might like to know if you have a camera and what you take photos of.

Free Shawkan
Ahmed Abu Seif
211 E. Ohio St. Apt #2523
Chicago, Illinois 60611, USA

Postage: \$1.20

Twitter: @ShawkanZeid
(use the hashtag

Please write a letter to the Public Prosecutor.

- ◆ Start with Dear Counsellor.
- ◆ Tell him how old you are or where you writing from.
- ◆ Explain that Shawkan is in jail just for taking photos and that is not a crime.
- ◆ Ask him to free Shawkan now.

Send your message to

Nabil Sadek
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat Al-Rihab
New Cairo, Egypt

Postage: \$2.50

