

## SAMPLE MESSAGES

The following phrases and sentences are offered to help you write your letter of appeal. Use them as a functional starting point but try to focus on your own heartfelt comments and suggestions as those will be more impressive and effective.

## STARTERS

- I wish to appeal to you on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ who is the subject of my deepest concern.
- My family and I are very worried about \_\_\_\_\_ who is said to be unjustly detained in your country.
- I write to you out of deep concern for the current state of health of recently-imprisoned \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is said to be currently imprisoned in your country. Please investigate.
- I would like to take the opportunity to call your attention to the case of \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am writing to you at this time to seek your assistance in the situation of a detainee, \_\_\_\_\_.

## CLOSINGS

- We hope, in the name of all people concerned with human rights, that we will hear from you about this matter at the earliest possible opportunity.
- I hope to hear from you in the very near future.
- I, and those who share my concern, would be gratified by a reply from you as soon as possible.
- Finally, in view of the above mentioned information, we urge you to act quickly to correct this situation and ask that you inform us of the outcome of your investigation.
- Thanking you in advance for your time on this important and urgent matter, I am respectfully,
- In awaiting your reply, be assured of my most respectful sentiments.

## DEATH THREATS

I am concerned to learn of recent death threats made to \_\_\_\_\_, a member of \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_. He was told that he would be killed for his trade union activity. I urge you to ensure that a full and impartial investigation is undertaken into the

threats, that the results be made public and those responsible be brought to justice. I also ask that all possible measures be undertaken to protect \_\_\_\_\_ and save his life.

## **DISAPPEARANCE**

I am a high school teacher from Canada's west coast and a member of Amnesty International. I have been greatly disturbed by the news of the 'disappearance' of fellow teacher, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ in Ankara on June 7, 2018. I would be grateful if you would inform me of her whereabouts and give assurances that she is well-treated. I would also be grateful for news of her legal status. In this regard, I would respectfully remind you of Article 9 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights which states that 'No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

## **INADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT**

I write this letter to you as a physician, to ensure that Professor \_\_\_\_\_, a prisoner held in \_\_\_\_\_ Prison, is given adequate diet and medical treatment. I have been informed that he is suffering from pneumonia and urgently needs to be transferred to a hospital for immediate attention. My colleagues and I here at \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital would be pleased to hear from you as soon as you are able to ensure \_\_\_\_\_ treatment for this serious respiratory illness.

## **TORTURE**

I am gravely concerned to receive reports of the arrests of University student leaders \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ during October of 2020. I was particularly concerned that some of the detainees, who are being held at the \_\_\_\_\_ Detention Center, are reported to have been severely tortured. I seek your assurances that \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and other detainees being held in detention will be treated fairly and humanely in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law.

## **DEATH PENALTY**

As a member of Amnesty International, the organization which opposes the use of the death penalty in all cases on humanitarian grounds, I urgently request that you commute the death sentence of \_\_\_\_\_, on the basis that his execution would be in violation of the right to life as proclaimed in the United Nations Universal

Declaration of Human Rights. I appeal to you to ensure that no further executions are carried out in your country/state.

## **ARBITRARY ARREST**

It has come to my attention that two well-respected lawyers in Khartoum, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have been recently arrested for their advocacy of the human rights of your citizens. We believe them to be prisoners of conscience, detained because of their work as legal professionals in your country. I strongly urge that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are immediately and unconditionally released. Until then, I ask you to assure their physical safety while in detention and guarantee that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are not subject to torture or other ill-treatment.