



**“Thank you from
the bottom of
my heart for
your support!”**



RYAD KRAIMI/AFP/Getty Images

Journalist Khaled Drareni is greeted by supporters after his release from prison on February 19. He had been in jail for almost a year.

Khaled Drareni is finally free after you campaigned for his release!

Khaled was unjustly imprisoned in Algeria for his journalism.

Algerian journalist Khaled Drareni was freed on February 19 after almost a year in jail. After his release, Khaled thanked Amnesty supporters: “Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support!”

In March 2020, Khaled was arrested while covering an anti-government demonstration by the Hirak protest movement. He was charged with inciting an unarmed gathering despite the fact that he was simply doing his job as a journalist. He was sentenced to two years in prison.

Khaled shares a common dream of freedom and equality with many Algerians. When people took to the streets in 2019 to demand these principles, Khaled was one of the first independent journalists to cover the protests. It took the courage and bravery of reporters like Khaled to make sure that the world knew what was happening inside Algeria.

Khaled’s arrest and imprisonment signalled an escalation in the crackdown on freedoms in Algeria and were a major blow to Algerians’ hopes for reform. Khaled should not have been locked up for covering a protest. It is crucial for the future of human rights in Algeria that people like Khaled are free.

In Algeria, independent press is limited and Khaled made sure to document police violence and arbitrary arrests on his widely followed social media accounts. Khaled’s conviction was part of a wider attack on press freedom and peaceful assembly in Algeria. Since 2019, at least 2,500 protesters, journalists and online activists have been arrested for peaceful activism. Many are still in prison for speaking out.

Khaled still faces charges. Amnesty International will continue to campaign for him until all charges are dropped.

**Thank you for joining Khaled
in his struggle for justice.**

GOOD NEWS

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Andrea Sahouri was pepper-sprayed and arrested while reporting on a protest.

USA

Journalist Andrea Sahouri found not guilty

In May 2020, journalist Andrea Sahouri was covering a Black Lives Matter protest in Des Moines, Iowa, when police pepper-sprayed and arrested her. Sahouri, who works for the Des Moines Register, was charged with two misdemeanour offences.

Andrea Sahouri and other journalists must be able to report on scenes of protest. Their work is essential to the right of freedom of expression. The case should never have gone to trial. Finally, on March 10, a jury found Sahouri not guilty.

In a message to Amnesty supporters, Andrea said, "Thank you so much to every single one of you who has supported me and stood in solidarity with me in this fight for freedom of the press."

STR/AFP/Getty Images



Maati Monjib leaving prison on March 23.

MOROCCO

Human rights defender Maati Monjib released on parole

Moroccan human rights defender Maati Monjib was released on parole on March 23. Maati Monjib is a

prominent academic and regular commentator on Moroccan politics in international media, think tanks and academic forums where he often shared opinions and analysis about the Moroccan authorities' infringement of human rights.

He was arrested at a restaurant in Rabat on December 29, 2020. He had been under investigation since October on trumped-up charges of money laundering and embezzlement against him and members of his family.

Unfortunately, the charges against Maati Monjib have not been dropped and a trial date is yet to be announced. Amnesty is continuing to demand that the authorities drop all charges against him.

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On March 8, Popi's sister and mother and Amnesty staff delivered petition signatures to the police.

SOUTH AFRICA

Police commit to investigating Popi and Bongeka's murders

Four years on from the murders of Popi Qwabe and Bongeka Phungula, their families finally received

some positive news after tirelessly campaigning for justice. According to the families, the police failed to properly investigate the women's murders in 2017, and key suspects were released for lack of evidence.

On March 8, Popi's sister and mother and Amnesty South Africa staff met with members of the South African Police Service to deliver petition signatures from Amnesty's 2020 Write for Rights campaign.

The meeting resulted in a two-hour discussion with officials. The police have now officially committed to re-investigating Popi and Bongeka's case, which is what the women's families and Amnesty activists were calling on the authorities to do.

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STRATPG/Getty Images



Thein Zaw leaves Insein prison in Yangon on March 24.

MYANMAR

Reporter Thein Zaw released from jail

On March 24, Thein Zaw, a journalist working for Associated Press in Myanmar, was freed from Yangon's notorious Insein prison. He had been detained three weeks earlier while reporting on protests against the military coup.

Since the coup on February 1, tens of thousands of protesters have taken to the streets around the country. Protesters and media workers covering the demonstrations have faced arrest and physical harm from the security forces.

With your support, Amnesty is calling for the release of all peaceful protesters, journalists, and human rights defenders in Myanmar who have been unjustly jailed. Amnesty is also urging governments internationally to take concrete steps to address the worsening human rights situation in Myanmar and to prevent further bloodshed and atrocities.

GERMANY

Syrian official convicted of crimes against humanity

History was made on February 24 when a German court convicted Eyad al-Gharib, a Syrian security officer, to four-and-a-half years in prison for crimes against humanity. The verdict was the first of its kind for crimes under international law committed by a Syrian government official. Al-Gharib was convicted for aiding the torture of detained protesters in Damascus.

The verdict was a victory for the many thousands of Syrian torture survivors. It was a victory, too, for Syrian and international human rights organizations that campaigned together for justice. These organizations documented crimes and built legal cases. Without their work this trial would not have been possible.

Amnesty International is calling on more governments to follow Germany's example by prosecuting individuals suspected of committing war crimes in Syria.



Eyad al-Gharib hides his face in court in Germany. Al-Gharib aided the torture of detained protesters in Damascus.

CHINA

Tibetan education activist freed

Tibetan education activist Tashi Wangchuk was released from prison in January. Amnesty supporters had long called for his release.

Tashi was unjustly detained in 2016 after he appeared in a New York Times documentary. He was targeted after campaigning for the Tibetan language to be taught in Tibetan schools. He spent five years in jail for "inciting separatism", all because he wanted Tibetan children to learn their native tongue, as well as Mandarin that they currently learn.

Amnesty still has concerns for Tashi's freedom. China has a history of using heavy surveillance and intimidation against human rights defenders after they are released from jail.

The Chinese government continues to aggressively target ethnic minorities through forced cultural assimilation and education policies. The assault on human rights in China must stop.



Tashi Wangchuk was targeted after campaigning for the Tibetan language to be taught in Tibetan schools.

YOU SHINE THE LIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

Your generous support helps to save lives. Without you, Amnesty's researchers, campaigners, and lawyers would not be able to carry out their critical work. By funding Amnesty's work worldwide, you are ensuring that Amnesty teams are exposing human rights violations wherever they happen and holding those responsible for abuses to account. On these pages we feature just a few of the countries that Amnesty's experts have been focused on in recent months.

RUSSIA

Protesters clash with riot police during a rally in support of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny in Moscow on January 23.



KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV/FP/Getty Images

Ethiopia

You demanded justice for the people of Axum in northern Ethiopia. In November, Eritrean troops killed hundreds of unarmed civilians in Axum, opening fire in the streets and conducting house-to-house raids. Amnesty's researchers have said that the massacre by the Eritrean troops may be a crime against humanity. Amnesty is calling for a United Nations investigation into the human right violations.

Colombia

You're demanding protection for land and environment defenders. On Earth Day, April 22, Amnesty Canada launched a new campaign for the protection of land and environment defenders in Colombia. Colombia is one of the most dangerous places in the world to defend land, Indigenous territory and the environment. Women defenders face the additional threat of sexual violence against them and their daughters.

Colombia

Mozambique

You called for civilians to be protected from a brutal conflict. In northern Mozambique, the Al-Shabaab armed group is killing civilians, burning villages and towns, and abducting young women and children. In response, government forces have attacked not only Al-Shabaab but also civilians. Half a million people have been displaced. You are calling for all parties to stop targeting civilians and for war crimes to be investigated.

COLOMBIA

Jani Silva is an environmental defender who, despite threats to her life, fights for the conservation of the Amazon ecosystem and defends those who live within it.



© Nubia Acosta

MOZAMBIQUE

At the seaport of Pemba, people wait for the arrival of their families evacuated from the north of the country where a brutal conflict is taking place.



ALFREDO ZUNIGA/FP/Getty Images

Russia

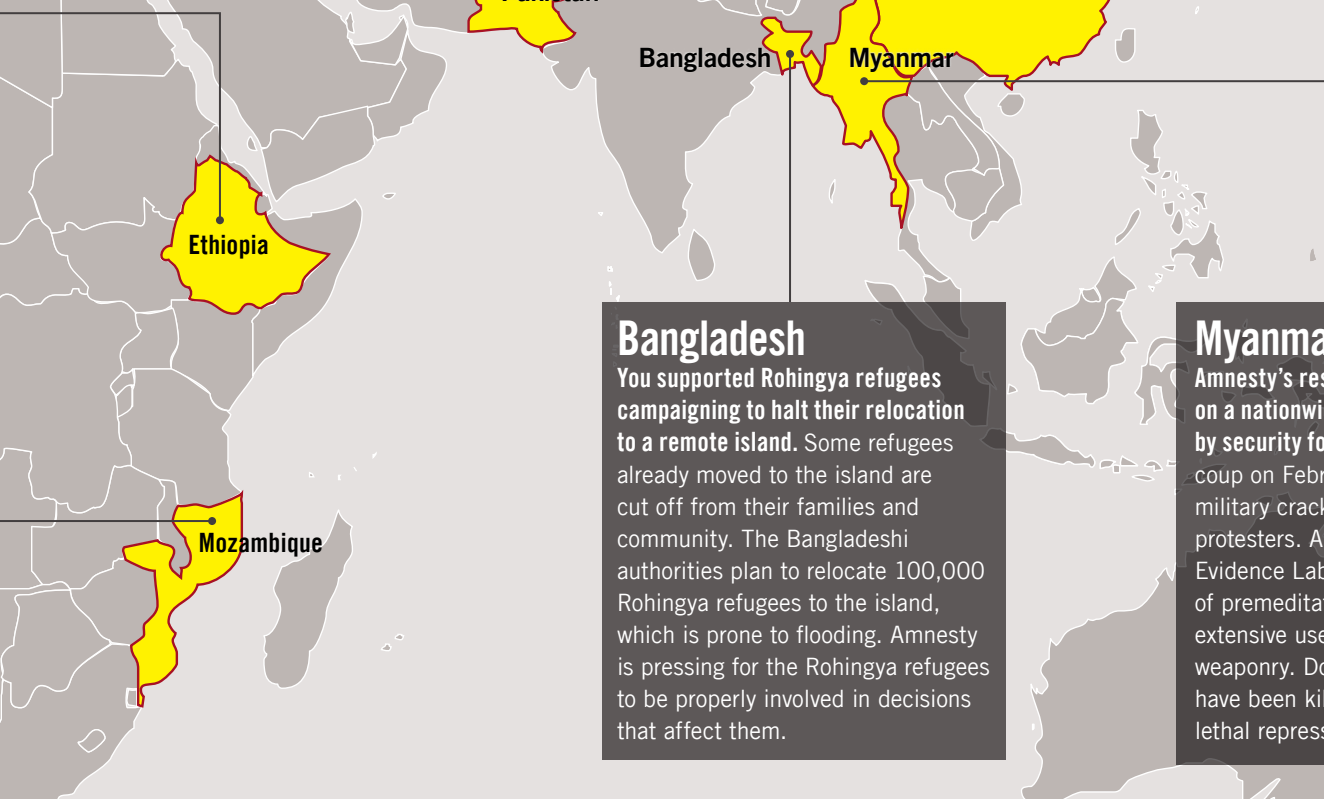
You called for Aleksei Navalny to be freed. On January 17, the opposition activist was arrested upon his arrival in Moscow after five months of medical treatment in Germany. He had been poisoned by Novichok nerve agent in August 2020. From the day he was arrested, during his trial and ongoing imprisonment, Amnesty International has consistently demanded Navalny's immediate and unconditional release.

Pakistan

You demanded that the authorities stop targeting human rights defenders. In Pakistan, the security forces often use enforced disappearance against those who criticize them. Muhammad Idris Khattak is a human rights defender and a former consultant with Amnesty. Abducted in November 2019, it was seven months before the authorities admitted having him in their custody.

China

You helped expose how the Chinese authorities are forcibly separating Uyghur children from their families. In March, Amnesty revealed that the Chinese state is placing Uyghur children in orphanages in the Xinjiang region without the consent of their parents. Many of the parents are abroad, afraid that if they return they will be placed in one of the camps where the Chinese authorities have detained an estimated one million predominantly Muslim people. Amnesty is calling for all children held without their parents' consent to be released to family members.



Bangladesh

You supported Rohingya refugees campaigning to halt their relocation to a remote island. Some refugees already moved to the island are cut off from their families and community. The Bangladeshi authorities plan to relocate 100,000 Rohingya refugees to the island, which is prone to flooding. Amnesty is pressing for the Rohingya refugees to be properly involved in decisions that affect them.

Myanmar

Amnesty's researchers reported on a nationwide killing spree by security forces. Following a coup on February 1, Myanmar's military cracked down on protesters. Amnesty's Crisis Evidence Lab found evidence of premeditated killings amid extensive use of battlefield weaponry. Dozens of civilians have been killed during this lethal repression.

MYANMAR

A police officer takes aim during one of the protests that followed the military coup in February.



STR/AFP/Getty Images

BANGLADESH

Rohingya refugees embark a Bangladesh Navy ship as they are relocated to a controversial flood-prone island in the Bay of Bengal.



REHMAN ASAD/AFP/Getty Images

MEET THE YOUNG ACTIVISTS SHOWING RESILIENCE AMIDST UNCERTAINTY

Youth activism has never been easy. But working amid a global pandemic in a world increasingly divided, young human rights defenders are facing even greater challenges.

However, young people around the world have continued to show resilience amidst uncertainty. Even in the darkest of times, they've never stopped hoping for—and working towards—a better future for us all.

Here, members of Amnesty International's Global Youth Collective reflect on recent events and share their hopes for the future.



LEHLOGONOLO MUTHEVHULI, 24,
SOUTH AFRICA

When COVID-19 brought the world to a standstill last year, **Lehlogonolo Muthevhuli** had to adapt the way she worked.

"2020 was a tough year for all. As a result, many human rights injustices were amplified—but our work as human rights defenders continued. Going forward, I want to advocate for women's rights and ensure young people have a seat at the table. The world needs more young people to hold higher structures accountable for injustices."



ALLYSON CASTILLO, 19, AND
KARIN WATSON, 23, CHILE

Allyson Castillo and **Karin Watson** are calling for gender equality and climate justice in Chile.

"This year, we hope the situation will improve—and we want to focus our work on the areas impacted the most: education, health, and access to basic services, including food. Together, we're hoping to continue our work as youth leaders, while working across new spaces such as feminism, with a focus on sexual reproductive rights. We want to see youth activism continue and grow, so young people have the opportunity to make an impact."



BELINDA ADIKIE ASAMANYUAH, 23,
GHANA

Belinda Adikie Asamanyuah is a civic educator and human rights activist with Amnesty International. Belinda works to increase respect for human rights.

"I want to change the hearts and minds of people in my community, with the aim of building an appreciation for human rights education. This year, I hope aspiring young human rights defenders will be influenced by the power of social media to take action and contribute to ending grave abuses in the world. On a personal level, I hope to continue using my social media platforms to increase visibility on human rights education, as well as encourage young people in my community to become activists for change."



AMNESTY'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY: SIX DECADES OF CHALLENGING INJUSTICE

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This year marks the 60th anniversary of Amnesty International, and on May 28—Amnesty's birthday—we'll begin a year-long celebration of human rights. Expect to hear more in the months ahead about special events to mark the 60th anniversary. In the meantime, we asked Amnesty supporters what Amnesty International means to them during this 60th anniversary year. Here's what three of them told us.

© Paul Thompson



“As we look back and forward and pause for a moment to reflect on Amnesty International at 60, I continue to be inspired by the

many, many dedicated activists who are prepared to dig in deep and contribute to the often messy process of making and creating change—both in our human rights movement and in our world—sometimes we refer to this as lighting candles of hope.”

— **Gord Barnes**, Amnesty fieldworker, Regina

© Rachel Lim



“Amnesty's extensive set of campaigns inspired me to explore human rights advocacy at a broader level. Through an emphasis on youth

leadership, Amnesty equips young activists like me with the necessary tools to ignite global social change in numerous areas, varying from sexual and reproductive health rights to abolishing the death penalty.”

— **Rachel Lim**, Amnesty National Organizer, Ottawa.

© Aneka Spice



“What inspires me about Amnesty is the compassion with which the organization supports human rights in every situation, from the small-scale cases of individuals

at risk to the large-scale movement for universal human rights.”

— **Aneka Spice**, Amnesty National Organizer, Kamloops

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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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HUMAN RIGHTS
LANDMARKS**

Let protecting human rights be your legacy to the world by leaving a gift in your will to Amnesty International

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For more information on leaving a gift in your will, please return the enclosed coupon, or contact Hala Al-Madi at **613-744-7667 ext 223** or at **halmadi@amnesty.ca**.

A portrait of Loujain al-Hathloul, a woman with dark hair and a light-colored top, smiling. She is standing in front of a green leafy plant. The text '© Al-Hathloul family' is written vertically on the right side of the image.

SAUDI ARABIA:

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

DEFENDER

LOUJAIN AL-HATHLOUL

FREED!

- Loujain spent 3 years in jail after bravely defending women's rights
- You campaigned for her freedom throughout her ordeal

After almost three years in prison in Saudi Arabia, Loujain al-Hathloul was released on February 10.

During her time in prison, Loujain was tortured and sexually harassed, held in solitary confinement, and denied access to her family for months at a time. Her release from prison is an incredible relief, but long overdue. However, Loujain's freedom continues to be severely restricted. Because of a court decision in March, Loujain still faces a five-year ban on travel outside Saudi Arabia.

Punished for bravely defending women's rights

Loujain should never have been forced to spend a single second behind bars. She was punished for bravely defending women's rights, and for exercising her right to freedom of expression.

In 2014, Loujain challenged the driving ban on Saudi women. The campaign was successful, and in 2018 the driving ban was lifted, but Loujain had already been imprisoned for her activism, which included calling for an end to Saudi Arabia's guardianship system and communicating with Amnesty International. Solely because of her human rights work, Loujain was unjustly accused under cybercrime and counter-terrorism laws. Instead of being celebrated for her peaceful activism, she was treated as a criminal.

You campaigned for Loujain's unconditional release

Throughout Loujain's ordeal, you called on the Saudi Arabian authorities to unconditionally release Loujain and all human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience detained for demanding reforms and defending basic rights.

Thank you for supporting the campaign for Loujain's release—and thank you for continuing to demand that Saudi Arabia's authorities must bring to justice those responsible for Loujain's torture and other ill-treatment.