

## GROUP NINE WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Thank you for participating in the **world's largest human rights event!!**

You are joining Amnesty International's **seven million supporters** around the world in a **letter-writing blitz** calling on governments to respect the rights of selected individuals at risk.

We have had many successes over the years including the release of political prisoners, the ending of torture in specific cases and in bringing human rights offenders to justice.

### WHAT'S IN YOUR PACKAGE??? WHAT TO DO???

1. You can make a difference by **signing letters to governments** defending the rights of refugees, women, indigenous peoples, and human rights workers!

Please **sign the 17 letters** to governments and High Commissions - **include your name, home city, Canada and your postal code.** Information about each case is included in the letter as well as on the table and online at <https://amnesty.ca/write-for-rights/>  
Add your personal comments by hand if you like.

2. Support human rights defenders and their families by sending them **messages of hope and solidarity.**

See the case summaries and ideas for messages of support on the table.

Use the blank cards and art materials on the table to illustrate your messages of support, or simply write a message on the cards provided.

Make sure to clearly indicate the name of the recipient on your card - we will be mailing the messages in bulk.

11 January 2025

Premier of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041  
STN Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier:

I am writing to you from the Region of Waterloo, ON regarding the ongoing criminalization of **Wet'suwet'en land defenders** by the B.C. Government.

For years, the Wet'suwet'en Nation land defenders have met with intimidation and harassment by the RCMP, which was directed to do so by the B.C. Government, for opposing construction of a fossil fuel pipeline on their ancestral territory.

The Wet'suwet'en People are fully committed and deeply connected to their ancestral lands and waters which are threatened by this pipeline that the B.C. Government continues to support, regardless of the fact that the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs (on behalf of their clans) did not consent to it.

The defenders face time in prison and a criminal record if found guilty in court for defending and protecting their ancestral home. It is obvious to us who live in other parts of this country called Canada, that the defenders are protecting the rights of all people to have a clean, healthy and sustainable environment now and for the generations to come.

I ask the Government of British Columbia to rethink their position and stop the criminalization and harassment of Wet'suwet'en land defenders and their allies. Mr. Premier, please sit down with the Wet'suwet'en People and be courageous enough to listen and to learn about the land and the increased climate change caused by construction of pipelines.

Sincerely,

January 11, 2025

President of Angola

Palácio Presidencial  
Cidade Alta  
Rua 17 de Setembro  
Luanda  
Angola

Your Excellency:

I am writing from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada on behalf of **Ana da Silva Miguel**, known as "**Neth Nahara**" to express my concern with the unjust sentencing of Neth for exercising her human rights which includes the right to freedom of expression.

In August 2023 **Neth**, the mother of two small children, took to TikTok criticizing your conduct as president. The next day she was arrested and subsequently tried, convicted, and sentenced to six months in prison, which was later increased to two years. Your authorities are using Article 333 of the Penal Code to make legitimate criticism of you a criminal offence.

I demand that **Ana da Silva Miguel** is immediately and unconditionally released, since her mistreatment, conviction and ongoing arbitrary detention stem solely from the peaceful exercise of her human rights, including the right to freedom of expression.

Yours sincerely,

Cc: Embassy of the Republic of Angola  
2100-2108 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington DC 20009  
United States of America

January 11, 2025

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Palácio Presidencial  
Cidade Alta  
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2100-2108 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington DC 20009  
United States of America

January 11, 2025

Attorney General of the Public Prosecutor's Office  
Sarmiento 427  
4600 San Salvador de Jujuy  
Argentina

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada in order to bring to light the issue of **Joel Paredes**. Joel Paredes was exercising his right to peaceful assembly when he was shot by police with rubber bullets and hit straight in his eye, permanently losing his vision.

Joel Paredes has lost his vision due to his sympathies to the plight of the indigenous people who see their land being exploited. Now he has lost his vision and will never be able to see the faces of his loved ones because he had empathy for his neighbours. To add onto that he has nerve pain which is borderline debilitating and prevents him from doing his daily activities.

I ask you to launch a proper investigation on this matter, to find those who are responsible for Joel Paredes' deeply consequential injuries, and the injuries of all those who were demonstrating their right to peaceful assembly. After that, the perpetrators must be brought to justice in accordance with international laws and standards.

Sincerely,

cc: Embassy of the Argentine Republic  
81 Metcalfe Street, 7th Floor  
Ottawa ON K1P 6K7

January 11, 2025

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January 11, 2025

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus  
vul. Lenina 19  
220030, Minsk  
Republic of Belarus

Dear Minister:

I am writing to you from Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, calling on you to take all necessary steps to immediately release **Maryia Kalesnikava**, who has been arbitrarily arrested and prosecuted on trumped-up charges. **Maryia** has been sentenced to 11 years in prison simply for exercising her right to freedom of expression and association. She spoke out against arbitrary arrests and abuses of the electoral process during the widely disputed presidential election in Belarus in 2020. Her family has not heard from her in over a year.

I also call for all necessary measures to be taken to protect **Maryia** from torture and other ill-treatment, provide her with access to adequate healthcare, allow her contact with her lawyers and family, overturn her unjust conviction, and delete her name from the government's list of individuals involved in "terrorist activities".

Yours sincerely,

cc:

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus  
1619 New Hampshire Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20009  
United States of America

January 11, 2025

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Yours sincerely,

cc:

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus  
1619 New Hampshire Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20009  
United States of America



January 11, 2025

President of Egypt  
Office of the President  
Al-Ittihadiya Palace  
Al Nadi, El-Montaza, Heliopolis  
Cairo Governorate  
4460210  
Egypt

Your Excellency:

I am writing to demand the release of **Oqba Hashad**. Oqba is a 27-year-old student who has been held in pretrial detention since May 2019, solely in retaliation for his brother's human rights activism.

Egyptian authorities forcibly disappeared and tortured Oqba and continue to deny him the prosthetic leg he has used since a childhood accident – leaving him physically reliant on others. Held in terrible conditions without adequate healthcare, a new bogus case against him has been opened to justify his continued detention.

Oqba Hashad must be immediately and unconditionally released, as his detention is related solely to his brother's human rights activism.

Yours sincerely,

CC: Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
454 Laurier Avenue East  
Ottawa ON, Canada K1N 6R3

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Office of the President  
Al-Ittihadiya Palace  
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CC: Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
454 Laurier Avenue East  
Ottawa ON, Canada K1N 6R3

January 11, 2025

Minister of Justice for Saudi Arabia  
PO box 7775  
11472  
Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia

Your Excellency:

I am writing from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada to you regarding the case of **Manahel al-Otaibi**. In November 2022, Manahel was arrested for campaigning for women's rights online and posting photos to Snapchat of herself at a shopping mall without wearing a traditional abaya. Manahel has been sentenced to 11 years in prison.

During the time in prison, it is reported she had been held in solitary confinement and beaten resulting in a broken leg without access to medical treatment. It is both humane and necessary for **Manhal** to receive the required medical treatment immediately.

In recent years, Saudi Arabia's authorities have claimed they are advancing women's rights in the Kingdom. **Manahel** believed these promises and felt freer to express her views and wear what she liked. Now she is serving over a decade behind bars.

I demand that **Manahel al-Otaibi** be immediately and unconditionally released, and all charges against her are dropped.

Yours sincerely,

Cc: Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia  
201 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, ON  
K1N 1K6

January 11, 2025

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PO box 7775  
11472  
Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia

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Cc: Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia  
201 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, ON  
K1N 1K6

January 11, 2025

Mayor of Seoul  
6F, Seoul Metropolitan Government  
110 Sejong-daero  
Jung-gu  
Seoul 04524  
Republic of Korea

Dear Mayor of Seoul,

I am writing to you from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada regarding **Kyung Seok Park**. As a representative of Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination (SADD) he has held peaceful protests on Seoul's public transport systems. His activism has drawn attention to the difficulties people with disabilities face in accessing public transport safely. However, in response to his activism, he has been met with police abuse, public smears and punitive litigation.

I urge you to ensure the right to freedom of assembly by stopping the use of unlawful force against **Kyung Seok Park** and SADD activists, dropping all litigation and ending the media smear, so activists may continue to campaign for a world where people with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of life.

Yours sincerely,

cc:

Embassy of the Republic of Korea  
150 Boteler Street  
Ottawa ON  
K1N 5A6

January 11, 2025

Mayor of Seoul  
6F, Seoul Metropolitan Government  
110 Sejong-daero  
Jung-gu  
Seoul 04524  
Republic of Korea

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Yours sincerely,

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Embassy of the Republic of Korea  
150 Boteler Street  
Ottawa ON  
K1N 5A6

January 11, 2025  
Minister of Justice  
Kizilay  
Milli Mdafa Cd. No: 5  
06420 ankaya  
Ankara, Trkiye

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you from Waterloo, Canada to urge you to release **Professor Őebnem Korur Fincanci** from unjust imprisonment arising from baseless criminal investigations, detention and prosecution.

Professor Korur Fincanci has long defended the human rights of the Turkish people, including their right to freedom of expression. As a forensic medicine expert, she is devoted to eradicating torture and sexual violence.

We call on the Turkish government to live up to its commitments when it ratified international human rights treaties – the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (2003); the European Convention on Human Rights and Protocol No. 1; and, other major human rights conventions.

We urge you to release Professor Korur Fincanci immediately and allow her to continue her important work.

Sincerely,

cc. Embassy of the Republic of Trkiye  
197 Wurtemberg Street  
Ottawa, ON K1N 8L9

January 11, 2025  
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Kizilay  
Milli Mdafa Cd. No: 5  
06420 ankaya  
Ankara, Trkiye

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Sincerely,

cc. Embassy of the Republic of Trkiye  
197 Wurtemberg Street  
Ottawa, ON K1N 8L9



11 January 2025

President of Viet Nam  
President's Office  
No. 2, Hung Vuong Street  
Ba Dinh District  
Hanoi 11100  
Viet Nam

Your Excellency:

I am calling on you to immediately and unconditionally release environmental lawyer **Dang Dinh Bach**.

Bach has dedicated his life to protecting people from some of the modern day threats to health and livelihood, especially pollution and climate change. His organization, the Law and Policy of Sustainable Development Research Center (LPSD), has sought to help communities understand how they can deal with threats to their social, economic and environmental well-being. The organization's aims of economic growth, social development and environmental protection are vitally important to all people in Vietnam..

On 24 June 2021, Bach was arrested and jailed for alleged tax evasion, a crime he did not commit. He was later sentenced to five years in prison following a trial which United Nations experts considered unfair because the court refused to hear his defence and the prosecutor failed to disclose evidence..

Pending his release, Bach must be protected from all forms of torture and other ill-treatment and be provided access to adequate healthcare.

Yours sincerely,

Waterloo, ON, Canada

cc:

Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
55 Mackay Street  
Ottawa ON K1M 2B2

11 January 2025

President of Viet Nam  
President's Office  
No. 2, Hung Vuong Street  
Ba Dinh District  
Hanoi 11100  
Viet Nam

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Ottawa ON K1M 2B2