

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 14 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. Send an **email** to the government of Tunisia. See the suggested wording and address in your package.

3. We also have a **petition** for you to sign!!

The petition asks the governments of British Columbia and Canada to respect the right to free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples as enshrined in the UNDRIP and to **end the ongoing criminalization of the Wet'suwet'en land and water defenders.**

4. 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 - we will be mailing the messages in bulk.

5. **Children** are welcome – We have two creative activities for them to participate in.

His Majesty King Mswati III,
Office of the King
Lozitha Palace
PO box 1
Kwaluseni
Eswatini

9 December 2023

Your Majesty,

I am writing to you from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada to express my dismay about the killing of **Thulani Maseko** who, on 21 January 2023, was shot dead in his home, in front of his wife and children, for being openly critical of the country's repressive laws and the excessive state violence used to silence peaceful protest.

Thulani Maseko was a loving father and husband and a prominent human rights lawyer who dedicated his life to the people of Eswatini.

I call on you to initiate a prompt, thorough, transparent and impartial investigation into this killing and to ensure that anyone suspected to be responsible is brought to justice in a fair trial. You must also ensure that Thulani's family is provided with access to justice and effective remedies.

Yours sincerely,

Minister of Police
Private Bag X463
Pretoria
0001
South Africa

9 December 2023

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada to express my concern about the killing and harassment of members of the **Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM)** movement. This vibrant and courageous grassroots organization is working hard to improve lives in communities suffering economic hardship. They have spoken out about local corruption as well as started community services such as a school, communal kitchen and farm. Their efforts have been met with threats and intimidation from state officials.

Twenty-five AbM members have been killed since 2009 and countless other members have been attacked and their properties destroyed. This has included attempted murders, threats of violence, targeted harassment, assault, damage to property, unlawful and forced evictions and trumped-up legal charges. This injustice must end.

I demand a thorough, impartial, independent, transparent and effective investigation into the killing and harassment of members of the Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM) movement, including **Thapelo Mohapi**.

Please ensure that suspected perpetrators are brought to justice in fair trials and that the police work to end the attacks against AbM members and their families.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency Rieaz SHAIK, High Commissioner,
High Commission for the Republic of South Africa
15 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1M 1M8

9 December 2023

Your Excellency,

I wish to bring your attention to the following letter which I have sent to the Minister of Police in South Africa.

In this letter I express my concern about the killing and harassment of members of the Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM) movement, including **Thapelo Mohapi**.

I demand a thorough, impartial, independent, transparent and effective investigation into the killing and harassment of members of the Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM) movement, including **Thapelo Mohapi**.

Please ensure that suspected perpetrators are brought to justice in fair trials and work to end the attacks against AbM members and their families.

Yours sincerely,

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Private Bag X463
Pretoria 0001
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Please ensure that suspected perpetrators are brought to justice in fair trials and that the police work to end the attacks against AbM members and their families.

Mark Zuckerberg
Meta CEO
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park,
CA 94025 USA

9 December 2023

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

I am writing to you from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada, a community that is home to many resettled Rohingya people.

I call on you to take responsibility, through effective and meaningful remedy, for your company's contribution to the atrocities committed against the Rohingya people in Myanmar. Meta's algorithms amplified anti-Rohingya incitement, fuelling the Myanmar military's violence.

Maung Sawyeddollah and his family were forced to flee Myanmar in 2017, when he was only 15 years old. Since Meta enabled hatred and discrimination against Rohingya people to thrive on the Facebook platform, Sawyeddollah and his community are calling on your company to pay reparations and fund education programmes in Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh, where they now reside. Sawyeddollah believes that education will help rebuild the shattered lives of people in his community.

Yours sincerely,

General Prosecutor
Toktonaliev Street, 139
Bishkek
720040
Kyrgyz Republic

9 December 2023

Dear General Prosecutor,

I am writing to you from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada to express my concern about **Rita Karasartova**.

Rita has dedicated her life to providing independent legal advice, helping people whose rights had been violated. She leads the non-governmental Institute for Public Analysis and is a member of the United Democratic Movement of Kyrgyzstan, fighting against poverty and injustice.

Worried about her people's access to water, Rita peacefully opposed a border agreement giving control of a freshwater reservoir to Uzbekistan. Now she is under house arrest, having spent months detained in a cramped cell unable to see or speak to her family.

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release human rights defender Rita Karasartova from house arrest and drop all charges against her.

Rita Karasartova has been persecuted for exercising her right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. It is essential that the authorities allow her to carry out her legitimate human rights activities without fear of retaliation.

Yours sincerely,

Prosecutor General
National Prosecutor's Office
ul. Postępu 3
02-676 Warsaw
Poland

9 December 2023

Dear Prosecutor General,

I am writing to you from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada to express my concern about the unjust conviction of **Justyna Wydrzyńska**.

Justyna Wydrzyńska's own abortion experience, with no support or access to reliable information, gave her the strength and motivation to help others make informed decisions about their reproductive lives. Justyna co-founded Abortion Dream Team, an activist collective campaigning against abortion stigma and offering advice on accessing safe abortion in Poland.

In February 2020, Justyna was put in contact with Ania (not her real name). Ania was in an abusive relationship, pregnant and desperate, saying she would rather die than continue with her pregnancy. Justyna helped her access a safe abortion. She was driven by the will to help when no one else wanted to or could help. She felt that helping Ania was an obvious, decent, and honest thing to do.

In November 2021, the public prosecutor brought charges against Justyna for "helping with an abortion". In March 2023, she was found guilty.

I call on you to take all necessary measures to ensure that Justyna Wydrzyńska's unjust conviction is overturned and to refrain from bringing any other charges against her for carrying out her legitimate defence of human rights.

Justyna and other activists provide essential support and trustworthy information to women seeking the healthcare they are entitled to. She was convicted for helping a woman in an abusive relationship access a safe abortion. Her conviction sets a dangerous precedent.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency Witold Miroslaw DZIELSKI,
Ambassador Embassy of the Republic of Poland
443 Daly Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1N 6H3

9 December 2023

Your Excellency,

Please see below a copy of a letter I have sent to the Prosecutor General in Poland regarding the case of **Justyna Wydrzyńska**.

I call on the Polish authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure that Justyna Wydrzyńska's unjust conviction is overturned and to refrain from bringing any other charges against her for carrying out her legitimate defence of human rights.

Justyna and other activists provide essential support and trustworthy information to women seeking the healthcare they are entitled to. She was convicted for helping a woman in an abusive relationship access a safe abortion. Her conviction sets a dangerous precedent.

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President of the United Arab Emirates
Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
c/o Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
125 Boteler Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 0A4

9 December 2023

Your Highness,

I am writing to you from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada to express my concern about **Ahmed Mansoor**, a poet, blogger and human rights defender. Before his arrest, Ahmed regularly raised concerns about the detention, torture and unfair trials of dissenting voices in the UAE. He spoke about problems within the justice system and of domestic laws that breach international ones.

In March 2017, security forces raided his home and arrested him. For over a year, no one, not even his family, knew where he was detained. In May 2018, Ahmed was sentenced to a decade in prison on charges including “insulting the UAE and its symbols”. He is being held in an isolation cell without a bed and only allowed outside three times a week.

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Ahmed Mansoor and to quash his sentence and conviction, as he has been imprisoned solely for his peaceful human rights activism. Pending his release, he should be detained in conditions that comply with international standards and must not be subjected to torture or other ill-treatment. He must be granted immediate and regular access to his family and any healthcare he may require.

Yours sincerely

General Prosecutor of Bahia
Ministério Público do Estado da Bahia
Quinta Avenida, nº 750, 1º andar
sala 129, do CAB (Centro Administrativo da Bahia)
CEP 41.745-004 Salvador, BA
Brazil

9 December 2023

Dear General Prosecutor,

I am writing to you from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada to express my concern about the murder of **Pedro Henrique Santos Cruz** who was an activist and advocate of racial justice and human rights.

Pedro Henrique organized “Walks of Peace” in Tucano, Bahia, Brazil, bringing people together to speak out against police abuses. His activism was met with threats and violence from the police. In December 2018, Pedro Henrique was shot by hooded men. He died, aged 31. The police officers suspected of the killing are still working and a trial has yet to begin. Despite her grief, Pedro Henrique’s mother, Ana Maria, is bravely fighting for justice for his death.

I call on you to immediately take all necessary measures to ensure an independent, impartial and thorough investigation into the killing of human rights defender Pedro Henrique Santos Cruz. All those responsible for the crime must be brought to justice in fair trials.

While seeking justice for her son, Pedro Henrique’s mother, **Ana Maria Santos Cruz**, has faced repeated threats and harassment. I call on you to take all necessary measures to ensure an end to the continuing judicial and procedural harassment against Ana Maria.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Alexandre Jorge DE LIMA
Minister-Counsellor & Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil
450 Wilbrod Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 6M8

9 December, 2023

Dear Minister-Counsellor,

Please see below, a copy of the letter that I have sent to the General Prosecutor of Bahia regarding the murder of **Pedro Henrique Santos Cruz** who was an activist and advocate of racial justice and human rights.

I call on the Brazilian authorities to immediately take all necessary measures to ensure an independent, impartial and thorough investigation into the killing of human rights defender Pedro Henrique Santos Cruz. All those responsible for the crime must be brought to justice in fair trials.

While seeking justice for her son, Pedro Henrique's mother, **Ana Maria Santos Cruz**, has faced repeated threats and harassment. I call on the Brazilian authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure an end to the continuing judicial and procedural harassment against Ana Maria.

Yours sincerely,

COPY OF LETTER SENT

General Prosecutor of Bahia
Ministério Público do Estado da Bahia
Quinta Avenida, nº 750, 1º andar
sala 129, do CAB (Centro Administrativo da Bahia)
CEP 41.745-004 Salvador, BA
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While seeking justice for her son, Pedro Henrique's mother, **Ana Maria Santos Cruz**, has faced repeated threats and harassment. I call on you to take all necessary measures to ensure an end to the continuing judicial and procedural harassment against Ana Maria.

There is no letter to be sent to the President of Tunisia but please send the following email and also sign the letter to the Embassy in Ottawa indicating that you have sent this email.

The President of Tunisia
Email: contact@carthage.tn

Your Excellency,

I call on you to immediately drop all charges and other restrictions brought against political activist **Chaima Issa**, who is unjustly banned from travelling and “appearing in public spaces”.

She is being investigated for alleged “conspiracy” after meeting with foreign diplomats alongside other Tunisian opposition figures. A military court, which lacks independence, is also investigating Chaima for criticizing the authorities on a radio show. She could face decades in prison for her peaceful political activism.

Human rights in Tunisia have deteriorated, many courts lack independence, and freedom of expression is under assault. I urge you to refrain from adopting further measures that threaten human rights and to commit to upholding Tunisia’s obligations under international law.

Yours sincerely

Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

9 December 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada to express my concern about the devastating effects of climate change on the First Nations Peoples of the Torres Strait Islands.

Rising sea levels are causing more destruction on the islands of the Torres Strait each year by eroding beaches, destroying sacred cultural sites and cemeteries where ancestors are buried, wrecking food gardens, and putting the islands' infrastructure at risk.

Indigenous peoples have lived on islands of the Torres Strait for thousands of years. Now, because of climate change, their way of life, traditional knowledge systems, cultural practices and spiritual connections that have been passed down from generation to generation could be broken forever. If the islands become uninhabitable, they will be forced to break these connections and leave their homelands.

To protect the Torres Strait Islands and the human rights of First Nations Peoples, I call on your government to take adequate and human rights consistent climate action by rapidly reducing carbon emissions in line with the world commitment of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and in line with the best available scientific research.

Your government currently states that by 2030 it will reduce emissions 43% below 2005 levels. This is not enough to save the Torres Strait Islands. Leading climate scientists on the Climate Targets Panel calculate Australia's greenhouse emissions need to be reduced by 74% by 2030.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency Scott Michael RYAN,
High Commissioner
Australian High Commission
50 O'Connor Street, Suite 1301
Ottawa, ON K1P 6L2

9 December 2023

Dear High Commissioner,

Please see below a copy of the letter that I have sent to the Prime Minister of Australia to express my concern about the devastating effects of climate change on the First Nations Peoples of the Torres Strait Islands.

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Governor of Alabama
Office of the Governor of Alabama
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130
USA

9 December 2023

Dear Governor,

I am writing to you from Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada to express my concern about the death sentence imposed on Rocky Myers, a Black man who has spent three decades on death row in Alabama for murder.

I urge you to use your power to grant clemency to Rocky Myers and commute his death sentence.

The US Supreme Court ruled that defendants with intellectual disabilities “face a special risk of wrongful execution”. This is certainly true for Rocky Myers who was diagnosed with an intellectual disability at age 11.

Rocky Myers’s trial was flawed, with inconsistent testimonies and allegations of police pressure. One key witness against him later recanted his testimony, stating that he had lied.

The overwhelmingly white jury recommended a sentence of life imprisonment, yet the judge sentenced Rocky Myers to death. This practice is now illegal in Alabama.

Rocky Myers was burdened with ineffective legal representation and abandoned by his post-conviction lawyer, meaning he unknowingly missed deadlines for appeal.

Please do not let Rocky Myers be executed.

Yours sincerely

Send MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

See more case information and ideas for your messages on the table
Use the art materials and cards provided

1. **Tanele Maseko**, Eswatini - Her husband Thulani was killed for calling for democratic reforms.
2. **Thapelo Mohapi and the AbM Movement**, South Africa - threatened for defending his community and speaking out against government corruption.
3. **Maung Sawyeddollah**, Myanmar - Taking on Facebook for its role in atrocities against Rohingya people.
4. **Rita Karasartova**, Kyrgyzstan - Facing 15 years for peaceful protest and concerns about access to fresh water.
5. **Justyna Wydrzyńska**, Poland - prosecuted for defending safe abortion.
6. **Ahmed Mansoor**, United Arab Emirates - locked up for raising concerns about the detention, torture and unfair trials of dissenting voices.
7. **Ana Maria Santos Cruz**, Brazil - Her son was killed for organizing “Walks of Peace”, now she fights for justice.
8. **Chaima Issa**, Tunisia - Facing years in prison for criticizing the authorities.
9. **Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul**, Australia - Fighting to save their ancestral lands from climate change.
10. **Rocky Myers**, USA - Three decades on death row despite an intellectual disability and flawed proceedings.
Please add your full address to ensure the prison authorities allow Rocky to receive his mail.
11. **Wet’suwet’en Land Defenders**, Canada - Criminalized for protecting their unceded traditional territory.