

## BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2009

Concerned readers can help Amnesty International assist writers, editors, publishers, librarians and others who suffer human rights abuses because of their work.



Amnesty International focuses impartially worldwide on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical & mental integrity, freedom of conscience & expression, and freedom from discrimination, while promoting all human rights.

### Universal Declaration of Human Rights

*Article 19: 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.*

[please sign, detach and mail the postcard below]

Your Excellency,

I am gravely concerned about the welfare of journalist J. S. Tissainayagam, detained since 7 March 2008 and sentenced by the High Court on 31 August to 20 years' hard labor in prison, apparently for writing and publishing articles that criticized treatment of civilians affected by the war. Believing that he was convicted solely for non-violently expressing his opinions, Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience who should be released immediately and unconditionally.

Meanwhile, Mr Tissainayagam may require specialist medical treatment.

Please encourage your government to remedy the grievous situation of J. S. Tissainayagam without delay, in accordance with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Thank you for your assistance with this important matter.

Sincerely,

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### Selected Amnesty International Cases for Action:

**CHINA:** Liu Xiaobo, imprisoned scholar

**EGYPT:** Musaad Abu Fagr, novelist in prison

**IRAN:** Mohammad S. Kabudvand, jailed journalist

**MEXICO:** Lydia Cacho Ribeiro, threatened journalist

**SRI LANKA:** Vettivel Jasikaran, detained publisher

**YEMEN:** Salah Ahmed Yahya al-Shagladi

& Hussein al-'Agil, editor & writer detained

### PAST BANNED BOOKS WEEK (1990-2008)

#### *prisoner releases:*

53 men and women —

bloggers, commentators, critics, dramatists, editors,  
journalists, leafleters, novelists, poets, readers, scholars,  
songwriters, sportswriters —

in Azerbaijan, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Cuba,  
Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran,  
Kuwait, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco,  
Myanmar, Nigeria, Peru, South Korea, Syria, Togo, Tunisia,  
Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam . . .

**For information about how you can help:**

**AIUSA - 5 Penn Plaza, 16th Flr, New York, NY 10001**

**Tel: 212-807-8400**

[www.amnestyusa.org/bannedbooks/](http://www.amnestyusa.org/bannedbooks/)

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**His Excellency  
Ambassador Jaliya Wickramasuriya  
Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
2148 Wyoming Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008**

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