

DEMAND ACTION NOW: IMMEDIATELY RELEASE AHMETJAN JUMA, ABDUKADIR JALALIDIN, RAHILE DAWUT

Teacher, Professor, Ethnographer | China

Sent to internment camps or prisons for lawful activities

Dear President Xi,

Since 2017, perhaps 1 million or more persons are estimated to have been detained by the Chinese government in Xinjiang. They have been sent to internment camps or prisons for lawful activities many of us take for granted, where they have been subjected to a relentless forced indoctrination campaign, physical and psychological torture, and other forms of ill-treatment.

Many have been detained for possessing books or articles about Islam or Uyghur culture or for exercising their freedom of expression through writing, translation, and publication. For example, Ahmetjan Juma, a high school teacher, was sentenced to 14 years in prison for "having sensitive content at home," perhaps related to his translation and publication of many books. Abdukadir Jalalidin was a professor at Xinjiang Normal University who wrote short stories and translated Uyghur books and poems. Police confiscated many of his Uyghur-language books and writings at the time of his arrest. Rahile Dawut is an ethnographer who founded the Ethnic Minorities Folklore Research Center at Xinjiang University. Her work on the folklore traditions of the Uyghur people is believed to be a reason for her detention.

Based on evidence collected by Amnesty International in the report Like We Were Enemies in a War, the Chinese government has committed, at the least, the crimes against humanity of mass imprisonment in violation of the rules of international law, torture, and persecution in Xinjiang.

I urge you to immediately release Ahmetjan Juma, Abdukadir Jalalidin, Rahile Dawut, and all people detained in internment camps and in prisons in Xinjiang unless there is sufficient evidence that they have committed an internationally recognized offense.



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DEMAND ACTION NOW: IMMEDIATELY RELEASE FLORAINE IRANGABIYE

Journalist | Burundi

Sentenced to 10 Years for Expressing Critical Views on a Radio Program

To: Ambassador of Burundi to the United States H.E Jean de Dieu NDIKUMANA, Ph.D. Embassy of the Republic of Burundi 2233 Wisconsin Ave. NW Washington DC 20007

I am concerned by the continued arbitrary detention and unfair prosecution of journalist Floriane Irangabiye.

On 30 March, the Court of Appeal of Mukaza in Bujumbura, Burundi, held a hearing on the appeal against her conviction and sentencing to ten years in prison and one million Burundian francs (around USD 482).

Floriane Irangabiye's prosecution is politically motivated and a sign that the Burundian authorities intend to continue restricting the civic space, despite promises by President Evariste to improve the government's human rights record.

I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure that Floriane Irangabiye is immediately and unconditionally released. Her conviction and ongoing arbitrary detention are in violation of her rights to freedom of expression and fair trial.





DEMAND ACTION NOW: IMMEDIATELY RELEASE FLORAINE IRANGABIYE

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DEMAND ACTION NOW: UNITE AGAINST BOOK BANS & PROTECT LIBRARIANS AND EDUCATORS

United States of America

Stop government censorship and erosion of freedom of expression

To: Municipal Leaders

I am concerned by the alarming book bans that have recently been enacted in public libraries and schools across the United States. These bans represent a grave threat to the freedom to read and to learn, much to the detriment of students in our community.

Widespread efforts throughout the U.S. that permit state and municipal-sponsored censorship through book bans on content related to race, gender, sexuality, and LGBTQIA+ subject matter restrict the right to freedom of expression. They also deny equal access to all, jeopardizing community members' right to education and right to health, among other rights.

Removing and banning books from public libraries is a slippery slope to government censorship and erodes the U.S. government's obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to freedom of expression.

States must respect, protect and fulfill the right to free expression by not interfering with it as well as take active steps to ensure people can enjoy this right. The right to freedom of expression is violated whenever a government limits the freedom of individuals to hold opinions or to seek, receive, or impart information.

Under human rights law, governments have obligations to set a framework for conduct that enables people's enjoyment of their rights. All persons who have been vested with state authority for certain tasks such as public administration are responsible for supporting the realization of these rights for all people.

We urge you to resist these dangerous bans, and instead pledge your support for additional resources to enrich the quality and variety of educational materials in our libraries and classes.





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DEMAND ACTION NOW: IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE TOOMAJ SALEHI

Hip-Hop Musician | Iran

Sentenced to 6 Years in Prison and ban on his artistic activities in light of his music and posts on social media

To: Supreme Leader 'Ali Khamenei, c/o the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran 622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor New York, NY 10017

Dear Supreme Leader 'Ali Khamenei,

Well-known Iranian rapper and hip-hop artist Toomaj Salehi has been convicted of "corruption on earth" and sentenced to more than six years in prison and a ban on his artistic activities, solely because of his peaceful exercise of the internationally guaranteed right to freedom of artistic expression and for his advocacy for freedom and human rights and support of protests that took place in Iran following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini in September 2022.

Toomaj Salehi has been in detention since his arrest in October 2022. He was held in prolonged solitary confinement and reportedly subjected to beatings and other ill-treatment and torture. In addition to "corruption on earth" he was originally charged with nebulous offenses that could have resulted in the imposition of the death penalty.

Toomaj Salehi has used his music and videos to call for an end to human rights violations in Iran, to deplore poverty and corruption, and filmed himself taking part in the recent protests that have been taking place in Iran.

I urge that the prison sentence and artistic ban imposed on Toomaj Salehi be voided, and that he be immediately and unconditionally released, as he is detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights including his right to freedom of expression.

Pending his release, I urge that he be treated humanely, that he be provided with any necessary medical care, and that he be given regular access to a lawyer of his choosing and to his family. I also urge that the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are investigated and those responsible are held to account in fair trials.





DEMAND ACTION NOW: IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE TOOMAJ SALEHI

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DEMAND ACTION NOW: IMMEDIATELY RELEASE YAHAYA SHARIF-AMINU

Singer | Nigeria on death row for song circulated on Whatsapp

To: Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje
Office of the Governor
Government House
Kano
Kano State, Nigeria

Dear Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje,

I wish to express my grave concern for Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, a 25-year-old singer sentenced to death.

I have serious concerns about the fairness of Yahaya Sharif-Aminu's trial and the framing of the charges.

The imposition of the death penalty following an unfair trial violates the rights to life and to a fair trial, and hasty trials undermine the ability of convicted persons to seek effective remedies for the inadequate legal representation they had received at trial.

I, therefore, request that Your Excellency refrain from signing any execution warrant for Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, drop all charges, and release Yahaya Sharif-Aminu immediately and unconditionally.





DEMAND ACTION NOW: IMMEDIATELY RELEASE YAHAYA SHARIF-AMINU

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DEMAND ACTION NOW FOR MICHELLE RECINOS: END HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN EL SALVADOR

Stand up for justice. Urge President Nayib Bukele to end the state of exception and create human rights-focused public security policies.

Author | El Salvador

Her book was removed from an international book fair

To: President Nayib Bukele c/o Embassy of El Salvador 1400 16th Street NW Suite 100, Washington DC 20036

Dear President Bukele,

I am writing to express my concern about the human rights crisis in El Salvador.

Since the state of exception was installed in March 2022 over 60 000 people have been arbitrarily detained without access to due process. At least 150 people have died in custody. Families receive little or no information about the whereabouts and well-being of their loved ones.

Detainees, including those under the age of 18, are subjected to inhuman conditions. Prisons are overcrowded and torture and other forms of ill-treatment have been reported.

I urge you to end the state of exception and implement a truly comprehensive security policy that focuses on protecting human rights and guarantees the participation of civil society.

I urge you to ensure that security forces put an end to arbitrary detentions, that those detained without legal basis are released, and that all detainees have access to a fair trial.





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