

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

YOUR GUIDE TO THE GLOBAL WRITE-A-THON

DECEMBER 3-11, 2011



**“I am alive today, after 34 arrests,
because members of Amnesty
International spoke out for me.”**

– Jenni Williams

Human rights defender, Zimbabwe

50 YEARS
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon



WRITE A LETTER THIS DECEMBER. IT COULD CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE.

You have the power to change someone's life by simply writing a letter. You can help bring about the release of a prisoner of conscience or an end to the harassment of someone standing up for human rights. You can instill hope by writing a letter of support to a person at risk. By taking part in Amnesty International's Write for Rights this December – the world's largest annual human rights event – you are joining your voice with thousands around the world to demand that the rights of individuals be respected, protected and fulfilled.

CAN A LETTER MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

ABSOLUTELY! Amnesty International supporters have been writing letters for more than 50 years. Experience has proven that such letters can and do make a difference. The impact of each letter is multiplied when it is joined by thousands of other letters from all over the world. The pressure created by this flood of concern is undeniable. Many people have told Amnesty International that they are alive today because of these letters.



“My strength comes from people like you... People who do a little for Amnesty International, they do much more than they think they are doing... it all adds up to a lot, and that is what has kept us going.”

– Aung San Suu Kyi

Opposition leader and former prisoner of conscience, Myanmar (Burma)

YOUR WORDS HAVE POWER.

In this guide you will read about people who need your help. By writing a letter on their behalf, you can help to change their lives.

You can write as an individual, or you can write with others by organizing a Write for Rights event in your area. Hosting a Write for Rights event is a powerful way to amplify the voice of people standing up for human rights. In this guide you will find valuable resources to plan your event. Additional resources for individual letter writers and event organizers, including detailed case sheets and sample letters, are available at: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon/resources

Hard copies of these materials are available upon request. **Email: writeathon@aiusa.org**



WRITE FOR RIGHTS

GETTING STARTED...

Here are some general tips to guide you:

- To participate in Write for Rights, be sure to sign up on the website: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon

You can sign up to participate as an individual letter writer, to host a public or private event, or you can attend an event near you. By signing up, you help us tell the world how many letters are being written during Write for Rights. You will also receive periodic emails with valuable information and reminders.

- Everything you need to participate is available on the Amnesty International USA website. Hard copies are available upon request. Visit: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon

- Each person featured in Write for Rights has their own case sheet and sample letter. The case sheet provides background information on the individual, directions for whom to send your letters to, and key points to raise in your letters.

- If you are short on time, you can simply print off the sample letter for a case, sign and mail it to the government authority listed. However, your letter may have more impact if you write it in your own words. Handwritten letters can be especially effective.

- In your letters, provide your name, address and/or country. This shows that the letter is genuine and personal. See the letter writing tips for more pointers on how to write your letters.

- Feel free to write letters on as many cases as you wish. You can choose to write on one or all the cases. It's totally up to you.

- Write and mail your letters between December 3 and 11, the primary dates of Write for Rights. This is when your letters can have the strongest impact. However, if this time doesn't work for you, feel free to hold your event or send your letters at another time in December.

- If you receive a reply from a government official or a prisoner, please send a copy to:

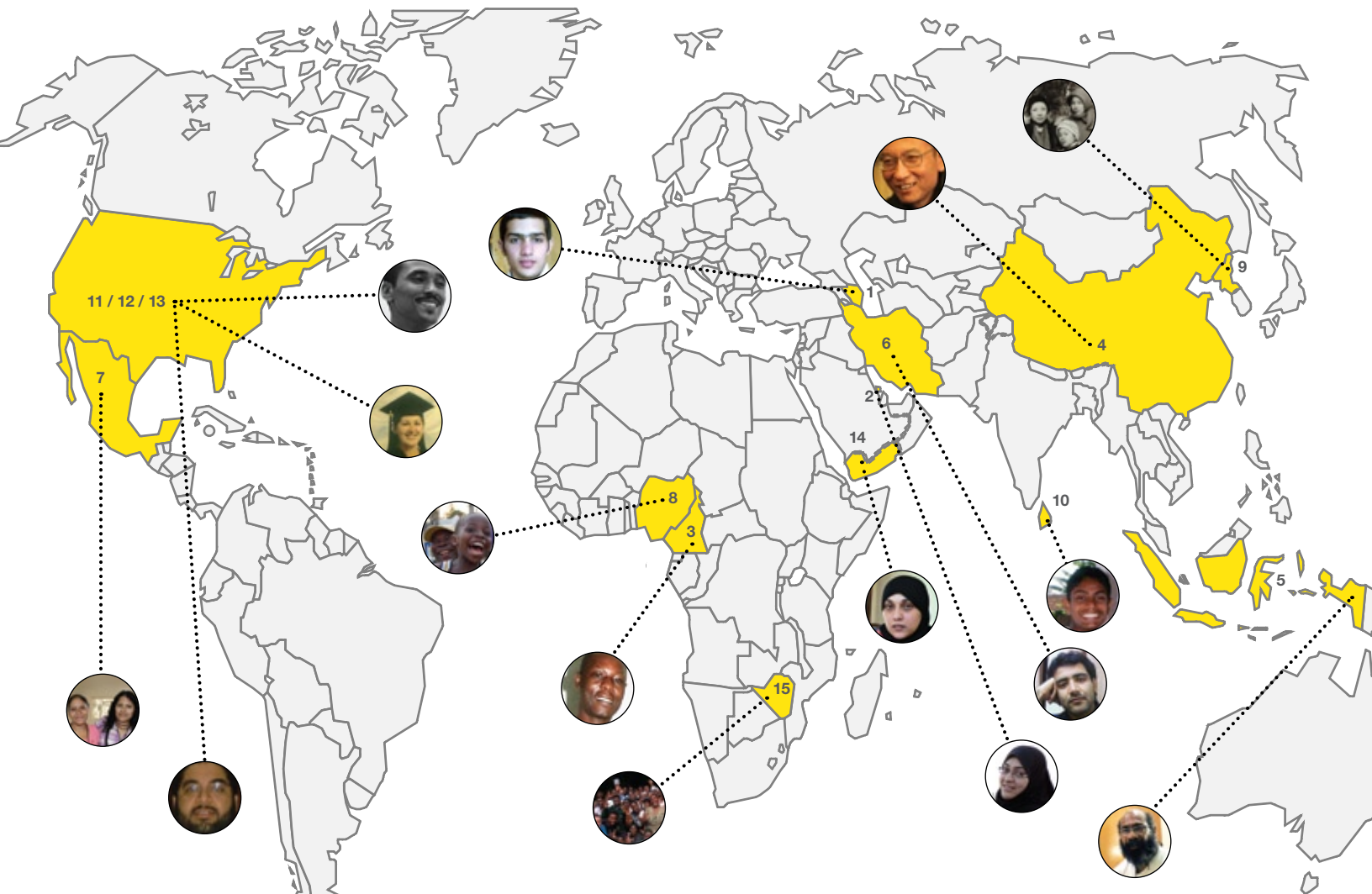
Campaign for Individuals at Risk

Amnesty International USA
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington DC, 20003

- Questions? Email: writeathon@aiusa.org
Or call: **202-509-8193**.



WE WILL SHINE A LIGHT ON THESE CASES:



1 AZERBAIJAN
Jabbar Savalan
Youth activist detained after using Facebook

2 BAHRAIN
Jalila al-Salman and Mahdi Abu Dheeb
Teachers detained for supporting pro-reform efforts

3 CAMEROON
Jean-Claude Roger Mbende
Imprisoned on charges of “homosexuality”

4 CHINA
Liu Xiaobo
Nobel Peace Prize laureate imprisoned

5 INDONESIA
Filep Karma
Imprisoned for raising a flag

6 IRAN
Behareh Hedayat and Majid Tavakkoli
Youth leaders imprisoned for speaking out

7 MEXICO
Inés Fernández Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú
Indigenous women raped by soldiers

8 NIGERIA
Residents of Port Harcourt Settlements
Forced evictions of communities

9 NORTH KOREA
Yodok Political Prison Camp
Families imprisoned for life

10 SRI LANKA
Ragihar Manoharan
Student killed by security forces

11 USA
Christi Cheramie
Sentenced as a juvenile to life imprisonment without parole

12 USA (GUANTÁNAMO)
Shaker Aamer
Indefinite detention

13 USA
Reggie Clemons
Justice derailed

14 YEMEN
Fatima Hussein Badi
Facing the death penalty following an unfair trial

15 ZIMBABWE
Women of Zimbabwe Arise
Human rights activists at risk



WE WILL SHINE A LIGHT ON THESE CASES:



AZERBAIJAN Jabbar Savalan / Youth activist detained after using Facebook

Hours after posting a message on Facebook calling for protests against the government, Jabbar Savalan told his family that he was being followed. The next day, police arrested him and “discovered” marijuana in his outer coat pocket. Police questioned him without a lawyer for two days, reportedly hitting and intimidating him to make him sign a confession. Jabbar Savalan maintained that the marijuana was planted on him, and authorities in Azerbaijan have a history of using fabricated drug charges to jail those perceived to be critical of the government. AI considers Jabbar to be a prisoner of conscience.



BAHRAIN Jalila al-Salman and Mahdi Abu Dheeb

Teachers detained for supporting pro-reform efforts

Jalila al-Salman and Mahdi Abu Dheeb, former leaders of the Bahrain Teachers’ Association, were detained after their association reportedly supported a teachers’ strike amid pro-reform protests in Bahrain. In September, a military court sentenced Jalila and Mahdi to prison terms of 3 years and 10 years, respectively, for various offenses, including “inciting hatred towards the regime.” Amnesty International believes they may be prisoners of conscience who have been convicted solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression and association.



CAMEROON Jean-Claude Roger Mbede / Imprisoned on charges of “homosexuality”

Jean-Claude Roger Mbede is serving three years in prison on charges of “homosexuality,” which is a crime in the central African nation of Cameroon. Arrested in March 2011, Jean-Claude is held in Kondengui central prison in Yaoundé, the capital, where he is at risk of physical attack and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely because of his perceived sexual orientation. Discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people is endemic in Cameroon. Arrests, prosecutions and trials of LGBT individuals, or those perceived as such, occur on a regular basis.



CHINA Liu Xiaobo / Nobel Peace Prize laureate imprisoned

Liu Xiaobo, recipient of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize, remains imprisoned for seeking for political and legal reforms in China. Charged with “inciting subversion of state power,” the human rights defender was sentenced in December 2009 for articles he wrote that criticized corruption, censorship and one-party rule. The court considered the articles to be “rumor mongering, slander and smear” that exceeded the limits of freedom of expression. When Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year, he learned of the honor from his prison guards. Amnesty International considers Liu Xiaobo to be a prisoner of conscience.



INDONESIA Filep Karma / Imprisoned for raising a flag

Filep Karma is serving 15 years in prison for raising a flag. The prominent advocate for the rights of Indonesia’s Papuan population was arrested for taking part in a peaceful ceremony that included the raising of the Morning Star flag, a Papuan symbol. Amnesty International believes Filep Karma has been imprisoned solely for the legitimate exercise of his right to freedom of expression. Amnesty is concerned at reports that Filep has been beaten by guards and experienced serious health problems in prison. AI calls on the Indonesian government to free Filep Karma and all other prisoners of conscience.



WRITE FOR RIGHTS



IRAN Majid Tavakkoli and Behareh Hedayat

Youth leaders imprisoned for speaking out

Majid Tavakkoli and Behareh Hedayat are serving long prison sentences for publicly calling for greater freedom in Iran. Majid was arrested and reportedly beaten by authorities in December 2009, after he addressed a university rally in Tehran. Behareh was arrested later that same month, and charged with several offenses, including “interviews with foreign media,” “insulting the leader” and “insulting the president.” Behareh and Majid last year issued a joint statement from prison, encouraging others to continue to push for change in Iran. In response, authorities added six months to each of their sentences, which now total ten years for Behareh and nine years for Majid.



MEXICO Inés Fernández Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú

Indigenous women raped by soldiers

For more than nine years, two Indigenous women in Mexico have taken on the military and the authorities to demand justice after they were raped by soldiers in 2002. Inés Fernández and Valentina Rosendo are Indigenous Me’phaa (Tlapaneca) women. Indigenous women in Mexico who are raped rarely file a complaint due to cultural, economic and social barriers. Inés and Valentina have shown courage in reporting their ordeals and pursuing their cases in national and international courts. Their attackers have remained at large, and the women and their families have faced threats as their battle for justice continues.



NIGERIA Residents of Port Harcourt Settlements

Forced evictions of communities

More than 200,000 people are at risk of forced eviction in Port Harcourt if Nigeria’s authorities proceed with planned demolitions of all waterfront settlements without human rights safeguards. In 2009, the demolition of Njemanze settlement in Port Harcourt left thousands of men, women and children homeless. Residents received no adequate notice, compensation, alternative accommodation or legal remedies, although required by international human rights standards. Njemanze is one of more than 40 waterfront settlements in Port Harcourt slated for demolition, which authorities claim is necessary for urban renewal. Residents of the affected communities were not consulted on the redevelopment plans.



NORTH KOREA Shin Sook-ja and others at Yodok Political Prison Camp

Families imprisoned for life

Shin Sook-ja and her daughters are among the estimated 200,000 men, women and children imprisoned in secret political prison camps in North Korea. Forced labor, lack of food, torture, inadequate medical care and unhygienic living conditions result in illness and death for many prisoners. Shin Sook-ja and her two daughters were sent to a camp in 1987 after her husband requested political asylum abroad. The husband at first received letters and photographs from his imprisoned family, but has received no further word since 1991. AI calls for these camps to be closed and for all prisoners of conscience to be released.



SRI LANKA Ragihar Manoharan / Student killed by security forces

As Ragihar Manoharan gathered with fellow students in 2006, a grenade was thrown at the group from a passing vehicle. Uniformed officers arrived soon after, and put the injured students into their jeep. Witnesses report that the officers beat the youths, pushed them out onto the road, and shot dead five of the students, including Ragihar Manoharan. Shortly before his death, Ragihar left a frantic message on his father’s telephone saying he was surrounded by security forces. His father ran to the scene in time to hear the students pleading for their lives and guns being fired. Amnesty International is campaigning for justice for these murders.



WRITE FOR RIGHTS



USA Christi Cheramie / Sentenced as a juvenile to life imprisonment without parole

At age 16, Christi Cheramie was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Now 33, she has spent more than half of her life in a Louisiana prison. It is a violation of international law to sentence anyone to life in prison without parole who was under the age of 18 at the time of the crime. Yet more than 2,500 people in the U.S. are serving such sentences for crimes committed when they were children. Christi Cheramie has been described by a prison warden as “a model inmate... worthy of a second chance in society.”



USA Reggie Clemons / Justice derailed

Reggie Clemons was sentenced to death in Missouri as an accomplice in the 1991 murder of two women. Clemons has maintained his innocence, and his case illustrates many of the flaws in the U.S. death penalty system. Shortly after a 2009 execution date was stayed, the Missouri Supreme Court assigned a judge (a “Special Master”) to investigate the reliability of his conviction and proportionality of his sentence. Call on Missouri’s Governor to grant Reggie Clemons clemency.



USA (Guantánamo) Shaker Aamer / Indefinite detention

Shaker Aamer, a former UK resident, has been held without charge at the detention center at Guantanamo Bay for nearly 10 years – despite the UK government’s repeated request that he be returned to the United Kingdom. Shaker Aamer says he was living in Afghanistan with his family and running humanitarian aid projects when Afghan forces seized him in 2001 and transferred him to US custody. Shaker Aamer has never been charged, tried or convicted of any criminal offense by US authorities. Indefinite detention is a human rights violation. Amnesty International calls on the US to either charge and try him fairly or release him.



YEMEN Fatima Hussein Badi / Facing the death penalty following an unfair trial

Fatima Hussein Badi is facing the death penalty following an unfair trial. Fatima and her brother Abdullah were arrested in July 2000 for the murder of Fatima’s husband. When Fatima refused to confess, police reportedly brought Abdullah to her, his face covered in blood. She was allegedly threatened with rape in the presence of Abdullah, who apparently confessed to the murder in order to save her from being raped. During a number of their trial hearings, Fatima and Abdullah had no legal representation and were prevented from speaking in court. They were sentenced to death in 2001. Abdullah was executed in 2005. Fatima remains at imminent risk of execution.



ZIMBABWE Jenni Williams and Women of Zimbabwe Arise

Human rights activists at risk

The activists of the human rights organization Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) know the price of freedom. For organizing peaceful demonstrations to protest social, economic and political conditions in Zimbabwe, WOZA members have been repeatedly harassed, intimidated, beaten and jailed by authorities. Government officials misuse the law to arbitrarily arrest and detain human rights activists and perceived critics of the President’s political party. The support of organizations like Amnesty International has been crucial for the activists of WOZA. As WOZA leader Jenni Williams says, “*I am alive today because members of Amnesty International spoke out for me.*”



WRITE FOR RIGHTS EVENTS – TIPS FOR EVENT ORGANIZERS

Getting your friends and family involved in a Write for Rights letter-writing event is a fun and impactful way to share your passion for human rights. Remember, the more of us who write for rights during December 3-11, the more likely it is that we will make a difference. If you haven't already, register your event on our website at: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon so we can help you promote it.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

Host an event in a community center, place of worship, bookstore, coffee shop, student union, or any other venue. Consider inviting your mayor, city council members, or other local government officials, and local celebrities to join your Write for Rights event.

AT HOME:

Invite friends and family to join you for a cocktail, dinner or dessert party.

AT WORK:

Invite colleagues to gather together and write a letter over lunch, during a coffee break, or at a happy hour.

IN SCHOOL:

Get together during lunch or after class. Consider incorporating Write for Rights in your curriculum. If you are an educator, check out the sample lesson plan available online: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon/resources



SHINE A LIGHT DURING YOUR WRITE FOR RIGHTS EVENT!

Light is a powerful symbol, often associated with hope, truth, energy and life. It illuminates.

You can incorporate the power of light into your Write for Rights event by using paper lanterns bearing images of the individuals featured in our action cases. Shine a light on each person's story, bringing greater attention to their situation.

On our website, you can download easy-to-follow instructions to make your own paper lanterns.

You'll find the Shine a Light lantern kit, image templates for each of the cases, and more at:
www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon/resources





WRITE FOR RIGHTS – EVENT CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to help you prepare for your event, run it, and follow up after it's done. Write for Rights events come in all shapes and sizes. This checklist is a starting point with some basic suggestions. Feel free to get creative, and organize an event that is tailored to you and your community.

BEFORE YOUR EVENT

Establish a time and date

Try to hold your Write for Rights event on days between December 3 and 11 to commemorate International Human Rights Day on December 10. If this time just won't work for you, then feel free to hold your Write for Rights event at another time in December.

Secure a location

Decide where your Write for Rights event will be held and ensure you will have enough tables, chairs, and other equipment you may need, such as a microphone. If you hold your event in a student building, coffee shop or other public venue, be sure to obtain permission beforehand, if necessary. You can incorporate letter writing into all sorts of activities like, happy hours, book clubs, a game night, dessert party, church or youth group meeting, or a potluck dinner.

Register your event on the Write for Rights website: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon

Your event can be private or open to the public. Making your event open to the public will help engage more people in standing up for human rights. Public events will benefit from being visible on our website map, and people will be able to send you an RSVP if they plan to attend.

Ask friends to help you organize the event

Decide who will be responsible for each task. Remember to follow up to ensure that tasks are completed before your event.

Plan your event

Consider how you want your event to flow. Make an agenda. Events can sometimes work best when you clearly convey the call to action. For example, "We need you to write or sign letters on behalf of these people at risk," or "We need you to do XYZ." It is also helpful to have a clear goal you hope to achieve. For example, "By the end of the evening we would like to have 100 letters written." Consider including speakers, providing food, and showing an inspiring video clip. Check out the sample event programs which can be found in "Resources" on the website: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon/resources

WRITE FOR RIGHTS – EVENT CHECKLIST

☐ Materials and cost

The cost of mailing letters and cards can really add up, so figure out how you will send the letters that are written at your Write for Rights event. Collect donations for stamps at your event or encourage attendees to bring stamps. Seek in-kind donations from local businesses, such as pens, paper, stamps, and food. Request the free Write for Rights action kit, which includes hard copies of all online and promotional materials. Email: writeathon@aiusa.org. There are also pens, coasters, and other fun Write for Rights give-a-ways. There are additional resources that you can download from the website. Visit: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon/resources

☐ Postage Information

One-page Airmail letters typically cost: \$0.44 to US destinations, \$0.80 to Mexico, and \$0.98 to all other countries.

☐ Promote your event

There are many ways to publicize your event:

- Tell your friends and family about your event and ask them to RSVP through the Write for Rights website. Encourage your friends to invite their contacts.
- Share your event on Facebook and Twitter
- Download the Write for Rights event flyer template located at www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon. You can add details about your event and post the flyer around your community
- If you are organizing a public event, write to your local newspaper, or send a press release to your local radio station. Use the talking points provided in this packet to excite public interest in your event. For a sample press release, event advisory or letter to the editor please visit the “Resources” section of the website: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon/resources



TALKING POINTS

Below are three main messages about Write for Rights, along with examples that can be used to excite public interest in your event. Use these messages when promoting and speaking about your Write for Rights event.

1

For 50 years, Amnesty International's human rights campaigns have been instrumental in obtaining freedom for prisoners of conscience worldwide through pressure from letters, faxes, and e-mails written by AI activists. Tens of thousands of individuals have been released from jail, rescued from torture or aided in other ways following action by Amnesty International.

- 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** was an activist for peaceful change and when her political activism put her at odds with the ruling powers in the mid-1980s, she was jailed. Amnesty International campaigned for her release. Liberian authorities bowed to international pressure and released her in 1986. Today, she is the president of Liberia.
- Throughout her many years in detention, **Aung San Suu Kyi** never gave up her struggle for human rights. Amnesty International never gave up its fight for her and the many others jailed in Myanmar. The world celebrated Aung San Suu Kyi's release in November 2010. In October 2011, authorities released more political prisoners, including Su Su Nway, who had been a focus of Amnesty's Write for Rights last year.

2

Thousands of people are in prison around the world because of their beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity. Many are held without charge or trial and are at risk of torture or execution. Write for Rights empowers individuals to take action against these violations. Here are a few of the people we are working for this year:

- **Liu Xiaobo**, recipient of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize, remains imprisoned for seeking political and legal reforms in China. The movements of his wife and fellow human rights defender, Liu Xia, are severely restricted by the authorities.
- Police arrested 19-year-old **Jabbar Savalan** after he posted a message on Facebook calling for peaceful protests against the government in Azerbaijan.
- **Shin Sook-ja** and her daughters are among the estimated 200,000 men, women and children imprisoned in secret political prison camps in North Korea. Many of them never leave the camps alive due to torture, forced labor, lack of food and medical care.

TALKING POINTS

3

From December 3-11, 2011, the world's largest annual human rights event will take place. During Write for Rights, communities all over the world will send a powerful message in defense of human rights working to help release the thousands of people who are in prison unjustly.

- These and other events have helped release and/or improve conditions of tens of thousands of people at risk. Out of the 12 cases featured in 2010 Write for Rights, 6 people were either released or saw marked improvement in their conditions/treatment.
- From South Korea to South Dakota, from Portugal to Peru, and from Canada to Croatia, Amnesty International activists around the world join forces to Write for Rights during the Global Write-a-thon in December.
- Last year's Write for Rights resulted in more than 600,000 actions taken on behalf of prisoners of conscience, human rights defenders and others at risk of human rights abuses around the world. Write for Rights events will take place in schools, coffee shops, community centers, office buildings, and street corners. Anywhere people gather – human rights activism can flourish.





DURING YOUR EVENT

BRING A SIGN-IN SHEET

Use a sign-in sheet to record who attends your event. A sample sign-in sheet can be found at the end of this packet. After the event, please mail your completed sign-in sheets to the Campaign for Individuals at Risk, so we can follow up with people who want to stay engaged with Amnesty International.

BRING LETTER WRITING MATERIALS

Including case sheets, sample letters, paper and cards, and of course pens. You can request Write for Rights pens by emailing writeathon@aiusa.org

EVENT PROGRAM

Consider incorporating the following elements into your event:

- Welcome your guests and introduce the idea behind Write for Rights, explaining what this global event is all about. Feel free to draw from the talking points found above. Outline the steps for taking action by either writing or signing a letters.
- Have someone speak about what this work means to them. They can talk about a particular case, or they can say why they wanted to host/organize this Write for Rights event.
- Show a short video illustrating the power of letter writing. You can find videos on the website under “Resources”: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon
- Include a speaker who can address the human rights violations in a specific region or discuss a specific case that is featured in Write for Rights. (Check out the faculty at near-by universities for potential speakers.)
- Other elements that may enhance your event are music, food and drinks that can be enjoyed while you are writing letters.
- Be sure to take photos of your event and share them with us via Facebook: [facebook.com/amnestyusa](https://www.facebook.com/amnestyusa)
- End your event by thanking attendees and reminding them of the importance of taking action. Ask all to fill in the sign-in sheet if they haven’t already done so. This way we can let them know about the impact their letters had.
- More sample event programs can be found on the Write for Rights website: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon/resources



WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AFTER YOUR EVENT

MAIL YOUR LETTERS!

Letters to the same recipient can be sent in one large envelope to save on postage costs. Be sure to use applicable international or domestic rates.

SEND A THANK YOU EMAIL TO YOUR GUESTS

Invite them to give you feedback about your event. Ask how they felt your event went and how they felt after your event.

TELL US HOW IT WENT!

Tell us what you did during your Write for Rights event. Let us know how many letters were sent by filling out our very short evaluation at [amnestyusa.org/writeathon](https://www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon). Share with us some pictures from your event. Email them to: writeathon@aiusa.org. Or post them to our Write for Rights website at: www.amnestyusa.org/writeathonpics. Please send your Write for Rights event sign-up sheet to the Campaign for Individuals at Risk, so we can follow up with people who would like to stay continue to take action for human rights.

STAY ACTIVE

There are many ways to be involved in Amnesty's work for Individuals at Risk.

You can:

- Help the most urgent of cases through the Urgent Action Network: www.amnestyusa.org/urgent
- Take action on prisoners of conscience and others via the website: www.amnestyusa.org/cases
- Visit our campaign pages online: www.amnestyusa.org/campaigns

To learn more, contact us at: **202-509-8193** or iar@aiusa.org



WRITE FOR RIGHTS

EVENT SIGN UP SHEET

First Name / Last Name

Email Address

Would you like to know how to stay involved with Amnesty International USA?
(YES/NO)

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____
6.	_____
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8.	_____
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25.	_____



LETTER WRITING TIPS

- 1 Write in a respectful tone.** You want the authority you are addressing to read your letter and understand your concern. Assume your reader is open to reason and a respectfully-worded appeal. Sign your name with a closing such as, “Sincerely.”
- 2 Carefully follow the facts** as highlighted in each case sheet, and base your requests on the information provided.
- 3 Build your appeals on international human rights standards, not political opinions.** Human rights are **based on international laws**, agreements and obligations. Effective letters cite these obligations.
- 4 Use your personal voice.** Appeals gain strength when they are seen to be coming from many concerned individuals. Include a personal reference, for example: “As a mother of two children ...,” “As a student....” Express key points in your own words.
- 5 Write in English,** unless you are completely fluent in the language of the target country.
- 6 Repeat the individual’s name** throughout the letter. This helps to ensure that the official will recognize the name and remember the letters sent on their behalf.
- 7 Be brief.** Most letters can easily fit on one side of a single page and are more likely to be read when kept short.
- 8 You can refer to Amnesty International** as your information source, but it may be more effective to simply state that you have learned about this person’s plight and are therefore concerned.

JOIN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Amnesty International is a global movement of 3 million people united by our commitment to fight injustice. We believe that human rights abuses anywhere are the concern of people everywhere. Through our signature combination of research, grassroots action and advocacy, we've achieved extraordinary results: freed countless prisoners of conscience, protected human rights defenders, brought tyrants and torturers to justice, commuted death sentences, and persuaded governments to change their laws and practices. The power of Amnesty International USA derives from the collective actions of millions of people like you.

JOIN US! Already a member of Amnesty International USA?
Invite your friends to join at: www.amnestyusa.org/5more



“I am extremely grateful to Amnesty International, who have campaigned since the beginning. In my opinion you saved me.”

– Eynulla Fatullayev

Journalist and former prisoner of conscience, Azerbaijan

 **WRITE FOR RIGHTS**
DECEMBER 3RD - 11TH
[amnestyusa.org / writeathon](http://amnestyusa.org/writeathon)