



AIKids' GLOBAL WRITEATHON



AIUSA Individuals at Risk Program, 600 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Washington DC 20003, uan@aiusa.org

AIKids' Action 2011

December 2011



Behareh said in a speech, that women do not have equal rights in Iran. She was arrested, tried, and convicted of "insulting the President". She is serving a 10 year sentence in prison.

Majid Tavakkoli and Behareh Hedayat are young activists in Iran. They have been imprisoned for non-violent activities.

Both Majid and Behareh have been mistreated in prison. Both have not received medical attention. Majid and Behareh refuse to be silenced. In December 2010, together they wrote a letter from prison encouraging activists to



Majid attended a non-violent student demonstration in Iran. In his speech, he criticized Iran for human rights violations. He is serving a 9 year prison sentence for "insulting officials".

continue working for human rights in Iran. In response, government authorities extended each of their sentences by an additional six months.

What Can You Do? Please write to Iran's Head Judge.

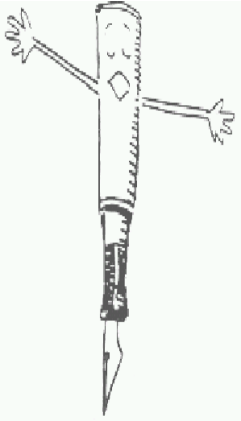
1. Please start your letter with the greeting "Your Excellency".
2. Explain that you have learned that Majid Tavakkoli and Behareh Hedayat are in prison for speaking about human rights in Iran.
3. Ask the judge to free Majid Tavakkoli and Behareh Hedayat.
4. Mail your letters before January 31, 2012 to:

Head of the Judiciary - Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani
Office of the Head of the Judiciary
Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave. - South of Serah-e Jomhuri
Tehran 1316814737

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN [for more about human rights in Iran go to www.amnestyusa.org/iran]



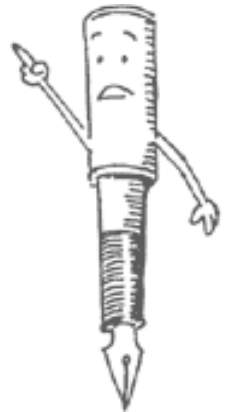
Iran is located in the Middle East and has a population of 73 million people.



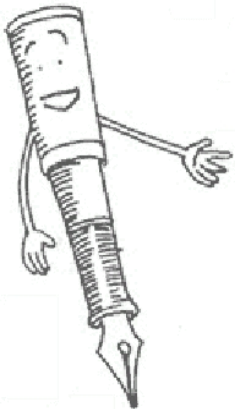
Did you know that:

✓ Human rights are all those things that society must allow and assure a person, just because he or she is a human.□

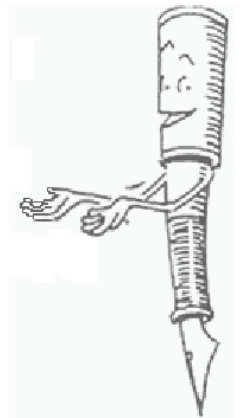
✓ Amnesty International is the world's largest volunteer human rights organization with more than three million supporters in 150 countries.



✓ The Urgent Action Network of Amnesty International's Individuals at Risk Program is the human rights "emergency room". When someone needs protection from a harmful human rights abuse, right away, the UAN lets letter-writers know about the case.



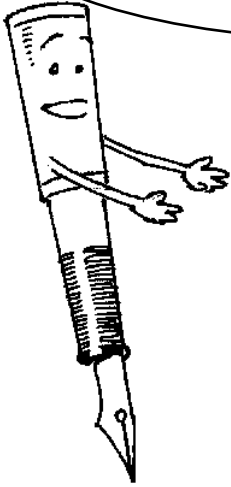
✓ You can help people who are being mistreated by their governments, by writing to officials, reminding them about the victim's basic human rights.



✓ Amnesty International focuses on the rights spelled out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other related human rights documents.

The Parts of a Letter

How about designing your own personal letterhead here at the top of the sheet?!



Use your school's address

Your Street Address
Your City, State, Zip Code
USA
Today's Date

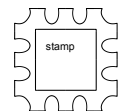
The business letter

Official's Title and Name
Official's Address
Official's Address

Dear Official's Name,

Closing,
Your Signature
Your Age (optional)

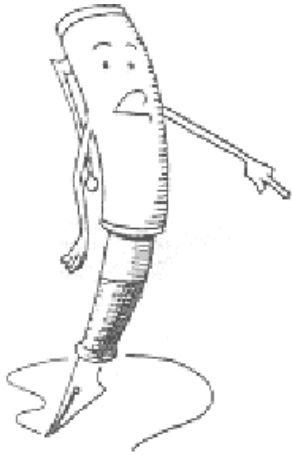
YOUR NAME
YOUR STREET ADDRESS
YOUR CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE
UNITED STATES



OFFICIAL'S TITLE AND NAME
OFFICIAL'S STREET ADDRESS
OFFICIAL'S CITY
OFFICIAL'S COUNTRY

AIR MAIL

Use all CAPS
on the
envelope!



Sample AIKids' UA Case Sheet

This is what the AIKids' Urgent Action casesheet looks like.

You may call your local AIUSA office at 1-866-AREGION with your questions.

The last paragraph tells you what the focus of your letter should be. Always be polite when writing to a government official.

This address should appear on the envelope and in your business letter.

The salutation is how you greet the official to whom you are writing a letter.

You may write letters on the case for 6 to 8 weeks after the date listed here.


The first paragraph states the concern.

A map of the area is usually included. You should try to find the country on a globe or world map in your school library or classroom, and research the country on the web.

ai Kids' URGENT ACTION

April 2005

UA 48/05: COLOMBIA. Members of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Antioquia Department, Colombia



Some children of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in Colombia.


Please help Amnesty International ensure the safety of the children who live in the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in Colombia.

Amnesty International is concerned about the safety of inhabitants, especially children, of the *Comunidad de Paz de San José de Apartadó*, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Apartadó Municipality, Antioquia department. In February, eight members of the community, including women and young children, were killed by armed men who reportedly identified themselves as members of the Colombian army.

BACKGROUND: Villagers in Colombia have been forced to leave their homes when soldiers enter town looking for people they call *Contra* etc. Soldiers threaten and beat villagers. Recently people have banded together for safety into larger groupings, which they call peace communities. The peace communities refuse to support left or right wing fighters. Sometimes leftist guerrillas, para-militaries, and soldiers harassed and hurt members of peace communities, as happened on February 11, 2005.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please write a short, courteous letter to the Ambassador of Colombia before June 30, 2005. Tell the Ambassador that you are worried about members of *Comunidad de Paz de San José de Apartadó*. Explain to him that in February 2005, children who were 2, 6, 11, and 17 were killed by soldiers. Tell Ambassador Marengo that no child should be harassed by soldiers. Ask him to do a complete investigation into military behavior especially the violations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which is a treaty to protect young people from government brutality. Thank the Ambassador for reading your letter and urge him to let you know what he plans to do to protect the villagers of *Comunidad de Paz de San José de Apartadó*.

The address for the Ambassador of Colombia is:
 Ambassador Luis Alberto Marengo [Salutation: Your Excellency]
 Embassy of Colombia
 2118 Leroy Pl, NW
 Washington DC 20038
 USA [Fax: 1 202 232 8643]



Colombia is located in the northern part of South America bordered by Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela, and Panama. Ordinary people in Colombian villages are often caught and hurt by guerrilla, paramilitary groups, fighters and Colombian soldiers and the paramilitary fighters who work with them.