AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression"

-Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Banned Books Week 2018

Each year during *Banned Books Week* the American Library Associaon (ALA) c alls a enont o books that have been challenged in US Libraries. At the same me Amnes ty Internaonal gr oups draw a enont o people around the world who have been imprisoned, threatened, or murdered because of what they wrote or published or because of their work in the publishing or media industries. This year we look a small sample of many hundreds of worldwide cases while we connue t o acknowledge and take acon on unr esolved cases from past years.

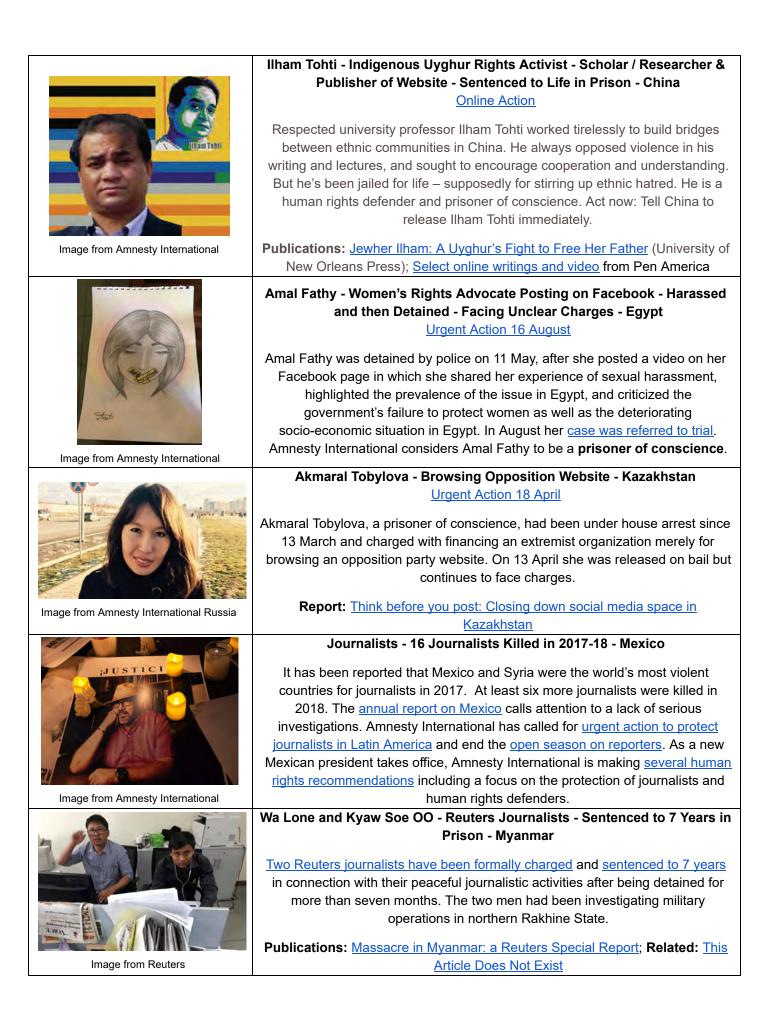


Image from: www.adsohea world.com/media/print/ amnesty_internaonal_gr aveyard

The development of this packet relied upon reports and acons from the following organizaons. Amnesty Internaonal, including various naonal secons American Library Associaon Commi ee to Protect Journalists PEN Internaonal, English PEN, PEN America, and other PEN secons Reporters without Borders Southern Poverty Law Center

2018 Banned Books Week Cases

	Merzoug Touati - Blogger - Sentenced to 10 Years - Algeria Urgent Action June - Urgent Action August
	Following more than 16 months in pre-trial detention, Algerian blogger Merzoug
and a	Touati was <u>sentenced to a 10 year prison term</u> for some peaceful online posts.
	The Court of Appeal in Bejaya reduced his <u>sentence to 7 years on 21 June</u> . He
Image from Amnesty International	is a prisoner of conscience .
	Shahidul Alam - Photographer - Faces 14 Years for Media Interview -
	Bangladesh
	Urgent Action - Al Australia Online Petition
	Shahidul Alam, photographer and social activist, has been charged under
	Section 57 of Bangladesh's Information and Communication Technology Act
	after giving an interview to <i>AI-Jazeera</i> on the current wave of school
FREE SHAHIDUL	student protests in Bangladesh. Detained and charged solely for exercising
#freeshahidulatam	his right to freedom of expression, Shahidul Alam is a prisoner of conscience
Image from BBC.com	and must be immediately and unconditionally released.
	Publications: My Journey as a Witness (photography book)
	Xulhaz Mannan - LGBT Magazine Publisher - Murdered - Bangladesh
	Xulhaz spoke out and defended the rights of LGBTI people. He founded
Sec. 1	Roopban, the first and only LGBTIQ magazine in Bangladesh and bravely
	stood up for the rights of LGBTIQ people. But he and a colleague were brutally
10	murdered by extremists. What's worse, the government has not brought his
Image from Amnesty International	killers to justice. They are getting away with murder.
	Jean Bigirimana - Journalist - Disappeared - Burundi
	2018 Online Action
whome is	In the aftermath of the failed coup d'etat of 13 May 2015 troops loyal to the
WINEFE IS Burundian journalist	president unleashed their anger on media houses. Many journalists fled the
Jean Bigirimana?	country and others went into hiding as a result, but a few others decided to
	stay and openly continue their work. Jean Bigirimana, who worked for the
Image from Amnesty International	Iwacu media group, was one of them. He has been missing since 22 July
image from Annesty methational	2016, the day he was arrested and forcibly disappeared by agents believed to
金石をまた ガイ オロシロ ダイント・オイン	be of the National Intelligence Agency (SNR).
Freedom For Tashi Wangchuk	Tashi Wangchuk - Indigenous Language Advocate - Sentenced to 5 Years in Prison - China / Tibet
料 释放扎西文色 - 市内は1000 - 100 100	
TARANAN	The <u>five-year prison sentence</u> against Tibetan language education activist Tashi
1257 전 1 전 1 전 1 전 1 전 1 전 1 전 1 전 1 전 1 전	Wangchuk for "inciting separatism" highlights the Chinese authorities'
री देनायां तट जन पट यह ये विवेशण के विवेशण के विवेशण	unyielding assault on Tibetans who peacefully defend their cultural rights. He is
	a prisoner of conscience.
สถางสัญญา	See the NY Times documentary that led to his imprisonment:
Image from Amnesty International	<u>A Tibetan's Journey for Justice (via YouTube)</u>



1 Alexandre	Stanislav Aseev - Freelance Journalist - Held Incommunicado by Russian
(Backed Separatists in Separatist Controlled Eastern Ukraine
To Coll	Online Action
	Stanislav Aseev, a Ukrainian freelance journalist who the pro-Russian
	separatists in Donetsk have kept in detention on spurious charges since June
	2017, has declared a hunger strike. The de facto authorities claim the journalist
	committed "espionage"- a trumped up accusation, based solely on his
Human Rights Watch / © Radio Svoboda	legitimate, peaceful work as a journalist. Related Report : <u>You Don't Exist</u>
	Ashraf Fayadh - Poet - Charged with Apostasy & Taking Pictures of
	Women - Sentenced to 8 Years and 800 Lashes - Saudi Arabia
2010 A 20 A 2010	Urgent Action
Advertised of the second s	Palestinian poet and artist Ashraf Fayadh has had his death sentence
8 años de carcel y 800 latigazos	overturned by a court in Saudi Arabia. He has been re-sentenced to eight
por apostasia en Arabia saudi	years in prison and 800 lashes. He is a prisoner of conscience .
Image from Amnesty International	Publications: Instructions Within (book); Poems linked from PEN America
	Ahmet Altan - Novelist & Journalist - Sentenced to Life w/o Parole - Turkey
	Ahmet Altan is a prominent novelist, essayist, and journalist. He served as the
	founding editor-in-chief of <u>Taraf</u> from 2007-2012. His brother Mehmet has been
	a Professor of Economics at Istanbul University since 1986. On September 10, 2016, Ahmet and Mehmet Altan were arrested in a dawn raid, as part of a wave
Mar El	of arrests of thinkers and writers following the failed coup of July 2016. Their
ALLESS P	alleged crime consists of giving subliminal messages to rally coup supporters
	on a television broadcast the night before the coup attempt. (Pen America)
	Publications: Endgame & Like a Sword (books); I will Never See the World
	Again (NY Times); Select online writings from PEN America
Image from Amnesty International	Related: Weathering the Storm Defending Human Rights in Climate of Fear -
	Turkey: Journalism is Not a Crime - Al Cartoonist Campaign
	Me Nam - Environmental Blogger - Sentenced to 10 Years - POC - Vietnam
	2018 CPJ International Press Freedom Award Winner:
	Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh, one of Vietnam's most prominent independent
	bloggers, is best known by her pen name, "Mother Mushroom." She has been
	behind bars since 2016. In 2017, Quynh was sentenced to 10 years in prison
HDLAND	after a one-day trial. The charges were in connection with 18 articles she
	posted online, including reports on an industrial toxic spill that devastated large
	areas of the country's coast. (<u>Committee to Protect Journalists</u>)
Image from Committee to Protect Journalists	Publications: Interview linked from PEN America

Active Cases from Past Banned Books Week



Image from Amnesty International

Raif Badawi - Blogger - 10 Year Sentence and Flogging - Saudi Arabia

Case Update & Twitter Actions

Saudi Arabian blogger Raif Badawi was detained in June 2012 and sentenced in 2014 for setting up a website focused on social and political debate. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison, 1 million riyal fine, and a cruel and inhumane punishment of 1,000 lashes, the first 50 of which were carried out in a public square in Jeddah on 9 January 2015. Waleed Abu al-Khair, Badawi's attorney, is currently serving a 15-year prison term solely for his human rights work.

Related: Detention of Women's Rights Activists including Raif Badawi's Sister

Publications: <u>1000 Lashes: Because I Say What I Think</u> (book); Raif Badawi, The Voice of Freedom: My Husband, Our Story (book)



Image from Amnesty International

Prageeth Eknaligoda — Journalist / Cartoonist Sri Lanka — Disappeared Person

Al Research | Al Take Action

Sri Lankan journalist and political analyst Prageeth Eknaligoda went missing on 24 January 2010 from Homagama, near the capital Colombo. In June 2018, Amnesty International called upon authorities to take action against ongoing <u>harassment and threats</u> against Sandya Eknaligoda, wife of Prageeth and campaigner against enforced disappearances.

Publications: Several Cartoons by Eknaligoda from BBC

Mansoor Ahmed — Blogger / Human Rights Activist (POC) — United Arab Emirates — Sentenced to 10 Years



Image from Amnesty International

Emirati human rights defender and blogger Ahmed Mansoor has been detained in Abu Dhabi since his <u>arrest</u> at his home on 20 March 2017. Amnesty

Al Research (Video Available) Al Take Action

International continues to call for his immediate unconditional release and guashing of his sentence, see statement on May 31, 2018.

According to UAE's official news agency WAM, Ahmed Mansoor had been arrested on the orders of the Public Prosecution for Cybercrimes and accused of using social media websites to "publish false information and rumours"; "promote [a] sectarian and hate-incited agenda"; and "publish false and misleading information that harm national unity and social harmony and damage the country's reputation".

Related News from Amnesty International - No Action Requested at the Time

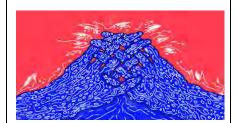


Image from Amnesty International



Drawing from Amnesty International Photo from <u>Daily Mirror</u>

Arbitrary detentions of Cuban artists protesting Decree 349

Amnesty International is concerned that <u>Decree 349 contains vague and overly</u> <u>broad restrictions on artistic expression</u>. Under the decree, all artists, including collectives, musicians and performers, are prohibited from operating in public or private spaces without prior approval by the Ministry of Culture. Under the new decree, the authorities also have the power to immediately suspend a performance and to propose the cancelation of the authorization granted to carry out the artistic activity.

Zhanar Sekerbayeva - LGBTI & Women's Rights Photographer - Detained and Fined for 'minor hooliganism' - Kazakhstan

On the evening of 15 August, police took Zhanar Sekerbayeva to Almalinsky police station in Almaty where she was <u>formally charged</u> with the administrative offence of "minor hooliganism". Zhanar Sekerbayeva is a member of the group 'Feminita', which held a photo session on 9 August to raise awareness about the taboo surrounding menstruation in Kazakhstani society. Taking photos is not a crime nor is campaigning for women's health and rights. If found guilty, she could face a fine or up to 10 days of "administrative detention".

Links for Booksellers and Librarians

The books listed below relate to this year's Banned Books Week cases and are available from major international publishers, Amazon, or other booksellers.

	My Journey as a Witness by Shahidul Alam; Rosa Maria Falvo Publisher: Milano, Italy : Skira ; Dhaka, Bangladesh : Bengal Foundation ; New York, NY : Distributed in USA by Rizzoli International Pub., 2011.		Instructions Within by Ashraf Faydh Publisher: [S.I.] : English PEN/ The Operating System, 2017. Bilingual Edition.
HETAN LIKEAN SWORD WORD	Like a Sword Wound by AHMET ALTAN Publisher: [S.I.] : Europa Editions, 2018.	RAIF BADAWI: THE YOIG OF FALLOW	Raif Badawi: The Voice of Freedom: My Husband, Our Story by Andrea C Hoffmann Publisher: London : Little, Brown Book Group 2016.
ENDGAME	Endgame by Ahmet Altan; Alexander Dawe Publisher: New York : Europa Editions, 2017.	JEWHER ILHAM	Jewher Ilham : a Uyghur's fight to free her Father by Jewher Ilham; Adam Braver; Ashley Barton; Molly Gessford Publisher: New Orleans : University of New Orleans Press, 2015.
1000 LASHES	1000 Lashes : Because I Say what I Think by Raif Badawi Publisher: Vancouver ; Berkeley : Greystone Books, 2015.		

Addenda

- <u>ALA Banned Books Week Press Kit</u>
- <u>ALA Banned Books Week 2018</u>
- Banned Books Week Readings from AIUSA
- Wikipedia on Banned Books Week

Amnesty International Images Related to Banned Books and Censorship may be found on the web. Examples include:

- Cartoonists use drawings to demand the release of colleagues in Turkey
- from https://twitter.com/amnesty



President Abdelaziz Bouteflika Presidency of the Republic El Mouradia Algiers, Algeria <u>president@el-mouradia.dz</u> Justice Minister Tayeb Louh Ministry of Justice 8 Place Bir Hakem 16030 El Biar, Algiers, Algeria contact@mjustice.dz

October 2018

Your Excellencies:

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We are deeply concerned about Merzoug Touati, an Algerian citizen journalist, who is currently on hunger strike in protest of an unfair conviction for exercising his right to peaceful expression.

He has been charged with sharing intelligence with a foreign power "aiming at harming diplomatic ties" and "incitement to gatherings and sit-ins in public spaces." However, Touati was peacefully exercising his right to free expression. He called for a protest against a new law in a Facebook post and uploaded an interview with an Israeli spokesperson on YouTube which was critical of the Algerian authorities.

On May 24th, The Court of First Instance in Bejaia sentenced him to 10 years in prison and a fine of 50,000 Algerian Dinars (approximately US \$430). However, on June 21st, the Court of Appeal in Bejaia reduced his prison sentence to 7 years but kept the same fine.

He has been held in solitary confinement since July 8th. According to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, this is prolonged solitary confinement and as such constitutes a form of torture. According to his lawyers, he is physically weak, and the isolation has taken a heavy toll on his psychological well-being.

We respectfully ask that you immediately release Merzoug Touati and ensure that his conviction is overturned, as he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for peacefully expressing his views online. Until he is released, we request that you immediately end his solitary confinement, ensure that his detention conditions are in line with international standards, and ensure that he has access to qualified health care in compliance with medical ethics.

Thank you for your consideration, NAME	SIGNATURE	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY
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Minister of Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal Bangladesh Secretariat Dhaka, Bangladesh Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin Embassy of Bangladesh 3510 International Drive NW Washington, DC 20008

October 2018

Dear Home Minister,

We are deeply concerned for photographer Shahidul Alam, who was arrested in Dhaka on August 5 after giving an interview to Al-Jazeera about a wave of student protests. He has been charged under Section 57 of the Information and Technology Act, which carries a minimum sentence of 7 years and a maximum of 14 years. When Shahidul Alam appeared in court he was unable to walk, leading to concerns that he had been subjected to torture or ill treatment.

We urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Shahidul Alam, who is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising his human right to freedom of expression.

In addition, please ensure that other journalists, human rights defenders, and members of the political opposition can safely exercise their rights to peaceful freedom of expression, association, and assembly.

Sincerely,

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Minister of Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal Bangladesh Secretariat Dhaka, Bangladesh Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin Embassy of Bangladesh 3510 International Drive NW Washington, DC 20008

October 2018

Dear Home Minister,

We are writing you out of concern for justice for **Xulhaz Mannan**, who was murdered in April 2016 when machete-wielding attackers stormed into his home. Xulhaz and his colleague were hacked to death. Even though there are witnesses and ample evidence, the police investigation has stalled and Xulhaz's killers have not been held accountable.

Xulhaz was a founder of Bangladesh's only magazine dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) issues. His attackers are believed to belong to Ansar al-Islam, the same extremist group responsible for similar assaults on bloggers discussing atheism, feminism, science and other secular issues.

The failure to hold anyone accountable for Xulhaz's murder has created a climate of fear among human rights defenders, including LGBTIQ activists. They are not able to express themselves freely, fearful that they will also come under attack and that the government will do nothing.

We call on you to ensure that the murder of Xulhaz Mannan is investigated thoroughly, and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

SIGNATU

Yours sincerely,

NAME

CITY / STATE / COUNTRY

H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza President of the Republic of Burundi Présidence de la République du Burundi Boulevard de l'Indépendance Bujumbura Burundi Email: pierre.nkurunziza@burundi.gov.bi

October 2018

Dear President Nkurunziza,

We, the undersigned, wish to express our concern about ongoing human rights violations in Burundi and the lack of the effective measures to independently investigate human rights violations. We understand that members of the security forces and the youth wing of the ruling party, Imbonerakure, have unlawfully killed hundreds of people. Further, we understand that journalists have been forced to flee the country or go into hiding in the aftermath of the failed coup d'état of 13 May 2015. According to Amnesty International, journalist Jean Bigirimana has been missing since 22 July 2016, the day he was arrested and forcibly disappeared by agents believed to be of the National Intelligence Agency (SNR).

We urge you, Mr. President, to take necessary steps to protect civilians in Burundi by ensuring that the office of the Prosecutor General conducts effective, impartial and independent investigations into human rights violations that have occurred in Burundi since April 2015. Those responsible for human rights abuses, regardless of their status, including members of security forces and member of Imbonerakure, should be brought to justice in a fair trial. I further ask you to continue the investigations into Jean Bigirmana's disappearance so that those responsible may be brought to justice and the protection of journalists is reaffirmed.

We urge you to instruct your government to fully cooperate with international human rights investigations in Burundi, including the Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry on human rights violations in Burundi.

Respectfully, NAME SIGNATURE	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY

Yushu Zangzu Zizhizhou Remin Jianchayuan Minzhulu, Yushushi Yushu Zangzu Zizhizhou Qinghaisheng 815000 People's Republic of China

October 2018

Dear Chief Procurator:

Prisoner of conscience, Tashi Wangchuk, has been sentenced to 5 years in prison after being featured in a New York Times video. Tashi Wangchuk was formally arrested in March 2016 on suspicion of "inciting separatism." Chinese authorities have detained him since 27 January 2016. He had no access to his family until September 2016 and, during police investigations, had little access to his lawyers. The five-year prison sentence against Tibetan language education activist Tashi Wangchuk for "inciting separatism" highlights the Chinese authorities' unyielding assault on Tibetans who peacefully defend their cultural rights.

Tashi Wangchuk has already spent more than two years in detention, with no access to his family. Before his arrest, he voiced concerns that many Tibetan children are unable to use their native language fluently and that this was contributing to the gradual extinction of Tibetan culture Tashi Wangchuk is a human rights defender and prisoner of conscience who used the media and China's own legal system in his struggle to preserve Tibetan language, culture and identity.

We are urging you to immediately and unconditionally release Tashi Wangchuk, who is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression. Pending his release, we are urging you to ensure that he has regular, unrestricted access to his family and lawyers of his choice without delay, and is protected from torture or other-ill-treatment.

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Director Fan Jun Prison Administration Bureau of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region No.626 Xinquanjie, Tianshanqu 830002 Urumqi, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region People's Republic of China

October 2018

Free Prisoner of Conscience Ilham Tohti

Dear Director Fan Jun,

According to Amnesty International, on 15 January 2014, Ilham Tohti was taken from his home in Beijing by police. For five months, family and friends were not told where he was. He was denied food for 10 days and his feet were shackled for 20 days straight. On 23 September, following an unfair trial, he was sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of "separatism".

We understand that "Separatism" is often used by the Chinese authorities to suppress freedom of expression – even peaceful criticism of government policies.

Through his writing and lectures, Ilham highlighted government policies that limit the use of the Uighur language, severely restrict Uighurs' ability to practice their own religion, block their chances of getting a job, and encourage Han migration into the region. Ilham was the founder and director of the bilingual website "Uighur Online", which reported on human rights violations suffered not only by Uighurs but also by ethnic Han Chinese. The website had been shut down by the authorities several times. A university professor, Ilham Tohti worked tirelessly to build bridges between ethnic communities in China. He always opposed violence in his writing and lectures, and sought to encourage co-operation and understanding. But he's been jailed for life for so-called "separatism".

We call on you to ensure that Ilham Tohti is not tortured or Ill-treated in detention. Ilham Tohti is being cruelly punished for his peaceful activism. He should be immediately and unconditionally released.

NAME	SIGNATURE	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY
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President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

Office of the President, Al Ittihadia Palace Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

October 2018

Your Excellency:

I am writing to ask that you immediately and unconditionally release Amal Fathy as she is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peacefully expressing her opinions. She is currently facing charges in two trials, both resulting from a video she posted on her Facebook page in which she shared her experience of sexual harassment, highlighted the prevalence of the issue in Egypt, and criticized the government's failure to protect women.

Amal Fathy is an Egyptian activist who focuses mostly on raising awareness of the cases of people detained for their participation in protests or because of their social media activity. She has been vocal about human rights violations in Egypt, especially the arbitrary detention of activists. Nore of this work constitutes a criminal act. None of the organizations she works with are criminal organizations. Yet the two cases for which she is on trial treat her non-violent activism as criminal. This is intended to silence her and to silence other civil society activists like her.

The Egyptian constitution protects the right of Fathy and its critizens to address issues such as sexual harassment. I urge you to protect that right for all Egyptians by releasing Amal Fathy and confirming the legitimacy of the work of Fathy and other human rights defenders; in particular their right to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Please take a stand in support of civil society and make Egypt a stronger nation. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,	SIGNATURE	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY
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Prosecutor General Kairat Kozhamzharov 14 Orynbor Street Astana, 010000 Republic of Kazakhstan

October 2018

Dear Prosecutor General,

We are writing to appeal to you in the case of **27-year-old graphic designer AKMARAL TOBYLOVA**, sanctioned to house arrest from Almalinsky district court in Almaty. Akmaral Tobylova, a prisoner of conscience, had been under house arrest since 13 March and charged with financing an extremist organization merely for browsing an opposition party website. On 13 April she was released on bailbut continues to face charges.

With Amnesty International and many people around the world, we urge the Kazakhstan authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Akmaral Tobylova and any others detained simply for peacefully exercising their human rights.

We call on authorities to terminate the criminal proceedings against her and any others who have been accused under anti-extremism legislation for the peaceful exercise of their human rights.

Finally, we urge the authorities to amend overly broad provisions in anti-extremism legislation to ensure it cannot be misused to target political opponents and shifle dissent. We ask you to remind police, prosecutors, and other authorities that they have an obligation to respect and protect the right to freedom of expression and association.

Respectfully,		CL	X	
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President Andrés Manuel López Obrador Residencia Oficial de Los Pinos, Molino del Rey s/n, Col. Chapultepec, Distrito Federal. C.P. 11850 Mexico

December 2018

Dear Andrés Manuel López Obrador:

Mexico continues to be one of the most dangerous countries for journalists. According to Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), as of August 2018 seven journalists have been killed this year. Moreover, according to the most recent Amnesty International annual human rights report there were 12 journalists killed in 2017. In many cases murders of journalists go unsolved. The undersigned ask the Mexican government to do more to thoroughly investigate and hold accountable those responsible for the murder of journalists.

As of August, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has documented seven murders of journalists and media workers in 2018 including Leobardo Vázquez Atzin, Leslie Ann Pamela Montenegro del Real, Carlos Dominguez Rodríguez, Rubén Pat Cauich, José Guadalupe Chan Dzib, Héctor González Antonio, and Juan Carlos Huerta. Only Afghanistan and Syria have seen more journalists killed this year. Further, Reporters without Borders ranks Mexico 147th in the World Press Freedom Index and reports that at least 21 journalists have gone permanently missing in Mexico over the last 15 years. Each organization has noted the impact widespread governmental corruption, pervasive organized crime, and the culture of impunity as contributing to the ongoing murder of journalists.

Though progress has been made in some cases, Amnesty International reports that in most cases authorities have made no significant advances into the investigations of these killings. Further, following the arrest of a suspect in the 2017 murder of journalist Javier Valdez Cárdenas, a representative for CPJ welcomed the arrest but noted that "too often, investigations into the murders of Mexican journalists stall after low-level suspects have been arrested, which allows impunity to thrive." Amnesty International reported last year that it became known that a network of people was using the Internet to harass and threaten human rights defenders and journalists throughout Mexico. Evidence has emerged that surveillance against journalists and human rights defenders has used software that the government was known to have purchased.

We, the undersigned, call upon the Mexican government to end impunity and ensure accountability for crimes against journalists including the cases of murder enumerated above. Further, we ask that you investigate all threats against journalists as such threats often precede murders, violence, and other forms of intimidation.

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Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo PO Box 6022 Union Attorney General Office No. 25 Nay Pyi Taw Republic of the Union of Myanmar

October 2018

Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo:

Journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo have been sentenced to seven years in prison in connection with their peaceful journalistic activities.

According to Amnesty International, there has been an erosion of the space for a free press in Myanmar, where journalists and other media workers face ongoing restrictions in connection with their work. The arrest and sentencing of Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo appears to be aimed at preventing them, as well as other journalists, from independently reporting on the Rohingya crists.

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release the two men, as they have been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human right to freedom of expression, and drop the charges against them.

Further, a free and independent press is essential to protecting the human rights of all people. It is time that Myanmar brought legislation into line with international human rights law and standards by repealing all laws which criminalize or impose restrictions on the human right to freedom of expression – including the 1923 Official Secrets Act.

Yours sincerely,	Chi S	
NAME	SIGNATURE	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY
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Head of the DNR Aleksandr Zakharchenko Donetsk Ukraine Email: op@dnr-sovet.su DNR Minister of State Security Vladimir Pavlenko Donetsk Ukraine Email: <u>mgbdnr@yandex.ru</u>

October 2018

Dear Mr. Zakharchenko and Mr. Pavlenko,

Freelance journalist Stanislav Aseev has been held in a detention facility called Izolyatsiya since June 2017. We ask that you release him immediately. Under international humanitarian law, arbitrary, abusive and prolonged detention of civilians is prohibited.

We understand that Stanislav Aseev is a freelance journalist in the separatist-controlled Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, who, until his captivity on 2 June 2017, was working under a pseudonym and reporting about daily life in the self-styled "Donetsk People's Republic". In July 2017, it was discovered that Stanislav Aseev had been held in incommunicado detention by pro-Russian separatists since 2 June 2017. Initially, de facto authorities denied knowledge of his fate and whereabouts.

Pending his release, please allow him to be visited by the UN Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and ensure that he has regular access to adequate medical care

We ask that Stanislav Aseev be released immediately. Further, we ask that you ensure that Stanislav Aseev and other journalists are able to carry out legitimate journalist activities without interference, including when travelling in and out of the territories affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Yours sincerely,	C'ILS	
NAME	SIGNATURE	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY
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His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques Office of His Majesty the King Royal Court, Riyadh Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

October 2018

Your Majesty:

We, the undersigned, dedicated to the value of creative freedom and human rights, are writing to express our grave concern that Ashraf Fayadh has been resentenced to eight years in prison and 800 lashes.

Ashraf Fayadh, a poet, artist, curator, and member of British-Saudi art organization Edge of Arabia, was first detained in August 2013 in relation to his collection of poems *Instructions Within* following the submission of a complaint to the Saudi Committee for the Promotion of Virtue. He was released on bail but rearrested in January 2014.

It is not a crime to hold an idea, however unpopular, nor is it a crime to express opinion peacefully. Every individual has the freedom to believe or not believe. Freedom of conscience is an essential human right.

We urge you to release Ashraf Fayadh immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for peacefully exercising his human right to freedom of expression:

We urge you to ensure that Ashraf Fayadh's conviction is quashed;

Furthermore, we urge you to immediately establish an official moratorium on all executions as a first step towards total abolition, and abolish flogging and all other cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments.

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Minister of Justice Mr. Abdülhamit Gül Adalet Bakanlığı 06659 Ankara, Turkey Ambassador Serdar Kiliç, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey 2525 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington, DC 20008

October 2018

Dear Minister and Ambassador –

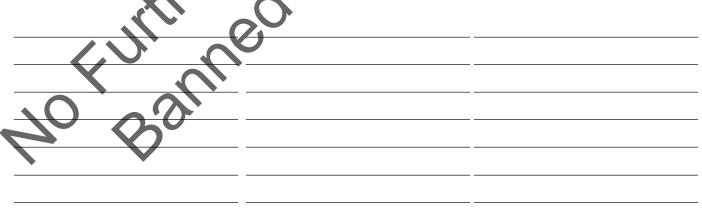
The undersigned call upon the Turkish government to drop all charges and release journalist and novelist Ahmet Altan and more than 100 journalists who have been detained for carrying out their legitimate journalistic activities. Further, we ask that the government cease detaining and prosecuting journalists for these reasons.

According to Amnesty International, freedom of expression in Turkey is under sustained and increasing attack. Since the failed coup attempt in July 2016, academics, journalists and writers who criticize the government risk criminal investigation and prosecution, intimidation, harassment and censorship. At least 156 media outlets have been shut down by executive decree since July 2016. An estimated 2,500 journalists and other media workers have lost their jobs. Arrests and routine use of lengthy pre-trial detention intimidates journalists.

In the case of Ahmet Altan, we understand that he was most recently arrested following the failed coup of 2016. Further, according to PEN America, he was arrested and found guilty of defamation in July 2013 in light of an editorial he published in Taraf and has faced various other defamation charges in connection with his journalism and fiction writing. Altan was sentenced to life in prison on 16 February 2018 for attempting to overthrow the constitutional order through the use of force and violence.

We, the undersigned, join with Amnesty International, PEN International and other human rights organization to call on the Turkish government to drop charges against Ahmet and release him immediately along with other journalists unjustly detained. Further we ask that you:

- Ensure that media workers can carry out their function of commenting on public issues, informing public opinion, and conveying information and ideas without threats, harassment or intimidation, and are not prosecuted for expressing views that do not constitute incitement to violence.
- Ensure that criminal charges brought against media workers are solely for recognizably criminal offences defined in laws which are sufficiently clearly formulated to enable people to know what is permitted and what is not, and do not involve unnecessary or disproportionate interference with freedom of expression.
- End the routine use of lengthy pre-trial detention and ensure that any such detention is regularly reviewed by an independent and impartial court and that detainees have access to sufficient information to be able to effectively challenge their detention.



Prime Minister H.E Pham Quang Vinh Prime Minister's Office Hà Nội, Việt Nam nguoiphatngonchinhphu@chinhphu.vn Ambassador Nguyễn Xuân Phúc Embassy of Socialist Republic of Vietnam 1730 M Street, N.W., # 501 Washington D.C., 20036

October 2018

Dear Prime Minister:



We are very concerned about the situation of Ms. Nguyễn Ngọc Như Quỳnh, also known as Mẹ Nấm, an online activist and Coordinator of the Vietnamese Bloggers Network who is known for revealing corruption cases, human rights violations, and environmental disasters. She was sentenced last year for her activism to ten years in prison.

In April 2016, Me Nam addressed the Government's mishandling of serious water pollution problems and the subsequent mass fish deaths caused by toxic waste discharged by the Taiwanese company Formosa Plastics in three coastal provinces. In an important document entitled "Stop Police Killing Civilians" based on articles published in the official press, Như Quỳnh exposed numerous incidents of police brutality and torture that resulted in the death of several individuals while in custody. Quynh is presently in Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa province, more than 1000 kilometers away from her family of one elderly mother and two young daughters. Letters to and from her family were withheld without either of them knowing why and how.

Last June, Me Nam won the Committee to Protect Journalists International Press Freedom Award and she was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. PEN International wrote that "Me Nam is being targeted for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression" whilst five UN Special Rapporteurs sent your government a letter questioning Quynh's arrest and detention.

We call upon you to ensure the release of Me Nấm, a prisoner of conscience imprisoned for the personal expression of her beliefs. Further, we ask that the government of Vietnam put an end to the arrest, detention, and harassment of human rights defenders who are exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

NAME	SIGNATURE	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY
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His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques Office of His Majesty the King Royal Court, Riyadh Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

October 2018

Your Majesty:

We call on you to free Raif Badawi and stop flogging him.

Raif Badawi is a Prisoner of Conscience, held solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. Please drop all charges against Badawi and ensure that he is unconditionally released without further delay.

We are also deeply concerned about the number of activists in Saudi Arabia who, like Raif Badawi, are persecuted for openly expressing their views online. We call on you to stop arresting, charging, prosecuting and sentencing activists for simply exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

NAME	SIGNATURE	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY
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October 2018

Dear President Sirisena:



On January 24th 2010 Prageeth Eknaligoda, a journalist and cartoonist who had written articles critical of the Sri Lankan government disappeared.

Reportedly, at least 15 journalists have been killed since 2006 without prosecutions occurring for these crimes. Amnesty International believes his support for the opposition candidate prior to the 26 January 2010 Presidential election may have made him a target.

Neighbors saw white van without ID plates near Prageeth's home the day of the disappearance. There are reports that others have been abducted by paramilitary groups and state agents as far back as 2006. **Prageeth** himself was **abducted by such a van in 2009 and released after a day.**

Please use your position to investigate the disappearance of Prageeth Eknaligoda.

Please make the results of this investigation public and hold accountable those responsible.

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Send completed petitions to: Amnesty International Group 471, 4632 Briar Ridge Road, Oceanside CA 92056



His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zeyed Al Nahyan President of the United Arab Emirates Ministry of presidential affairs Corniche Road POB 280, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ahmed Mansoor is a detained human rights defender in the United Arab Emirates.

Your Highness,

I am writing to ask you to take steps for immediate release of Ahmed Mansoor, a blogger, human rights defender and recipient of the prestigious Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders (2015).

Ahmed Mansoor was arrested in the early hours of 20 March 2017 at his home in the emirate of Ajman in the northern parts of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

On 29 May 2018, Ahmed Mansoor was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of 1,000,000 Emirati Dirham (approximately USD \$270,000). The court also ordered placing him under surveillance for three years following his release.

Ahmed Mansoor was tried and convicted on charges including "insulting the status and prestige of the UAE and its symbols" including its leaders, "publish[ing] false information to damage [the] UAE's reputation abroad" and "portray[ing] the UAE as a lawless land."

We are calling on the UAE authorities to quash Ahmed Mansoor's conviction and sentence and release him immediately and unconditionally as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and his human rights work.

NAME SIGNATURE	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY