

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Amnesty International – Banned Books Week 2019

Each year during *Banned Books Week* the American Library Association (ALA) calls attention to books that have been challenged in US Libraries. At the same time Amnesty International groups draw attention to 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 at a small sample of many hundreds of worldwide cases while we continue to acknowledge unresolved cases from past years.



Image from: www.adsoftheworld.com/media/print/amnesty_international_graveyard

The development of this packet relied upon reports and actions from the following organizations.

Amnesty International, including various national sections

American Library Association

Committee to Protect Journalists

Electronic Frontier Foundation

IFEX

PEN International, English PEN, PEN America, and other PEN sections

Reporters without Borders

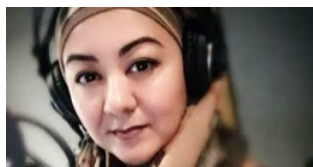
Banned Books Week Cases – 2019



<https://www.amnesty.org.hk>

Wei Zhili – China – Reporter working on Labor & Migrant Worker Rights – Detained since March 2017

Wei Zhili is the editor of “New Generation” (xinshengdai), a website which monitors and reports on labor conditions and internal migrant workers in China. In March he was arrested amid a crackdown on student activists, labor activists, factory workers and others supporting a growing labor rights movement. His wife has been harassed & her web accounts suspended.



<https://www.amnesty.org>

Hankezi Zikeli, aunt of US-Based Uyghur Journalist Gulchehra Hoja – China – At Risk of Torture

Hankezi Zikeli is the aunt of Gulchehra Hoja, one of the most well-known Uyghur journalists. Since moving to the USA about 18 years ago, Gulchehra Hoja has worked at the Washington-based Radio Free Asia's Uyghur Service. At least twenty-five of her relatives have been detained at some time, and the family has received reports that Hankezi Zikeli has suffered a nervous breakdown while in detention. Gulchehra Hoja has been unable to get updates regarding her brother and other relatives. The family belongs to the Uyghur ethnic minority group that has long suffered violations of their rights to freedom of religion and association and other human rights; over the past year or more, authorities have engaged in an unprecedented crackdown targeting them.



<https://www.iranhumanrights.org>

Sanaz Alahyari and Amirhossein Mohammadifar – Iran – Journalists Detained – Facing Charges

Iranian journalists Sanaz Alahyari and Amirhossein Mohammadifar are staff members of *Gam*, an online magazine that reports on social justice issues, including labor rights. These Prisoners of Conscience have been detained since January 2019, along with journalist Amir Amirgholi, solely in connection with their reporting on the protests of workers at Haft Tappeh sugar cane company in Khuzestan province over grievances concerning unpaid wages.



<https://www.es.amnesty.org>

Mustafa al-Kharouf – Israel/Occupied Territories – Photojournalist – Stateless – Arbitrarily Detained – Facing Deportation

32 year old photojournalist has been detained since January 2019; he is **facing deportation** from **East Jerusalem** and subsequent **family separation** despite 20 year residency. As photo-journalist for Anadolu Agency, he has been reporting on human rights violations committed by Israeli forces. Amnesty International fears that al-Kharouf's arbitrary detention and the decision to deport him are intended to stop his journalistic work.



Journalists – Mexico – 10 Murdered in 2019 – Several in direct relation to their work

Francisco Romero Díaz, Norma Sarabia Garduza, and Rafael Murúa Manríquez

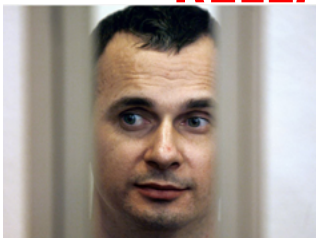
Death is an occupational hazard for journalists in Mexico, where more than 150 have been killed or disappeared since 2000. In 2019 the killing of journalists continues unabated.



Maria Ressa – Philippines – Executive Editor of Online News Agency – Repeatedly Detained & Facing Years in Prison

Ressa currently faces 8 court cases, while the directors and staff of *Rappler*, the online news agency she leads, face 11 charges. These prosecutions are part of a campaign to silence critics of the government. Since President Rodrigo Duterte was elected, media outlet *Rappler* has consistently drawn attention to the deadly reality of the 'war on drugs,' and the thousands of unlawful killings of poor and marginalized people perpetrated in its name. Its persistence in documenting these abuses has attracted the wrath of the Philippine authorities.

RELEASED



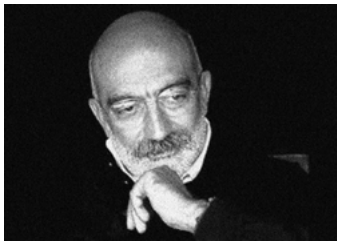
Oleg Sentsov – Russia – Filmmaker & Essayist – Sentenced to 20 Years

Oleg Sentsov is a Ukrainian film director sentenced 20 years imprisonment in 2015 for allegedly setting up a branch of a 'terrorist group'. Sentsov faced trial in Russia, despite being arrested in Crimea and being a Ukrainian citizen. As a filmmaker, he is best known for his film *Gamer* as well as his short films. Sentsov won the 2017 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award.



Loujain Al-Hathloul – Saudi Arabia – Social Media Commentator – Detained Since May 2018

In May 2018, activist and social media commentator Loujain Al-Hathloul was arrested in light of her advocacy for women's rights. Loujain spent the first 3 months of her arbitrary detention incommunicado and was subject to torture, sexual abuse, and other forms of ill-treatment. She remains in prison pending the next court session.



Ahmet Altan – Novelist & Journalist – Detained since 2016 & Facing up to 15 Years – Turkey

Ahmet Altan is a prominent novelist, essayist, and journalist. On September 10, 2016, Altan was arrested as part of a wave of arrests of thinkers and writers. He has been accused of giving subliminal messages to rally coup supporters on a TV broadcast before the 2016 coup attempt. (Pen America)



<https://www.rfa.org> (Radio Free Asia)

Nguyen Van Hoa – Vietnam – Environmental Reporter / Catholic Advocate – Sentenced to 7 years – Tortured

24 year old reporter for Radio Free Asia sentenced to 7 years in prison in November 2017 in light of his reporting Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Corporation marine environmental disaster.

Urgent Action May 2019 | Committee to Protect Journalists | NYTimes (2017)



Labor & Migrant Worker Rights

DETAINED SINCE MARCH 2017



Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing are editors of “New Generation” (xinshengdai), a website on monitoring and reporting the situation of rural migrant workers in China. New Generation also uses other mainland Chinese social media platforms to disseminate information about employment and labor laws and occupational safety and health. A lot of their recent work was focused on the plight of the workers from Hunan province who contracted silicosis due to lack of occupational health safety protection in the factories.

Wei Zhili has been committed to labor rights and feminist issues since he graduated from university in 2001. Upon his university graduation, he worked in Hand-in-Hand Workers’ Activity Centre (手牵手工友活动室) in Shenzhen providing legal advice, representation and organizing support to workers. Police have

reportedly told him and other labor activists that labor activism is “disturbing social order” and “speaking for workers is anti-Communist and counter-revolution”.

Ke Chengbing aka “Laomu” (Old Wood) is one of the founders of “New Generation” (xinshengdai) and has worked for the organization since then. He graduated in 2012 from Jinan University, where he has been active in grassroots human rights movement as a student activist. After graduation, he committed to worker’s rights issues in South China, conducting investigative research on working conditions in Foxconn after a series of suicides of its employees.

Activists and human rights defenders continue to be systematically subjected to monitoring, harassment, intimidation, arrest and arbitrary detention. Police hold an increasing number of human rights defenders outside of formal detention facilities, sometimes without access to a lawyer for long periods, exposing the detainees to the risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

More information:

- Urgent Action Info [April 2019](#) & [March 2019](#)
- [Amnesty International Hong Kong](#)
- [One Free Press Coalition](#) (July 2019)



Song Yiyang
Director of Shenzhen City Pingshan
District Public Security Sub-Bureau
1 Longping Lu, Pingshan Qu, Shenzhen, 518118
People's Republic of China
Email: shenzhendaily@szpsq.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Director Song

Ambassador Cui Tiankai
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
3505 International Place NW, Washington
DC 20008
Phone: 202 495 2266 | Fax: 202 495 2138
Email: chinaembpress_us@mfa.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

Subject: Immediately release Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing

Dear Director Song,

I am writing to express my concern about the ongoing incommunicado detention of Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing who were first taken away from their homes by police on 20 March 2019. Prior to their detention, the activists used the online platform "New Generation" (xinshengdai) to publish information about cases of migrant workers from Hunan Province who had contracted occupational lung disease, while also helping them to defend their rights and lodge labor rights complaints to the authorities.

On 26 and 27 March, Shenzhen City Ping Shan Public Security Sub-bureau informed the families that Wei and Ke were criminally detained on suspicion of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" in Shenzhen City No. 2 detention center. Three weeks later however, the police notified the family that they had been transferred to residential surveillance at a designated location.

Family members of the two activists have also been facing pressure from the police to dismiss their lawyers and remain silent about their cases. Wei Zhili's wife, Zheng Churan, is a well-known feminist activist who has relentlessly campaigned for Wei's release. Facing continued harassment, Zheng's WeChat accounts have been deleted and she has been evicted by her landlord. Denied access to legal counsel of their choice, their families or others, Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing are at serious risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Therefore, I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that they have committed an internationally recognized offense and are granted a fair trial in line with international standards; ensure that Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing are not subjected to any torture or other ill-treatment and have regular and unrestricted access to a lawyer of their choice and are able to communicate with family members, without interference unless justified in line with international human rights law; and end all harassment against family members of Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing.

Signed,

**DEMAND ACTION NOW: WEI ZHILI & KE CHENGBING – CHINA****DEAR DIRECTOR SONG,**

I am writing to express my concern about the ongoing incommunicado detention of Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing who were first taken away from their homes by police on 20 March 2019. Prior to their detention, the activists used the online platform “New Generation” (xinshengdai) to publish information about cases of migrant workers from Hunan Province who had contracted occupational lung disease, while also helping them to defend their rights and lodge labor rights complaints to the authorities.

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Family members of the two activists have also been facing pressure from the police to dismiss their lawyers and remain silent about their cases. Wei Zhili’s wife, Zheng Churan, is a well-known feminist activist who has relentlessly campaigned for Wei’s release. Facing continued harassment, Zheng’s WeChat accounts have been deleted and she has been evicted by her landlord. Denied access to legal counsel of their choice, their families or others, Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing are at serious risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Therefore, we call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that they have committed an internationally recognized offense and are granted a fair trial in line with international standards; ensure that Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing are not subjected to any torture or other ill-treatment and have regular and unrestricted access to a lawyer of their choice and are able to communicate with family members, without interference unless justified in line with international human rights law; and end all harassment against family members of Wei Zhili and Ke Chengbing.

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DEMAND ACTION NOW: WEI ZHILI & KE CHENGBING – CHINA

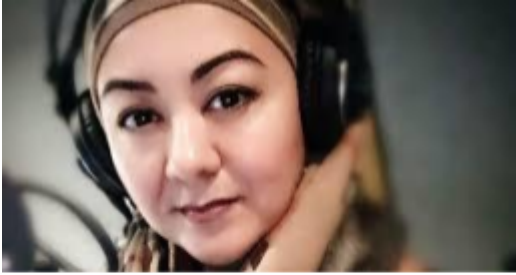
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Hankezi Zikeli

AUNT OF US-BASED UYGHUR JOURNALIST GULCHEHRA HOJA - CHINA AT RISK OF TORTURE



Gulchehra Hoja is one of the most well-known Uyghur journalists, having been a star of a children's program in the 1990s and then later working for Xinjiang TV. Since moving to the USA about 18 years ago, she has worked at Radio Free Asia's Uyghur Service, which is one of the only outlets providing independent news to residents of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Xinjiang). Independent reporting in Xinjiang is extremely difficult, and foreign reporters face numerous restrictions and harassment by the authorities. According to the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China's annual report for working conditions in China from 2017, 73% of foreign correspondents who took the FCCC's survey who traveled to Xinjiang in 2017 were told by officials and security agents that reporting was prohibited or restricted, compared with 42% in 2016.

Following the news of Gulchehra Hoja's family, it was reported by the Washington Post on February 28, 2018 that three other journalists at Radio Free Asia's Uyghur service faced the same situation, with their family members in Xinjiang detained in apparent retaliation for their relatives' overseas journalism.

Gulchehra Hoja's parents were also among her detained relatives. They were released in March 2018 but remain under surveillance. Gulchehra

Hoja's aunt, Hankezi Zikeli, is detained in a "transformation through education" centre in Urumqi, Xinjiang, and is believed to have suffered a nervous breakdown. She is one of 25 relatives of Gulchehra Hoja who have been detained since January 2018. Without any access to a lawyer, there are grave fears that they are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

While Uyghurs and other predominately Muslim ethnic minorities in Xinjiang have long suffered violations of their rights to freedom of religion and association and other human rights, over the past year or more, authorities have engaged in an unprecedented crackdown targeting them. Techniques of repression include the widespread use of arbitrary detention, technological surveillance, heavily armed street patrols, security checkpoints and an array of intrusive policies violating human rights.

Testimonies collected by Amnesty International, media reports as well as information gathered by Amnesty International, indicate that in the spring of 2017, authorities throughout the region began detaining Uyghurs en masse, and started sending them to administrative detention facilities or sentencing them to long prison terms. This crackdown has not only been applied to Uyghurs, but to other predominantly Muslim ethnicities, such as Kazakhs, and Kyrgyzs.

Related Links:

Separated Souls: Uyghur journalist's unbreakable resolve to help her detained family

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/03/uyghur-journalists-unbreakable-resolve-to-help-detained-family/>

Human Rights and Journalism - Gulchehra Hoja - Radio Free Asia Reporter (CSPAN)

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?460696-1/hatice-cengiz-testifies-dangers-reporting-human-rights&start=1660>

Gulchehra Hoja on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/gulchehrahoja?lang=en>

ulchehra Hoja testimony--Xinjiang's Human Rights Crisis (YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8awQJ2Xnd1U>



Party Secretary of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, Chen Quanguo
479 Zhongshan Lu
Wulumuqi Shi, Xinjiang
People's Republic of China

Dear Secretary Chen,

Hankezi Zikeli, 64, is reported to have suffered a nervous breakdown after having been detained in a “transformation through education” center in Urumqi since February 2018. She is an aunt of Gulchehra Hoja, a Washington-based Radio Free Asia Uyghur Service journalist, and one of her 25 relatives who have been detained for more than one year.

According to a relative in Xinjiang, who was given information by a local police officer, Hankezi Zikeli has not spoken for several months and spends her day staring at the ceiling.

Gulchehra Hoja learned in early 2018 that her relatives had all been detained in “transformation through education” centers in Urumqi and Yili in Xinjiang after being linked to a WeChat group with her. In addition to this distressing news about her aunt, Gulchehra Hoja has had no updates about the situation of her brother Kaiser Keyun and other relatives.

We are extremely worried about Hankezi Zikeli and Gulchehra Hoja's other relatives' safety in the facilities as they do not have access to a lawyer of their own choice or their family members, and thus they are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Therefore, we call on you Secretary Chen to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Hankezi Zikeli, along with all Gulchehra Hoja's other relatives, unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that they have committed an internationally recognized offence and are granted a fair trial in line with international standards;
- Ensure that Hankezi Zikeli and Gulchehra Hoja's other relatives are not subjected to any torture or other ill-treatment and have regular and unrestricted access to a lawyer of their choice and are

Yours sincerely,



DEMAND ACTION NOW: HANKEZI ZIKELI – CHINA

Hankezi Zikeli, 64, is reported to have suffered a nervous breakdown after having been detained in a “transformation through education” center in Urumqi since February 2018. She is an aunt of Gulchehra Hoja, a Washington-based Radio Free Asia Uyghur Service journalist, and one of her 25 relatives who have been detained for more than one year.

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- Ensure that Hankezi Zikeli and Gulchehra Hoja’s other relatives are not subjected to any torture or other ill-treatment and have regular and unrestricted access to a lawyer of their choice and are able to communicate with family members and others, including with family members living in other countries, without interference unless justified in line with international human rights law.

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DEMAND ACTION NOW: HANKEZI ZIKELI – CHINA

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Sanaz Alahyari and Amirhossein Mohammadifar

IRAN - DETAINED - FACING CHARGES PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE



Photo from <http://www.iranhumanrights.org>

Sanaz Alahyari and her husband, Amirhossein Mohammadifar, are staff members of *Gam*, an online magazine that reports on social justice issues, including labor rights. On 9 January 2019, they were arrested in Tehran and transferred to section 209 of Evin prison, which is run by the ministry of intelligence. After spending a period in solitary confinement, Sanaz Alahyari was transferred to the women's ward of Evin prison and Amirhossein Mohammadifar to section 4 of Evin prison. During this period, they were subjected to interrogations without a lawyer present. Their families were told that they had to select a lawyer from a list of lawyers approved by the head of the judiciary, but they refused to accept this restriction.

According to information obtained by Amnesty International, Sanaz Alahyari was kept in a dark cell in section 209 of Evin prison, deprived of access to natural light, and forced to sleep on the floor. The authorities also refused to provide her with new glasses after her old ones broke in circumstances unknown to Amnesty International. Sanaz Alahyari's first family visit was 20 days after her arrest and took place behind a glass screen. When her family next visited her in March

2019, they saw that her eyes had severely swollen. Sanaz Alahyari has since developed other health problems, including recurrent stomach pains and severe shaking movements in her hands and legs. She has also lost about 10kg. Her family has repeatedly urged the prosecution and prison authorities to transfer her to a medical centre outside of prison for diagnostic tests and have written two letters in this regard to the prosecutor general of Tehran, Ali Alghasi Mehr, and the prosecutor general of the country, Mohammad Jafar Montazeri. Their pleas have gone unanswered.

On 14 January 2019, another staff member of *Gam* magazines Amir Amirgholi was similarly arrested by Ministry of Intelligence officials in the city of Babolsar and transferred to section 209 of Evin prison. He was held in solitary confinement for 40 days, and subsequently transferred to Sheyban prison in Ahvaz, Khuzestan province. The transfer apparently took place at the request of Ministry of Intelligence officials and prosecution officials in Shush, Khuzestan province, who have arrested, since November 2018, several labor rights activists in connection with the peaceful protests of workers at Haft Tappeh sugar cane company. He was returned to Evin prison in 28 April.

On 29 April, Sanaz Alahyari, Amirhossein Mohammadifar and Amir Amirgholi were separately brought before the office of prosecution in Evin prison and informed of their charges, which include "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security", "spreading propaganda against the system", "spreading lies" and "membership of a group formed with the purpose of disrupting national security". The charges brought against these journalists stem directly from the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedoms of expression, association and assembly through reporting on the protests of workers at Haft Tappeh sugar cane company in Khuzestan province over unpaid wages and poor conditions. They are currently awaiting trial before branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran.

At least three other labor rights activists, Esmail Bakhshi, Sepideh Gholian and Ali Nejati, and one journalist, Asal Mohammadi, are facing criminal proceedings in connection with their involvement with the peaceful protests at Haft Tappeh Sugar Cane Company. Esmail Bakhshi and Sepideh Gholian have been in detention since 20 January 2019. They were arrested after they spoke out about the torture they said they suffered in custody during their first period of detention in November and December 2018 (see "Labour rights activists at risk of further torture", 29 January 2019, MDE 13/9745/2019). Ali Nejati, the former chair and a current member of Haft Tappeh labor syndicate, was arrested on 29 November 2018 and released on bail on 28 January 2019, pending his trial. Asal Mohammadi, another staff member of *Gam* magazine, was arrested on 8 December 2018 and released on bail on 5 January 2019, pending her trial. Amnesty International understands that the prosecution authorities have joined the cases of these individuals with those of Sanaz Alahyari, Amirhossein Mohammadifar and Amir Amirgholi and that they will likely face trial together.



Prosecutor General of Tehran Ali Alghasi Mehr
Office of the Prosecutor
Corner (Nabsh-e) of 15 Khordad Square
Tehran, Iran

Dear Mr Alghasi Mehr,

Iranian **journalists Sanaz Alahyari and Amirhossein Mohammadifar** have been on hunger strike since 4 July 2019 in protest at their continued detention. They have been **detained** in Tehran's Evin prison **since January 2019**, along with journalist **Amir Amirgholi**, solely in connection with their **reporting on the protests of workers** at Haft Tappeh sugar cane company in Khuzestan province over grievances concerning unpaid wages. On 14 July, prison doctors said that, given her already **poor health** in prison, Sanaz Alahyari could become at risk of respiratory arrest, which can lead to brain injury and even death.

Sanaz Alahyari has been suffering from recurrent stomach pains, weight loss and severe shaking in her hands and legs for the past two months. Her family has repeatedly urged the prosecution and prison authorities to transfer her to a medical centre outside of prison for diagnostic tests and wrote two letters in this regard, one to you and the other to the prosecutor general of Iran, Mohammad Jafar Montazeri. However, their pleas went unanswered. On 8 July, she was transferred to the prison clinic after her health deteriorated. There, doctors wanted to provide her with intravenous fluids, but she refused. On 15 July, she lost consciousness for several minutes.

Amirhossein Mohammadifar was beaten by several prisoners convicted of violent crimes on 14 July. This reinforces long-standing concerns about the risks posed to the safety of prisoners of conscience when they are held next to those convicted of violent crimes. There are frequent reports from Evin and other prisons that sections housing prisoners convicted of violent crimes are characterized by rampant violence against inmates, both by other inmates and by prison staff. Under the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, authorities are obliged to keep prisoners who are violent or threatening, away from other prisoners and divide prisoners into different classes based on their criminal record and the legal reason for their detention. The Iranian authorities are clearly failing to abide by these rules and are thereby accountable for Amirhossein Mohammadifar's ill-treatment.

I urge you to release Sanaz Alahyari, Amirhossein Mohammadifar and Amir Amirgholi immediately and unconditionally as they are prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression through reporting on the protests at Haft Tappeh sugar cane company in Khuzestan province. Pending their release, please ensure that Sanaz Alahyari and Amirhossein Mohammadifar receive the health care they require, in compliance with medical ethics, including the principles of confidentiality, autonomy and informed consent.

Yours sincerely,

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



DEMAND ACTION NOW: SANAZ ALAHYARI AND AMIRHOSSEIN MOHAMMADIFAR – IRAN

DEAR MR. ALGHASI MEHR,

Iranian journalists Sanaz Alahyari and Amirhossein Mohammadifar have been detained in Tehran's Evin prison since January 2019, along with journalist Amir Amirgholi, solely in connection with their reporting on the protests of workers at Haft Tappeh sugar cane company in Khuzestan province over grievances concerning unpaid wages. Further, they have been on hunger strike since 4 July 2019 in protest at their continued detention. Prison doctors said that, given her already poor health in prison, Sanaz Alahyari could become at risk of respiratory arrest, which can lead to brain injury and death.

Sanaz Alahyari has been suffering from recurrent stomach pains, weight loss and severe shaking in her hands and legs for the past two months. Her family has repeatedly urged the authorities to transfer her to a medical center outside of prison for diagnostic tests and wrote letters in this regard to you and to the prosecutor general of Iran, Mohammad Jafar Montazeri. However, their pleas went unanswered. On 8 July, she was transferred to the prison clinic after her health deteriorated. There, doctors wanted to provide her with intravenous fluids, but she refused.

Amirhossein Mohammadifar was beaten by several prisoners convicted of violent crimes on 14 July. This reinforces long-standing concerns about the risks posed to the safety of prisoners of conscience when they are detained with those convicted of violent crimes. Under the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, authorities are obliged to keep prisoners who are violent or threatening away from other prisoners and divide prisoners into different classes based on their criminal record.

We urge you to release Sanaz Alahyari, Amirhossein Mohammadifar and Amir Amirgholi immediately and unconditionally as they are PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE, detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression. Pending their release, please ensure that Sanaz Alahyari and Amirhossein Mohammadifar receive all necessary medical care.

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DEMAND ACTION NOW: SANAZ ALAHYARI AND AMIRHOSSEIN MOHAMMADIFAR – IRAN

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Mustafa al-Kharouf

ISRAEL / OCCUPIED TERRITORIES - PHOTOJOURNALIST STATELESS - ARBITRARILY DETAINED - FACING DEPORTATION & FAMILY SEPARATION DESPITE 20 YEAR RESIDENCY



Mustafa al-Kharouf, a 32-year-old Palestinian photojournalist, is at imminent risk of deportation from his home in occupied East Jerusalem by Israel despite living there with his wife, Tamam al-Kharouf, and 18-month-old daughter, Asia – both legal residents of Israel.

Mustafa returned to Jerusalem from Algeria with his family when he was 12 and although his family had immediately applied with the Israeli authorities for legal status to live in Jerusalem, by the time Israel approved the request, Mustafa had turned 18, making him ineligible to be included as part of the family.

Mustafa was subjected to Israel's discriminatory "center of life" test, to which Israel has been subjecting Palestinian Jerusalemites since 1988. This test requires residents to prove their "center of life" is in Jerusalem to safeguard their residency. Mustafa's temporary humanitarian visa was not renewed in 2015 based on information from Israel's security officials.

Mustafa's work as a photojournalist and photos posted to Facebook had raised concerns. Mustafa maintains he wasn't a participant in demonstrations, but was there as part of his work as a photojournalist.

During the night July 21/22, 2019, Israeli authorities took Mustafa from Givon prison in Central Israel and attempted to forcibly deport him, a war crime, to Jordan twice and each time, Jordan refused. During this, his whereabouts were not known to his family or lawyer.

East Jerusalem is part of the OPT, so its Palestinian population is protected by the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention. Israeli authorities cannot forcibly transfer or deport Palestinian East Jerusalem residents.

RESOURCES:

[July 30, 2019 AI Urgent Action Update](#)

[March 17, 2019, Ha'aretz, Amira Hass, Israel Seeks to Deport East Jerusalem Photographer to Jordan, Where He Can't Stay](#)

[Photos by Mustafa al-Kharouf on Getty Images](#)



Aryeh Makhlouf Deri
Minister of Interior Affairs
2 Kaplan Street
PO Box 6158
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem, 91061, Israel
Fax: + 972 2 670 1628
Email: sar@moin.gov.il

Dear Minister Aryeh Deri,

During the night of July 21-22, 2019, the Israeli immigration authorities, which report to your office, took Mustafa al-Kharouf from Givon prison in Ramle and attempted to forcibly deport him to Jordan. Deportation of protected persons from occupied territory is prohibited by Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and constitutes a war crime.

Jordanian authorities refused his deportation as he does not hold legal status to live in Jordan. Mustafa al-Kharouf is now back in arbitrary detention in Israel.

Mustafa al-Kharouf has been arbitrarily detained at Givon prison since January 22, 2019, pending his deportation. His arrest came after the Israeli Ministry of Interior Affairs denied his request for family unification and ordered his immediate deportation to Jordan. Amnesty International fears that Mustafa al-Kharouf's arbitrary detention is intended to stop him from carrying out his journalistic work.

I urge you to immediately release Mustafa al-Kharouf from Givon prison, and, in line with Israel's obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, ensure that he can remain safely in his home by granting him permanent residency status in East Jerusalem. Families belong together.

Yours sincerely,

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Aryeh Makhoul Deri
Minister of Interior
Affairs
2 Kaplan Street
PO Box 6158
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem, 91061, Israel

DEMAND ACTION NOW: RELEASE MUSTAFA AL-KHAROUF – EAST JERUSALEM

DEAR MINISTER ARYEH DERI,

During the night of July 21-22, 2019, the Israeli immigration authorities, which report to your office, took Mustafa al-Kharouf from Givon prison in Ramle and attempted to forcibly deport him to Jordan. Deportation of protected persons from occupied territory is prohibited by Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and constitutes a war crime.

Jordanian authorities refused his deportation that night as he does not hold legal status to live in Jordan - twice - at two separate crossing points. Mustafa al-Kharouf is now back in arbitrary detention in Israel.

Mustafa al-Kharouf has been arbitrarily detained at Givon prison since January 22, 2019, pending his deportation. His arrest came after the Israeli Ministry of Interior Affairs denied his request for family unification and ordered his immediate deportation to Jordan. Amnesty International fears that Mustafa al-Kharouf's arbitrary detention is intended to stop him from carrying out his journalistic work.

We the undersigned, CALL ON YOU TO:

IMMEDIATELY release Mustafa al-Kharouf from Givon prison, and, in line with Israel's obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, ensure that he can remain safely in his home by granting him permanent residency status in East Jerusalem. Families belong together.

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DEMAND ACTION NOW: RELEASE MUSTAFA AL-KHAROUF – EAST JERUSALEM

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Journalists

MEXICO - 10 MURDERED IN 2019

SEVERAL IN DIRECT RELATION TO THEIR WORK



Mexico: Who will speak out?

Death is an occupational hazard for journalists in Mexico, where more than 150 have been killed or disappeared since 2000. The intimidation of journalists and human rights defenders is all too common in Mexico. It is no exaggeration to say that death is an occupational hazard for journalists in Mexico. In 2019 the killing of journalists continues unabated; ten journalists have been killed to date, including Edgar Alberto Nava López and Jorge Celestino Ruiz Vázquez, both journalists from the states of Guerrero and Veracruz respectively, both killed less than 24 hours apart on August 2nd.

Mexico's government has launched initiatives in recent years to respond to these alarming trends. In 2006, it created a special prosecutor's office for Crimes against Freedom of Expression (Fiscalía Especial para la Atención de Delitos Cometidos Contra la Libertad de Expresión-FEADLE). In 2012, the Federal Protection Mechanism for Journalists and Human Rights Defenders was set up, with the intention of delivering swift and effective responses to threats against these groups. But none of the initiatives have been effective. Of the 1,149 investigations initiated since 2010, only 10 or less than 1% has led to a conviction of the perpetrators.

According to a report "Protocol of Impunity in Crimes against Journalists" published in February 2019 by Article 19, a non-governmental Mexican organization, Mexican journalists face physical aggressions, arbitrary detentions, harassment and threats, even the fabrication of crime and criminal proceedings, torture, disappearance and murder. "Impunity is the constant, impunity is the rule," declared Leopoldo Maldonado, Regional Deputy Director of the organization defending journalists and activists.

Journalists working in Mexico deserve better. In spite of living in a persistent climate of intimidation, threats, and attacks they continue their work with determination and courage. They should not have to face these threats alone. First, the federal protection mechanism must be fully operational, so that it can ensure the safety of journalists. Second, all attacks against journalists must be fully investigated with those responsible brought to justice. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador himself must convey the message that journalists are legitimate and vital actors in a democratic society. If the President wants to keep democracy alive, he must lead the way.

Amnesty International (AI) calls on the Mexican government to ensure that the federal protection mechanism is fully operational so that it protect threatened journalists. AI calls on federal and state authorities to promptly and impartially investigate the murder of journalists and bring those responsible to justice. AI reminds the authorities of their obligation to ensure that those who practice journalism can carry out their work without fear of reprisals.

More Information:

[3 journalists killed first week of August](#) (Committee to Protect Journalists)

[Reporters without Borders - Mexico](#) (Reporters without Borders)

[Committee to Protect Journalist - Mexico](#) (Committee to Protect Journalists)

[In Mexico Freedom of the Press only Exists because of the efforts of my Colleagues](#) (Amnesty International)



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

Dear Andrés Manuel López Obrador:

Mexico continues to be one of the most dangerous countries for journalists. According to Mexico's National Commission of Human Rights Committee between 2000 and 2019 151 journalists have been killed and at least 25 have disappeared. In 2019 the killing of journalists continues unabated, ten journalists have been killed to date, including Edgar Alberto Nava López and Jorge Celestino Ruiz Vázquez, both journalists from the states of Guerrero and Veracruz respectively, both killed less than 24 hours apart on August 2nd.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has denounced the murder of journalists and media workers in 2019 including Francisco Romero Díaz, Norma Sarabia Garduza, and Rafael Murúa Manríquez. CPJ indicates that evidence has confirmed that these three journalists were killed in direct relation to their work as journalists. No other countries have seen more journalists killed this year. Further, Reporters Without Borders ranks Mexico 144th in the World Press Freedom Index. When journalists in Mexico are threatened they are forced to hide, exile or move with their families after publishing a note, a report, or an investigation. The impact of widespread governmental corruption, pervasive organized crime, and the culture of impunity is 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."

We 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.

Sincerely,

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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

DEMAND ACTION NOW: JOURNALISTS – MEXICO

DEAR ANDRÉS MANUEL LÓPEZ OBRADOR,

Mexico continues to be one of the most dangerous countries for journalists. According to Mexico's National Commission of Human Rights Committee, between 2000 and 2019, 151 journalists have been killed and at least 25 have disappeared. In 2019 the killing of journalists continues unabated. Ten journalists have been killed to date, including Edgar Alberto Nava López and Jorge Celestino Ruiz Vázquez, journalists from the states of Guerrero and Veracruz respectively. Both were killed less than 24 hours apart on August 2nd.

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DEMAND ACTION NOW: JOURNALISTS – MEXICO

[illegible]

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Maria Ressa

PHILIPPINES - EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF ONLINE NEWS AGENCY - REPEATEDLY DETAINED & FACING YEARS IN PRISON



Maria Ressa, press freedom advocate, human rights defender, and executive editor of the online news outlet *Rappler*, was formally charged on May 14, 2019 with one count of cyber libel. Arrested on February 13, 2019 she was released on bail after spending a night in jail. A month later, on March 29, 2019, she was again arrested for allegedly violating the Philippines' Anti-Dummy Law, which limits mass media ownership to Filipinos and Filipino-owned corporations. Ressa is also facing four counts of alleged tax-related violations as well. *Rappler* has been a consistent critic of President Rodrigo Duterte and his administration, and Ressa's arrest and prosecution appear to be part of a broader campaign to silence critics of the government.

Since President Rodrigo Duterte was elected in 2016, media outlet *Rappler* has consistently drawn attention to the deadly reality of the 'war on drugs,' and the thousands of unlawful killings of poor and marginalized people perpetrated in its name. Its persistence in documenting these abuses has attracted the wrath of the Philippine authorities. On July 24, 2017, in his annual State of the Nation Address, Duterte claimed *Rappler* was owned by foreigners, implying that the media outlet was violating the Constitution, and in succeeding weeks, he repeated that claim. In January 2018, the Philippines Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) temporarily revoked *Rappler's* registration, finding that it had

violated foreign ownership rules. In February 2018, a Duterte spokesman said that Duterte himself had ordered presidential security staff to bar *Rappler* editor Maria Ressa from entering the presidential palace.

More Info: [Urgent Action April 1, 2019](#)

[Take Action Online](#) via Amnesty International Australia



Secretary of Justice Menardo I. Guevarra
DOJ Building, Padre Faura Street
Ermita, Manila, 1000, Philippines

Dear Secretary Guevarra,

I am writing to express my dismay at the continuing persecution of Maria Ressa, executive editor of news outlet Rappler, over allegations of cyber libel as well as violations of the Philippine's Anti-Dummy Law. She was arrested twice in February and March, on what appear to be politically-motivated charges. Tax-related charges were also brought against Maria Ressa and her company, Rappler Holdings Corp., in December 2018. All these charges remain pending in court.

Rappler has consistently drawn attention to the deadly reality of the 'war on drugs,' and the thousands of unlawful killings of poor and marginalized people perpetrated in its name. Its persistence in documenting these abuses has attracted the wrath of the Philippine authorities. Maria Ressa currently faces eight active court cases initiated since January 2018, after the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission tried to shut Rappler down. Rappler, its directors, and staff are facing 11 active court cases in total.

I urge your office to act swiftly to uphold and protect the freedom of the press. Specifically, I urge you to drop the above charges against Maria Ressa and Rappler, which appear to be solely motivated by political interests; end the harassment of the media, journalists, and critics of the Duterte administration, and take measures to guarantee their right to freedom of expression and assembly. Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Secretary of Justice Menardo I.
Guevarra
DOJ Building, Padre Faura Street
Ermita, Manila, 1000,
Philippines

DEMAND ACTION NOW: DROP THE CHARGES AGAINST MARIA RESSA – PHILIPPINES

DEAR SECRETARY GUEVARRA,

We are writing to express our dismay at the continuing persecution of Maria Ressa, executive editor of news outlet Rappler, over allegations of cyber libel as well as violations of the Philippine's Anti-Dummy Law. She was arrested twice in February and March, on what appear to be politically-motivated charges. Tax-related charges were also brought against Maria Ressa and her company, Rappler Holdings Corp., in December 2018. All these charges remain pending in court.

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DEMAND ACTION NOW: DROP THE CHARGES AGAINST MARIA RESSA – PHILIPPINES

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Loujain Al-Hathloul

SAUDI ARABIA - DETAINED SINCE MAY 2018



Loujain al-Hathloul is one of the most prominent and outspoken women human rights defenders in Saudi Arabia; much of her activism is conducted via commentary on social media. She is well-known for her campaigning against the driving ban, including posting videos of herself driving as part of a 2013 campaign, and the campaign to end the male guardianship system. In 2014, she was detained for 73 days after she attempted to drive into Saudi Arabia from the United Arab Emirates. According to a December 2014 *Guardian* article, al-Hathloul drew the attention of the Saudi government after “posting a video of herself driving home from Riyadh airport”. al-Hathloul also “made waves” on Saudi social networks several months before that by “posting a video of herself with her face and hair uncovered, in defiance of her country’s ultra-conservatives”.

Loujain al-Hathloul went on to stand for election in Saudi Arabia in November 2015 – the first time women were allowed to both vote and stand in elections in the state. However, despite finally being recognized as a candidate, her name was never added to the ballot.

Saudi officials detained Loujain al-Hathloul on May 15, 2018. For the first 10 months of her detention she was held without charges or trial. Loujain was detained along with 11 other women rights activists since May 2018. She was held incommunicado with no access to her family or lawyer during the first three months of her detention. During that time, Loujain was beaten, waterboarded, given electric shocks, sexually harassed, and threatened with rape and murder. On her first trial session on March 13, 2019, she was charged with promoting women’s rights; calling for the end of the male guardianship system; contacting international organizations, foreign media, and other activists, including contact with Amnesty International. Her last court appearance was April 3, 2019. She remains in prison pending the next court session. Diplomats and journalists have been consistently banned from attending the court sessions.

More Info & Writing Available: [PEN America](#) | [Edinburgh International Book Festival](#) | [Related AI Info & GIF](#)



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

Your Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud,

Loujain al-Hathloul is one of 11 Saudi Arabian women human rights defenders who have been arbitrarily detained since May 2018 following a sweeping wave of arrests. Many of the women activists brought to trial have campaigned against the long-standing ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia, and for the end of the male guardianship system. On March 13, 2019, several of the women activists were charged with contacting international organizations, including Amnesty International, journalists and other activists.

Up until the first trial session on March 13th, the women activists remained in detention without charge. They were detained incommunicado with no access to their families or lawyers during the first three months of their detention. Several women were subjected to sexual violence and other forms of torture and ill-treatment. Following international outcry, at least seven activists have been released, which we welcome.

I urge you now to drop all charges against the 11 activists, and to release immediately and unconditionally all those who are still detained, as they are **prisoners of conscience**, solely detained for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression, assembly, and association. I also urge you to allow all those detained to access their lawyers, and to allow independent monitors into the prisons to investigate allegations of torture and other ill-treatment including sexual abuse.

Sincerely,

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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

DEMAND ACTION NOW: DROP CHARGES AGAINST SAUDI ARABIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS – SAUDI ARABIA

YOUR MAJESTY KING SALMAN BIN ABDUL AZIZ AL SAUD,

Loujain al-Hathloul is one of 11 Saudi Arabian women human rights defenders who have been arbitrarily detained since May 2018 following a sweeping wave of arrests. Many of the women activists brought to trial have campaigned against the long-standing ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia, and for the end of the male guardianship system. On March 13, 2019, several of the women activists were charged with contacting international organizations, including Amnesty International, journalists and other activists.

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DEMAND ACTION NOW: DROP CHARGES AGAINST SAUDI ARABIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS – SAUDI ARABIA

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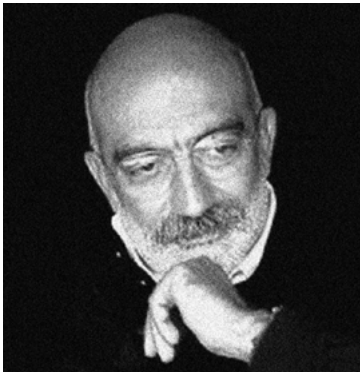
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Ahmet Altan

NOVELIST & JOURNALIST

DETAINED SINCE 2016 & FACING UP TO 15 YEARS - TURKEY



Journalist, editor, and novelist Ahmet Altan was swept up in the wave of arrests that followed the failed coup attempt in July 2016. Altan was the founding editor in chief of the newspaper *Taraf* from 2007 to 2012. He was arrested along with his brother, academic Mehmet Altan, on September 10, 2016. The two were accused of sending subliminal messages to the coup plotters during an appearance on a television show the day before the coup attempt. The host of the show, Nazlı Ilıcak, was also arrested. Altan and Ilıcak were just two of the at least 120 journalists arrested and held in pre-trial detention in the months following the coup attempt. During the course of the crackdown, at least 178 media outlets were closed, which put at least 2,500 journalists and other employees out of a job. The press credentials of at least 778 journalists were also revoked, essentially depriving them of the protections normally afforded to members of the media. In the last three years, more than [300,000 books](#) have been removed from schools and libraries in Turkey and destroyed.

[On February 16, 2018](#) Ahmet Altan, Mehmet Altan, and Nazlı Ilıcak and three others were given aggravated life sentences after being found guilty of the crime of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order.”

[Mehmet Altan](#) was released on June 27, 2018, after a regional court backed two previous rulings by the Constitutional Court, which found that Altan’s rights had been violated. However, the charges against him were not dropped.

On October 2, 2018 the conviction of the Altan brothers and Nazlı Ilıcak was upheld by an Istanbul Regional Court.

On March 19, 2018, Ahmet Altan, still imprisoned, was convicted of insulting Turkey’s president in an article he wrote in 2016. He was given a 7000 Lira fine.

On July 5, 2019, the life sentences given to the Altan brothers and Nazlı Ilıcak were overturned by the Supreme Court of Appeals. Mehmet was acquitted. However, Ahmet Altan and Nazlı Ilıcak remain in prison. The court ruled that they were aware of the coup plot and members of the Gulen Movement, which the Turkish government claims masterminded the coup.

Ahmet Altan’s latest novel, published in March 2019, is inspired by his time in prison. Titled *I Will Never See the World Again*, the book was written by Altan in Turkish, but will be published only in English and German due to current restrictive atmosphere in Turkey.

Resources:

Amnesty International: [Journalism is Not Crime: Crackdown on Media Freedom in Turkey](#) (May 2017)

Amnesty International: [Weathering the Storm Defending Human Rights in Climate of Fear](#)

[Cartoonist Campaign](#) (Amnesty International)

[PEN America background and timeline of the case](#)

Publications: [Endgame, Like a Sword & I Will Never See the World Again](#) (books); [I Will Never See the World Again](#) (NY Times); [Select online writings](#) (PEN America); Review of [I Will Never See the World Again](#)



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

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 individuals for engaging in journalistic work.

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 welcome the news that the life sentence was recently overturned by the Supreme Court of Appeals 16th penal chamber. However, we understand that all charges against Altan have not been dropped, he remains detained, and that he still faces charges which carry a penalty of up to 15 years in prison.

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 Altan 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.

Signed,

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Minister of Justice
Mr. Abdülhamit Gül
Adalet Bakanlığı
06659 Ankara, Turkey

DEMAND ACTION NOW: AHMET ALTAN – TURKEY

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DEMAND ACTION NOW: AHMET ALTAN – TURKEY

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Nguyen Van Hoa

VIETNAM - ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTER / CATHOLIC ADVOCATE & VLOGGER

SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS - TORTURED TO CONFESS



Photo From: <https://www.rfa.org> (Radio Free Asia)

Nguyen Van Hoa is a young Catholic vlogger from Ha Tinh province who assisted fishermen's families in demanding compensation and justice for the [Formosa environmental disaster](#) of industrial waste dumped into the sea (2016). [A digital security trainer and regular contributor to Radio Free Asia, Hoa's live broadcast of footage of peaceful protests](#) went viral.

Hoa is serving a seven-year sentence handed down in a one-day trial on November 2017 on charges under article 88 of the penal code, an anti-state provision that carries a maximum 20-year prison term for "propagandizing" against the state, according to [news reports](#) and [Committee to Protect Journalists \(CPJ\) research](#). He was beaten into making a forced confession to convict environmental activist Le Dinh Luong, which Hoa retracted later in court, according to [news reports](#). During his time at An Diem prison, the authorities never succeeded in forcing Nguyen Van Hoa to admit the charges against him.

In August 20, 2018, the CPJ condemned the abuse and called on Vietnamese authorities to stop beating and harassing jailed journalists. "Vietnamese authorities must stop immediately their harassment and abuse of reporter Nguyen Van Hoa," said Shawn Crispin, CPJ's Southeast Asia representative. "Instead of beating jailed journalists into making false confessions, Vietnamese authorities should free all journalists behind bars, reform the laws that put them there, and hold to account those who abused their power to commit this assault."

Hoa is being held in solitary confinement as punishment for his complaints regarding prison conditions and treatment.

More information: [Urgent Action May 2019](#) | [Committee to Protect Journalists](#) | [NYTimes \(2017\)](#)



Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc
Số 16, Lê Hồng Phong,
Bà Đình, Hà Nội, Viet Nam
Email: ttll.mfa@mofa.gov.vn

His Excellency Prime Minister,

I am writing to express my concern about the treatment of Nguyen Van Hoa, a journalist and human rights defender who has been imprisoned solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression. Currently held in An Diem Prison, Nguyen Van Hoa has been tortured by prison officials in an attempt to force him to admit his “crime”. After refusing to cooperate, he was placed in solitary confinement on 12 May and has remained there ever since.

Nguyen Van Hoa was arrested in January 2017 after covering a public demonstration on the Formosa environmental disaster. He was convicted and sentenced to seven years in prison on the charge of “conducting propaganda against the state”.

Viet Nam is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention Against Torture. The Constitution of Viet Nam also explicitly bans the use of torture and other ill-treatment. As a result, the Vietnamese government is obligated to end the use of torture by its law enforcement officials, as well as to promptly and effectively investigate allegations of torture and bring to justice anyone suspected to be responsible.

Specifically, I urge you to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Nguyen Van Hoa who is a prisoner of conscience as he has been imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression, and
- Pending his release, ensure Nguyen Van Hoa is protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in prison and that there is a prompt and impartial investigation into allegations of torture

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Prime Minister Nguyen
Xuan Phuc
Số. 16, Lê Hồng Phong,
Bà Đình, Hà Nội, Việt
Nam
Email:
ttll.mfa@mofa.gov.vn

DEMAND ACTION NOW: NGUYEN VAN HAO – VIETNAM

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	CITY, ST.	EMAIL (to receive more information from AIUSA)

Mail completed petitions back to AIUSA where they can be added to other petitions before being sent to the target. Petitions can be mailed to: Group Petitions, Amnesty International USA, 5 Penn Plaza, 16th Fl., New York NY 10001

DEMAND ACTION NOW: NGUYEN VAN HAO – VIETNAM

[illegible]

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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



ADDENDA

[American Library Association Banned Books Week Press Kit](#)

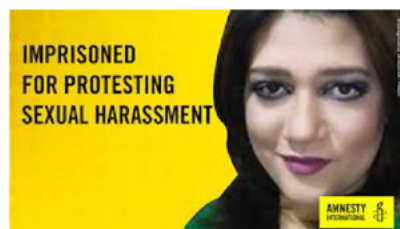
[American Library Association Banned Books Week](#)

[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>



- Other AI Images



Be sure to check out “BUYING BOOKS, AMPLIFYING VOICES: For librarians & booksellers” to review an array of books by or about authors and others imprisoned, harassed, or murdered because of their publications.

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Banned Books Week

Each year during Banned Books Week the American Library Association (ALA) calls attention to books that have been challenged in US Libraries. At the same time Amnesty International activists draw attention to 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.



Defend Free Speech

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.

- Article 19
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**5 PENN PLAZA | 16TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10001-1810
T 1-800-AMNESTY
(1-800-266-3789)**

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2019 Amnesty International Banned Books Cases

Akram Aylisli – *Azerbaijan* – Novelist –
Persecuted because of Book –
Facing 3 Years in Prison – Books Burned

Wei Zhili – *China* – Reporter working on
Labor & Migrant Worker Rights –
Detained since March 2017

Hankezi Zikeli – *China* – aunt of US-Based
Uyghur Journalist Gulchehra Hoja –
At Risk of Torture

**Sanaz Alahyari and Amirhossein
Mohammadifar** – *Iran* – Journalists
Detained – Facing Charges

Mustafa al-Kharouf – *Israel/Occupied
Territories* – Photojournalist – Stateless –
Arbitrarily Detained – Facing Deportation

Journalists – *Mexico* – 10 Murdered in 2019 –
Several in direct relation to their work

Maria Ressa – *Philippines* – Executive Editor
of Online News Agency – Repeatedly Detained
& Facing Years in Prison

Oleg Sentsov – *Russia* – Filmmaker &
Essayist – Sentenced to 20 Years

Loujain Al-Hathloul – *Saudi Arabia* –
Social Media Commentator –
Detained Since May 2018

Ahmet Altan – *Turkey* –
Novelist & Journalist – Detained since 2016 &
Facing up to 15 Years

Nguyen Van Hoa – *Vietnam* –
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