AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

DEMAND ACTION NOW: RELEASE LUIS MANUEL OTERO ALCÁNTARA AND MAYKEL CASTILLO PÉREZ

Dear President,

We are writing to express our deepest concern regarding the sentencing of Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara and Maykel Castillo Pérez to five and nine years respectively in prison on June 24, 2022.

Both Luis Manuel and Maykel are artists who have used art as a means of expressing their views on the social, political, and economic conditions in Cuba. The judicial system should not be used to criminalize their critical voices, including through charges of alleged crimes that are incompatible with international law.

The trials of Luis Manuel and Maykel, which should never have taken place in the first place, were conducted behind closed doors and under heavy police control, according to reports from activists. Amnesty International also received information from activists and journalists, denouncing the presence of security agents in the vicinity of their homes, to prevent them from going outside the court where the trials were held.

We call on you to immediately and unconditionally release prisoners of conscience Luis Manuel and Maykel and drop all the charges against them as they have been detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

DEMAND ACTION NOW: IMMEDIATELY RELEASE ALAA ABDEL FATTAH

Dear President,

We are writing to condemn the continued arbitrary detention of British-Egyptian writer and activist Alaa Abdel Fattah solely for exercising his human rights.

Alaa Abdel Fattah has spent eight of the last 10 years wrongfully detained. Most recently, he was sentenced to five years in prison over his social media post. It was a trial that lacked even the most basic markers of justice, and took place before an Emergency State Security Court that fails to meet international standards for fair trials; its sentences cannot be appealed and are only subject to authorization by the president. After enduring two and a half years with no access to books and other reading material, a radio, natural light, or exercise, Alaa Abdel Fattah began an open-ended hunger strike in protest at these cruel and inhuman conditions and the prison authorities' refusal to grant him consular access to the British government. Between July 17 and July 31, his family and lawyers have had no news about him, raising the alarm about his health and wellbeing.

His arrest, detention and torture and other ill-treatment are part of a years-long crackdown that has seen tens of thousands of Egyptians arbitrarily detained in cruel and inhuman conditions, including journalists, human rights defenders, scholars, and artists.

We urge you to release Alaa Abdel Fattah immediately and unconditionally, quash his convictions, and drop all charges against him. Pending his release, we also urge you to ensure that he is held in conditions meeting international standards, provided with adequate healthcare, protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and allowed to regularly communicate with his family, lawyer, and have consular visits.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

DEMAND ACTION NOW: FREE LGBTI ACTIVIST ZAHRA SEDIGHI-HAMADANI (SAREH)

Dear Head of the Judiciary,

Gender nonconforming Iranian human rights defender Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani, known as Sareh, is arbitrarily detained in the central prison in Urumieh solely in connection with her real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity as well as her social media posts and statements in defense of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people. After her arrest in October 2021 she was held in prolonged solitary confinement and subjected to interrogations, verbal abuse and threats, including about her identity and appearance and threats to execute or otherwise harm her and take away the custody of her two young children. These acts violate the absolute prohibition on torture and other ill-treatment.

On January 16, 2022, Zahra was brought before the lead investigator of Branch 6 of the Office of the Revolutionary and Public Prosecutor in Urumieh who informed her that she is accused of "spreading corruption on earth" including through "promoting homosexuality," "communication with anti- Islamic Republic media channels" and "promoting Christianity." The first two accusations stem from her public defense of LGBTI rights, including on her social media platforms, and in an appearance in a BBC documentary that aired in May 2021 about the abuses that LGBTI people suffer in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. According to information obtained by Amnesty International, the latter accusation is for wearing a cross necklace and attending a house church in Iran several years ago. Her case has since been referred to the head of the Office of the Revolutionary and Public Prosecutor in Urumieh to issue a formal indictment.

We urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani as she is detained solely based on discriminatory reasons related to her real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and for the peaceful exercise of her human rights including rights to privacy and freedom of expression and association. Pending her release, ensure that she is given regular access to a lawyer of her choosing and family and that the allegations involving her subjection to enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment are investigated and those responsible are held to account in fair trials.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

DEMAND ACTION NOW: DROP ALL CHARGES AGAINST JEANNOT RANDRIAMANANA

Dear Minister,

We are writing to bring to your attention the case of Jeannot Randriamanana, a human rights defender and public-school teacher in Madagascar's central-eastern coastal city of Mananjary. On July 12, 2022, the Court of Appeal of Fianarantsoa upheld the sentence of the Criminal Court of Mananjary that convicted Jeannot Randriamanana and handed him a two-year suspended sentence. On March 17, 2022, the Criminal Court of Mananjary sentenced Jeannot to two years of imprisonment for "defamation and humiliation of members of Parliament and public servants" (under article 20 of the 2014 Law 2014-006) and identity fraud (article 258 of the Penal Code). Jeannot was convicted simply for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression when he in late February denounced on social media the alleged mismanagement and embezzlement of humanitarian aid by several authority figures in the district of Nosy Varika, following the impact of cyclones Batsirai and Emnati.

On May 10, the Court of Appeal of Fianarantsoa granted provisional release to Jeannot — who had been in arbitrary detention for two months. The Court then held the hearing on June 14 and issued the verdict on July 12 that upheld the current sentencing. Jeannot's lawyers filed an appeal against the sentence before the Supreme Court of Madagascar that has yet to set a date for the appeal.

We urge you to immediately drop all the charges against Jeannot Randriamanana and ensure that the verdict is quashed. We also urge you to ensure that other Malagasy human rights defenders and whistleblowers are not harassed, intimidated, or detained under trumped-up charges for exposing and denouncing cases of corruption. Finally, we also urge you to accelerate the process of adopting the law on the protection of human rights defenders.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

DEMAND ACTION NOW: PROTECT JANNA FROM DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

Dear Member of Knesset,

Janna Jihad just wants a normal childhood. But the 15-year-old lives in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where systematic discrimination and oppression are the norm. Having seen her own uncle killed by the Israeli military, Janna has been thrust into the world of citizen journalism, documenting and exposing the Israeli army's oppressive and often deadly treatment of Palestinians, including children. Israel has signed up to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, yet doesn't extend those protections to Palestinian children in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Today, Janna's principled journalism has marked her out for harassment and death threats. I call on you to end discrimination against Janna, and to meet your obligations under the Convention by protecting her and other Palestinian children from harm.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

DEMAND ACTION NOW: IMMEDIATELY RELEASE JOURNALIST VLADYSLAV YESYPENKO

Dear Prosecutor General,

We are writing to express our deepest concern regarding the sentencing of journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko to 6 years in prison and a fine of 110,000 RUB on February 16, 2022.

Vladyslav Yesypenko is a freelance journalist working for Krym Realii, a Crimean branch of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). On March 10, 2021, Vladyslav was arrested by the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB), while he was driving on assignment near the Angarsky mountain pass, on allegations of spying and carrying ammunition.

Vladyslav claims that the FSB officers planted a grenade on him and subsequently charged him with "illegal arms manufacturing" and "illegal arms possession" (Articles 223-1 and 222 of the Russian Criminal Code). Vladyslav didn't have access to a lawyer of his choice for 27 days.

During this period, Yesypenko's forced confession was televised on the Russian state-owned TV channel "Krym 24". At the court hearings, Yesypenko said that he was beaten and electrocuted by FSB officers to extract this forced confession from him.

Vladislav Yesypenko's sentence should be overturned and he should be released immediately. All allegations of torture must be investigated and those responsible be held accountable in fair trial proceedings.

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