

Banned Books Week Activism Toolkit

September 18 - 24, 2022

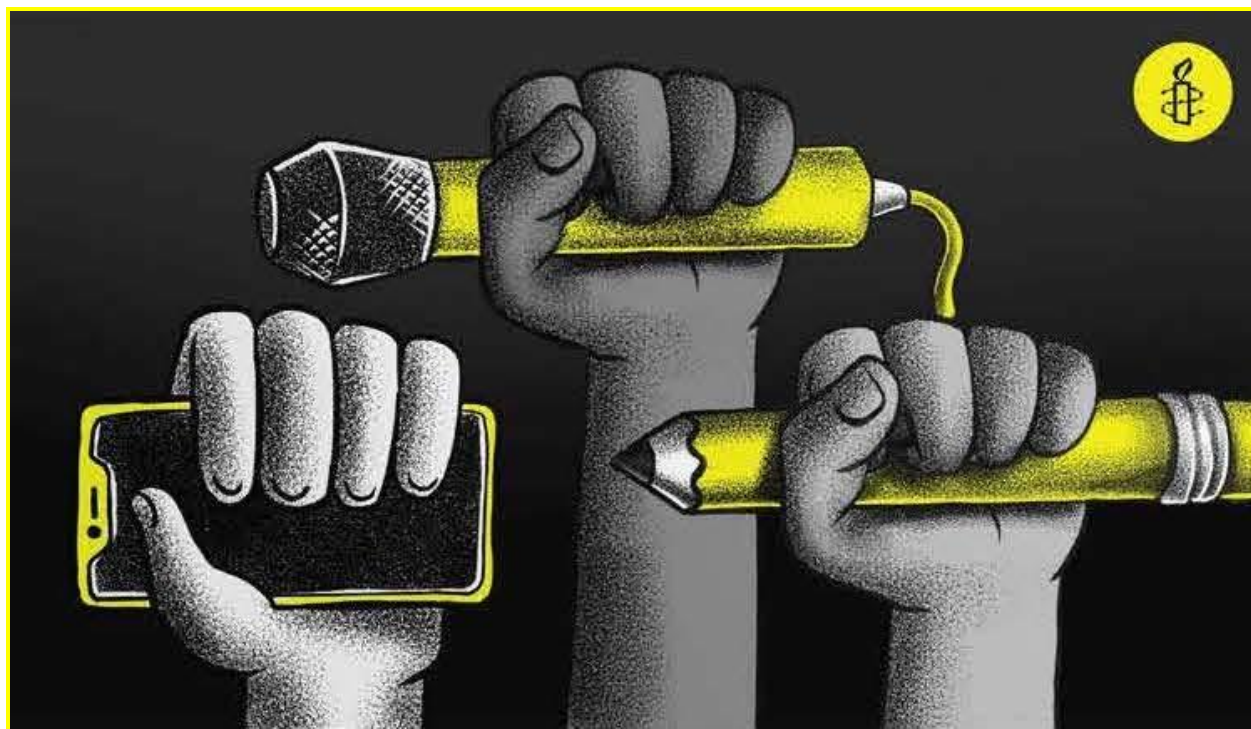


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INTRODUCTION: BANNED BOOKS WEEK AT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA

Amnesty International is a global movement of millions of people demanding human rights for all people – no matter who they are or where they are. We are the world's largest grassroots human rights organization. We work to protect people whenever justice, freedom, truth, and dignity are denied.

All people have fundamental human rights as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – but these rights are abused every single day. Around the world, Amnesty International researches the facts, exposes what's happening, and rallies people together to force governments and others to respect everyone's human rights.

Each year during Banned Books Week, Amnesty International draws attention to people around the world who have been imprisoned, threatened, or murdered because of their writing, art, or other published work. As a member of the Banned Books Week Coalition and in solidarity with the American Library Association (ALA) and organizations around the world, Amnesty activists work to fight challenges to freedom of expression. All of Amnesty International USA's Banned Books Week 2022 resources can be found here: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022/>

During Banned Books Week 2022, Amnesty International USA is spotlighting six cases of people whose human rights are under attack because of their work. The human rights of authors, journalists, bloggers, filmmakers, poets, novelists, photojournalists, publishers, musicians and more continue to be violated globally, and your help is needed to demand justice!

This toolkit will provide you with information on this year's cases as well as ways that you can take action with us. Take a look at the opportunities listed in the toolkit and consider how you can get involved in your community. If you need support taking action for Banned Books Week with Amnesty International USA, email communitynetworks@aiusa.org!

MEET THE 2022 BANNED BOOKS WEEK CASES

On the following pages you'll find case sheets containing background information and links to online actions for each of the six human rights cases Amnesty International USA is highlighting for Banned Books Week 2022. Banned Books Week 2022 is September 18-24 but you can take action on these cases with Amnesty International USA through October 31. You can print these case sheets and use them during activism events in your community!



On July 11, 2021, thousands of people took to the streets in Cuba to demonstrate peacefully, exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly. In response, authorities detained and criminalized hundreds for participating in the nation-wide protest.

Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara (pictured above) is an artist and member of the San Isidro Movement. The San Isidro Movement was formed by artists, journalists, and academics in response to Decree 349, a law seeking to silence critical artists. On July 11, 2021, Luis was detained by state agents shortly after posting a video declaring his intention to join the protests. Maykel Castillo Pérez, commonly known by his artistic name "Maykel Osorbo," is a musician, member of the San Isidro Movement, and co-author of the song "Patria y Vida", a protest anthem criticizing the Cuban government. On May 18, 2021, security agents detained the musician at his home and then refused to provide information on his whereabouts for 10 days.

On August 19, 2021, Amnesty International named Luis and Maykel prisoners of conscience, along with other Cubans detained in the context of the protests of July 11, 2021 and are calling for all charges to be dropped and that they be immediately and unconditionally released.

***Email the Cuban government and demand the release of
Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara and Maykel Castillo Pérez!***

Scan the QR Code
Or Use This Link:

<https://bit.ly/BBWLuisandMaykel>



Learn More: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022



One of the most important voices for freedom in Egypt, Alaa Abdel Fattah is author of “You Have Not Yet Been Defeated,” a collection of his political essays published during his current detention. He has continued his work despite ongoing efforts by the government of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to silence him.

Alaa Abdel Fattah is a symbol of resistance and freedom in Egypt, and his continued imprisonment sends a chilling message to other activists.

He is currently serving a five year sentence after being convicted of spurious charges of spreading “false news” over his social media posts. He has been on a hunger strike since April 2, 2022 protesting his detention and prison conditions, as well as the refusal of the authorities to grant his consular visit as he obtained British citizenship in 2021 through his British-born mother.

***Email the Egyptian government and demand
the immediate release of Alaa Abdel Fattah!***

Scan the QR Code
Or Use This Link:

<https://bit.ly/BBWAlaa>



Learn More: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022



Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani, known as Sareh, has been arbitrarily detained in Urumieh, West Azerbaijan province, since her arrest on October 27, 2021 due to her real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity as well as her social media posts, statements in defense of LGBTI rights, and her appearance in a BBC documentary that aired in May 2021 about the abuses that LGBTI people suffer in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Authorities have ill-treated her and threatened to convict her of “spreading corruption on earth”, which carries the death penalty.

In January 2022 she 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.”

After her arrest she was held in solitary confinement in a detention center in Urumieh. During this period, she says a Revolutionary Guard agent subjected her to intense interrogations accompanied by verbal abuse and insults directed at her identity and appearance and threatened 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.

***Email the Iranian government and demand
freedom for Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani!***

Scan the QR Code
Or Use This Link:

<https://bit.ly/BBWZahra>



SCAN ME



Learn More: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022



Jeannot Randriamanana is a 38-year-old secondary school teacher living and working in Mananjary, Madagascar. He is a father of four children. In addition to his work as a public school teacher, he also works as a communication officer for the local branch of the NGO, Independent Observatory of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Madagascar (OIDESCM).

He has been posting on his social media about the poor state of school infrastructure in the district of Nosy Varika since December 2021 and has since been targeted for harassment and intimidation for denouncing cases of corruption on his social media account. On May 10, 2022 Jeannot, who had been arbitrarily detained for two months, was granted provisional release.

But on July 12, 2022, the Court of Appeal of Fianarantsoa upheld his conviction and two-year suspended sentence on the charges of “defamation and humiliation of members of Parliament and public servants and identity fraud.”

***Email the Madagascar government
and demand all charges are dropped
against Jeannot Randriamanana!***

Scan the QR Code
Or Use This Link:

<https://bit.ly/BBWJeannot>





Janna Jihad just wants a normal childhood. “Like any other child... I want to be able to play soccer with my friends without having tear gas canisters rain on us,” she says. But 15-year-old Janna lives in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Life under systematic discrimination is anything but normal. When Janna was seven, the Israeli military killed her uncle. At 13, Janna was recognized as one of the youngest journalists in the world, documenting the Israeli army’s oppressive and often deadly treatment of Palestinians.

This includes night raids, demolishing homes and schools, and crushing communities who stand up for their rights. Palestinian children are particularly affected. Many have been killed and injured by Israeli forces. Israel has signed up to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, yet has failed to extend those protections to Palestinian children in the West Bank. By contrast, Israeli children are protected – even those living in illegal settlements near Janna. Today, Janna’s principled journalism has marked her out for harassment and death threats. She won’t give up. “I want to know what freedom means in my homeland, what justice and peace and equality means without facing systematic racism,” she says.

***Email the Israeli government and demand they protect
Janna Jihad and other Palestinian children from harm!***

Scan the QR Code

Or Use This Link:

<https://bit.ly/BBWJanna>



Learn More: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022



VLADYSLAV YESYPENKO

JOURNALIST

UKRAINE/CRIMEA

**SENTENCED TO 6 YEARS IN
PRISON**

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

On March 18, Yesypenko's forced confession was televised on the Russian state-owned TV channel "Krym 24" in which he says he was shooting videos for Krym Realii and sending copies to the security services of Ukraine. He was denied access to an independent lawyer for 27 days, until a remand court hearing where Vladyslav alleged that a grenade had been planted by his captors in his car and that he had been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment to extract his "confession" on video.

Vladyslav was convicted on February 16, 2022 to 6 years in prison and fined RUB 110,000. Amnesty is calling for his immediate release.

***Email the Russian government and demand the
immediate release of Vladyslav Yesypenko!***

Scan the QR Code
Or Use This Link:

<https://bit.ly/BBWVladyslav>



SCAN ME

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Learn More: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

Are you part of an Amnesty Local or Student Group, organizing an event at your local library or bookstore, or taking action as an individual? In this section, you will find recommendations for actions and events that individuals and groups can join, organize and host.

Join Our Launch Event: Jailed for Words and Art

On September 15, 2022, Amnesty International USA will be hosting a special virtual event, Jailed for Words and Art: Uplifting Critical Voices and Fighting Censorship. You have the right to say what you think, share information and demand a better world. The event will feature the works of critical voices that governments are trying to silence. We will hear from local advocates who work to promote and protect free speech! Invite your group and libraries and booksellers in your area to join this important discussion of literature, media, and freedom of expression. [Register here!](#)

Host An Event With an Amnesty Group or Local Library, Bookstore, or School

Connect with an Amnesty group or a local library, bookstore, or school to see if they already have a virtual Banned Books Week event planned or have a display set up. Informing the public of banned books and censorship, paired with Amnesty International's emphasis on protecting the rights of writers, journalists and artists around the world, is a powerful combination!

Share a copy of this toolkit, talk with them about hosting a joint event, or ask for them to hang up one of Amnesty's Banned Books Week flyers or add Amnesty's Banned Books Week bookmarks to their displays or counters. You can also order Banned Books Week bookmarks here:

www.amnestyusa.org/order-your-banned-books-week-bookmarks

[You can find an Amnesty Group in your community here.](#) Let AIUSA know what you have planned by posting your event on the Amnesty Events Calendar: www.amnestyusa.org/take-action/events.

As you plan, we recommend you think about the following questions:

- What kind of event will be most engaging and accessible for community members?
- What accessibility needs should you consider so everyone can fully participate?
- Will community members be comfortable attending an in person event, or is a virtual event a better fit?
- Who do you hope will attend and what time of day or day of the week will work best for your community?
- Will you need to provide options for children and younger community members? You can also use Amnesty's Kid-Friendly Resources to include young local activists in the fight against censorship too!
- Are there other groups, businesses, or community members who might be good partners for this event?

Learn More: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022

- Where can you publicize this event? (Examples include local and student newspapers, community message boards, social media, host websites, etc.)
- How will you collect RSVPs? (Eventbrite has free tools!)
- What is your ideal number of attendees? Remember the rule of twos! To reach your participation goal, you want twice as many people to RSVP as you hope will attend the event and you have to reach out to twice as many people as you'd like to have RSVP.
- Email communitynetworks@aiusa.org for more support and recommendations!

Host a Banned Books Read-Aloud Event

A read aloud event is a creative way to raise awareness on the issues at the heart of Banned Books Week, and it's as easy to host in a virtual setting as it is in person. Things to think about when planning a read aloud event include:

- What banned readings or authors would resonate most with your community?
- Who could you invite to read them? (Are there any local celebrities who might feel inspired to raise awareness for freedom of expression?)
- Consider having a host or MC to open and close the event, and to help the event flow smoothly from reader to reader.
- Explore other fun, creative activities that can be woven into the event. Could community members share original writing about human rights? Could music or videos create a dynamic experience?
- Make sure to have the [Case Sheets](#) and/or [Printable Petitions](#) available for participants to take action during your event!

Set Up a Table Display in Your Community

By collecting signatures and sending decision makers petitions for each of these cases, we have a chance to make a difference in the lives of threatened and imprisoned writers and artists around the world and show them that the world is watching! Set up a table display in your local community during Banned Books Week urging members of your community to sign the [Printable Petitions](#). You can also use the [Case Sheets](#) and order bookmarks here:

www.amnestyusa.org/order-your-banned-books-week-bookmarks

MORE ACTIONS FOR LIBRARIES AND BOOKSTORES

Are you representing a library or bookstore? In this section, you will find additional recommendations for actions and events that libraries and bookstores can host and join.

Add Human Rights to Your Banned Books Display

You probably already know that a great way to raise awareness about Banned Books Week is to set

Learn More: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022

up a book display. With Amnesty International's materials, you can also inspire members of your community to take action for human rights!

Here are a few tips to add human rights to your 2022 Banned Books Week display, whether it is online or in person:

- Include books by authors whose human rights have been violated because of their writing. You can use [Amnesty International's 2021 Banned Books List](#) to find titles available in English; also on our landing page: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022
- Use the printable case sheets at the start of this toolkit to share information about cases Amnesty is featuring this year and encourage your community to take action to support these writers, journalists and artists.
- This toolkit also includes a [Printable Flyer](#) that you can add to your display or in a window so people passing by can take action too.
- You can also order professionally printed bookmarks from AIUSA here: www.amnestyusa.org/order-your-banned-books-week-bookmarks
- Post a photo of your display on social media, and be sure to tag @AmnestyUSA and use #BannedBooksWeek

Add Human Rights to Your Little Free Library

To raise awareness about Banned Books Week and inspire community members to take action for human rights, you can display the flyer in your Little Free Library window and put bookmarks in each of the books. Both have QR codes that take you to the [Banned Books Week website](#) so folks can take action!

You can print the Amnesty materials at the end of this toolkit or order bookmarks from AIUSA here: www.amnestyusa.org/order-your-banned-books-week-bookmarks

Invite other Little Free Librarians to participate with you! Share the Banned Books website with them on social media, invite your community to attend Page Not Found and encourage them to put bookmarks in their Little Free Library too!

Host an Event With an Amnesty Group

[Click here to find out if there's an AIUSA group near you](#), or email communitynetworks@aiusa.org. If there is a group in your area, you can email the group coordinator to ask if they have a Banned Books Week event planned, or if they'd like to plan one together!

SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

Are you looking for tools to mobilize your online networks to take action? In this section, you will find resources for social media and samples to help you draft your perfect post!

Download Graphics

You can post these graphics, designed by Amnesty International USA: <https://bit.ly/BBW22social>

Sample Posts

Sept 18 - Sept 24 is #BannedBooksWeek! Will you take action with @AmnestyUSA and fight for freedom of expression? Learn more: <https://bit.ly/AIUSABBW22>

Freedom of expression is threatened around the world! Join @AmnestyUSA this #BannedBooksWeek and defend writers, journalists and artists prosecuted for their work! Take Action: <https://bit.ly/AIUSABBW22>

Defend free speech with @AmnestyUSA this #BannedBooksWeek Sept 18 - Sept 24! Visit <https://bit.ly/AIUSABBW22> to take action today!

Imagine getting arrested, imprisoned or sentenced to death because of a photo you took, a story you wrote, or something you tweeted. Take action with @AmnestyUSA for #BannedBooksWeek Sept 18 - Sept 24 <https://bit.ly/AIUSABBW22>

Case Specific Sample Posts with Clickable Action Links

Jeannot Randriamanana, Madagascar: Teacher sentenced to 2 years in prison for Facebook post. [Click here](#) to take action to defend free speech #BannedBooksWeek @AmnestyUSA

Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani, Iran: LGBTI rights defender arbitrarily detained following posts on social media defending LGBTI rights and her appearance in a BBC documentary. [Click here](#) to take action to defend free speech #BannedBooksWeek @AmnestyUSA

Vladyslav Yesypenko, Ukraine/Crimea: Journalist for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty service detained, tortured, and facing 6 years in prison. [Click here](#) to take action to defend free speech #BannedBooksWeek @AmnestyUSA

Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara and Maykel Castillo Pérez, Cuba: Artist and musician detained and facing 5 and 9 years in prison for artistic performance. [Click here](#) to take action to defend free speech #BannedBooksWeek @AmnestyUSA

Learn More: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022

Alaa Abdel Fattah, Egypt: Prisoner of Conscience sentenced to 5 years on charges of “spreading false news” and “using social media to commit a publishing offense.” [Click here](#) to take action to defend free speech #BannedBooksWeek @AmnestyUSA

Janna Jihad, Israel Occupied Palestinian Territories: 16-year-old journalist, facing death threats and intimidation for her work documenting human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. [Click here](#) to take action to defend free speech #BannedBooksWeek @AmnestyUSA

PRINTABLE RESOURCES (ON FOLLOWING PAGES)



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.

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

CITY, ST

EMAIL *(to receive more information from AIUSA)*

Please 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 c/o Megan Jirón, Amnesty International USA, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20003



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

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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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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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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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Dear Member of Knesset,

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.

EMAIL (to receive more information from AIUSA)

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DEMAND ACTION NOW: PROTECT JANNA FROM DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

CITY, ST

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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.

Vladyslav 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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TAKE ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR BANNED BOOKS WEEK!

SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2022

Each year during Banned Books Week, Amnesty International draws attention to people around the world who have been imprisoned, threatened, or murdered because of their writing, art, or other published work. As a member of the Banned Books Week Coalition and in solidarity with the American Library Association (ALA) and organizations around the world, Amnesty activists work to fight challenges to freedom of expression.

TAKE ACTION NOW!



Demand the Release of Imprisoned Cuban Artists and Musicians



SCAN ME



Demand Egyptian Author's Release After More Than 1,000 Days of Unjust Imprisonment



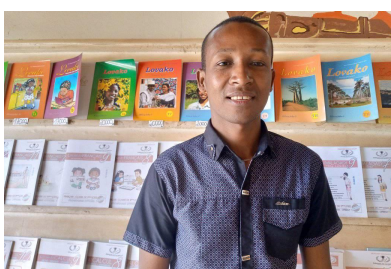
SCAN ME



Take Action to Free LGBTI Activist in Iran



SCAN ME



Demand Charges Dropped Against Madagascar Teacher Convicted for Facebook Posts



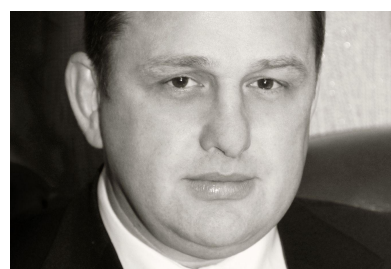
SCAN ME



Call on the Israeli Government to Protect Palestinian Children



SCAN ME



Call for the Immediate Release of Crimean Journalist



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Learn More: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022
Or Email Us: communitynetworks@aiusa.org

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL





Amnesty
International
USA presents

Jailed for Words and Art: Uplifting Critical Voices and Fighting Censorship



Thursday, September 15, 2022
8pm ET / 7pm CT / 5pm PCT
an online event

To register for the event go to: <https://bit.ly/3Bsnas5>
or scan the QR code with your smart phone



You have the right to say what you think, share information and demand a better world. Exercising these rights – without fear or unlawful interference – is central to living in an open and fair society. Yet across the globe governments have increased censorship and routinely imprison people for speaking out!

This event will feature the works of critical voices that governments are trying to silence. We will hear from local advocates who work to promote and protect free speech!

Banned Books Week was founded by the American Library Association to bring attention to the First Amendment and issues surrounding censorship. In conjunction with this week Amnesty International directs attention to individuals around the world who are persecuted because they exercised their right to freedom of expression through words, images, music, and other forms of artistic expression.

amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022/

