

President Xi Jinping 习近平
Zhongnanhai
Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu,
Beijing Shi 100017
People's Republic of China

Email: english@mail.gov.cn

Dear President Xi,

Since 2017, perhaps 1 million or more persons are estimated to have been detained by the Chinese government in Xinjiang. They have been sent to internment camps or prisons for lawful activities that most take for granted, where they have been subjected to a relentless forced indoctrination campaign, physical and psychological torture, and other forms of ill-treatment.

Many have been detained for possessing books or articles about Islam or Uyghur culture or for exercising their freedom of expression through writing, translation, and publication. For example, Ahmetjan Juma, a high school teacher, was sentenced to 14 years in prison for “having sensitive content at home,” perhaps related to his translation and publication of many books. Abdukadir Jalalidin was a professor at Xinjiang Normal University who wrote short stories and translated Uyghur books and poems. Police confiscated many of his Uyghur-language books and writings at the time of his arrest. Rahile Dawut is an ethnographer who founded the Ethnic Minorities Folklore Research Center at Xinjiang University. Her work on the folklore traditions of the Uyghur people is believed to be a reason for her detention.

Based on evidence collected by Amnesty International in the report *Like We Were Enemies in a War*, the Chinese government has committed, at the least, the crimes against humanity of mass imprisonment in violation of the rules of international law, torture, and persecution in Xinjiang.

Sincerely yours,

Ambassador of Burundi to the United States
H.E Jean de Dieu NDIKUMANA, Ph.D.
Embassy of the Republic of Burundi
2233 Wisconsin Ave. NW Washington DC 20007

Dear Ambassador,

I am concerned by the continued arbitrary detention and unfair prosecution of journalist Floriane Irangabiye.

On March 30, 2023, the Court of Appeal of Mukaza in Bujumbura, Burundi, held a hearing on the appeal against her conviction and sentencing to ten years in prison and one million Burundian francs (around USD 482).

Floriane Irangabiye's prosecution is politically motivated and a sign that the Burundian authorities intend to continue restricting the civic space, despite promises by President Evariste to improve the government's human rights record.

I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure that Floriane Irangabiye is immediately and unconditionally released. Her conviction and ongoing arbitrary detention are in violation of her rights to freedom of expression and fair trial.

Sincerely yours,

Cc: Minister of Justice
Mme Domine Banyankimbona PO Box: 1880
Bujumbura, Burundi
Email: minjustice@gmail.com

infosburundi@gmail.com

President Nayib Bukele
c/o Embassy of El Salvador
1400 16th Street NW Suite 100, Washington DC 20036

Email: contacto@presidencia.gob.sv

Dear President Bukele,

I am writing to express my concern about the human rights crisis in El Salvador.

Since the state of exception was installed in March 2022, over 60 000 people have been arbitrarily detained without access to due process. At least 150 people have died in custody. Families receive little or no information about the whereabouts and well-being of their loved ones.

Detainees, including those under the age of 18, are subjected to inhuman conditions. Prisons are overcrowded and torture and other forms of ill-treatment have been reported.

I urge you to end the state of exception and implement a truly comprehensive security policy that focuses on protecting human rights and guarantees the participation of civil society.

I urge you to ensure that security forces put an end to arbitrary detentions, that those detained without legal basis are released, and that all detainees have access to a fair trial.

Sincerely yours,

Supreme Leader ‘Ali Khamenei,
c/o the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Supreme Leader ‘Ali Khamenei,

Well-known Iranian rapper and hip-hop artist Toomaj Salehi has been convicted of “corruption on earth” and sentenced to more than six years in prison and a ban on his artistic activities, solely because of his peaceful exercise of the internationally guaranteed right to freedom of artistic expression and for his advocacy for freedom and human rights and support of protests that took place in Iran following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini in September 2022.

Toomaj Salehi has been in detention since his arrest in October 2022. He was held in prolonged solitary confinement and reportedly subjected to beatings and other ill treatment and torture. In addition to “corruption on earth,” he was originally charged with nebulous offenses that could have resulted in the imposition of the death penalty.

Toomaj Salehi has used his music and videos to call for an end to human rights violations in Iran, to deplore poverty and corruption, and filmed himself taking part in the recent protests that have been taking place in Iran.

I urge that the prison sentence and artistic ban imposed on Toomaj Salehi be voided and that he be immediately and unconditionally released, as he is detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights including his right to freedom of expression. Pending his release, I urge that he be treated humanely, that he be provided with any necessary medical care, and that he be given regular access to a lawyer of his choosing and to his family. I also urge that the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are investigated and those responsible are held to account in fair trials.

Sincerely yours,

Cc: Ambassador at the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations is Amir Saeid Iravani (as.iravani@mfa.gov.ir)

The general email is iranunny@mfa.gov.ir

Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje
Governor of Kano State
Office of the Governor,
Government House, Kano State,
Nigeria

Email: info@kanostate.gov.ng

Dear Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje,

I am writing in concern for Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, a 25-year-old singer. On August 10, 2020, an Upper Shari'a Court in Kano state convicted Yahaya Sharif-Aminu of blasphemy for circulating a song on WhatsApp that was considered blasphemous against Prophet Muhammad and sentenced him to death. He remains held in Kano prison.

Yahaya Sharif-Aminu and his lawyer appealed the sentence. On January 21st, the Appeal Panel, presided by the Chief Judge of Kano State, ordered the retrial of Yahaya Sharif-Aminu's case. The Panel ordered that the case be returned to the same Upper Shari'a Court where Yahaya Sharif-Aminu was sentenced, but should be retried by a different judge on the basis that the defendant was not represented by a legal representative throughout his trial, adding that it was the duty of the court to ensure that he was duly and legally represented especially given the magnitude of the case, which involved the death penalty.

Yahaya Sharif-Aminu should never have been sentenced to death in the first place. No one should be sentenced to death for freely expressing their opinions.

Moreover, imposing the death penalty for blasphemy violates Nigeria's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which restricts the use of the death penalty to the "most serious crimes", which, according to international law, are crimes that involve intentional killing.

I, therefore, request that you:

Refrain from signing any execution warrant for Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, Drop all charges against Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, Ensure immediate and unconditional release of Yahaya Sharif-Aminu

Sincerely yours,

Your School Board
Your School District
Local State Representative
Town/City Mayor

Dear (insert proper title),

I am writing in response to the alarming book bans that have recently been enacted in public libraries and schools across the United States. These bans represent a grave threat to the freedom to read and to learn, much to the detriment of students in our community.

Widespread efforts throughout the U.S. that permit state and municipal-sponsored censorship through book bans on content related to race, gender, sexuality, and LGBTQIA+ subject matter restrict the right to freedom of expression. They also deny equal access to all, jeopardizing community members' right to education and right to health, among other rights.

Removing and banning books from public libraries is a slippery slope to government censorship and erodes the U.S. government's obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to freedom of expression.

States must respect, protect, and fulfill the right to free expression by not interfering with it as well as take active steps to ensure people can enjoy this right. The right to freedom of expression is violated whenever a government limits the freedom of individuals to hold opinions or to seek, receive, or impart information.

Under human rights law, governments have obligations to set a framework for conduct that enables people's enjoyment of their rights. All persons who have been vested with state authority for certain tasks such as public administration are responsible for supporting the realization of these rights for all people.

We urge you to resist these dangerous bans, and instead pledge your support for additional resources to enrich the quality and variety of educational materials in our libraries and classes.

Further, Amnesty International is concerned about the targeting of librarians and teachers in light of the publications they use to support their professional responsibilities, including elevated incidents of threats & harassment as well as police reports filed against library staff regarding books available for circulation. These reports mirror serious challenges to freedom of expression found in authoritarian regimes elsewhere in the world.

Sincerely yours,