

BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2026: DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

UNITED STATES | GEORGIA FORT

JOURNALIST CHARGED UNDER HATE-CRIME LAW FOR DOCUMENTING MINNESOTA PROTEST



TAKE ACTION CALLING FOR ALL CHARGES TO BE DROPPED AGAINST

GEORGIA FORT

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books>

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Georgia Fort is a journalist and founder of a news organization dedicated to telling empowering stories rooted in Black communities. In January 2026, as federal immigration operations fueled fear across Minnesota, she documented a peaceful protest inside a St. Paul church held after ICE agents killed community observer Renee Good and involving a pastor who was also an acting ICE director. The federal government sought to arrest the journalists and other members of the press at the same time, but their request was denied on three separate occasions by a magistrate judge, district court judge, and appellate court judge. The Department of Justice then called for a grand jury hearing resulting in a grand jury indictment on three felony charges, including a hate crime statute against Georgia Fort and two other members of the press who reported on the demonstrations. Journalism is not a crime.

SEND A SOLIDARITY MESSAGE:

WRITE

A message of support can give hope and strength to someone jailed or threatened for speaking out, as well as their family members.

Former prisoners of conscience and other individuals who were wrongfully detained say solidarity cards helped them endure prison and sometimes even led to better treatment when authorities saw the global support they were receiving.

Keep messages kind, simple, and non-political. Do not mention Amnesty International, religious or political references, or details of the individual's case, as prison authorities may block delivery.

Messaging can include:

You are not forgotten. We are thinking of you and standing with you. People around the world are holding you in their hearts. Your courage inspires so many of us. Sending you strength, hope, and solidarity. I am sending you support and hoping for your freedom and safety.

SEND

Get creative—make your own card or choose one with a cheerful image. You can share a poem or drawing as well!

Mail your solidarity cards to: AIUSA, 89 South Street, Suite LL01, Boston, Ma 02111

Amnesty will ensure that cards are mailed to the appropriate addresses.

LEARN MORE AND TAKE ADDITIONAL ACTION

