

BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2026: DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

2026 INDIVIDUALS AT RISK SPOTLIGHT



USA: Journalist Georgia Fort, founder of a Black community news outlet, faces felony charges for covering a peaceful protest in Minnesota. Journalism is not a crime.



Igeria: Poet Mohamed Tadjadit, known as the “poet of the Hirak,” has been arbitrarily detained since January 2025 and now faces trial for peaceful expression and assembly, following multiple arrests linked to his social media posts, poetry, and support for peaceful protests.



Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories: Journalist Haitham Abdelwahed and Photojournalist Nidal al-Waheidi were detained by Israeli forces on October 7, 2023 while reporting from Gaza, and their whereabouts are still undisclosed.



Iran: Poet and Teacher Mahvash Sabet, a Baha'i prisoner of conscience was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2022 after a reported one-hour trial, solely for peacefully exercising her freedom of religion.



Mali: Social media contributor and trader Rokiadou Doumbia or “Tata Rose” remains jailed for criticizing rising living costs and insecurity online, highlighting growing attacks on freedom of expression.



Philippines: Journalist Frenchie Mae Cumpio remains detained after a 2020 raid and alleged evidence-planting, highlighting the dangers of red-tagging, which targets journalists, activists, and rights groups as communist fronts.



Russia: Daria Egereva, a Selkup Indigenous rights defender, co-chairs the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change and is a **contributing author** to reports on Indigenous climate perspectives. She now faces up to 20 years in prison for her peaceful advocacy.

DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION:
CHALLENGE CENSORSHIP

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INTERNATIONALIZE BANNED BOOKS WEEK: DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



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BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2026: DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

RUSSIA | DARIA EGEREVA

INDIGENOUS LEADER AND CLIMATE ACTIVIST FACING 20 YEAR SENTENCE



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DARIA EGEREVA

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BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2026: DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

RUSSIA | DARIA EGEREVA

Daria Egereva is an Indigenous rights defender, climate leader, and a voice for the Selkup people of Western Siberia. She has spent years advocating for Indigenous cultures, languages, women's rights, and climate justice—carrying her community's stories from remote northern lands to the halls of the United Nations. Egereva is co-chair of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change and is a contributing author of several advisory reports reflecting indigenous perspectives related to climate issues. In December 2025, after returning from COP30 in Brazil where she represented Indigenous peoples in global climate negotiations, Daria was detained in Moscow. Russian authorities charged her with “participation in a terrorist organization” for her peaceful work with the Aborigen Forum, an Indigenous advocacy network. She now faces up to 20 years in prison. Her arrest came alongside raids on dozens of other Indigenous activists, signaling a sweeping crackdown on Indigenous civil society.

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.

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BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2026: DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

ALGERIA | MOHAMED TADJADIT

DETAINED HIRAK POET FACES STATE- SECURITY CHARGES AND POSSIBLE DEATH SENTENCE



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MOHAMED TADJADIT

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ALGERIA | MOHAMED TADJADIT

Poet Mohamed Tadjadit, known as the “poet of the Hirak,” has been arbitrarily detained since January 2025 and now faces trial for peaceful expression and assembly, following multiple arrests linked to his social media posts, poetry, and support for peaceful protests.

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MALI | ROKIATOU DOUMBIA, ALSO KNOWN AS "TATA ROSE"

TIKTOK INFLUENCER CHARGED OVER LIVING CONDITIONS POSTS



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ROKIATOU DOUMBIA

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BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2026: DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

MALI | ROKIATOU DOUMBIA, ALSO KNOWN AS "TATA ROSE"

Rokiatou “Tata Rose” Doumbia, a trader and social media influencer, was arrested in March 2023 after criticizing rising living costs and insecurity online. Convicted later that year and sentenced to one year in prison, she remained detained on additional charges even after her conviction was overturned on appeal. In August 2026, she was sentenced to 10 years, including seven years in prison, for “discrediting the state” and “criminal conspiracy.” She should not be imprisoned simply for peacefully expressing her views. She remains in prison, far from her family including two children.

Quote from Rokiatou’s online critique:

“There are people in Bamako who can only afford one meal a day. I’m asking them to lower the prices of basic necessities.”

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UNITED STATES | GEORGIA FORT

JOURNALIST CHARGED UNDER HATE-CRIME LAW FOR DOCUMENTING MINNESOTA PROTEST



@ GEORGIA FORT META ACCOUNT



***TAKE ACTION CALLING FOR ALL CHARGES TO
BE DROPPED AGAINST***

GEORGIA FORT

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BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2026: DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

UNITED STATES | GEORGIA FORT

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.

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IRAN | MAHVASH SABET

POET AND TEACHER SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON FOR EXPRESSING RELIGIOUS BELIEFS



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MAHVASH SABET

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BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2026: DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

IRAN | MAHVASH SABET

Mahvash Sabet, a prominent member of Iran's Baha'i community, was arrested in 2022 and sentenced to 10 years in prison after a reported one-hour trial. A prisoner of conscience, she is being punished solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of religion and for her past community leadership. A former educator, writer, and poet, she had previously been imprisoned from 2008 to 2017 alongside six other Baha'i leaders on baseless charges. Her case reflects the wider persecution and systematic denial of rights faced by Baha'is in Iran.

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PHILIPPINES | FRENCHIE MAE CUMPIO

JOURNALIST ARBITRARILY DETAINED AND CHARGED WITH “TERRORISM FINANCING” FOR REPORTING THE TRUTH



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PHILIPPINES | FRENCHIE MAE CUMPIO

Frenchie Mae Cumpio, 27, is a community journalist from the Philippines who has long believed in the power of truth. As executive director of Eastern Vista, she reported on human rights abuses by security forces in Eastern Visayas. On February 7, 2020, police and military raided her office in Tacloban City and arrested her and four others, now known as the “Tacloban 5,” after allegedly planting weapons and explosives. Her case reflects the Philippine government’s broader practice of “red-tagging,” which targets journalists, activists, and rights groups as communist fronts. Frenchie’s continued detention shows how dangerous truth-telling remains. Journalism is not a crime.

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**ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES |
NIDAL AL-WAHEIDI AND HAITHAM ABDELWAHED**

PALESTINIAN PHOTOJOURNALISTS FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED



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**NIDAL AL-WAHEIDI AND
HAITHAM ABDELWAHED**

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ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES | NIDAL AL-WAHEIDI AND HAITHAM ABDELWAHED

Haitham Abdelwahed, a journalist, and Nidal al-Waheidi, a photojournalist from the occupied Gaza Strip, reported for independent outlets Ein Media and an-Najah Channel. On October 7, 2023, they were detained by Israeli forces while covering events near the Beit Hanoun/Erez checkpoint. Since their arrest, Israeli authorities have provided no clear legal basis for their detention and have refused to disclose their whereabouts.

Human rights groups warn that Nidal and Haitham's case reflects a broader pattern of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and mistreatment of Palestinian detainees from Gaza—particularly journalists targeted for doing their work.

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