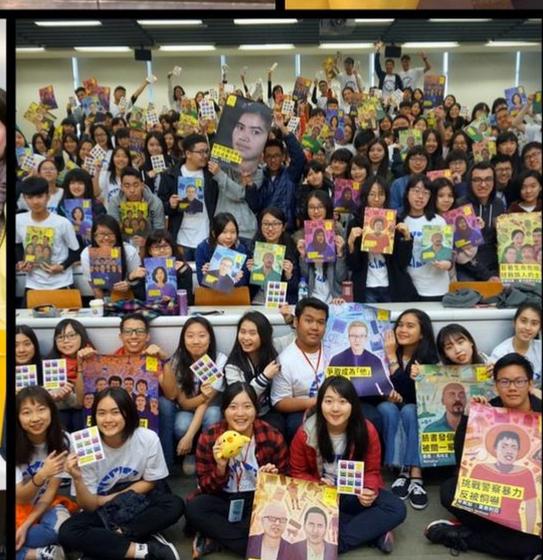


WRITE FOR RIGHTS
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2017

CAMPAIGN REPORT



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Write for Rights 2017 – Campaign report

Published in April 2018 by the Individuals at Risk team

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Cover photo: The photos used in the cover are just a small sample of activities and events carried out by Amnesty Sections in Algeria, Germany, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Taiwan and Togo during Write for Rights 2017. © Amnesty International

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2017 – SOME FACTS

Sometimes a letter can change someone's life. That's the premise of Write for Rights, our global letter writing campaign.

We've been doing it for 15 years and today, it's the world's biggest human rights event. Every December, supporters across the globe write millions of letters for those whose basic human rights are being attacked. And every year, real change happens because of those letters and actions: People wrongfully imprisoned are released, torturers are brought to justice and people in prison are treated more humanely.

Here are some facts about Write for Rights 2017:

Write for Rights grew again on its 15th anniversary with at least **5,500,650** actions taken

So far, positive human rights change has been achieved in **7 of the 10** global cases¹

208 countries and territories took part in Write for Rights 2017 - from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe

We recorded **18%** more actions this year compared to 2016 – a **29%** increase of average actions per case²

55% of the **65** participating Amnesty Sections reported an increase in actions

Amnesty Taiwan alone collected **13%** of the total number of actions with a staggering **738,215** actions

More than **700** Write for Rights events took place across Poland

And Icelanders showed the highest degree of commitment to Write for Rights with almost **3%** of the total population taking part!

¹ A specific Write for Rights campaign strategy was devised for each of the 10 global cases which included primary and secondary objectives. For the purpose of this report, we consider that positive human rights change has been achieved when there has been substantial progress in realizing the cases' primary objective/s. An additional objective for all cases was to create a significant show of international solidarity with the individual, group and/or their family. According to what the concerned individuals have told us, the solidarity objective has been achieved for all 10 cases.

² In 2017 Write for Rights included 10 global cases, one case less compared to the 11 global cases that featured in the 2016 campaign.

THE GLOBAL 10 – NUMBER OF ACTIONS

GLOBAL CASES	COUNTRY	ESTIMATED TOTAL # OF ACTIONS
TANER & THE ISTANBUL 10	TURKEY	874,820
TADJADINE MAHAMAT BABOURI	CHAD	690,434
SHACKELIA JACKSON	JAMAICA	528,476
HANAN BADR EL-DIN	EGYPT	501,496
NI YULAN	CHINA	432,369
CLOVIS RAZAFIMALALA	MADAGASCAR	411,009
ISSA AMRO & FARID AL ATRASH	ISRAEL/OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES	391,012
MILPAH INDIGENOUS MOVEMENT	HONDURAS	354,762
SAKRIS KUPILA	FINLAND	349,355
XULHAZ MANNAN	BANGLADESH	312,052

These numbers are based on the data reported by participating Amnesty Sections³ as well as information collected on digital actions taken by individuals based in countries where Amnesty does not have a presence. Not all Sections were able to share their data and some were not able to collate accurate or complete numbers. Moreover, there are possibly thousands of actions that are taken organically by individuals around the world who come across information about the campaign, or that happen digitally without us being able to track them.

You will notice that the addition of the total number of actions for each of the global cases does not correspond with the global total of actions recorded for Write for Rights 2017. This is because in the list above we are not including the many extra cases that Sections include in their campaign, mainly because they are relevant to their audiences locally. Additionally, there are always quite a few actions for which Sections are not able to provide a breakdown by case and those are not included above either.

³ Where we refer to Sections, we are talking about Amnesty International's entities in different countries, which can include Sections, Structures and/or National Offices.

THE 'BRAVE' WRITE FOR RIGHTS: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

As you know Write for Rights 2017 took place amid the development of Amnesty's Global Campaign on Human Rights Defenders – BRAVE – and therefore focused on the work of those who put their lives on the line to defend the rights of others by featuring cases of Human Rights Defenders only. As such, this year's campaign had a few specific objectives linked to the Human Rights Defender angle:

- Increase visibility for the profiles of the featured Human Rights Defenders and the causes they are fighting for;
- Help increase their protection and capacity to carry out their work in a safe and enabling environment;
- Send a clear message to those who try to hamper their human rights work: the world is watching and thousands are supporting these Human Rights Defenders and their vital actions.

As explained in more detail for each of the cases in the following pages, we are pleased to report excellent results on these specific objectives.

Through the campaign on **Mahadine**, Amnesty was able to engage with local organisations like CAMOJET (Collectif des Associations et Mouvements Jeunes du Tchad) and supported a courageous group of youth in organising themselves to form a coalition of activists in December 2017. This shows how international support and visibility has a positive impact also in difficult contexts like the one in Chad, where human rights defenders and activists are afraid of reprisals for speaking out.

But the success of the campaign for Mahadine went further. A first moment to celebrate, was when on 21 February, after months of intense international pressure, Mahadine was finally transferred to a prison in N'Djamena, closer to his family and where he could access adequate medical care. On 19 March, a judge replaced the serious charges against Mahadine with the much lesser charge of defamation. This was fantastic news, as defamation does not carry a prison sentence in Chad. And finally, on 5 April, Mahadine was released!

Mahadine will still face trial for defamation but a prison sentence is no longer in the cards. And after more than a year and a half spent unfairly in jail, he has finally joined his family and his children and can start recovering from his ordeal.

Human rights defender **Ni Yulan** also shared how her situation has improved thanks to the campaign: "...Due to the international attention [on my situation], the police have reduced their assaults, verbal abuses and violations of my rights." Moreover, since the start of the campaign Ni Yulan and her family have not faced further threats of eviction from their rented flat. While it is very difficult to conclude that this improvement is attributable to Write for Rights, the attention and visibility might have contributed to this positive development.

Hanan's family believe that international pressure has had a positive impact on her treatment in prison, including the fact that in an unusual move by the authorities she was granted access to a doctor from outside of prison. Hanan, who suffers from a genetic condition, was denied access to medication in February and it was only after those who had supported Hanan during Write for Rights raised their voices once again that the situation was resolved.

For **Sakris**, the longstanding engagement with Amnesty and the participation in such a visible campaigning, has allowed him to go from fear of attacks and isolation, to creating amazing support networks and improving his security. He has established himself as a key voice in the defence of transgender rights, not only in Finland but also internationally.

As to the situation of the **MILPAH Indigenous Movement**, the participation of some of their members in speakers' tours in Europe has provided much needed visibility to their cause and raised their profile internationally. While their security situation remains serious, there has been progress, for example the

communication between MILPAH and the institution in charge of implementing the measures to protect them has improved.

While the spurious charges against **Farid** and **Issa** remain in place, they feel that the campaign has given their work increased legitimacy through international and Israeli solidarity and provided them with more protection. They believe that Israeli authorities have refrained from preventing them from carrying out their work on different occasions.

Shackelia's case has mobilised hundreds of thousands to put pressure on the authorities to take action against unlawful killings by the police in Jamaica, but it has also shed a light on the struggle of the relatives of victims and made clear that the world is watching and that they must be allowed to continue their fight safely and free from harassment.

Before Write for Rights, Malagasy civil society was wary of supporting **Clovis** fearing harassment from the government. Since the start of the campaign, support from local civil society started growing and Clovis' human rights work received increased recognition nationally and also internationally. On 31 January, Clovis received the 'Citizen of courage' award in recognition of his environmental rights work in Madagascar.

The Turkey case on **Taner and the Istanbul 10** was truly an extraordinary one, that went beyond Write for Rights. This attack on human rights defenders in Turkey and on Amnesty International, was answered with an unprecedented reaction by the whole Amnesty movement and all our allies around the world. Although the fight continues until Taner is free and charges against all human rights defenders dropped, we can be proud of the show of strength by the human rights movement that led to the early release of the Istanbul 10 and will hopefully end positively for Taner too.

And we shouldn't forget the power of international solidarity. For example, solidarity has been fundamental for **Xulhaz's** family and for his former colleagues in the Roopbaan magazine, who told us: *"We are overwhelmed to see the global support for his justice. This campaign has successfully inspired Roopbaan members to continue the fight for equality."*

THE GLOBAL 10 – IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

XULHAZ MANNAN – BANGLADESH



© Rebecca Hendin

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS BY MARCH 2017
The authorities to ensure that the brutal murder of Xulhaz Mannan and his friend is duly investigated and that the perpetrators are arrested.	PENDING
Xulhaz’s family and his colleagues in Roopbaan feel supported by the solidarity of activists and campaigners from around the world.	ACHIEVED

Xulhaz Mannan and a colleague were in Xulhaz’s apartment when men posing as couriers burst in wielding machetes, hacking both men to death. Xulhaz was a founder of Roopbaan, Bangladesh’s only magazine dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) issues, a daring venture in a country where same-sex relations are illegal.

Almost two years since the April 2016 attack, and despite evidence including eyewitness testimony and CCTV footage, no one has been charged for the murders. On top of this slow police response, the government has shifted blame onto the victims.

This reluctance or unwillingness to find and charge Xulhaz’s killers sends a devastating message to LGBTIQ activists and others who challenge the status quo with their work. As Xulhaz’s brother says, “[the police’s inaction shows that] the government is least bothered... and believes that ‘this’ issue [same-sex relations] has died with Xulhaz”.

Samantha Power @SamanthaPower Follow

Xulhaz Mannan founded [@roopbaan](#), Bangladesh’s groundbreaking LGBT publication. This April will be 2 yr anniversary of his horrific murder. Pls take a minute for this [@amnesty](#) campaign to pressure Bangladesh to bring his killers to justice [amnesty.org/en/get-involve ...](#)



9:51 AM - 26 Jan 2018

Former United States Ambassador to the United Nations shares her support for the campaign.



One of the many boxes of solidarity letters received for the Mannan family
© Amnesty International

With over 312,000 actions taken on his behalf, Xulhaz's case was well received by global audiences and at least 36 Sections picked up his case. Xulhaz's story also provided solidarity and inspiration for many LGBTIQ groups, and even received public support from several notable figures such as actor and comedian Stephen Fry and diplomat and former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power.

Unfortunately, according to Roopbaan, the reactions within the country have been a bit different as the Bangladesh LGBTIQ community are currently facing a very vulnerable time, and do not feel entitled to seek justice for someone who was not accepted by the social and legal framework of the country. It is for this reason that we need to continue working on Xulhaz's case and potentially explore capacity building opportunities within the community, investing both time and resources in future plans to ensure that we inspire and motivate collaboration with local organisations on the ground to ensure impact in Bangladesh.

"We are really happy that Xulhaz was part of Amnesty International's write for Rights campaign. Everyone at Roopbaan welcomes any visibility/action/campaign for bringing Xulhaz and Tonoy's murderers to justice. We are overwhelmed to see the global support for his justice. This campaign has successfully inspired Roopbaan members to continue the fight for equality."

– Roopbaan



Planet Ally, a Hong Kong based LGBT group taking action in a regional forum © Amnesty International

Solidarity messages were sent primarily to Xulhaz's family, expressing support in their quest for justice for his brutal murder. The letters were sent to the Amnesty International East Asia Regional Office (Hong Kong), before being sent in bulk packages to Bangladesh. Minhaz, Xulhaz's brother, shared his thanks after receiving the first batch:

"I have just received the packs and opened one or two to find the cards and letters – amazing... so much care and love for Xulhaz, can't believe my eyes, thanks to all of you for this."

– Minhaz (Xulhaz's brother)

In addition, we suggested letters could be sent to Roopbaan to show solidarity for the LGBTIQ movement in Bangladesh. They expressed excitement at the number of letters being received and will share some photos once they have processed them all.



Roopbaan's tweet after receiving the first solidarity letter

During the campaign, an Amnesty International delegation attended the annual ILGA (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association) Asia conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It was a great opportunity to discuss the case with Bangladesh activists as well as further highlight the action with the regional Asia-Pacific LGBT community. After one of the plenary sessions, the Write for Rights campaign was highlighted by one of the Bangladesh panellists and postcards (with QR codes to the amnesty.org petition, see below) were distributed. The action, and campaign generally, were well received by both those who knew of the case and those who didn't.

The signatures from the global petition and an open letter, signed by the Regional Director of the South Asia Regional Office, will be sent to the Minister of Home Affairs on the second anniversary of Xulhaz's murder, 26 April. The delivery aims to further the objective of raising international attention of the case and provide momentum for the next phase of the campaign.

As with most cases of killings and enforced disappearances, justice is exceedingly delayed as it involves national mechanisms that are inherently slow moving. The team continues to monitor the situation within the country and will update and adjust the campaign strategy accordingly. Significant emphasis will be placed on having discussions and brainstorming with Roopbaan and other relevant stakeholders on the ground. In addition, following renewed motivation within the Bangladesh LGBTIQ community to campaign on this case, there will be potential for future capacity building and partnership between campaigners and local communities.



Postcards distributed during the ILGA Asia conference with QR codes to the amnesty.org petition



English comedian and actor Stephen Fry expressing support for Xulhaz's case on Twitter

TADJADINE MAHAMAT BABOURI A.K.A. MAHADINE – CHAD

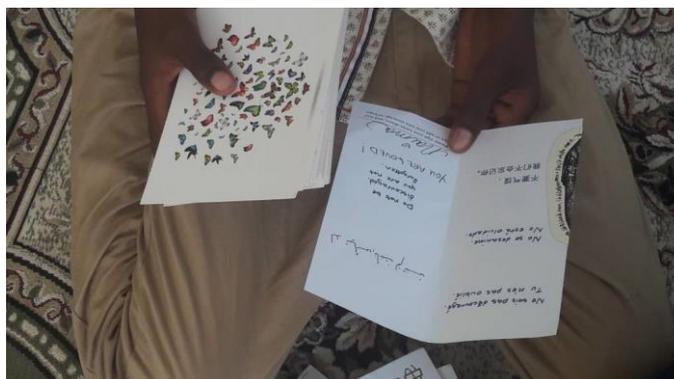


© Rebecca Hendin

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS BY MARCH 2017
The Chadian authorities release Mahadine immediately and unconditionally as he has been detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.	ACHIEVED
The Chadian authorities ensure that, pending his release, Mahadine is transferred to a prison where he can receive adequate medical care.	ACHIEVED
Mahadine and his family feel supported and receive international solidarity.	ACHIEVED

Tadjadine Mahamat Babouri also known as **Mahadine** is an online activist and father of seven. He was arrested on 30 September 2016 after he posted several videos on Facebook criticizing the Chadian government of alleged misuse of public funds. He also raised concerns about the country's economic crisis mainly attributed to falling oil prices worldwide. Mahadine was snatched from the street in broad daylight by a group of men believed to be intelligence officers. He explained how he was beaten, electrocuted and chained up for weeks, and moved from one prison to another. His wife and children were told nothing of his whereabouts and had to track him down themselves.

Mahadine faced charges that put him at risk of a life sentence, including 'undermining the constitutional order' and 'threatening territorial integrity and national security'. Amnesty International considered him a prisoner of conscience arrested solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and who should be released immediately and unconditionally.



Mahadine's son reading solidarity messages © Amnesty International

Amnesty's representatives were not able to visit Mahadine in prison during a trip to Chad in September 2017, but they met with local organization CAMOJET (Collectif des Associations et Mouvements

Jeunes du Tchad) that supports Mahadine's case and handed over thousands of solidarity messages addressed to Mahadine.



Mahadine receiving a solidarity poster in prison © Private

CAMOJET delivered these solidarity messages to Mahadine at Moussoro prison. This was a great example of collaboration with local organizations especially in a difficult case as this one where even Mahadine's family and friends are afraid to publicly show their support for fear of reprisals from the government.

This fear of reprisals impacted negatively on the coverage of the case in Chad and there was very little published about it. Nevertheless, a group of courageous youth organised themselves to form a coalition of activists in December 2017 with Amnesty's support. They visited Mahadine in Moussoro prison in February 2018 and they took with them a poster created by Amnesty Switzerland. The poster shows Mahadine's face created as a mosaic of photos of hundreds of people who support his case.

During the September visit, Amnesty's representatives also met Mahadine's family to deliver solidarity messages. The family was grateful that Amnesty had been the first organization to contact them directly on the case and visit them.

"We thank all those who took action on behalf of Mahadine. It is not easy to do so. It is not easy to take action on behalf of other people. Remain courageous. We now know there are people behind Mahadine. There are people supporting him."

Mahadine's 60-year-old mother has been very affected by her son's arrest and detention. A family member told Amnesty International that *"She has cried a lot. She calls every day to get news about Mahadine"*. One of his young sons told us how he misses his dad a lot and wishes to have him back home soon. *"I loved being just there, next to my dad. He used to take us to the park during the weekends and we would ride our bikes. My dad used to advise me and tell me to work well in school. I don't know why my dad is in prison. I always think about him and I want him to be released."*

Mahadine's uncle explained to us: *"Mahadine used to tell me 'even if I die, I will always tell the truth'"*. He also told us that *"Mandela's story is one that keeps us strong. He was detained for 27 years and in the end released. I hold on this story and pray that Mahadine like Mandela will one day be freed"*.

A negative element about the campaign was that despite Amnesty's team clear guidance about it, some references to Mahadine in the context of Write for Rights described his as a journalist. Mahadine is not a journalist and does not claim to be one, but those errors lead to some criticism in Chad. Nevertheless, the case proved to be very successful, with more than 690,000 actions taken worldwide – the second highest number – and we believed that all the international attention contributed to raising Mahadine's profile and to put pressure on the authorities.

Pending Mahadine's release, Amnesty had been campaigning for him to be transferred to Am Sinene prison in N'Djamena, the capital, where his family and lawyer could visit him more easily. Also, a doctor had recommended this transfer to enable Mahadine to receive adequate health care for his worsening health condition, that Mahadine attributes to the torture suffered while in detention. In September 2017, an Amnesty team met with the then Minister of Justice in Chad who explained that he had instructed Mahadine's transfer to N'Djamena. A government reshuffle in December 2017 which saw a new Minister of Justice appointed, delayed Mahadine's transfer. In February 2018, an Amnesty delegation met with the new Minister who was very open to discussing Mahadine's case and promised to look into the case, including making sure Mahadine was moved to a prison in N'Djamena and that his case was heard by a judge.



Solidarity messages for Mahadine © Private

On the night of 21 February, Mahadine was finally transferred to Am Sinene prison in N' Djamena. This allowed him access to the medical treatment he needed including from a swelling leg that developed in the days before the transfer. It also made it easier for his family and children to visit him as this prison is closer to their home.

Another crucial turning point in Mahadine's case took place on 19 March when a judge dropped the charges against him and replaced them with the much lesser charge of defamation. Following this requalification, in a hearing on 5 April the court recognized that the limit for preventative detention had been exceeded and ordered Mahadine's release. He will appear again before the court on 19 April, but should not be imprisoned again as defamation cannot be punished with jail under Chadian law.

After more than 18 months unjustly spent behind bars, the support of hundreds of thousands has not been in vane and Mahadine can finally reunite with his loves ones.

"I thank you with all my heart. Thank you for your commitment and engagement for the protection and respect of human rights in Africa. The African continent needs people like you. I am very honored to be among the cases that you have selected for your Write for Rights campaign. I am honored to know people like you who denounce the injustices committed by the authorities and governments. You have brought joy into my heart. Thank you."

– Mahadine

NI YULAN – CHINA



© Rebecca Hendin

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS BY MARCH 2017
The Chinese authorities stop the harassment and intimidation of Ni Yulan and her family, allowing them to enjoy their rights to adequate housing in Beijing.	PARTIALLY ACHIEVED ⁴
The authorities carry out a thorough, transparent and impartial investigation into the ongoing harassment against Ni Yulan and her family and bring those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards.	PENDING
Ni Yulan and her family feel supported by the solidarity expressed by people around the world.	ACHIEVED

Ni Yulan¹ has braved years of violent harassment for standing up for those evicted from their homes. The former lawyer has supported scores of people forced from their homes by lucrative construction projects. She was among thousands whose dwellings were demolished in the lead-up to the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

The government's response to her activism has been to harass her and her family, hoping to put an end to her work. They have repeatedly arrested her and, during detention, beat her so badly that she now uses a wheelchair. They have pursued her for nearly 20 years, putting her and her family under surveillance, threatening them, and evicting them from home after home.



Student Association of Sheng Kung Girls' High School taking action for Ni Yulan, Taiwan. © Private

⁴ Since the start of Write for Rights Ni Yulan and her family have not faced further threats of eviction from their rented flat. While it is very difficult to conclude that this improvement is attributable to Write for Rights, it would appear that the attention and visibility might have contributed to this positive development.

Amnesty's sections and structures participated in Write for Rights in multiple forms, including social media engagement, promotion in media outlets as well as traditional letter-writing actions.

Civil society organizations and activists within China welcomed the campaign on Ni Yulan, further suggesting that Amnesty International should use the campaign to draw international attention to other serious cases, such as the detained lawyers and human rights defender Wu Gan.

In addition to reviewing and editing our [Chinese blog](#) about her (which was shared on Amnesty's [global website](#), [section websites](#), as well as [external sites](#)), Ni Yulan gave both face-to-face and phone interviews with international media (including [Courrier International](#) and [RFA](#)). The team have also been consistently consulting Ni Yulan about the campaign contents and strategies as well as related security issues.

Ni Yulan has been thankful to Amnesty International for generating renewed international attention to her situation through the Write for Rights campaign and has taken the opportunity to raise other human rights issues, including other Write for Rights cases, on her social media account.

"From my own experience, writing letters to the government may not be so effective. But, it will make a difference if a lot of people join the letter-writing. ... Due to the international attention [on my situation], the police have reduced their assaults, verbal abuses and violations of my rights. Thank you to those of you who wrote for me, your generous support has not only helped me but also advanced China's human rights. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your support once again."

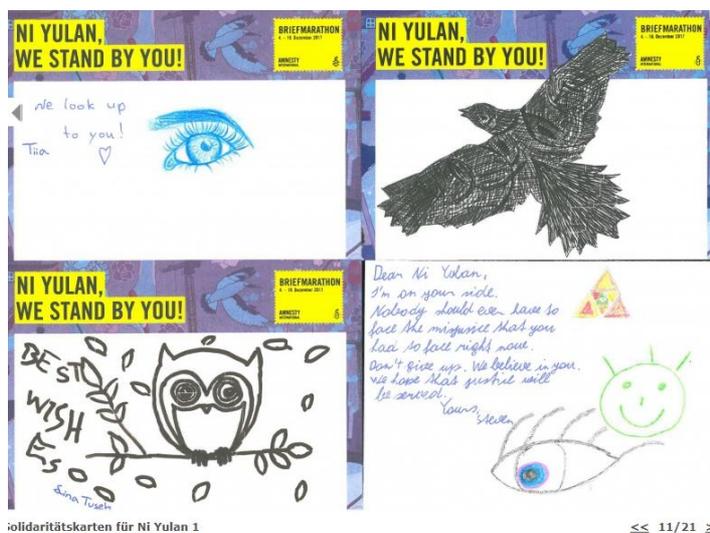
– Ni Yulan

A number of activists reported that their petitions and/or appeal letters have been returned. For example, Amnesty International Côte d'Ivoire's petition letters were refused by their Chinese representative and Amnesty International Taiwan's letters to the Director of Beijing Public Security Bureau were returned twice.

It is not unusual when sending appeals to Chinese officials for them to be returned. In the past, we have sporadically received emails from sections informing us of the returned letters or parcels. The letters are indeed sent to the correct target addresses but the Chinese authorities often just refuse to receive them. However, we believe that, if authorities are returning the letters, they are at aware of the actions and feel the pressure.



Amnesty UK's tweet about the support gathered for Ni Yulan during their Human Rights Day event



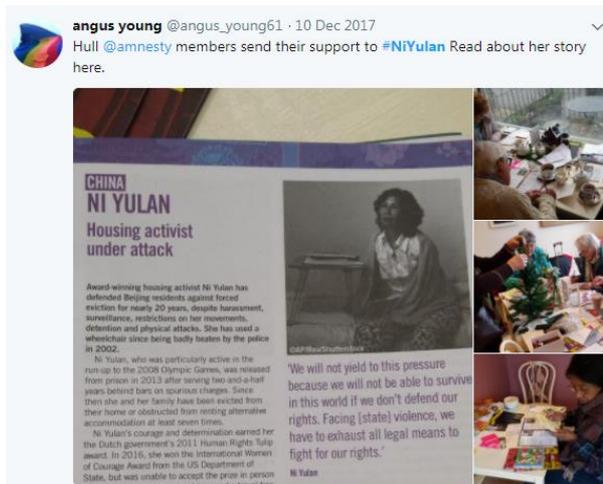
Amnesty Austria collected solidarity drawings for Ni Yulan, mostly drawn by school students, and shared them on their website

Ni Yulan’s case, and the Write for Rights campaign, was a fantastic opportunity to launch our first ‘take action’ online petition on our Chinese website. The campaign was very well received on our Chinese social media channels, reaching over 2 million people.

According to Ni Yulan, her family had been evicted from their home or obstructed from renting a place at least seven times since her release from detention in 2013 -after serving two years and six months in prison as a reprisal for her human rights work. However, since moving into their current rented apartment in November 2017, coinciding with Write for Rights, the landlord has not taken any action to evict them. Although it is difficult to directly attribute this to the global letter writing action taken by activists, our analysis is that efforts by Amnesty International have made a positive impact on Ni Yulan’s case.

In total, more than 432,000 actions were taken on Ni Yulan’s behalf and, to coincide with Ni Yulan’s 58th birthday on 23 March, a letter signed by the East Asia Regional Director was sent to the Director of the Public Security Bureau addressing our concerns for Ni Yulan and her family and highlighting the international support to her case.

Looking forward, as Ni Yulan’s situation has not significantly changed, we will continue working with Ni Yulan, and on her case, for the foreseeable future.



Tweet by Hull journalist Angus Young



Amnesty International Chinese Twitter account sharing a video from Amnesty International Taiwan

HANAN BADR EL-DIN – EGYPT



© Rebecca Hendin

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS BY MARCH 2017
Hanan Badr el-Din is released immediately and unconditionally, and all charges against her are dropped.	PENDING
Hanan is supported by solidarity from people around the world.	ACHIEVED
Pending her release, Hanan has access to adequate medical treatment.	ACHIEVED

Following the enforced disappearance of her husband Khalid Ezz el-Din at a protest on 27 July 2013, **Hanan Badr el-Din** started calling on the authorities to disclose the whereabouts and fate of her husband. Determined to receive answers, Hanan Badr el-Din co-founded the Families of the Forcibly Disappeared Association.

Her actions as a human rights defender led to her detention on 6 May 2017 at Qanatar prison, north of Cairo. She visited the Qanatar prison to meet with a former victim of enforced disappearance in the hope to get information about her husband. Since then, she has been detained pending investigation accused of belonging to a banned group. Amnesty International considers the charges to be fabricated and Hanan to be a prisoner of conscience, solely detained for her peaceful activism and exercising her right to freedom of expression.

Hanan's detention is reviewed by a court every 45 days and the decision of the authorities has so far been to keep her in detention. During one of the hearings, the defence was denied the opportunity to present their argument and challenge the court's decision. Hanan suffers from a genetic disorder and her health has deteriorated while in



Solidarity actions for Hanan collected by Amnesty Taiwan © Amnesty International

detention. She had been receiving her medication regularly through her family but in the week prior to 2 February, prison authorities told Hanan's family that they would only accept prescriptions or diagnosis from public hospitals. Hanan's family explained that public hospitals refuse to provide diagnosis to prisoners, and prison authorities had refused to move Hanan to an outside hospital. As a result of the lack of access to her medication her health worsened considerably. According to Hanan's family, these developments were not connected to Write for Rights. On the contrary, the family believe that the campaign had a positive effect on Hanan's treatment while in detention and that it was only when attention moved away from her case that the authorities started preventing her from accessing her medication.



Youth activists taking action for Hanan in Germany © Private

Following an assessment of the situation with Hanan's family, Amnesty issued an Urgent Action on 2 February calling on the prison authorities to ensure Hanan's immediate access to adequate healthcare. Amnesty's sections and structures that had participated in Write for Rights, promoted the Urgent Action and this became a second moment of action on Hanan's behalf. It is believed that public pressure had a positive effect and Hanan's family was allowed to provide her with the medication needed to stabilize her health on 22 February. Hanan and her family expressed their deep gratitude to everyone who took action and stated that access to healthcare was a result of the public support.

During Write for Rights, over 500,000 actions were taken on behalf of Hanan by activists around the world. The Egyptian authorities felt the pressure of these incredible show of support, as an example, in an unusual move the Egyptian embassy in Berlin felt compelled to respond with a letter reiterating the official line – that Hanan is guilty, even though she has not

been convicted of any crime. Additionally, coinciding with the campaign and the visibility given to Hanan's case in international media, Egyptian authorities sent a doctor to prison to check on Hanan's health. Our assessment and that of her family is that this is an important success, as Egyptian authorities would not normally allow prisoner to be seen by an external doctor.

Thanks to Amnesty's campaign, a local campaign has started in Egypt calling for the release of Hanan. However, as the government does not tolerate any form of public mobilization, the campaign is confined to social media. Nonetheless, the public on social media has been sympathetic and many local NGOs continue to participate in the campaign despite the political situation in Egypt. Write for Rights has had a positive effect raising Hanan's profile internationally but also at national level and that has enabled local NGOs to take action. It has also put pressure on the authorities to ensure adequate medical healthcare and she has not yet been referred to a speedy trial, where she could be convicted. Hanan's family and her lawyer have high hopes that she is likely to be acquitted in the nearly future, but they believe that public pressure is crucial and needs to continue.

Write for Rights has also raised the profile of the Families of the Forcibly Disappeared Association and given positive visibility to their work. This has helped expand the organization's outreach, and allowed the stories of the families to be highlighted. This attention is allowing the Association to work more effectively and to reach out to more individuals in the country as well as worldwide.

Amnesty's communication with Hanan takes place through her family and her lawyer, with no possibility of contacting Hanan directly. However, Hanan's family explained that knowing that thousands of people worldwide campaign on her behalf through Write for Rights has been very helpful in these difficult times and they expressed gratitude for the comforting and encouraging solidarity they received from all around the world.

SAKRIS KUPILA – FINLAND



© Rebecca Hendin

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS BY MARCH 2017
The Finnish government changes the law in order to guarantee that Sakris Kupila and all transgender people in Finland can obtain legal gender recognition without having to comply with requirements, such as irreversible sterilization, which violate their human rights;	PENDING
Sakris Kupila can continue his human rights work in a safer and more enabling environment.	ACHIEVED
Sakris Kupila gets support and solidarity in his struggle for the human rights of transgender people in Finland.	ACHIEVED

Sakris Kupila, is a 21-year-old medical student, youth activist and a defender of transgender rights, from Finland. He has faced harassment, intimidation, threats of violent beatings, and open hostility for his work advocating for the rights of transgender people, to the point he had to take a year away from his education.

Through his activism Sakris naturally became a close ally of Amnesty Finland in their longstanding work to achieve a Legal Gender Recognition system that respects the human rights of transgender people. The section came to the conclusion that the resistance to reform was so strong that they needed to elevate their campaign to an international level. They believed that Sakris was the perfect candidate to be at the forefront of this fight and in the summer of 2016, Sakris, Amnesty Finland and colleagues in Amnesty’s International Secretariat started working together to create a strong strategy for a campaign which would focus on Sakris’ story and activism. Sakris’ situation was not only an example of the cruelty and discrimination created by the existing legislation, the Trans Act, but also the inspiring story of someone that decided to not be silenced and continue the fight. We also believed that Sakris would help raise the profile of a very difficult issue.



Sakris speaking during the NuArt street art festival in Norway © Amnesty International

When Sakris started working with Amnesty, things weren't easy. He was facing harassment, was feeling isolated, and was facing lots of hostility even in his academic environment. He was already in the middle of fighting the system to be recognised as who he really is and had taken the difficult decision to speak out in public spaces about his situation and that of so many others in the hope to start a movement of change.



Sakris reading solidarity messages in Amnesty Finland's office © Amnesty International

Luckily, joining his activism with that of other more established organisations, including Amnesty, started having a positive impact in his situation. It allowed him to create a network of support and while he inspired many other young people, the support of these people gave him strength.

As part of our campaigning alongside Sakris, especially from the moment the case became part of Write for Rights and the BRAVE Global Campaign, we put a lot of emphasis on two elements: ensuring that Sakris would fully and actively participate in the campaign according to his wishes and enhancing his security and protection and that of his partner. As a

result, Sakris feels much safer and able to carry out his work with less risk of harassment and intimidation. Sakris was also telling us how the visibility of his case and the media attention has had an impact on how he is perceived: *"I'm less of a token or strange object and more of an individual who happens to be trans, and other things beside that."*

Sakris engagement with Write for Rights has proved to be a great example of active participation both from the point of view of the strategy, but also in the implementation of the campaign. Sakris told us: *"I'm glad that you passed materials and messaging through me It also made me feel appreciated and that I'm a subject in all this, not an object."* He has participated in speakers' tours with Amnesty sections in the UK, Portugal, Spain, Belgium, Austria, Norway, has been giving numerous interviews, participating in conference calls with student groups in Poland and Portugal, joined advocacy actions, and contributed in many other ways. He told us: *"Traveling to different countries and sections gave me great opportunities to network and to spread my message even further. It also provided me with a lot of support. Visiting sections gave me the opportunity to see that, and how, my work affects people and other activists in a concrete manner. Being actively involved in campaigning has been important for me from the very start, and this has been a good way to do just that."*

During Write for Rights almost 350,000 actions were taken in support of Sakris by activists worldwide, which is an amazing success considering it is often an unpopular topic. Many of those actions, at least 21,000, were solidarity letters and messages of support to Sakris. The case proved very popular amongst students and youth in general.

Sakris told us: *"I think that the phrase I've used the most when talking about this [being part of Write for Rights] is that I'm speechless. That's quite true, since participating in Write for Rights is extraordinary and receiving that much support, quite unbelievable, considering we started small, we are from a small country and this had been a very unpopular topic for years."* He also said, speaking about all the solidarity received that: *"It is unbelievable to see how many people took action and cared. It is important in order to have the faith to keep going. Especially when the Trans Act reform hasn't been moving anywhere and little validation has come from the government here."*

On 23 March 2018, Amnesty's Secretary General Salil Shetty visited Finland to participate in the global handover of the Write for Rights actions and meet with the authorities. Many sections and structures joined Amnesty Finland and reminded the Finnish authorities that thousands around the world are supporting Sakris and saying enough to the Trans Act.

The petitions were delivered to Paula Lehtomäki, State Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, by

Sakris, Amnesty Finland's Director Frank Johansson, Salil Shetty and two students from a middle school that took part in Write for Rights. Additionally, around 100 activists participated in the event.



Global handover of the Write for Rights actions to the Finnish State Secretary © Amnesty International

On the occasion of the handover Salil Shetty said: *“This country has always said all people are equal. All people means all people”,* highlighting the gravity of the situation coming from a country who prides itself for being progressive and respect human rights. He also said: *“I’m here to bring the voice of a global movement. Hundreds of thousands of people across the world – from Taiwan to USA to many parts of the world are standing with you, behind you, with the brave human rights defenders like Sakris Kupila. We will win this battle very soon.”*

With regards to the impact of the campaign is pushing for the reform of the Trans Act, some key government stakeholders are in favour of Amnesty's proposals for reform and welcome the campaign, but the opposition of the Prime Minister is currently really strong. So, although the battle is not over, Write for Rights has had a very positive impact on several levels. The public has been made more aware about the human rights violations face by trans people in Finland. The media has also responded positively, portraying trans people in a more diverse and favourable way. According to Sakris, *“this helps society accept different trans people with different stories and situations. A greater, more wide-spread acceptance has certainly started to emerge.”*

Sakris knew this was not going to be an easy fight, but he now knows that we are with him.

“The basic human rights of transgender people are currently violated in Finland. Not only do we face discrimination within the society itself but also by the state. I think that the purpose of laws is to protect well-being, not to destroy it. I grew up in an environment that systematically erased me. When even the legislation alienates us and the majority of political discussion regarding trans people is negative, it’s not easy to find yourself equal. I don’t want anyone to have to go through this same struggle that I’m going through. By standing up for my rights and those others I can make a lasting change. I dream of the day when I can truly feel that this world is for people like me, too.

I’ll stop when the fight is over.”

– Sakris Kupila

MILPAH INDIGENOUS MOVEMENT – HONDURAS



MILPAH members during the handover of the Write for Rights actions in March 2018. © Amnesty International

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS BY MARCH 2017
The President of Honduras to publicly recognize the important and legitimate work of MILPAH.	PENDING
The Minister of Interior and Justice takes all appropriate measures to guarantee the safety of MILPAH members in accordance with their wishes and needs, in order to fulfil the government's obligation to protect them as set by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' precautionary measures.	PENDING
The MILPAH Indigenous Movement receive international support and solidarity.	ACHIEVED

For the Indigenous Lenca people in Honduras, the land is their life. But huge hydroelectric, mining and other interests are out to exploit that land. **MILPAH, the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz**, is at the forefront of the struggle against them. They brave smear campaigns, death threats and physical assault to protect their environment, yet their attackers are rarely brought to justice. Their experience is typical for activists in Honduras, one of the most dangerous places on Earth to be an Indigenous and environmental defender. Still, MILPAH vow to keep up their struggle.

As part of Write for Rights 2017, over 354,000 actions were taken on behalf of MILPAH, most of which called on the Honduran authorities to publicly recognize the important and legitimate human rights work of MILPAH, and to take appropriate measures to guarantee their safety. Activists and supporters sent at least 35,000 solidarity messages to MILPAH, including letters, photos, and recorded audio messages that will be shared with the movement during assemblies or through local radio stations that broadcast across Honduras. Amnesty supporters from at least 43 sections and structures took action on the case during the campaign period but many others took action from other countries around the world.

Our primary objectives for the Write for Rights campaign were for the Honduran authorities to publicly

recognize MILPAH's important and legitimate human rights work, and to take appropriate measures to guarantee their safety. In regard to providing comprehensive protection measures to MILPAH members, the perception of how the campaign has influenced this varies between MILPAH and their lawyers from Cedprodec. Cedprodec told Amnesty that the international campaign has contributed to improved communication between MILPAH and the National Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders (Sistema Nacional de Protección para Personas Defensoras). On the other hand, MILPAH told Amnesty that the Protection Mechanism has still not fully implemented some protection measures that they had been granted. Regarding the recognition of MILPAH's work, MILPAH told Amnesty that government authorities have recognized the importance of their work during private meetings with them, but have just not done so publicly.



Following the delivery of the petitions on 20 March 2018, the Protection Mechanism and the Human Rights Ministry told Amnesty that they are moving ahead in the implementation of collective protection measures for MILPAH after recently having assessed their risk. They also communicated publicly about the meeting with Amnesty stating they would follow up on the protection measures through the mechanism (see this [news story](#) for more information).

*A member of MILPAH with some of the solidarity letters received
© Amnesty International*

From 2016 until now, Amnesty International has observed the implementation of some protection measures for MILPAH for which the organization has specifically campaigned. However, it is too soon to say whether campaigning as part of Write for Rights specifically has had a particular impact as December 2017 and January 2018 were very complicated months in Honduras due to a post-election crisis causing many institutions in the country to not function adequately. Following the presidential elections on 26 November 2017, security forces brutally repressed massive protests that began taking place on 29 November across Honduras to condemn the lack of transparency around the election. Human rights defenders who were monitoring and denouncing this repression were particularly targeted with violence, with defenders reporting a murder, smear campaigns, threats and intimidation against them (for more information, see Amnesty's Urgent Action [Human rights defenders under attack](#)). On 17 December, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal declared then-president Juan Orlando Hernández, who was Amnesty's main target for the Write for Rights campaign, as the winner of the election. On 5 January 2018, the Tribunal denied all the appeals lodged by other political parties. The President began his new term in office on 27 January.

MILPAH has informed Amnesty of a number of potential security incidents that occurred after the launch of the Write for Rights campaign. Several of them show that there still exists a strong tension between those in Honduras who support the implementation of the Los Encinos hydroelectric project, and those who support MILPAH's work. In addition, on 13 December 2017, just after two MILPAH members took part in a Write for Rights speakers' tour to Europe, the brother of MILPAH's coordinator Martín Gómez (Enrique Gómez Vásquez) and his niece died unexpectedly under strange circumstances. To date, there has been no forensic assessment of the deaths and the investigation is at a standstill. Enrique was part of MILPAH and publicly opposed the Los Encinos project. He lived very close to the place where the project is supposed to be built. Amnesty International sent a letter to the government

regarding both deaths in January 2018, calling on the Attorney General's Office to immediately, independently, and comprehensively investigate the circumstances surrounding the deaths. MILPAH subsequently asked for a meeting with the National Protection Mechanism in order to follow up on the protection measures agreed during two meetings in March 2017, one of which Amnesty International observed. This meeting was finally held in February 2018, but the measures are still to be implemented fully.

In order to strengthen our campaign for MILPAH going forward, their members have recommended that Amnesty's messages towards the Honduran government be even stronger. They have also recommended that Amnesty campaigns to address the root causes of the problems they face such as the laws and concessions on regulations for development projects, and the lack of proper consultation with the Indigenous communities who will be most affected by these projects.

Due to the post-election crisis in Honduras around the same time as Write for Rights' key campaign dates, Amnesty did not organize specific media coverage of the campaign within the country. However, authorities and civil society were informed and aware of the campaign through direct mails and face-to-face meetings that Amnesty delegates had with them in November. Encouragingly, two Honduran NGOs (Madre Selva and Cedprodec) reported that the Write for Rights campaign has had a positive and important impact for MILPAH and more generally for raising awareness around the situation faced by territory, land and environmental rights defenders in Honduras. MILPAH confirmed this and said that at the national level, several organizations knew about the campaign and have praised it for raising the visibility of the issues they face. At the local level, in rural communities, however, the campaign was not well known. In order to increase this understanding and visibility, MILPAH spoke about the campaign on a local radio program in February. They also plan to broadcast some of the oral messages of support and solidarity that they have received through this radio station.



Solidarity with MILPAH from around the world © Amnesty International

MILPAH told Amnesty that they had already received thousands of solidarity messages. They said,

“We haven’t been able to read all of the letters but they’ve come from so many countries around the world. We are happy and proud to have friends from all over the world: children, young people, adults. We thank you for the support. It gives us strength. We do not feel alone. It gives us more courage and with this we continue defending human rights and the environment.”

– MILPAH

MILPAH was actively involved in developing the campaign strategy for Write for Rights and reviewing campaign message and materials. They told Amnesty that they were very happy with how they were represented as a collective in the campaign illustrations. Aside from the Write for Rights materials produced for MILPAH's case, they also feature on the *Speak out for defenders!* online platform, which seeks to make visible and register security incidents faced by territory, land and environmental rights defenders in the Americas. The harassment and other security incidents faced by members of MILPAH are included in this platform, and those visiting the site are encouraged to take action on their case.

Members of MILPAH also interacted directly with Amnesty sections as part of the Brave and Write for

Rights campaigns in late 2017. In November, a delegation from Amnesty's Americas Regional Office and Amnesty Spain, Amnesty Canada, Amnesty USA and Amnesty Sweden visited MILPAH's offices in Marcala, Honduras, which helped to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations and the sections' work on the campaign.

In December, Martín Gómez and Margarita Pineda of MILPAH took part in a speakers' tour to Europe, which was the first time they had travelled to Europe to speak about their experiences. While visiting Amnesty Luxembourg, they participated in a meeting with members and section staff to share their story, took part in a letter writing and solidarity event with young people, and spoke directly with national authorities regarding the situation faced by human rights defenders of territory, land and the environment in Honduras. Martín and Margarita also visited Amnesty Italy, where activists presented them with an award in solidarity and recognition of their important human rights work, and spoke at a meeting organized by a local group in Genoa about their case. The MILPAH members also had the opportunity to undertake advocacy in Geneva through meetings with the UN Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights Defenders, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the rights to Freedom of Expression, Association and Assembly, with the support of the Platform against Impunity and the International Service for Human Rights. Martín and Margarita reported that the tour was very useful and important for continuing their human rights work, and that they appreciated the solidarity shown by Amnesty sections and activists in Italy and Luxembourg. Upon returning from the tour, they sent Americas Regional Office staff a message of thanks, saying:

"Dear brothers and sisters of Amnesty, the moment to return to Honduras has arrived. Thank you very much for all of your support, it will live on in our hearts... Thank you for your solidarity with the Lenca people and with all of Honduras. Thank you for the letters, for your words of encouragement, and for your support."

On 14 March, the Attorney General created a new Special Prosecutor's Office for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators (FEPRODDHH), which, among other duties, will be responsible for investigating and prosecuting public officials or individuals who commit crimes against these groups. The new Special Prosecutor will collaborate closely with the National Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders, as well as different government offices, NGOs and civil society groups. While we cannot claim its creation was a result of Amnesty's campaigning on this case, we have consistently called for more effective investigations into attacks against Honduran human rights defenders and we welcome this positive step forward in improving this process.

Amnesty delegates travelled to Honduras from 20-24 March 2018 to deliver Write for Rights petitions to the authorities as well as solidarity letters to MILPAH, and also take part in activities commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), an organization that works on the same issues and in the same area where MILPAH is, and who Amnesty is also campaigning on. Amnesty held a meeting with the newly appointed Human Rights Minister who committed orally and through a tweet to enhance the protection of MILPAH through the National Protection Mechanism. The delegation also went to Santa Elena to visit MILPAH and deliver the results of the campaign. MILPAH thanked Amnesty for all the support the organization has provided. They affirmed that, *"it is thanks to Amnesty International and other international organizations that we are still alive"*. They highlighted the overall benefit of the international speaking tours and of the pressure created by the letters directed to the Honduran government.

Amnesty's Americas Human Rights Defenders team will continue working on the situation of defenders of land, territory and the environment in the region going forward, but expanding their research and campaigning from Honduras and Guatemala to focus on new countries in South America as well as Mexico.

FARID AL-ATRASH AND ISSA AMRO – ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES



© Rebecca Hendin

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS BY MARCH 2017
The Israeli authorities immediately drop all the charges against Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash.	PENDING
International solidarity towards Farid and Issa leads to increased visibility and supports them in their struggle.	ACHIEVED

Human rights defenders **Issa Amro** and **Farid al-Atrash** peacefully stand against the force of Israel's military rule, demanding an end to Israel's settlements in the city of Hebron and other places in the occupied West Bank. In 2010 Issa Amro's Youth Against Settlements (YAS) group launched the Open Shuhada Street campaign, a peaceful event to protest the severe and deeply discriminatory restrictions on Palestinian residents of the Old City of Hebron, which prevent them from accessing certain areas purely because they are Palestinian. The event has been organized on an annual basis since then. It is Palestinian-led and attracts international support.

Following the 7th Open Shuhada Street campaign, which took place between 22 and 28 February 2016, both Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash were arrested. Farid al-Atrash was arrested on 27 February 2016 and was charged with five offences, including "attacking soldiers" and "participating in an illegal demonstration". Issa Amro was arrested on 1 March 2016 and presented with a total of 18 charges, some relating to events dating back as far as to 2010. Farid al-Atrash and Issa Amro have denied all the charges against them.

In October 2017, Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash appeared before the Ofer Military Court in a session in which the military judge heard statements from three witnesses called by the military prosecution who testified against Issa and Farid. The next court hearing is now scheduled for 26 May 2018.

Issa Amro has been detained six times the start of February – specifically on 1, 6, 15, 17, 28 February and on 1 March – before and during this year's Open Shuhada Street campaign, which started on 15 February and ended on 25 February 2018.

Nonetheless, following the launch of Write for Rights, both Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash were able to hold their speaker tour in early September 2017. They travelled to the UK, spoke at an event in Leeds and at the 2017 Labour Party conference in Brighton and visited Amnesty UK's London office. They also visited Amnesty France's office in Paris for their Write for Rights events.

Amnesty International UK shot a video interview with Farid and Issa in which they talk about their activism. Vice and Middle East Monitor also interviewed them and published articles about their story. Additionally, Issa Amro spoke in the UK parliament at its annual Human Rights Day event about his work as a human rights defender and called on the UK government to recognize Palestine, to support Amnesty's campaign to ban settlement goods, and to support human rights defenders. He spoke to Lord Ahmad, Minister of State for the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, at length and invited him to visit Hebron.

Together with Amnesty France, Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash held a press conference for the launch of Write for Rights and met with several institutions to discuss the human rights challenges facing Palestinians. Both Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash said that this allowed them to do high-level advocacy meetings in the context of the Occupation @50 Campaign, a campaign linked to the 50th anniversary of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



Farid Al-Atrash with some of the solidarity letters received as part of Write for Rights © Amnesty International

As Palestinian human rights defenders, Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash were very pleased to be part of a global campaign such as Write for Rights as it brought international attention to their struggle against the Israeli occupation. They felt supported by many people worldwide. To them, the events and actions organized highlighted how many individuals were keen to support their activism and to listen to their experience of non-violent resistance and the tools they use in difficult situations. Overall, Write for Rights has attracted increased attention to their case internationally and given more recognition to their struggle against the occupation. Both Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash consider Write for Rights to be a great tool to inform people worldwide of the developments in their case as well as the broader situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Additionally, they feel that the campaign has given their work increased legitimacy through international and Israeli solidarity and provided them with more protection, which has allowed them to conduct many day-to-day activities as part of their work. Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash believe that due to this international and Israeli solidarity, Israeli authorities have refrained from preventing them from carrying out their work on different occasions. However, the campaign has not fully improved their situation, as

they still face the charges imposed on them by the Israeli authorities and experience difficulties in carrying out their work at times. This is especially true for Issa Amro, who does most of his work on the ground in the occupied city of Hebron. He and Farid al-Atrash are hoping that continued campaigning will put pressure on the Israeli authorities to drop the charges against them, but they believe more direct means of targeting Israeli authorities should accompany the Write for Rights campaign. Such means could include meetings between Amnesty International and the Israeli authorities and direct deliveries to them of some of the letters.

For the two men's families, the campaign has been a success and they fully supported all the actions

taken by Amnesty. According to Farid, the campaign made their families very proud of their activism and has made them even more supportive of their struggle for the rights of Palestinians.

Amnesty's team working on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories travelled to Hebron to personally deliver letters to Farid in February 2018. When he received them, he told the team:

“We never knew how much support we had from all over the world. People stood with us in order to pressure the Israeli authorities to drop all the charges against us and to stop harassing human rights defenders in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We thank Amnesty and its supporters for standing with us and for highlighting our case in the Write for Rights campaign.”

– Farid Al-Atrash

SHACKELIA JACKSON – JAMAICA



© Rebecca Hendin

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS BY MARCH 2017
The Jamaican authorities to protect Shackelia and other families from harassment by the police.	PARTIALLY ACHIEVED
Shackelia feels supported in her fight for justice and receives international solidarity.	ACHIEVED

Shackelia Jackson will not give up. When her brother was gunned down by police in 2014, she made sure that Jamaica’s independent investigators into police killings secured the crime scene. The police had been pursuing a “Rastafarian-looking” suspect in a robbery, and Nakiea fit that description. According to witnesses, Nakiea was in his small restaurant cooking lunch when he was shot dead by police. Police killings of mainly young and mostly poor men is all too common in Jamaica, with some 2,000 killed in the past decade.

Shackelia was determined not to let Nakiea’s story end there. Like many other families, she has battled a badly underfunded, sluggish court system to lead a bold fight for justice. In doing so, she has rallied dozens of relatives whose loved ones have been killed, amplifying their cries for justice.

The police have responded by raiding her community, often timing the raids to coincide with court dates. But Shackelia refuses to be silenced. “I fight because I have no other choice.” And adds: “To stop would mean I am giving another police officer permission to kill another of my brothers.”

As part of Write for Rights 2017, over half a million actions were taken on behalf of Shackelia Jackson. Activists called on the Jamaican Prime Minister to urgently reform the justice system, ensure justice for Shackelia and other relatives of people allegedly killed by the police, and to protect them from police harassment. Of the total number of actions, Amnesty International supporters sent at least 47,000 solidarity messages by post to Shackelia’s family in Kingston, to Shackelia directly by email, or through the #Time4JusticeJA website, telling Shackelia that they supported her in her struggle for justice.

Shackelia told Amnesty that before participating in the Write for Rights campaign she did not know

much about it, but was excited by the prospects of raising the visibility of her struggle for justice and what she would be able to achieve together with Amnesty's global movement. Now that the campaign has ended, she told us that having participated in Write for Rights, she was *"reminded of how much your work is further amplified; it is no longer a national outpouring of solidarity but a global one. Just the commitment towards writing letters to the Prime Minister and the things that are achievable as a result of that, it made me feel that I was in the best position in pursuit of justice...I saw the kind of resources that this activism takes and I was happy that Amnesty International was able to support me in this"*.



Shackelia reading solidarity letters in Jamaica

Shackelia received thousands of emailed solidarity messages from activists and supporters around the world. She told Amnesty that she has coded and saved the emails so that she can respond to them all at some point. She said she is happy to write back to everyone who wrote to her, saying, *"It's my nature to respond to all of them. If they took the time to write letters, it's the least I could do"*.

Write for Rights activists also sent physical solidarity letters to Shackelia at her family's home in Kingston, Jamaica. She told Amnesty that while she was in Europe for a speakers' tour in November, her grandmother called her

to say that the house was flooded with letters. Her grandmother explained that several postal workers and their supervisor had come to the house to see what was going on, because the massive amount of letters coming to one address was so odd and prompted them to launch an investigation. Shackelia said, *"It showed me the campaign was really well received and that people connected with the issue, and were genuinely compelled to act on our part."*

Shackelia actively participated in the campaign from the outset, including developing the campaign strategy with Amnesty staff, reviewing all materials, and taking part in speakers' tours and extensive media work. Between October and November 2017, Shackelia was invited to several of Amnesty USA's regional conferences, allowing her to increase her engagement and visibility with Amnesty's members and supporters in that country. Additionally, Amnesty USA strategically connected her with Jamaican diaspora groups in the country.

In November 2017, Shackelia travelled to Europe to participate in a speakers' tour. While there, Shackelia participated in events with Amnesty International members and activists such as a Youth Conference in Oslo, Norway, with close to a hundred participants. She was also interviewed by various media outlets, took part in a [Facebook Live](#) with Amnesty Netherlands, and gave powerful testimony at a public event in London, about her struggle for justice for Nakiea and the wider issue of impunity in Jamaica. Amnesty UK accompanied Shackelia to an advocacy meeting at the Jamaican High Commission in London.

As an integral part of Write for Rights every year, the Human Rights Education Programme developed a case study and lesson plan for educators that featured Shackelia's case. Students could learn about Nakiea and Shackelia and use the case of killing by the police in Jamaica to examine the human rights involved and the role of the police. They were encouraged to write a letter to support Shackelia's fight for justice in the [Write for Rights lesson plan: Power and responsibility](#).

Additional campaign materials developed by the International Secretariat included photos and case videos from the Audio-visual Studio telling Shackelia's story. The videos were filmed in Jamaica ahead of the campaign launch and proved to be very popular on Amnesty's Global Facebook page, where it reached over 146,000 people and was viewed 62,000 times, as well as with international members in the region. In fact, the number of activists linked to Amnesty International in Jamaica grew by

3,471%, from 98 International Members at the beginning of 2017 to 3,500 by March 2018.

Media coverage on Shackelia's case within Jamaica increased during the Write for Rights campaign period, following international media attention and interviews she carried out while in Europe and elsewhere. Some of the international media work included articles published in the *Huffington Post UK*, *Vice Broadly*, and many other national and local papers internationally. In January 2018, Shackelia's story was published in the *Sunday Gleaner*, the Sunday edition of major Jamaican newspaper *The Gleaner*.

An Amnesty delegation travelled to Kingston, Jamaica from 10-15 March 2018 in order to deliver letters and petition signatures on Shackelia's case to the office of Prime Minister Andrew Holness and to continue the dialogue with the country's authorities for police and justice reforms. The delegation was made up of staff from Amnesty's Americas Regional Office and Amnesty Brazil, as well as relatives of victims of police killings from the US and Brazil. Over the next two years, Amnesty International will continue its work on addressing excessive use of force and unlawful killings by the police in all three countries.



Members of the delegation of relatives of victims of police killings and Amnesty staff during the delivery of Write for Rights actions

In a meeting with Amnesty International, Jamaica's Minister of Justice reported that the government had "received thousands and thousands of letters from Amnesty International's supporters around the world" and acknowledged Jamaica's challenges with addressing alleged unlawful killings by the police.

On International Day against Police Brutality (15 March), the delegation met with the Office of the Prime Minister where government representatives recognized the need to

"police the police" in Jamaica. They mentioned the current process of legislative reform of the police force with the preparation of a new Police Service Act, and discussed justice reforms that are being promoted to make the justice system more efficient for everyone. Amnesty International urged the government to engage with human rights organizations and collectives of families of alleged victims of police violence as they conduct these reforms.

The delegates collaborated with Jamaicans for Justice, as well as families of alleged victims of police killings, to mobilize around the petition delivery and carried out a number of activities in the week leading up to the petition delivery. This included media work, a public forum at the University of West Indies on the regional issue of impunity for police killings ([video available here](#)), and developing plans and materials for the regionally focused campaign going forward.

In a [letter of thanks](#) to Amnesty International in mid-December, Shackelia shared her gratitude for this supportive relationship, stating:

"You are a manifestation of the global support I needed, to rewrite a history of wrong and I am thankful that Nakiea's story resonated sufficiently with you; allowing me to become the beneficiary of your support; commitment and hospitality. You have made the journey manageable, broadened our platform and provided the strategic guidance and web of support required in this change process... I say peace be with you, continue to be a beacon of change and a light unto our pathway. I am excited by the prospects of our sustained partnership, for the best is yet to come."

– Shackelia Jackson

CLOVIS RAZAFIMALALA – MADAGASCAR



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OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS BY MARCH 2017
Malagasy authorities quash the conviction against Clovis Razafimalala.	PENDING
Provide Clovis with visibility and international support in order to raise his profile and allow him to continue his human rights work in a safer manner.	ACHIEVED
Clovis and his family receive international solidarity from around the world.	ACHIEVED

Environmental rights defender, **Clovis Razafimalala** was released on 24 July 2017 after spending ten months in prison, just as his case had been selected for Write for Rights. A court found him guilty of the charges of ‘destruction of public goods’ and ‘arson of public documents’ for his alleged participation in a demonstration and he was handed a five-year suspended sentence. He did not take part in the demonstration. He was acquitted of the charge of ‘rebellion’. Clovis filed an appeal against this conviction. In January 2018, Clovis’ lawyer had a meeting with the Minister of Justice in person to discuss Clovis’ case. Even after this meeting no date has been set for the appeal trial.

Several embassies, including the Madagascar Embassy in Belgium, have sent generic replies to letters of Amnesty members raising their concerns on Clovis’ acknowledging receipt of the letter and reiterating that Clovis was found guilty. Clovis’ release was very timely as he was able to actively participate in the campaign. An Amnesty International team, composed of Selina and Ryan from the AV team, and Tamara the Madagascar Advisor travelled to Madagascar in September 2017. They filmed a short video of Clovis with several of the shots being of him in the rain forest that he protects through his activism. The video was shared widely with sections as part of Write for Rights.

Clovis also had the opportunity to participate in Amnesty France’s Write for Rights campaign ‘10 jours pour signer’ in November 2017. During the tour, he met with members of the French government, the European Parliament, journalists and Amnesty France members. He got to share his story in several interviews with the media especially on radio and TV while in France.



Clovis reading solidarity messages © Private

“Thank you to Amnesty International for inviting me to the 10-day event in France. Thanks to this event, me and my organization Lampogno do not feel alone. I had the opportunity to meet French media, European and French elected officials, senior French government officials, NGOs and other activists. It was a moment for me to give a little more detail on my business, our activity within the Lampogno Advocacy Coalition and especially and above all the lack of respect for human rights in Madagascar.”

More than 411,000 actions were taken by activists worldwide. Clovis is very grateful for all the solidarity letters he has received as a result of Write for Rights and told us:

“I don’t know how many letters I received, but it’s in the thousands. I have even received letters from school children from Canada, all the way to Amsterdam. It is incredibly touching, and really gives me courage. The Amnesty campaign has made a massive difference for me, because it has echoed my story worldwide. And know, I am on my way to receive the prize of 2017 Brave Malagasy. It makes me really proud, and it makes me want to continue the fight.”

– Clovis

Before the campaign on Clovis’ case, Malagasy civil society was wary of supporting Clovis fearing harassment from the government. Since the campaign started, support from the civil society has been growing with some of them contacting Amnesty International directly requesting to participate in taking action. There was also more recognition, from local organisations, of the work that Clovis and other human rights defenders are doing in Madagascar. One example of this is, Clovis Razafimalala receiving the ‘Citizen of courage’ award on 31 January 2018 in Antananarivo, Madagascar. The award presented by a group of Malagasy organisations, including a local movement Wake Up Madagascar and a youth civic movement, Liberty 32, was in recognition of his environmental rights activism in Madagascar. This was the first of what will be an annual celebration in Madagascar recognising people who have made a difference for human rights in the country.

Thanks to all the attention the case received as part of Write for Rights, Clovis was invited to speak on the panel of many human rights events that took place in Madagascar, including one organized by Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and another organized by the European Union.



Clovis after receiving his award on 31 January 2017 © Private

Media attention on the case and on the human rights situation in Madagascar increased. Since the start of the campaign Clovis’ case and work have been highlighted by both national (including five of the main newspapers in Madagascar which continue to refer to Clovis cases whenever they publish stories on the environment) and international media (including Radio France International (RFI) and Le

Monde). Clovis has personally been interviewed by several media houses on his environmental rights work in Madagascar. British newspaper, The Guardian, informed Amnesty that they are planning to send a crew to Madagascar in February 2018 to meet with Clovis and document his story. They will also be documenting the work and stories of other environmental rights activists.

The team will be delivering the petitions to the authorities in July 2018. In the meantime, Sections are encouraged to continue taking action on Clovis' case as a suspended sentence puts him at risk of being detained again and this would keep him away from his human rights work. The Malagasy government must quash the conviction against Clovis Razafimalala.

TANER & THE ISTANBUL 10 – TURKEY



© Rebecca Hendin

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS BY MARCH 2017
Stop the persecution of these human rights defenders and unconditionally release them.	PARTIALLY ACHIEVED
Achieve massive mobilisation of the Amnesty movement and beyond in support and in solidarity with human rights defenders in Turkey, including Amnesty colleagues facing baseless terrorism-related charges.	ACHIEVED

Work on **Taner Kiliç** and the **Istanbul 10** began months before Write for Rights. On 5 July 2017, our friend and colleague İdil Eser, the Director of Amnesty Turkey, was detained along with nine other human rights defenders while attending a human rights workshop in Istanbul. It came only a month after Amnesty Turkey's Chair, Taner Kiliç was detained, also unfairly. He remains in prison.

The human rights defenders detained on 5 July, the Istanbul 10, were İdil Eser (Amnesty International), Günal Kurşun (Human Rights Agenda Association), Özlem Dalkıran (Citizens' Assembly), Veli Acu (Human Rights Agenda Association), Ali Gharavi (IT strategy consultant), Peter Steudtner (non-violence and wellbeing trainer), İlknur Üstün (Women's Coalition), Şeymus Özbekli (Rights Initiative), Nejat Taştan (Equal Rights Watch Association) and Nalan Erkem, (Citizens' Assembly). They are suspected, without grounds, of "committing crime in the name of a terrorist organization without being a member".

Taner Kiliç, who was detained on 6 June, was charged three days later with "membership of the Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization" and remanded in pre-trial detention. Taner Kiliç has served on the board of Amnesty Turkey for various periods since 2002 and has been Chair since 2014. During his decades of work for human rights organizations in Turkey he has consistently demonstrated an unswerving commitment to human rights.

After months of intense and unprecedented campaigning and advocacy efforts by the Amnesty movement, on 25 October we received amazing news as the remaining Istanbul 10 (because some had been released on bail earlier), including İdil Eser, were released. This incredible success was unfortunately followed by negative news regarding Taner Kiliç, as the court decided on 26 October to keep him in jail.

It was a logical progression to include Taner and the Istanbul 10 in Write for Rights. The arrest of İdil and Taner marked an incredibly important moment for Amnesty, but as the situation dragged on we did not want interest to wane. Including the case in Amnesty's biggest campaign kept the interest constant.

As Günal Kurşun (one of the Istanbul 10) told us: *“These hearings will extend and extend, this is their tactic, so that it a sword of Damocles is hanging over us as a threat. As a threat to the whole human rights movement in Turkey, as a threat to the human rights movement in the whole world. But we are resisting.”*



İdil Eser after being released on bail in October. © Amnesty International

The case of Taner and the Istanbul 10 has been by far the most successful during Write for Rights 2017, with almost 875,000 actions. And this are only the actions taken during the Write for Rights period as many more were taken in the months since the human rights defenders' detention. Although many of the letters and postcards were not delivered to the detainees – when they were released on bail many of the 10 were able to see the letters and cards that had been sent to Amnesty Turkey. In addition, a Tumblr solidarity page set up for the case proved successful, with many Sections uploading pictures.

Speaking about the solidarity letters Günal Kurşun told us: *“Twenty years ago, when I was a law student, I got involved with Amnesty for the first time, the Ankara Group. For more than two years I was the president... So I was writing post cards and letters 15, 20 years ago, for different AI campaigns to Colombia to Egypt to Myanmar I remember. Twenty years later I have now received letters... Thank you very much for sending, this is very valuable for me.”*

“I knew that there were thousands of messages and postcards and letters sent to me, but they didn't give me any of them. But one day my lawyer told me that there had been more than one million signatures sent to the Turkish Minister of Justice for us and it was one of the BEST days I was in prison. It was a very good day.”



Günal Kurşun, outside the Istanbul Penal Court before his hearing on 31st January 2018. © Amnesty International

Günal is holding the very first solidarity card he received, from the Mid-Devon Amnesty UK Group. He kept in his pocket for good luck during the hearing, where he told us: *“Being a HRD was always a difficult thing. I don't see myself as a hero, I am doing only my duty.”*

As much as possible, we included Taner and the Istanbul 10 in the decision-making process for all work on their cases. Mainly this was done via family members and lawyers.

The overall impact of Amnesty's campaigning on Taner and the Istanbul 10 has been positive. We have high expectations that the case against the Istanbul 10 will conclude positively. Campaigning for İdil and the others likely contributed to their release on bail.

“We were released earlier than we expected, because normally people stay for 8 – 12 months in prison for similar charges. Even though they are proven not guilty at the end. So it was a huge relief. It was also a very interesting experience as a Human Rights Defender because you see the other side; you see what the conditions are like in detention centres and prisons, what the people experience. I can say I now have a huge appetite for working on prisoner’s rights at the moment because I can empathise and bond with them.”

– İdil Eser, Director of Amnesty Turkey and one of the Istanbul 10

For Taner the situation is sadly different. At the January hearing Taner’s release on bail was ordered, only to be withdrawn the very next day. This cruel act had an incredibly negative effect on Taner and his family.

The trial against Taner, İdil Eser and the other nine human rights defenders on trumped-up terrorism related charges continues. It is one of many baseless prosecutions against members of civil society under the crackdown in Turkey.

The next hearing will take place on 21 June. We will continue to combine campaigning and advocacy until Taner is free.

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2017 – ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

ALGERIA

54,171 Total Actions

Amnesty Algeria saw an increase of 2,000 actions compared to 2016. Nearly 40 activities were organized across twelve different departments.

Many creative activities were developed as part of the campaign, such as the children’s race for human rights, a mixed football match against discrimination and “Sing for Rights”, Amnesty Algeria’s first music concert organised for Write for Rights. Letter-writing workshops were organized by high-school students, and an advocacy competition based on Write for Rights cases was held.

ARGENTINA

5,421 Total Actions
4,297 Estimated Participants



W4R in AI Argentina

Schools in Argentina worked on the Write for Rights campaign for the first time in 2017, incorporating participatory methodologies in their classes. Some students have learned English by getting involved and taking action for Shackelia, Mahadine, Hanan, Xulhaz, Clovis and Ni Yu Lan.

Other students also engaged their community to take action and write to defend human rights defenders. Through activism events in schools, led by the Youth Group of Amnesty Argentina, more than 500 young people wrote and signed letters and postcards.

Amnesty Argentina also mixed art and activism for the first time. This year the Section opened its doors to people for a “Human Rights Afternoon”, opening a public exhibition of artwork by Leon Ferrari.

AUSTRALIA

162,977 Total Actions
62,309 Estimated Participants

At least 229 events were held for Write for Rights across Australia in 2017. Highlights included the Amnesty Pop Culture Network at the Melbourne #Madman Anime Festival, collecting 744 petition signatures over two days, and a JAMnesty event, a music night with several bands doing shout outs for Write for Rights cases, raising over \$500.

Amnesty Australia had fifteen local media hits across the country, including a local TV station in Perth interviewing an Amnesty activist on her work on Write for Rights.

This year activists led the development of Write for Rights materials, aiming to engage new audiences. An activity booklet with crossword puzzles and word searches linked to the cases was made by the Perth Group, in collaboration with lead activists from four states. Approximately 800 were distributed nationally.

Amnesty Australia also had some great feedback in the digital space. Stand out cases that resonated with digital audiences included Hanan Badr el-Din, Mahadine, and the case of Taner and the Istanbul 10.

AUSTRIA

31,074 Total Actions
13,271 Estimated Participants

Local Amnesty groups organised 44 events in cafés, pubs, libraries, shops, schools, public

streets and squares around the country.

More than 180 school classes and over 3,700 pupils participated, collecting approximately 1,600 solidarity-drawings for Ni Yulan. Highlights this year included street art 'Paste Ups', raising awareness about the case of the Istanbul 10, and collaboration with "This Human World Film Festival", where a panel discussion about human rights was held.



W4R Austria's "Paste Ups"

BELGIUM (FR)

282,253 Total Actions

Forty-five of Amnesty Belgium's (Francophone, FR) local groups organised letter-writing marathons for Write for Rights 2017. A highlight of the 2017 campaign was the collaboration between Amnesty Belgium Francophone and Amnesty Belgium Flemish speaking (VL), organising a twelve-hour marathon together in their new shared offices in Brussels. Fred Bauma, an activist from Congo, who featured in Write for Rights 2015 joined them on the day and wrote letters alongside Belgian activists who wrote to him while he was in jail. Fred Bauma was freed in August 2016 after spending eighteen months in prison.

On 18 January, Amnesty Belgium (FR)'s director Philippe Hensmans and approximately 25 activists, participated in a bus tour of embassies in Brussels, delivering petitions to the embassies of the countries for the 10 cases featuring in Write for Rights 2017.

BELGIUM (VL)

111,597 Total Actions
9,618 Estimated Participants

In 2017 Amnesty Belgium Flemish speaking (VL) more than doubled the number of actions compared to Write for Rights 2016! To kick off the campaign they organised a twelve-hour event, filled with live music, hand massages, drinks and food. The event was joined by Albert Woodfox and Robert King, two members of the "Angola Three". Albert Woodfox, who featured in Write for Rights 2015, was released in February 2016 after spending more than four decades in solitary confinement. Albert and Robert wrote letters in support of this year's cases alongside activists and reminded everyone that letters really do change lives.

The Section created action booklets which people could order for free to organise a letter-writing marathon at their home, with more than 575 people ordering a booklet. Following this, Amnesty Belgium (VL) invested in telemarketing research, asking people who ordered an action booklet how their action went.

Further highlights included a letter-writing marathon organised by prison inmates alongside an Amnesty group, and coverage on local and national TV and radio.

BENIN

129,260 Total Actions
129,170 Estimated Participants

Amnesty Benin more than doubled its actions in 2017 compare to last year's Write for Rights. The Section selected four of the global cases, making sure that they were strongly linked to human rights issues relevant to Benin and the Section's Annual Work Plan.

Signatures were collected through a variety of activities, including those held at schools, on street corners, at churches, craft workshops and even in hairdressing salons, conference rooms, and sport centres. The Section held a press conference with partners on 10th December and the campaign was promoted on social networks and Amnesty Benin's website.

BURKINA FASO

10,496 Total Actions

The most popular activities of Amnesty Burkina Faso's 2017 Write for Rights campaign were stands in schools, universities and at cultural and social events. Eleven stands were organized in six areas around the country. A "World Café" was held in Yako, in addition to training sessions for young people.

Amnesty Burkina Faso also collected signatures and petitions during a "Human Rights Night", using a musical show to mobilize young people around the campaign. Young people also organized a pretend trial on the violation of the right of freedom of expression and the right to peaceful demonstration, in addition to human rights debates between different schools.

The Section also organized media activities to inform people about Write for Rights 2017 and invite them to take action in support of victims of human rights violations. They involved Saly Z, a local celebrity, as a 'human rights ambassador', who performed on radio shows and during the "Human Rights Night". Social media platforms were used to promote these activities and events.

CANADA (EN)

69,068 Total Actions
25,000 Estimated Participants

Hundreds of Write for Rights events were organized in communities across Canada in 2017. Groups had learnt from their experience of Write for Rights in previous years and went on to create successful events with high levels of energy around the campaign.

This year saw a significant increase in events on university campuses.

Amnesty Canada English speaking (EN)'s "Letter to a Prisoner" booklet was a great asset, guiding letter-writers in their communication with human rights defenders in prison.



Write for Rights, Stratford, Canada 2017 © Private

CANADA (FR)

59,525 Total Actions
8,585 Estimated Participants

Amnesty Canada French speaking (FR) worked on ten cases during their 2017 Write for Rights campaign. These included the eight proposed by the International Secretariat, one local case (Melanie Morrison, a

human rights defender and the sister of a murdered Indigenous woman) and the case of Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee, Iranian human rights defender and writer imprisoned in Iran.

Numerous activities and events involving music were organised, with many partners promoting and participating, including labour unions, a school board and LGBT provincial groups.

Cards were signed by members of the public in more than 100 libraries.

CHILE

12,746 Total Actions
2,367 Estimated Participants

Amnesty Chile campaigned for four Write for Rights cases in 2017, in addition to one national case.

The section organized a concert with local bands for the launch of the campaign, which was very motivating for the activists.

Amnesty activists also attended conferences about human rights at the national university, spreading awareness of the campaign.

Most of the total signatures were collected at a very famous outdoors music festival.



W4R Chile: AI Chile

CZECH REPUBLIC

36,778 Total Actions
21,049 Estimated Participants

Amnesty Czech Republic collaborated with various partners, such as human rights-based NGOs, students' networks and student societies, in order to promote their Write for Rights campaign to new audiences.

Amnesty Czech Republic contacted Czech celebrities to support the campaign and created short videos with them during Write for Rights events.

The Section supported its local groups and the public, helping them to organize their own events, which were promoted on the campaign's website.

The campaign was launched with an all-day Write for Rights event in the Centre for Contemporary Art with a photo exhibition, a movie screening, music bands, speeches and many other activities.



W4R 2017 Czech Republic

DENMARK

154,517 Total Actions
12,670 Estimated Participants

During the past two years the focus of the Danish Section regarding Write for Rights has been on school children from the age of 12-17 years. Around 12,670 school children participated in the campaign from almost 300 schools and over 600 classes.

This year Amnesty Denmark developed many educational materials in Danish, primarily for teachers, but also including activities for children. Very good feedback regarding these materials was given by school teachers. In addition, some schools planned their own Write for Rights events.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS OFFICE

697 Total Actions

The focus of Amnesty's European Institutions Office (EIO)'s advocacy efforts during the 2017 campaign was to raise awareness of Write for Rights across the European Institutions and engage officials and other actors in Brussels in this campaign and broader support for human rights defenders. Key institutions and organizations showed support to human rights defenders during Write for Rights, through tweets, photos or messages in their speeches.

Highlights included the Estonian European Union (EU) presidency showing solidarity for human rights defenders on 10 December via their twitter account. Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, also made special emphasis on the protection and defence of human rights defenders in her annual speech for Human Rights Day. In addition, the President of the Council of Bars and Law Societies in Europe (CCBE) wrote a letter to the Chinese authorities in support of Ni Yulan.

During the annual EU NGO Forum on 5 and 6 December, EIO Director Iverna McGowan, participated in a panel together with Stavros Lambrinidi, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, highlighting the situation and risks faced by human rights defenders and promoting the Write for Rights campaign. Materials and postcards on Write for Rights were available during the Forum, which counted with the participation of human rights defenders from across the globe, NGOs and EU Institutions.

FINLAND

11,654 Total Actions
12,670 Estimated Participants

In 2017, Amnesty Finland focused on the cases of Sakris Kupila, Shackelia Jackson and the case of Taner and the Istanbul 10 in Turkey. However, focusing only on three cases this year reduced the number of total actions in comparison to previous years.

This was the first time that Amnesty Finland had the opportunity to campaign for a Finnish person, Sakris Kupila. International campaigning contributed to the efforts to revise the Finnish Trans Act. Letters and petitions have been noticed by the Finnish government and the huge amount of solidarity messages for Sakris from around the world gave a long-lasting energy boost to everyone involved. The campaign was warmly welcomed by local organizations and well-received by the public.

Amnesty Finland campaigned in schools, and individual activists were encouraged to order action packages and campaign in their communities. Approximately 70 schools registered for the campaign with over 3,300 students participating. The number of actions in schools was over 1,200 (letters and solidarity cards). The teacher's manual was again produced in Finnish and Swedish and teachers were trained via webinars.

In November, the Section visited a school with Sakris Kupila, who shared his story and discussed the Finnish Trans Act with the students. Two students from the school were later chosen to participate in the handover of all the letters addressed to the Finnish Prime Minister Juha Sipilä, written by school students in Finland.



Sakris Kupila opening solidarity letters

FRANCE

In 2017, Amnesty France hosted Farid Al-Atrash, Issa Amro and Clovis Razafimalala for almost two weeks, giving them the opportunity to hold many advocacy meetings and media interviews, raising awareness about the Write for Rights campaign.

441,528 Total Actions
80,000 Estimated Participants

Amnesty France continued their partnerships with the weekly paper *Courrier International* and the radio station *France Culture*. They had with a special section in the paper on HRDs and an introduction to the ten cases. *France Culture* ran an hour-long show dedicated to Write for Rights, joined by with Amnesty France's president Camille Blanc and the singer HK.

Local groups ran approximately 350 activities, mobilising people to take action in one or more cases of Write for Rights. On Saturday 9th December, 22 actions centres were organised in major cities to introduce to a broader audience to the cases of Write for Rights.

To close their Write for Rights campaign, Amnesty France organised a concert with the singer HK at the prestigious venue "Le Trianon" in Paris on 10th December, celebrating International Human Rights Day, attended by 1300 people.

The final video can be watched here: <http://bit.ly/2oHpDBC>

GERMANY

245,974 Total Actions
25,000 Estimated Participants

Amnesty Germany's strongest activity during the 2017 Write for Rights campaign was the letter-writing marathon that took place in 442 schools, resulting in 77,370 letters written. In addition, 222 events were organised across Germany by Amnesty Germany members. These included events at the EU parliament, several regional parliaments, town halls, railway stations, Christmas markets, libraries, book shops and many other places, with several 24-hour letter writing activities among them.

GUINEA

8,976 Total Actions
20,000 Estimated Participants

In 2017, many activities were held across Guinea for Write for Rights, including a press conference and a letter-writing marathon. Activities held in collaboration with the government and diplomats from the "Palais du Peuple" were particularly notable.

ICELAND

Write for Rights 2017 was the biggest so far for Amnesty Iceland. A large number of AI Iceland volunteers organised Write for Rights events in their hometowns and collected signatures. In depth Human Rights Education plans were administered in four colleges and four primary schools.

94,402 Total Actions
10,002 Estimated Participants



Signatures illuminated on a church in Iceland
© Amnesty International

A special point of pride for Amnesty Iceland was their five-day interactive installation event, #LightUpTheDark, on the largest church in Iceland. They collaborated with Jamie Reyes, an installation artist from Venezuela, and Serious Business Agency in Munich. Together they developed the concept of "Lighting Up the Dark", with reference to the old saying, "It's better to light a candle than curse the dark". They projected a large candle on the church façade and in front of the church they had I-pads where people could sign petitions on each of the ten cases. Information on each of the cases was printed on big, lit-up posters in front of the church. Each time people signed their name the flame of the candle got brighter and Estimated Participants received the thank you note with their name saying: "Thank you for keeping the flame alive!" The signatures were then projected on the façade of the church. In just five days, AI Iceland collected 11,000 signatures in front of the church.

INDIA

9,000 Total Actions

During Write for Rights 2017 Amnesty India focused on carrying out human rights education activities with a number of schools and colleges. They chose the case of MILPAH as they believed the story would be appealing for children. School children wrote around 9,000 solidarity cards.

IRELAND

13,085 Total Actions
11,553 Estimated Participants

Amnesty Ireland's 2017 Write for Rights letter writing marathon campaign was launched with an e-bulletin to all Amnesty Ireland members and supporters. Local groups, activists, colleges and schools started their activities on the campaign in December, mobilising people across the country. In November, they took the Bangladesh and the Turkey case to a music festival in Dublin, which proved to be a great success.

More schools got involved in 2017 than ever before, resulting in an increase in the number of handwritten letters with messages of solidarity.

The Christmas market in December was a particularly successful moment for Amnesty Ireland, with over 5,000 petitions collected and much support shown by the public.

In January, Amnesty Ireland organised a tour of four embassies – Turkey, Egypt, China and Israel – where petitions and an advocacy letter were delivered in person.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, LONDON

2,071 Total Actions

This year the Write for Rights event at the International Secretariat in London took place on 5 December. Many colleagues came visit our stand to learn more about the ten cases, add their signatures and write actual letters of support and solidarity to the people featured in the campaign and to the authorities, urging them to take action.



IS London staff signing petitions

ITALY

167,360 Total Actions

Over 100 groups joined Amnesty Italy's letter-writing marathon, including youth groups and schools, resulting in thousands of solidarity messages for the human rights defenders supported by the 2017 Write for Rights campaign.

A particular highlight was a speaking tour with Martín Gómez and Margarita Pineda, two members of the MILPAH Indigenous group from Honduras, who featured in this year's campaign.

IVORY COAST

Amnesty Ivory Coast and its members took action in many schools, communities, streets and public places.

20,733 Total Actions
32,000 Estimated Participants

The most notable event was the celebration of International Human Rights Day on 10th December, with the Ivory Coast Human Rights National Commission and more than twenty other national human rights NGOs coming together at "Place CP1", a famous meeting place in Abidjan. This event targeted a new audience, demonstrated Amnesty's importance as a human rights NGO, and collected 2,183 petition signatures.

Another successful event was organized by Amnesty Ivory Coast's youth committee at the beach, 25km from Abidjan. Here the young activists collected 2,063 petition signatures and took action photos.

JAPAN

13,384 Total Actions
2,505 Estimated Participants

The highlight of Amnesty Japan's 2017 Write for Rights campaign was the letter-writing marathon, held in conjunction with #Run Amnesty International, in which Amnesty members ran through Tokyo, visiting each of the ten embassies of the home countries of each Write for Rights case. The more letters were written, the more runners were allowed to run.

They took a photo action in front of each embassy, and delivered a message regarding the case. Amnesty Japan tried to stream the marathon in real time and share in on Twitter.



Write for Rights activities in Japan

MALAYSIA

118,651 Total Actions

In 2017 Amnesty Malaysia more than doubled the number of actions compared to Write for Rights 2016. The Section organised twelve Write for Rights events during the month of December. In addition, school clubs and local groups independently hosted a further five events.

As it is a global campaign which focuses on international cases, schools were willing to host Write for Rights events as they would not put the institution at risk with the authorities. The campaign allowed Amnesty Malaysia to raise awareness and explain to the general public, especially youth in schools, about human rights violations occurring world-wide.



Write for Rights in Malaysia

MALI

Many Write for Rights events and activities were held in Mali in 2017. This included participating in the Espace d'Interpellation Démocratique (Democratic Enquiry Space), meeting with staff in schools to promote the campaign, signing petitions in schools, photo shoots and TV interviews. More than 1,550 reached Amnesty Mali's Facebook page during the campaign. The campaign recruited many new members for Amnesty Mali.

9,324 Total Actions
9,324 Estimated Participants

MEXICO

This year Amnesty Mexico campaigned on the ten global Write for Rights cases and also on the case of a Mexican mother, Esperanza Lucciotta, who is fighting for justice for the killing of her daughter Karla Pontigo. Including a national case allowed Amnesty Mexico to construct a bridge with Mexican people about the international cases.

9,324 Total Actions
9,324 Estimated Participants



Girl writing a letter during event organised by Amnesty Mexico © Amnesty International

With the support of Human Rights Education (HRE) resources, the Write for Rights campaign built a bond with the most important and prominent high schools and universities, such as the National and Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Amnesty Mexico took the opportunity to talk about Amnesty International and activism.

The Mexican Section also held actions in universities forums, public places, and cultural festivals in states across Mexico. This was the first year that HRE was part of the campaign, with two courses and four workshops run, where 78% of the attendees were under 30 years old.

MOLDOVA

36,500 Total Actions
7,000 Estimated Participants

Each year young people are becoming more active in Amnesty Moldova's letter-writing marathon activities. For fourteen days, activists from schools that participated in the marathon organized more than 80 actions.

The results of the 2017 letter-writing marathon show that Amnesty Moldova is constantly growing, with more and more initiative groups involved in the activities, and progress is not only in figures but also in the quality of actions. Students now know their own rights and the rights of others.



Amnesty Moldova's letter-writing marathon

MONGOLIA

27,174 Total Actions
7,000 Estimated Participants

In 2017, Amnesty Mongolia organized Write for Rights events among the public, particularly targeting students in universities and secondary schools in different areas, including the capital city and in six local areas. Before starting the events, we organized a workshop for facilitators of the Write for Rights events, including teachers of Human Rights Friendly schools and students, using Human Rights Education lesson plans focusing on Write for Rights cases.

MOROCCO

22,305 Total Actions

Write for Rights 2017 was a great success for Amnesty Morocco, generating almost double the number of actions from 2016. This was the result of 51 events organized nation-wide, in at least fourteen cities.

Fourteen local groups and youth clubs, as well as individual members, partners and human rights friendly schools, all coordinated actions and events, either individually or in partnerships with civil society members, partner schools and artistic groups.

Highlights included awareness-raising workshops around the cases, in addition to movie screenings, debates, photo actions, music events, wall painting, fundraising events, stunts in schools and universities, sit-ins and marches with other human rights organizations, and letter-writing evenings.

The Human Rights Education programme continued to be a major source of opportunity in raising awareness and developing activism around the campaign. Activities were organized in a number of human rights school clubs, newly targeted schools, as well as human rights friendly schools.



Wall art in Morocco

MOSCOW OFFICE



2,458 Total Actions

Letter-writing marathons took place in eleven cities across Russia, including Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, which is 9199 km away from Moscow!

The biggest highlight of the 2017 Write for Rights campaign was the activism and human rights movie festival organised by the Moscow office.

NEPAL

28,448 Total Actions

Amnesty Nepal doubled the number of actions generated by the Write for Rights campaign between 2016 and 2017. The section organised a Poetry for Human Rights event to mark Human Rights Day and collected thousands of signatures in a single day. More than 40 Groups and Networks associated with Amnesty Nepal organised programs across the country and collected signatures and letters.



Amnesty Nepal activists collecting signatures in front of historic Krishna Mandir Patan

NETHERLANDS

Amnesty Netherlands had another successful Write for Rights Campaign in 2017. Events were organised in more than 600 places and over 40,000 students (primary & secondary) from almost 300 different schools took part.

181,086 Total Actions

Approximately 100 mayors joined the events in their towns and villages. Several members of parliament joined in a letter-writing event in Parliament, hosted by a prominent member of the Dutch Labour party.

The Amnesty Netherlands office held a marathon from 10:00 am until midnight, attended in good spirits with music and performances. This was joined by several Dutch writers. FunX, a radio station focusing on the young urban multi-cultural population, did a four-hour live broadcast directly from the event. Another highlight was a letter-writing event held on a tour boat.

See a video of the campaign activities [here](#).

NEW ZEALAND

4,173 Total Actions
2,509 Estimated Participants

With the help of new volunteer Regional Organisers, Amnesty New Zealand was able to host new events for the 2017 Write for Rights campaign, in new regions. One event was in Greytown, where, during its inaugural event, Kuranui College presented a drama piece entitled "I speak for the trees", about Clovis Razafimalala. You can watch the video capturing the event [here](#).

A further highlight was an event hosted by the Auckland Central Group at Amnesty New Zealand's head office. This was attended by 34 people, 11 of them new to Amnesty International. The Section was delighted to host a strong contingent from New Zealand's Chinese diaspora community, who wrote passionately about Ni Yulan and Liu Xia.

NIGERIA

Amnesty Nigeria saw a huge 243% increase in the number of actions generated by Write for Rights between 2016 and 2017. Events were held across the country in schools, community neighbourhoods and recreation spaces, such as parks. Key highlights of the events included music, dance, poetry, spoken word and a human rights quiz. The peak moment at these events was the collection of signatures, and the writing of letters and goodwill messages in support of human rights defenders.

21,775 Total Actions
17,000 Estimated Participants

For the first time, Amnesty Nigeria made a short video to document the Write for Rights in Nigeria's capital city of Abuja. The video was shared on Amnesty Nigeria's social media platforms. This increased awareness and interest among people in Nigeria about the significant work of human rights defenders, the threats they face and the power of letter writing for human rights impact.

NORWAY

As part of Amnesty Norway's 2017 Write for Rights campaign, volunteer school visitors visited more than 40 schools, engaging several thousand pupils all over Norway. They presented the cases and guided pupils through letter writing sessions.

138,427 Total Actions
37,213 Estimated Participants

A youth gathering was hosted in Oslo during the first weekend in November, with 100 youths, aged 13–26 years participating. Shackelia Jackson and a young lawyer from Turkey, Deniz Yildiz, were guest speakers.

A further highlight was Shackelia Jackson's speaker's tour to Trondheim and Bergen, where she visited Åsane College, Bergen Resource Centre for Law and Transformation and participated as a speaker in several public events. Shackelia also met with one of Norway's well-known reggae artists, Nico D, who shared Shackelia's story with his followers on social media.



Shackelia Jackson in Norway © Amnesty International

PERU

3,519 Total Actions
3,184 Estimated Participants

In addition to the international cases, in 2017 Amnesty Peru included the communities of Cuninico and Espinar as a local case in their Write for Rights campaign. These cases are part of the campaign 'A Toxic State' about the health crisis in indigenous communities of the Amazon and the Andes in Peru. Including this case made it easier for people to relate to the international cases.

In 2017 many of Amnesty Peru's actions were promoted by the participants of their Human Rights Education programs. Their local activist groups also promoted Write for Rights through art. In Trujillo, in Northern Peru, an art exhibition 'Write for Cuninico and Espinar' featured pictures of both communities, inviting people to write solidarity letters. In Arequipa, in the south of Peru, a festival was organized with music, theatre and a photo exhibition inviting people to take part in the campaign.

PHILIPPINES

31,175 Total Actions
11,963 Estimated Participants

Amnesty Philippine's members and supporters took part in almost 100 events across seven regions of the country. Some of this year's Write for Rights events were done in tandem with the section's "Word of Mouth Series", involving events that utilize poetry, music and other forms of creative expression to highlight human rights concerns. The series included Drunken Poetry Nights in the cities of Baguio, Makati and Quezon, culminating in the "Word of Mouth: Reloaded" that featured the London-based electropop duo Ooberfuse as its main act.

Amnesty members from the province of Misamis Occidental conducted grassroots activities, collecting more than 10,000 actions for Write for Rights. Letter-writing booths were set up by Amnesty members in public markets, enabling them to engage with different audiences, including stay at home parents, domestic workers, store sellers and food vendors, public utility vehicle drivers and commuters.

POLAND

Amnesty Poland had yet another successful Write for Rights campaign in 2017, with 308,838 actions taken. There were more than 700 Write for Rights events held across Poland, with over 300,000 letters written and actions taken. The section tried to reach new audiences with new local organisers. A variety of different groups participated in Write for Rights across the country, but the main places where events took place were schools, libraries, cafes and clubs.

308,838 Total Actions
126,384 Estimated Participants

PORTUGAL

308,750 Total Actions
297,687 Estimated Participants

In 2017 Amnesty Portugal enjoyed the support of the Direção Geral da Educação (part of Portugal's Ministry of Education), which is responsible, amongst other things, for outlining the educational programmes. This enabled the participation of 100 new schools in the Write for Rights campaign. In total, approximately 300 schools participated.

Amnesty Portugal was also able to take the first steps in its "Amnesty International Ambassadors" project. Social media influencers helped the Section to raise awareness around the campaign, as they have thousands of followers through their social media platforms. Some even organized their own Write for Rights events.

At least fourteen events were organized by Amnesty Portugal's local and student groups. In addition, the Section organised a "Champions Run", fitting within the BRAVE Global Campaign framework, and a public event with Shackelia Jackson, via Skype from a library-café.

PUERTO RICO

622 Total Actions

Amnesty Puerto Rico's participation in Write for Rights 2017 was greatly limited due to the island being hit by hurricanes Irma and Maria. The Section collaborated with universities and schools, but this year only one teacher was able to join the event. An event was also organised in the Section's office for staff and board members.

SENEGAL

289,239 Total Actions
57,908 Estimated Participants

Amnesty Senegal's letter-writing marathon was a great moment of national mobilisation, with 98 Amnesty groups mobilised across the country. The groups compete amongst each other and a distinction is awarded to the entity that collects the most signatures at the Section's

Annual General Meeting.



Write for Rights in Senegal © Amnesty International

Amnesty Senegal tried to make its Write for Rights campaign more visible than in previous years. Various activities were organized in towns and villages, particularly through awareness-raising caravans, local visits and radio broadcasts.

Including the local case of Bambo Danfakha in the letter-writing marathon allowed the Section to gain greater support from activists and communities and gave local relevance to a global action.

SLOVAKIA

In 2017, Amnesty Slovakia targeted its Write for Rights audience online, using Facebook and sending emails to its mailing list. The other primary activity was letter-writing in schools, with over 100 schools participating in the 2017 campaign.

10,086 Total Actions

Amnesty Slovakia also joined dozens of thematic events organised by other NGOs and promoted their letter-writing marathon in public places. These events attracted new audience, as well as media, with a total of more than 12,000 signatures online and offline.

SLOVENIA

In addition to online petitions, offline activities were carried out by primary and secondary schools. Almost 60 schools and more than 5000 students participated in Amnesty Slovenia's Write for Rights campaign

16,274 Total Actions
7,000 Estimated Participants

in 2017. Some schools wrote letters during lessons, while others organised whole-school events, joined by their parents and members of local communities.

A particular highlight was a stall set up by a secondary school student in his school hall, where fellow students could sign petitions. News about this spread to neighbouring schools, which had not previously been involved with Amnesty. These schools decided to join in the campaign, which resulted in almost 3000 actions taken.

SOUTH AFRICA

576 Total Actions
543 Estimated Participants

Amnesty South Africa held a face-to-face canvassing event, where volunteers approached people at Killarney Shopping Mall and asked them to sign letters and write postcards to show support for Farid and Issa, Mahadine, Clovis and Taner. Many participants were excited to see Amnesty active within the community and wanted to be registered as supporters and members.

Human Rights Education was also part of Amnesty South Africa's 2017 Write for Rights activities. An Amnesty South Africa school group in Durban participated in the letter writing activities through a facilitated workshop. The students chose the case of Mahadine to whom they wrote letters. This helped them to better understand freedom of expression as a human right.

SOUTH KOREA

4,805 Total Actions
4,666 Estimated Participants

During Write for Rights 2017 Amnesty South Korea had a two-fold approach to cultivating support and engagement: an event, and an online petition campaign.

Each year Amnesty South Korea organizes a letter writing night event 'Letter Night', which has been the centre of its efforts to publicize the Write for Rights campaign. However, this year the event – which usually brings 50-75 people – was focused as an engagement action for donors.

On the digital side, this year's campaign was highly successful for Amnesty South Korea obtaining more than 4,300 signatures – and all-time record for the Section – and increasing their supporter base.

SPAIN

Amnesty Spain increased its Write for Rights actions by nearly 60,000 between 2016 and 2017. Around 66 Amnesty Spain groups participated in Write for Rights 2017. Highlights of the campaign included solidarity runs, concerts, street events, petition signing, letter writing, talks with different LGBTI and environmental organizations and human rights defenders, and activities in colleges and universities.

139,157 Total Actions
139,157 Estimated Participants

SWEDEN

90,425 Total Actions
21,857 Estimated Participants

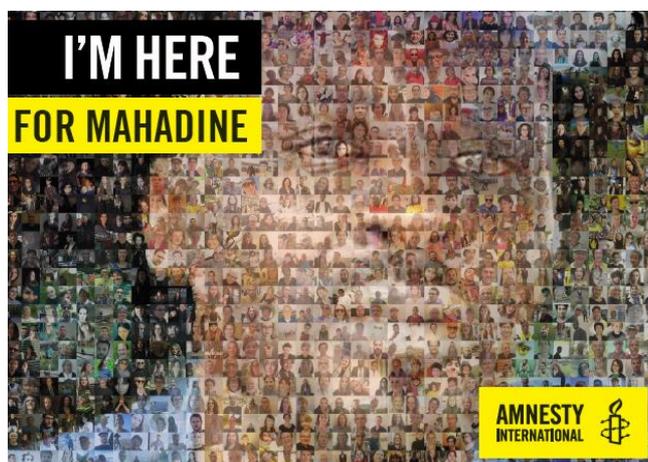
Amnesty Sweden incorporated its 2017 Write for Rights campaign into its launch of the BRAVE campaign. 108 groups arranged public activities in libraries, Christmas markets, theatres, shops, streets and public squares, in solidarity with Azza Soliman, Xulhaz Mannan, Shackelia Jackson, Issa Amro and Farid al-Atrash. The Section's collaborating schools also arranged human rights-themed days, with 1278 solidarity letters written for the 2017 Write for Rights cases.

In addition, Amnesty Sweden created a successful fundraising advertisement in the Stockholm Metro which generated significant media attention, both in Sweden and beyond.

SWITZERLAND

19,572 Total Actions

As part of Write for Rights 2017, Amnesty Switzerland ran a campaign around the case of Mahadine, calling for people to take selfies and upload them on an online platform. A total of 2,500 selfies were uploaded and the [video](#) created especially for the campaign had 53,000 views. A poster with a mosaic of the selfies for Mahadine was given to him during an Amnesty visit to Chad in late January.



The poster created for Mahadine by AI Switzerland

TAIWAN

738,215 Total Actions
92,101 Estimated Participants

Amnesty Taiwan more than doubled its Write for Rights actions between 2016 and 2017. This was due in part to the expansion of the teachers' network, for which almost 700 teachers registered.

Write for Rights has become a well-known campaign within the official school system, especially in secondary schools. Young activists and teachers showed strong commitment by engaging in the online forum and taking a variety of actions, such as painting large canvases, and recording films.

Young activists who are influencers in their own networks spoke up for human rights defenders, multiplying the impact of the campaign. A newly formed art activists' network delivered excellent artwork for all of the cases highlighted by Amnesty Taiwan's Write for Rights campaign.

THAILAND

10,005 Total Actions

In 2017, Amnesty Thailand set up booths in several new locations, including flea markets, weekend markets and in places where potentially influential people in Bangkok go to. In addition, the Section organised a large event in a very public space gathering nearly 100 volunteers to help out at the event, many of whom were new to Amnesty Thailand.

TOGO

Various activities were carried out by Amnesty Togo and its individual members, local groups and human rights education clubs for Write for Rights 2017. This resulted in the collection of 93,557 signatures; an increase of more than 20,000 actions taken since 2016.

Highlights included speech and spelling contests, a run, a flash mob, a music concert, football matches and the collection of signatures in the streets. The 2017 Write for Rights campaign by Amnesty Togo also helped to consolidate partnerships with human rights defenders, and to strengthen the commitment of leaders and artists to Amnesty International.

93,557 Total Actions
11,557 Estimated Participants

UNITED KINGDOM

65,312 Total Actions
2,076 Estimated Participants

More than 200 local groups, in addition to youth and student groups, took part in Amnesty UK's Write for Rights campaign, holding letter events across the country. The Section also invited Farid Al-Atrash, Shackelia Jackson and Sakris Kupila to visit. These visits enabled

Amnesty UK to gather content for further online engagement, as well as giving the individuals multiple opportunities to speak directly to a variety of different audiences, including the annual Amnesty Student Conference and the annual Write for Rights Parliamentary event, where more than 50 members of parliament were in attendance.

Amnesty UK also secured strong media coverage, with its Write for Rights press release run by more than 90 different news outlets. Write for Rights was a breakthrough story, reaching more than 1 million people, for the first time in the UK.

A further highlight was the engagement of twelve celebrities and influencers, who wrote letters of solidarity to individuals featured in Write for Rights. These were then tweeted on their own platforms and retweeted by Amnesty UK to maximise their reach and audience engagement.

UKRAINE

46,285 Total Actions

Amnesty Ukraine's local volunteers organized Write for Rights events in schools, universities, community centres and libraries. More than 11,000 signatures and letters of solidarity were collected at events organized by human rights trainers; a special group of people who went through a "Training of Trainers" programme run by Amnesty Ukraine.

8,310 signatures were collected online via a website created especially for Write for Rights. Combined with a promotion strategy on Facebook, this new eye-catching and user-friendly website helped to increase the number of online signatures by 31% compared to 2016.



Write for Rights 2017 in Ukraine

URUGUAY

The 2017 Write for Rights campaign in Uruguay was aimed at a young audience who are not used to writing letters. Thus, Amnesty Uruguay made available the possibility to communicate by sending audio messages through social networks. Amnesty Uruguay worked with a creative agency to develop a campaign called "Your Audio for Rights", aiming to create an innovative project that could reach younger generations. The theme of the campaign was empathy, seeking to show that whilst the cases were not locally relevant to Uruguay, they were really happening elsewhere in the world. People could leave personalized audio messages in support of the cases on Amnesty Uruguay's website and signatures were collected on Facebook.

811 Total Actions

Amnesty Uruguay also participated in the local human rights fair, where they talked with local people, distributed information about the cases and invited people to sign petitions.



Amnesty Uruguay's Write for Rights webpage

USA

381,096 Total Actions
85,025 Estimated Participants

Almost 3,500 schoolchildren participated in Write for Rights activities in the USA. In addition, nearly 8,000 people attended Write for Rights events outside of schools. Participants signed petitions, calling for governments to take action and wrote letters of solidarity.

VENEZUELA

Highlights of Amnesty Venezuela's 2017 Write for Rights campaign included a "Write for Rights Concert" and human rights education initiatives in schools. The latter boosted the impact of the campaign amongst Venezuelan young people, which contributed to the number of actions taken.

11,174 Total Actions
712 Estimated Participants

ZIMBABWE

156 Total Actions
65 Estimated Participants

Young people gathered in a hall in Chitungwiza, 25km from Harare, and wrote solidarity letters and letters to the authorities. The session highlighted the history of the letter-writing marathon, which was followed by a brief on the cases which the section had chosen. 156 actions were taken during the marathon, in the form of postcards and letters to the different target authorities. A particular highlight was the participation of an elderly woman from Hopley slum, who was most interested in the case of Ni Yulan of China who was made homeless for defending housing rights. This case resonated with her as she has advocating for housing rights in her community.



Youth activists in Zimbabwe writing letters for Mahadine © Amnesty International