

## Insats #10 2020 english summary

### Calendar

11 November	Imprisoned writers day - <b>Campaign for Gui Minhai</b>
13-15 November	Student gathering
25 November	Asylum, human rights and international law, <b>webinar in english</b>
28 November	Digital group secretary training (Swedish)
10 December	International day for human rights

### WEBINAR IN ENGLISH: 25:th of November; Asylum, human rights and international law

Why do people flee and where do they go? How many refugees are there in the world? What kind of protection do refugees find and how does the right to seek asylum function in reality? What is the principle of non-refoulement? How does the Council of Europe and EU work with refugee-rights? What is the Common European Asylum System? Current topics in Sweden? Welcome to a general introduction to international refugee law!

The training takes place digitally the 25;th of November 18-20. Sign up at [aktivism.amnesty.se/utbildning](http://aktivism.amnesty.se/utbildning)

### Campaign: Write for rights and the right to peacefully protest!

It is yet again time for the biggest, best and most exciting campaign for human rights: Write for rights! This year we'll be campaigning for no less than six individuals. All of these have, one way or another, been a part of, or observed, peaceful protests, and in connection to this had their human rights violated. The fact that this is happening in so many different places around the world right now is something that we as the world's largest human rights organisation HAS to raise. This is about all people's right to express themselves, to peacefully protest, and for journalists' right to rapport on these protests. This year, we will campaign between **10 November and 13 December**. If you have not yet signed up, do so on Aktivistportalen [aktivism.amnesty.se/skriv](http://aktivism.amnesty.se/skriv)!

### The cases

#### **Khaled Drareni, journalist, Algeria**

Since 22 February 2019, mass demonstrations have taken place every Friday across Algeria calling for political reform. This movement, called the Hirak, succeeded in ousting president Abdelaziz Bouteflika and continued calling for "a complete change of the political system."

The Hirak movement has created hope for positive change in Algeria but it took the courage and bravery of independent journalists like Khaled Drareni to make the stories of Hirak known to the outside world. Khaled played a critical role in analyzing, documenting, and livestreaming weekly mass protests on his widely followed social media.

Khaled was arrested on the 7th March while covering a protest. He was later released, then again arrested on 27 March and has been locked up ever since. His arrest and imprisonment signal an escalation in the crackdown on freedoms in Algeria and are a major blow to Algerians'

hopes for reform. Khaled Drareni should not be in prison for covering a protest. It is crucial for the future of human rights in Algeria that he is set free.

On 15th September Khaled was sentenced, on appeal, to two years in prison for “incitement to unarmed gathering” and “harming the integrity of national territory”. We must now call for Khaled’s release.

What Amnesty demands:

- Khaled i immediately and unconditionally released
- Journalists should be able to work freely and without restrictions

We believe that we can have the biggest influence through:

- Collecting signatures
- Writing letters of influence
- Writing letters to the editor, or in other ways spread the case in media

### **Gustavo Gatica, student-protestor, Chile**

In November 2019, amid widespread concern over rising costs of living and inequality, people across Chile came out in protest demanding “dignity”. The world watched as millions demonstrated their yearning for change in the country. But they were met with excessive force by the authorities, and police officers loaded their guns with metal and rubber ammunition.

On the 8th November, Gustavo Gatica, a 21-year-old student of psychology and an avid fan of music and photography joined the protests. Police fired into the crowds aiming at the upper body of protesters, and Gustavo was shot in both eyes. He was blinded permanently.

Even after enduring these injuries, Gustavo hopes that his blindness will help the world see what is happening in Chile; “I gave my eyes so people would wake up.”

On the 20th August the National Prosecutor formally charged an officer with the attacks and injuries suffered by Gustavo and opened an investigation against him. Thanks to the actions of the people supporting Gustavo, we are one step closer to justice. Now we need to push for those in command of the police officers to be held to account.

What Amnesty demands:

- Responsibilities and mandates of managers and others who have been involved in the circumstances surrounding Gustavo’s injuries are investigated.
- The police establish the formal responsibility of police chiefs who were involved in human rights violations during the 2019 protests, especially those Gustavo suffered, and that these chiefs cooperate fully in any criminal investigations.

We believe that we can have the biggest influence through:

- Collecting signatures
- Writing letters of influence

- Sending letters and signatures continuously to the prosecutor of Gustavo's case. This means that the very best is for activists to send their collected signatures and letters themselves (not through the secretariat)

### **Derrick Ingram, BLM-activist, USA**

On August 7, the New York Police Department (NYPD) brought dozens of officers, a helicopter, riot police, and police dogs in a five-hour-long attempt to arrest Derrick Ingram, a prominent organizer of Black Lives Matter actions. The one thing they didn't bring: a warrant.

In a clear attempt to intimidate Black Lives Matter protesters and chill free speech, the NYPD tried to mislead Derrick about his rights, threatened to break down his door, attempted to interrogate him without counsel, and stationed dozens of officers in his hallway, on his fire escape, and in tactical positions in and around nearby buildings. The police left only after he livestreamed the events, a large crowd of protesters gathered, and the media began asking questions.

What Amnesty demands:

- That the investigation on the operation against Derrick takes place without delay, that it is independent and transparent, and that those responsible are held accountable.
- And, that if the above mentioned does not happen, the indictment against Derrick will be dropped.

We believe that we can have the biggest influence through:

- Collecting signatures
- Writing letters of influence
- Sending letters and signatures continuously to the prosecutor of Derrick's case. This means that the very best is for activists to send their collected signatures and letters themselves (not through the secretariat)

### **Andrea Sahouri, journalist, USA**

On the night of May 31, police in Iowa pepper sprayed, arrested, and detained Andrea Sahouri, a journalist with the Des Moines Register, while she was reporting on a Black Lives Matter protest. She was arrested and detained despite repeatedly identifying herself as a journalist. Send a message to the prosecutors: Reporting is not a crime. Dismiss all charges against Andrea Sahouri.

Andrea told Amnesty that after police in riot gear showed up and ordered protesters to disperse, people began running in multiple directions. As the police fired tear gas, Andrea ran with protesters into a busy commercial intersection and police charged at them. Even as she kept yelling, "I'm press, I'm press," she was pepper sprayed on her arms and face twice at close range. The police arrested her and cuffed her in zip ties behind her back, and placed her in a police van. She was cited for failure to disperse and interference with official acts. Out of six reporters in the USA Today network, she is the only one still facing charges.

The presence of journalists at demonstrations is not only essential in order for the public to understand what is happening, but also to ensure that the right to peacefully protest is upheld. Journalists, such as Andrea, have the right to monitor protests. Andrea was doing her job, and an important contribution for the securing of human rights in the US.

Andrea is now facing charges, and the trial is scheduled for December 17.

What Amnesty demands:

- That all charges against Andrea are dropped
- That the police respects journalists and the media's right to monitor the protests

We believe that we can have the biggest influence through:

- Collecting signatures
- Writing letters of influence
- Sending letters and signatures continuously to the prosecutor of Andrea's case. This means that the very best is for activists to send their collected signatures and letters themselves (not through the secretariat)

### **METU Pride Defenders, LGBTQ+ activists, Turkey**

In Turkey, the homophobia and restrictions on freedom of expression are increasingly limited. LGBTQ+ people are especially vulnerable. Since 2017, several repressive laws have been introduced in Turkey that, among other things, prohibit public gatherings with a LGBTQ+ focus.

The students Melike Balkan and Özgür Gür are LGBTQ+ activists who, together with the group METU LGBTQ+ Solidarity group, have organized annual pride parades at their university in Ankara. However, in the spring of 2019 the university management stopped the planned pride parade. The activists decided to instead organize a peaceful sitting demonstration.

The principal called the police, who dispersed the sitting demonstration on the spot with the use of excessive force. The police used pepper spray, rubber bullets and tear gas against the protesters. A total of 23 people were arrested.

In October 2019, charges were brought against 19 people - who now risk up to three years in prison. The 19 people are charged with having participated in an "illegal rally" and for "failing to disperse despite warnings", according to the Turkish Assembly and Demonstration Act. The law has often been used to prevent the peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of assembly in Turkey and is applied in an arbitrary and repressive manner.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The trial against Melike, Özgür and the other accused students has begun and is scheduled to resume on December 10 on International Human Rights Day. We will send all signatures from the office so that they arrive before 10 December. Therefore, we ask you to send everything you have collected to us no later than 4 December! (Address can be found on the activist portal and in the campaign guide)

What Amnesty demands:

- All defendants are released
- The excessive violence used by the police is investigated

We believe that we can have the biggest influence through:

- Collecting signatures **prior to** the trial
- Informing, engaging, and mobilising at the Swedish universities who have collaborative connections to METU. Some student activists have already begun this work - go you!

### **Fatemeh Davand, protestor, Iran**

In November 2019, widespread protests erupted throughout a number of cities around Iran. The demonstrations were triggered by sharp increases in the price of petrol, and soon demands were also made to change the country's entire political system. The protests were met with force, and in the days that followed, the world was shaken by images and film footage that showed the brutality of the security forces against what had initially been completely peaceful protesters. At least 304 people were killed.

One of the protesters is Fatemeh Davand, who belongs to Iran's Kurdish minority. She was arrested on November 17, 2019 while participating in peaceful protests in the city of Bukan. Since then, she has been subjected to torture, forced into solitary confinement and forced into confessions broadcast on state television, which have since been used against her.

Fatemeh has been sentenced to several years in prison and 30 lashes. Fatemeh has so far served a first prison sentence of 5 months, and has been sentenced to another 3 years and 9 months in prison for "crimes against national security" in another trial. The lashes she was sentenced to have not yet been handed out.

Fatemeh is one of many protesters punished for peacefully expressing his criticism of the Iranian government.

What Amnesty demands:

- That Fatemeh and the other protestors are released immediately

We believe that we can have the biggest influence through:

- Collecting signatures
- Writing letters of influence

**PLEASE NOTE:** For Andrea, Derrick and Gustavo there are "new" rules for how and when we send letters and signatures. We want you to send in what you have written and collected yourselves, not through the secretariat. In the METU case, the sharp deadline is December 4th to send in the signatures.

You will find all information on Aktivistportalen, and in the campaign guide you receive when you order the campaign material. It is perfectly fine to apply for activist-funding if you need it.

As we all know, the pandemic affects many aspects of our lives, nonetheless our activism. BUT, the good thing about the Write for rights campaign is that it is to a large extent a letter-writing campaign - so encourage all people you know to write a letter!

### **Who will be leading Amnesty next year?**

Every year, the Nomination Committee produces a "needs report" for the positions of trust that the annual meeting will appoint, and we therefore want to know your opinion.

Where do you see Amnesty going? What do you think is important that we prioritize? What qualities should we especially look for this year? Answer the survey no later than November 9th by filling in the form on [aktivism.amnesty.se/valberedningen](http://aktivism.amnesty.se/valberedningen)

Kind regards,  
Anton Lidström  
Chairperson  
Amnesty's Nomination Committee

### **Group Secretary training (Swedish)**

Don't forget to let the Swedish-speakers (and understand-ers) know about the Group Secretary training that will be held at the end of November. Here, you will have the opportunity to learn more about what it means to be a group secretary, and what the role means for the function of the organisation. You will gain strength in your leader role and as an organiser.

This year the training will be held digitally.

When: November 28th 09:00-16:00

Where: Digitally - link will be sent to those who have signed up

How: You sign up at the following link - [aktivism.amnesty.se/gruppsekreterarutbildning](http://aktivism.amnesty.se/gruppsekreterarutbildning) (last day to sign up is November 22nd).

For questions, contact me!

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