

## Insats, English Summary, #9 November 2021

### Calendar:

9 & 16 NOVEMBER: Workshop with the Drafting Committee - Register [here](#).  
10 NOVEMBER - 13 DECEMBER: Campaign period Write for Rights  
11 & 14 NOVEMBER: Campaign regarding the World Cup in Qatar during the qualifiers  
15 NOVEMBER: Meeting with chairman Parul Sharma regarding current issues  
17 NOVEMBER: Regional youth meetings  
20-21 NOVEMBER: The national student gathering  
10 DECEMBER: Campaign peak Write for Rights

### Write for Rights

It is time to Write for Rights again! This year, we are campaigning for five people between November 10 and December 13. Information can be found in the case descriptions below, at the [activist portal](#) (where you also register for the campaign), and in the fact sheet which will be sent once you order the material.

For every case, there is a link to [amnesty.org](#) where you can find a detailed report and action circular for each case in this year's Write for Rights. These can be downloaded in English.

#### **Panusaya “Rung” Sithijirawattanakul: Student and protest leader, Thailand**

Rung is a student activist in Thailand, who has been speaking out for herself and her community. Throughout 2020, she participated in protests for social and political change. Rung demanded equality, freedom of speech and – what is a highly sensitive topic in Thailand – the reform of the monarchy. This courageous act propelled her onto the national stage and the authorities branded her a troublemaker.

Accused of provoking unrest, Rung was arrested in March 2021 on suspicion of breach of majesty. She was imprisoned for 60 days and the authorities denied her bail six times. In defiance, she went on a 38-day hunger strike and was released on 30 April 2021. Rung is being charged with 25 different crimes, including sedition and insulting the monarchy. If convicted, she faces life in prison. **Read more about Rung's case [here](#).**

#### AMNESTY REQUIRES THAT:

- Thai authorities unconditionally drop all criminal proceedings against Rung and other peaceful activists!

#### WE BELIEVE THAT WE INFLUENCE BEST BY:

- Drawing attention to Rung's case on Thai authorities' social media, especially Facebook. Thai authorities care about their international reputation, therefore, social media platforms often have a high presence from authorities. Hence, it is also encouraged to highlight Rung's case in traditional media,
- Writing letters to Thai authorities marked with Amnesty's logo to increase the chances of them ending up right,

- Organizing demonstrations for Rung.

### **Imoleayo Adeyeun Michael: #EndSARS-protester, Nigeria**

Imoleayo Michael joined a demonstration against violence, extortion and killings by the police's Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Nigeria in October 2020. Imoleayo, a young computer programmer, promoted the marches on Twitter and Facebook, using the viral hashtag #EndSARS.

Two weeks later, 20 armed men violently raided Imoleayo's home and locked his family in a room. The armed men then blindfolded Imoleayo, and took him to the headquarters of the state security service, where they held him in an underground cell for 41 days in horrible conditions. He had no access to a lawyer or his family and was interrogated five times, without a lawyer present. Imoleayo suffered pneumonia and was eventually released on bail in December 2020. Now, he is facing trumped-up charges of "conspiracy with others to disturb public peace" and "disturbing public peace". **Read more about Imoleayo's case [here](#).**

#### AMNESTY REQUIRES THAT:

- Nigerian authorities drop all charges against Imoleayo!

#### WE BELIEVE THAT WE INFLUENCE BEST BY:

- Sending a steady stream of written letters and emails to Nigeria's Minister of Justice,
- Creating digital advocacy actions via Twitter and Facebook, directed at the Minister of Justice, and using the hashtag #Freelmoleayo,
- Paying attention to Imoleayo's case and the #EndSARS protests in traditional media.

### **Mikita Zalatrou: Teenager, Belarus**

Until recently, Mikita Zalatrou was a typical teenager. Now, the 17-year-old's life has drastically changed. It all began in Homel, Belarus, in August 2020, says Mikita's dad. People were peacefully protesting the recent presidential election results, and Mikita was waiting for a friend nearby when police moved in. As the crowd began running, someone told Mikita to run too – so he did.

The following day, police officers came to Mikita's door. They arrested him, beat him and accused him of throwing a Molotov cocktail at two police officers the night before. While in custody, they beat Mikita, who suffers from epilepsy, with an electric shock truncheon. Officers interrogated him without a lawyer or responsible adult present, and locked him up for six months before putting him on trial. Mikita was convicted, even though video evidence did not show him taking part in violence. Media reports on the demonstrations mentioned no mass unrest. Still, the judge sentenced him to five years in a child educational prison colony. **Read more about Mikita's case [here](#).**

#### AMNESTY REQUIRES THAT:

- Belarusian authorities release Mikita and ensure he gets a fair trial!

#### WE BELIEVE THAT WE INFLUENCE BEST BY:

- Putting continuous pressure on the Belarusian authorities through written letters and social media posts, emphasizing the special circumstances as well as including Amnesty's main demands,
- Cooperate with human rights organizations in Belarus, such as the Belarusian National Youth Council (RADA).

### **Bernardo Caal Xól: Teacher and activist, Guatemala**

Bernardo Caal Xól carries an entire people in his heart. Through his teaching and his union commitment, he has made it his life's mission to strengthen the position of his people: the indigenous people of Maya Q'eqchi' in north central Guatemala. When a state-contracted company began construction of dams in the Q'eqchi's sacred Cahabón River, Bernardo and his people protested. It had already led to clear-cut forests: now they would also lose the water they need for their survival. Authorities had not consulted the Maya Q'eqchi' people before construction, which is a requirement under international law.

Bernardo's efforts put him at odds with the company as well as with elites in the country. He was subjected to smear campaigns and repeated baseless accusations, e.g. for criminal acts that are said to have occurred during a construction protest, even though Bernardo was not present at the incident. In 2018, he was convicted in court without evidence and sentenced to more than 7 years in prison. **Read more about Bernardo's case [here](#).**

#### AMNESTY REQUIRES THAT:

- All charges against Bernardo are dropped, and that he is immediately and unconditionally released from prison!

#### WE BELIEVE THAT WE INFLUENCE BEST BY:

- Continuously sending written letters to the Guatemalan Embassy in Sweden (due to an unreliable postal system in Guatemala),
- Tagging Guatemala's public prosecutor on Facebook and Twitter, along with our demands and the hashtag #komonil, which means solidarity on Q'eqchi',
- Drawing attention to Bernardo's and his people's situation through outreach activities, such as demonstrations or cooperation with organizations involved in similar issues.

### **Janna Jihad: Journalist, Israel/OPT**

15-year old Palestinian Janna Jihad lives in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where Palestinians face systematic discrimination and harassment. When Janna was seven, the Israeli military killed her uncle. From that day on, Janna recorded and exposed the racist brutality her community experiences at the hands of Israeli forces. At 13, Janna was recognized as one of the youngest journalists in the world.

Palestinian children are particularly affected by the military oppression. Many have been killed and injured by Israeli forces. Israel has signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child, yet fails to extend those protections to Palestinian children in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. By contrast, Israeli children living in illegal settlements are protected. Janna's uncompromising journalism has made her a target for harassment and death threats. But she does not give up. **Read more about Janna's case [here](#).**

#### AMNESTY REQUIRES THAT:

- Israel follows the Convention on the Rights of the Child and protects all, including Palestinian, children from discrimination and violence!

#### WE BELIEVE THAT WE INFLUENCE BEST BY:

- Sending written letters as soon as possible to the Israeli authorities, and in particular to the Special Committee on the Rights of the Child in the Knesset,
- Posting on Facebook and Twitter, tagging the Prime Minister of Israel, @naftalibennett,
- Spreading Janna's videos on your own channels, and use the hashtag #defendjannaOPT,
- Collaborating with organizations that have an active youth engagement in Palestine.

Fartun Andersson Ramnemo / [fartun.andersson-ramnemo@amnesty.se](mailto:fartun.andersson-ramnemo@amnesty.se) (contact person for this year's Write for Rights)

Mathilda Gustafsson / [mathilda.gustafsson@amnesty.se](mailto:mathilda.gustafsson@amnesty.se)

### **Looking back at last year's cases**

Last year, Write for Rights focused on the human right to peacefully protest. Six cases were chosen, and we collected a total of 55,909 signatures during the campaign. In three out of the six cases, the individuals have been acquitted/released since Write for Rights. Together we can make a difference! Below, you will find information about last year's cases.

#### **All pride participants at METU University in Ankara have been acquitted!**

More than two years ago, a peaceful Pride Parade in Ankara was met by police using pepper spray, rubber bullets and tear gas. The participants were arrested and forced into a lengthy legal process. Now, they have been acquitted! Read more [here](#), and see a video from two of the students, Melike Balkan and Özgür Gür, [here](#).

#### **Journalist Andrea Sahouri has been released!**

During last year's BLM demonstrations in the USA, Andrea Sahouri was pepper sprayed and arrested by police, despite repeatedly identifying herself as a journalist. She has since been acquitted! Read more [here](#) and see Andrea's video [here](#).

#### **Khaled Drareni has been released, but Algerian authorities continue to oppress Hirak activists**

On February 19 and 20, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune decided to release protesters who had participated in either Hirak demonstrations or online publications. At least 37 people, including Khaled Drareni, were released, but 31 people are still in custody. Read more [here](#).

#### **Derrick 'Dwreck' Ingram**

Here is a greeting from Dwreck to everyone who has been involved in his case: *Thanks to everyone who took action on my behalf after I was targeted by the New York police because of my activism. I'm glad the case against me has been dismissed, but we still have lots of work to do to dismantle white supremacy and build an anti-racist country and world. I would*

*like to give a shout-out to Amnesty International members worldwide who are in the struggle against police violence and for racial justice, both in the US and their own countries. Our fight for liberation is bound together across borders.*

### **Fatemeh Davand's and Gustavo Gatica's cases**

We will continue fighting for Fatemeh Davand's and Gustavo Gatica's human rights. Fatemeh peacefully protested in Iran 2019 against the government, and has been sentenced to seven years in prison and 30 lashes. Student Gustavo protested in Chile in 2019. He was one of the protesters who was hit by police rubber bullets, and became permanently blind.

Fartun Andersson Ramnemo / [fartun.andersson-ramnemo@amnesty.se](mailto:fartun.andersson-ramnemo@amnesty.se)

### **Let's go! We continue to give a #RedCardtoFIFA in November**

After a magnificent effort and success in collecting signatures in connection with Sweden's World Cup qualifiers in October, we will continue putting pressure on FIFA! The November qualifiers (on the 11th & 14th) are coming up, and we have another opportunity to act. You can use the material and ideas from the October campaign and, of course, also let your creativity flow!

Submit your order via [this form](#) to receive either printed or digital material (to print yourself). **Deadline for ordering printed material: November 5.** Note: the signatures need to be received by the secretariat no later than November 21.

Daniel Lundh / [daniel.lundh@amnesty.se](mailto:daniel.lundh@amnesty.se), 070 914 4681

### **Covid-19: Attacks on freedom of expression and dissemination of misinformation threaten public health**

Amnesty's report [Silenced and misinformed: Freedom of expression in danger during Covid-19](#) shows how governments and authorities have used censorship and punishment during the pandemic, thereby reducing the reliability of the information that reaches people. Governments are using new legislation to shut down sources of independent reporting, while attacking people who have been critical towards their government's management of Covid-19. This is a serious threat to both freedom of expression and the right to health.

Would you like to stand up for freedom of expression? Use Amnesty's report to write a newspaper article, or highlight it through social media. To get access to social media pictures linked to the report, email Fartun or Sara.

Fartun Andersson Ramnemo / [fartun.andersson-ramnemo@amnesty.se](mailto:fartun.andersson-ramnemo@amnesty.se)  
Sara Friman / [sara.friman@amnesty.se](mailto:sara.friman@amnesty.se)

## **The Secretary General's corner**

- Amnesty International Hongkong as well as the regional office of Amnesty in Hongkong is sadly closing with immediate effect, after 40 years of presence in the region. The decision was made due to the current development in the region and as a measure to keep staff and elected representatives safe.
- Johnson Yeung Ching Yin, student activist and chairman of the local section describes the choice to close as extremely difficult, but necessary, and reminds us to look at similar developments around the world.
- Johnson Yeung Ching Yin also encourages us to turn this to something positive, and reminds us to continue our work of becoming a strong grass root movement.

Anna Johansson / [anna.johansson@amnesty.se](mailto:anna.johansson@amnesty.se)

## **Meet chairman Parul Sharma - on current topics in Amnesty**

In September, the Global Assembly meeting was held. On November 15, you have the opportunity to digitally meet chairman Parul Sharma, vice chairman Anna Fairbrass, and Acting Secretary General Anna Johansson. You will, among other things, have the opportunity to update yourself on current discussions and decisions from the Global Assembly meeting, and what issues the board sees as priorities for Amnesty Sweden in the future. The meeting will be held between 18-19.30 and it will be in Swedish. Register [here](#).

Lina Jakobsson / [lina.jakobsson@amnesty.se](mailto:lina.jakobsson@amnesty.se)

## **National media group!**

Many groups are using writing as part of their advocacy work. Therefore, we are in the process of creating a national media group that will support activists, e.g. by editing letters/articles and arranging workshops on interviewing and writing. Are you a journalist, student in journalism or have similar experience from communicative work? If you are interested in joining the group, contact Marianne for more information!

Marianne Gyllenpistol / [marianne.gyllenpistol@amnesty.se](mailto:marianne.gyllenpistol@amnesty.se), 070 744 5793

## **Student gathering 20-21/11**

Dear Student Activists,

We are excited to invite you to our Annual Student Gathering, which will take place online on Zoom on November 20 and 21. Among other activities, the gathering will encompass a lecture on LGBTQI+ rights in Europe (on November 21, at 10 am). If you are interested in

participating or have any questions, send an email to [studentradet@amnesty.se](mailto:studentradet@amnesty.se), and we will provide you with the zoom link for the event.

Best Regards,  
The Student Council

### **The consultation process - a short update!**

During October, focus groups with activists, board representatives and employees, concretized and came with input regarding Amnesty Sweden's strategic framework 2022-2030, which we are now developing. In December, the board will receive a first draft of a strategy, and you will have the opportunity to provide input before the Annual General Meeting 2022. We are continuing our work with the consultation - you can find the timeline for the process [here](#).

Elisabeth Lundgren / [elisabeth.lundgren@amnesty.se](mailto:elisabeth.lundgren@amnesty.se)