



**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2020 CAMPAIGN REPORT

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WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2020 – SOME FACTS

Every December, supporters across the globe write hundreds of thousands of letters, send thousands of solidarity cards, sign thousands of petitions, and take many other kinds of action – all calling for justice for those whose human rights are being or have been attacked. The Write for Rights (W4R) campaign reached the age of 19 in 2020!

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, at least 4,496,875 actions¹ were taken for the ten individuals and groups featured in Write for Rights 2020. With lockdowns leading to school closures and restrictions on the offline events which make up such an important part of the campaign, Amnesty International entities² had to change their plans, with many taking their campaigns online. However, they came up with exciting and innovative new ideas that brought in new supporters to Amnesty International and got people taking action. Here are some facts about W4R 2020:

At least....

4,496,875 actions worldwide

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT for at least **FOUR INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS** featured in the campaign, so far.

23 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES reported **HIGHER NUMBERS OF ACTIONS** in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

11 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES campaigned for individuals and groups outside of the global 10.

ADDING OVER 125,000 ACTIONS to the global total!

THE HIGHEST EVER NUMBER OF ACTIONS ON AMNESTY.ORG.

¹ “Actions” are defined as any form of correspondence that goes from an activist to either the target authority and/or the individual/group or their representative. These can include petition signatures, letters, emails, tweets, SMS, post cards, drawings, etc.

² “Amnesty International entities” includes all formal Amnesty International presence in a country. This can include sections, structures and/or Regional and National Offices.

NUMBER OF ACTIONS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	COUNTRY	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ACTIONS
El Hiblu 3	Malta	269,702
Germain Rukuki	Burundi	436,292
Gustavo Gatica	Chile	376,728
Idris Khattak	Pakistan	344,513
Jani Silva	Colombia	461,032
Khaled Drareni	Algeria	361,722
METU Pride Defenders	Turkey	445,420
Nassima al-Sada	Saudi Arabi	777,611
Paing Phyo Min	Myanmar	300,933
Popi Qwabe & Bongeka Phungula	South Africa	341,106

These numbers are based on data reported by participating Amnesty International entities as well as information collected on digital actions taken by individuals based in countries where Amnesty International does not have a presence.

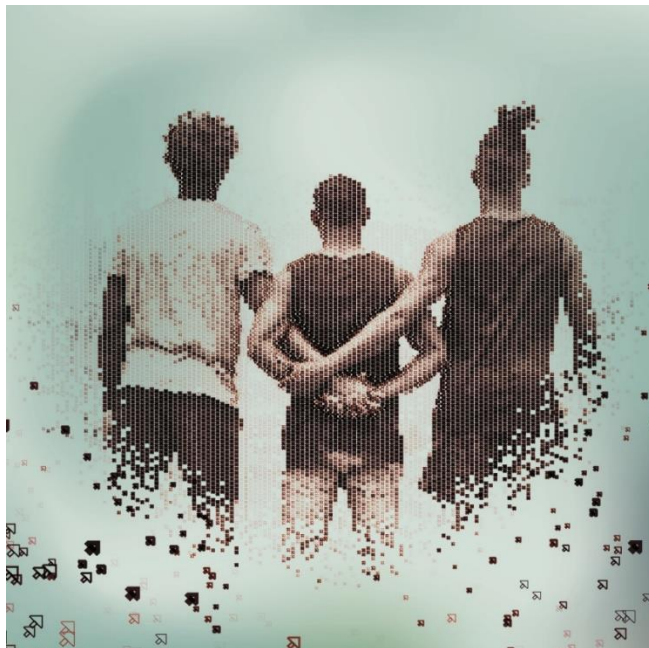
Not all entities were able to share their data, and some were not able to collate accurate or complete numbers. There are likely many more actions taken around the world without us being able to track them. You will notice that the total number of actions for each of the global cases does not correspond with the global total of actions recorded for Write for Rights 2020. This is because the list above does not include actions that were recorded, but where entities were unable to differentiate which individuals or groups the actions were taken for.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Every year Write for Rights achieves real change in the lives the individuals featured and 2020 was no exception. On the following pages you will find the impact assessments for each of the ten individuals and groups featured in the campaign. The assessments give a brief overview of the individual or group's story, and how they were came to be selected to be a part of the campaign, any changes to the situation of the individual or group, some information on the wider context of human rights issues happening in the countries/regions at the same time that may have had an impact, and lastly, how Amnesty International intends to keep up work with and for the individual or group featured after the close of the campaign.

Impact assessments are carried out in several ways, including interviews with the individuals and groups themselves or their representatives, with family members and local non-governmental organisations also working with them. In addition to this, country experts look at signs of impact from the authorities, such as big obvious changes to laws or official procedures, to more incremental changes such as differences in the treatment of the individual or group themselves. Since this assessment has been carried out shortly after the end of the campaign, we are still unable to see the full impact. For a full assessment of the impact, keep following the individuals or groups' casefiles on the Individuals at Risk Platform and keep an eye on the Write for Rights Podio space.

EL HIBLU 3 – MALTA



The three youths of the El Hiblu 3 case were among a group of refugees and migrants who fled Libya on a dinghy trying to reach Europe on 26 March 2019. One of them is from Ivory Coast and the other two from Guinea. They were 15, 16 and 19 years old at the time.

When the dinghy they were on ran into trouble, 108 people were rescued by the crew of the cargo ship, *El Hiblu*. The rescued people were promised they would be taken to safety in Europe, but as time passed, they realised they were being returned to Libya and began to panic. Libya is not a safe destination for refugees and migrants who face arbitrary detention, torture, rape and exploitation.

The captain of the *El Hiblu* decided to turn the ship around and set off for Malta. The three youths helped the chief officer by interpreting his words to the rest of the rescued people, calming the

panicked passengers. But media and politicians spun the story, accusing the three youths of ‘hijacking’ the *El Hiblu*, and the Maltese army stormed the ship. They were disembarked in Malta in handcuffs, despite the police testifying that the crew were in control, no one was hurt, and nothing was damaged.

The three youths were taken to a high security unit and spent 7 months in prison before being released on bail in November 2019, pending trial. They face serious charges, including under counter-terrorism legislation and, if found guilty, could be given life sentences. They had simply tried to protect themselves, and those rescued with them, from danger in Libya.

The Write for Rights 2020 campaign for the El Hiblu 3 youths is part of a broader body of work by Amnesty International’s Europe Regional Office (ERO) on refugees and migrants’ rights. Following a mission to Malta in September 2019, Amnesty International published an extended [public statement](#) and featured their story in the March 2020 regional report [Punishing compassion: solidarity on trial in Fortress Europe](#). On 26 March 2021, Amnesty International published an [update on the case](#).

A key objective of the campaign was to generate positive media coverage of the case, as the youths were mostly represented in a very negative light. This was well achieved. One of the most widely shared articles was one written by [Vice](#), in which all the facts were presented from the perspective of the three youths. In addition, France Culture journalists travelled to Malta, [publishing a piece](#) about Write for Rights and the El Hiblu case, and the BBC and the Guardian have expressed interest in covering the story once the indictment is announced.

The story also caught the attention of leading politicians. International Human Rights Day was an important date for mobilisation with some



Postcards of solidarity sent to the El Hiblu 3 from Portugal

Members of the European Parliament, such as Tineke Strik, standing in solidarity with the El Hiblu 3 youth.

The campaign was well received and managed to raise awareness and galvanise international solidarity. It was heartening to see human rights defenders supporting refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean, such as Carola Rackete, Sean Binder and the crew of the iuventut10, raising their voice in support of the three youths. The campaign was promoted by partners, including Alarm Phone, Sea-Watch, ECRE, Mare Liberum, Border Observatory, Borderline Europe, Calais Solidarity, African Media Association Malta.

The youths were appreciative of all the solidarity messages that they have so far received from Amnesty International members and activists, saying:

“The letters, the solidarity, give us courage. We are feeling hopeful and so grateful... We won't lose hope”.

“All I can say is thank you for all you are doing for us. Without you and the solidarity of others we may be still in jail. For those who send us messages all we can say is thank you because these messages give us hope and courage. Thank you for the words of encouragement”

“I say a big thank you to the senders around the world, their support make us stronger than ever... this is the only thing that gives me hope, without forgetting the institutions, NGOs and lawyers who fight to illuminate the truth, to give us freedom”.

At the time of writing, the case remains under investigation. Multiple hearings have been held, but proceedings stalled as the authorities failed to trace eyewitnesses and collect all the evidence. However, in early March 2021, we were pleased to learn of a significant milestone as the first eyewitness had been summoned and heard in court.



Solidarity artwork from a student in Slovakia © Amnesty International Slovakia

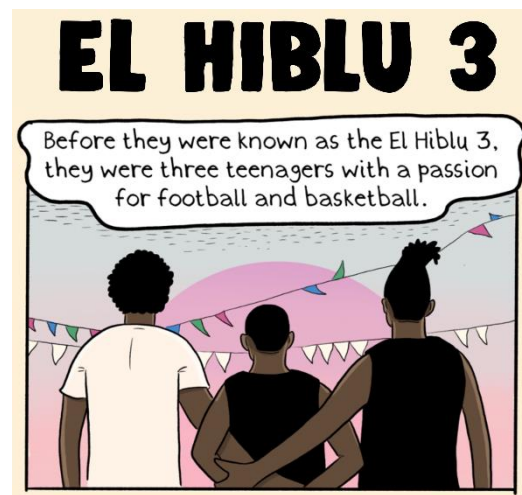


Illustration by Fake Pan, as part of a carousel on the El Hiblu 3 story © Pan Cooke.

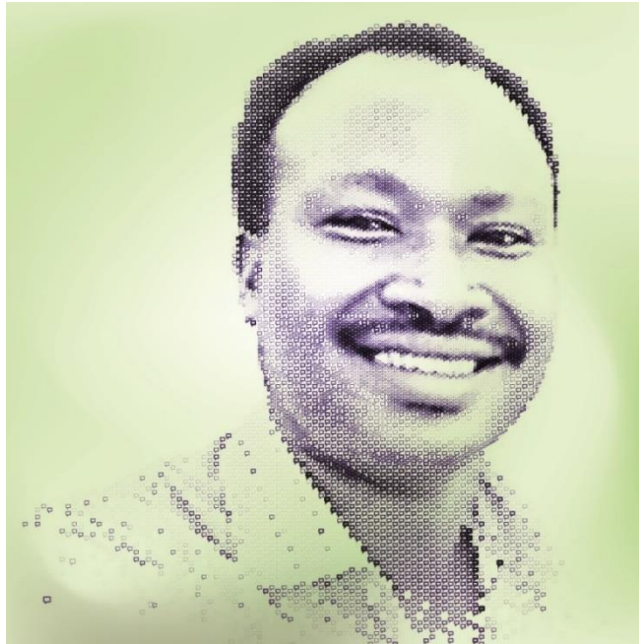
The story of the El Hiblu 3 epitomizes the unfair consequences and the life and death choices asylum-seekers fleeing Libya are forced to make to survive. It also exposes the dangerous consequences of outsourcing migration control to Libya, and the problems and risks people face in the absence of proactive search and rescue in the Central Mediterranean. Europe's approach to migration and Libya has not changed, so many of the structural root causes that led to a situation like the one experienced by the El Hiblu3 remain unchanged.

The El Hiblu 3 are the scapegoats for Malta and Europe's failures in the Central Med.

28 March 2021 marked the 2-year anniversary of the arrival of the three youths to Malta in handcuffs and their subsequent arrest and charges. This sombre anniversary provided the opportunity to deliver the global petition as well as maintain pressure calling for justice, through online and (COVID-19 restrictions permitting) offline mobilisation.

Amnesty International will continue campaigning and following developments on the judicial proceedings for the Hiblu 3 and seize any potential hook to continue supporting the fight for justice. Amnesty will also continue working with partners, reacting publicly to any indictment and will monitor the trial if and when the time comes.

GERMAIN RUKUKI - BURUNDI



Germain Rukuki, a Burundian human rights defender arrested on 13 July 2017, is serving a 32-year prison sentence after he was convicted of trumped up charges of “rebellion”, “threatening State security”, “participation in an insurrectional movement” and “attack on the authority of the State”.

Germain’s arrest came within the context of a violent crackdown on protests following the decision of the late president Pierre Nkurunziza to run for a third term in 2015. Prominent human rights activists, opposition leaders and journalists were targeted, and many fled the country. Those who remained have faced threats and reprisals, including physical attacks, and enforced disappearances.

Amnesty International has been campaigning for Germain’s release since days after his arrest and has worked alongside other human rights organizations, including Protection International, for which

Germain was working at the time of his arrest, and the anti-torture organization, ACAT Burundi – his former employer.

After the inauguration of a new Burundian government in 2020, Write for Rights provided the opportunity to increase pressure on the new leadership for Germain’s release and enable the authorities to demonstrate their commitment to respect for human rights and the opening of civic space in Burundi.

While the COVID-19 pandemic restricted offline events, national entities and partners demonstrated great creativity in developing COVID-secure activities. One example was an inspiring panel discussion hosted by Amnesty International Norway, in which Chantal Mutamuriza, founder of ACAT-Burundi, was invited to participate. She has known Germain from his early days as an activist in the fight against torture and appreciated the opportunity to contribute towards the campaign for Germain’s release.

Khadja Nin, a famous Burundian musician and human rights activist, recorded a solidarity message that was used online to call for solidarity actions. It was also touching to see David Larngar Jr and Roy-Frode Løvland, from a local group in Finnsnes, Norway, perform one of Germain’s favourite songs: Bob Marley’s “Redemption Song”.

Closer to home, it was great to see that the Amnesty International Club in Goma, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, managed to collect 310 actions.

Germain and his family have been so heartened by the incredible support and attention they have received throughout the campaign. The solidarity letters provide them with comfort and hope that one day Germain will be freed.



An activist in Benin takes action for Germain © Amnesty International Benin

Germain's wife Emelyne recently told us:

"We sincerely thank you for all the acts of moral support and solidarity you have consistently done for us since the day my husband was unjustly arrested on 13 July 2017. On 20 November 2020, our dear son, who was born in his dad's absence, celebrated his third birthday. We were glad for the support shown through the flagship Write for Rights campaign, which was launched the same day. We received some messages of support and solidarity, which gives us comfort. I'm grateful and thank you for what you are doing and remain hopeful that my husband will regain his freedom without having to serve the awful sentence imposed on him."

In addition to the solidarity letters being sent to Amnesty International's East Africa Regional Office in Nairobi, the Burundi team plan to produce a solidarity booklet with all messages and photos that can be sent electronically. Once compiled, it will be sent to Emelyne, Germain's wife.

The handover of the global petition to the Burundian Ambassador in Kenya is planned for April 2021, marking three years since Germain was unjustly sentenced to 32 years in prison. In the lead up to the event, Amnesty International will partner with digital media platforms to publish an explainer of Germain's story and engage with the public online, promoting the call for his immediate and unconditional release.

Amnesty International will continue to campaign for Germain beyond Write for Rights, both calling for his immediate and unconditional release and encouraging members to continue writing solidarity messages to him and his family.



**FREE
GERMAIN
RUKUKI**

Para: Germain RUKUKI
De: Rúben Pinhe, 4ºA
São João da Madeira, Portugal

Artwork for Germain from students in Slovenia, Slovakia, and Portugal.

GUSTAVO GATICA – CHILE



Gustavo Gatica was a 21-year-old university student protesting against inequality when he was shot and blinded by Chilean police forces. An avid music fan, aspiring drummer and photography enthusiast, Gustavo joined the wave of people power that took over the streets of Chile on October 2019 calling for equality, dignity, and human rights. Their demands were met with widespread police violence.

As the world watched the Chilean police's brutal repression of mass social protests in Chile, Amnesty International deployed a crisis research mission to Chile. The team met and interviewed Gustavo, only weeks after he was shot.

Through the investigation, an apparent cover up by the police was exposed. The officer who is believed to have shot Gustavo, "G-3", had been at the scene of the shooting and fired his weapon over 170 times that day, yet hadn't even been called in for questioning during the police's internal investigation into the events. After this information

was released, Gustavo's case caught the world's attention and weeks later, G-3 was arrested and accused of shooting Gustavo.

Amnesty International chose to highlight Gustavo in the Write for Rights 2020 campaign as his story could set the first precedent for command responsibility, starting the road to the end of impunity of commanders.

"I gave my eyes so people would wake up," said Gustavo after his injuries.

Throughout the whole campaign, Amnesty International was in constant contact with Gustavo and his brother, who helped with all visually driven elements of the design and implementation of the campaign. People around the world took over 376,000 actions on Gustavo's behalf, demanding the National Prosecutor investigate the commanders responsible for Gustavo's injuries, showing solidarity with Gustavo and his family, and calling for a thorough police reform in Chile.

The large number of messages on social media, audio files and letters of solidarity for Gustavo has been the main highlight of the campaign, with messages from Malaysia to Mali. In addition to this, thanks to efforts by Amnesty International UK, Gustavo received birthday greetings from British musicians such as Peter Gabriel, Sting, Keane, The 1975 and Kaiser Chiefs.

In response to the solidarity shown to them through the campaign, Gustavo and his family wrote this letter:

"Dear members of Amnesty International,

We would like to convey our gratitude for all the support and affection that you have shared with us through the international campaign to demand truth, justice and reparation.

In addition to the international pressure to achieve justice, which is fundamental to us, through this campaign we feel the fraternal embrace of thousands and thousands of people throughout the world, reminding us that we are not alone and that there are many



Amnesty International Chile staff member Diego delivers global messages of solidarity to Gustavo's home © Diego Martínez

people who dream of a better world, where the fundamental rights of all people are promoted and respected. They make us feel that this future is possible.

In times of difficulty, Amnesty International became a great support and ally in our struggle. We will be eternally grateful and please do not stop doing this vital work in the future.

Many thanks to all the people who took the time to write and send their affection and good wishes.

A friendly hug,

Gustavo and the Gatica Villarroel family."

Another highlight of the campaign was the collaborative work across the Americas, as Amnesty International worked to make the case visible in other countries of the region, where the problem of violence is a shared one. Fake Pan's illustrations about Gustavo's story was an excellent example of this, as was the many workshops and talks about his case with Colombian human rights organization as well as Amnesty International Canada, Amnesty International Mexico, Amnesty International Peru and Amnesty International Uruguay.



Gustavo playing the drums, thanking Amnesty International UK and the musicians who greeted him on his birthday © Gatica Villarroel family

While it has been encouraging to see Gustavo's case moving forward, the defence of Claudio Crespo (G-3) continues to argue that the rubber and metal ammunition that injured Gustavo were not fired by him. However, Gustavo's attorney believes this defence will not stand and G-3's direct commander has now been questioned by the Court for his involvement in the crime. We expect changes in the case to happen by the end of 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic largely put a stop to mass protests in Chile however, throughout 2020 and into 2021, intermittent demonstrations continued. They were repeatedly met with police violence, fuelled by prevailing impunity and the same commanders in charge. Write for Rights helped show how the problems that led to Gustavo's and hundreds of other's injuries need to be addressed as a matter of urgency: end police impunity by holding commanders to account and carry out a structural police reform.

Amnesty International will continue campaigning on behalf of Gustavo until the commanders responsible for his injuries are investigated and prosecuted in accordance with the law. His case must be but the first in a long line of victims of police violence in Chile whose rights to justice and reparations are guaranteed.

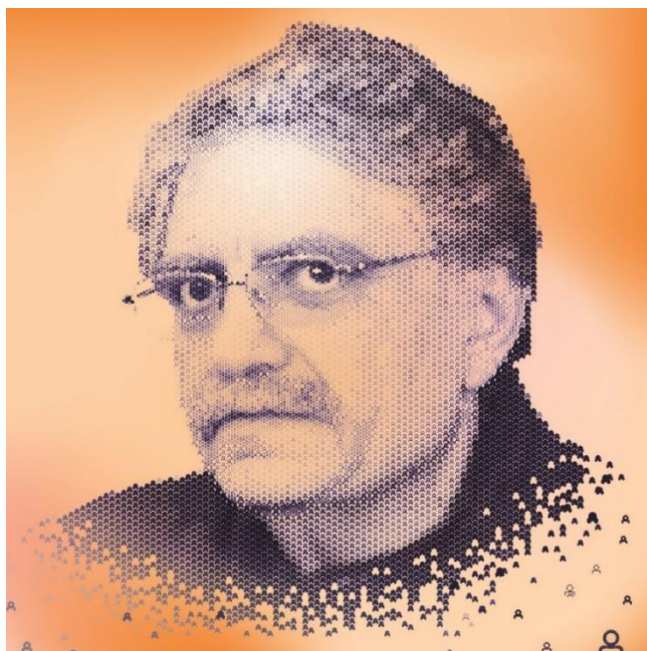


An activist signs Gustavo's petition in Mali © Amnesty International Mali



Some of the hundreds of letters of solidarity sent to Gustavo © Diego Martínez

IDRIS KHATTAK – PAKISTAN



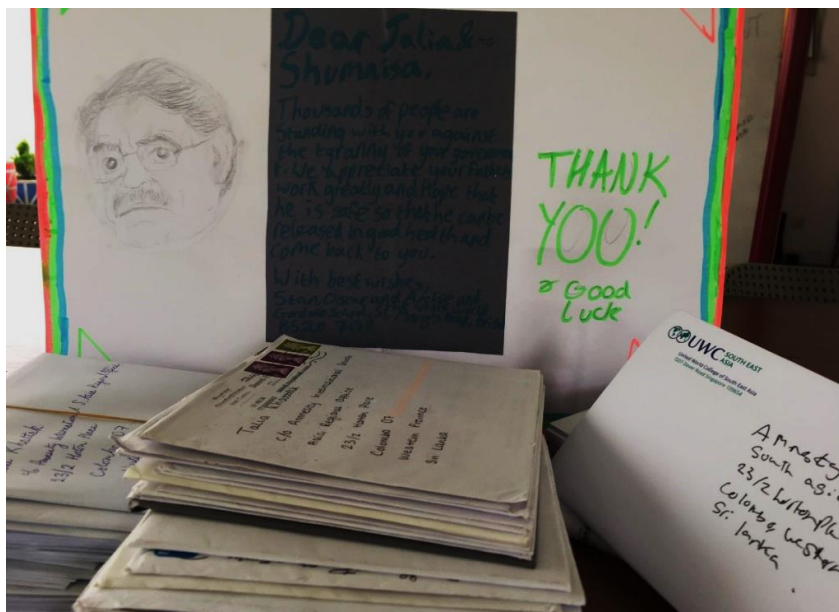
Idris Khattak worked extensively on enforced disappearances before he was abducted on 14 November 2019 by Pakistan's security agencies. His story is emblematic of the practice of enforced disappearances in Pakistan, and global attention was considered crucial to pressure authorities into releasing information about his situation.

Having worked as a consultant with Amnesty International and other international human rights NGOs, for years Idris had documented a wide range of human rights violations and humanitarian crises in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan.

Amnesty International first started campaigning for Idris four days after he was abducted. Despite a warning to not publicly campaign for him if they wanted to see him again, his daughter Talia bravely decided to amplify the campaign six months later. Some of the associated activities included a feature in *The Independent* that was shared widely and

gained a lot of traction, an Urgent Action and a video from Talia on Father's Day. Following this, in June 2020, the Ministry of Defence announced they had Idris in their custody.

Idris was chosen to be featured in Write for Rights 2020 because his work has been critical for the movement against enforced disappearances in Pakistan. He has been instrumental in gathering stories for Amnesty International that would otherwise never see the light of day, many of which were gathered in Amnesty International's 2008 report "Enforced Disappearances: Disappeared Justice in Pakistan". Amnesty International's press work around him had just started gathering attention and days after the case file was initiated, the Ministry of Defence confirmed that they had him in their custody. This showed us that public scrutiny and international attention could be important to ensure that Idris' abduction would not be forgotten and to get as many updates about the progression of his situation as soon as possible.



Cards and letters of solidarity sent to Talia Khattak © Amnesty International

Talia is an incredibly inspiring and passionate advocate for her father and, despite still being in school and having her end of year exams, made herself available to support the campaign. Not only providing valuable contributions to the development of the materials, Talia attended many online events and responded to countless media requests.

Some of the highlights included being a panellist for the South Asia Regional Office's webinar on the International Day of the Disappeared, as well as webinars and videos hosted by Amnesty International Canada (English-speaking), Amnesty

International Norway, Amnesty International Ireland and Amnesty International France. Amnesty International Norway wrote to us to tell us:

“We’re very lucky to have gotten to hear her story and for her to have opened up in the way she did. She has such a strong story to tell, and she conveys it in such a warm and engaging way. I really hope the meeting was as meaningful to Talia as it was to us, and that it brings support to Idris and his case.”

Talia said that each of these events always made her feel so loved and supported, and said they were indispensable to keep her going.

One batch of solidarity actions has already been sent to Talia and her sister Shumaisa, with a second dispatch from Amnesty International’s Regional Office in Colombo office being scheduled soon. When asked, Talia commented:

“I’m really looking forward to reading all the letters from Amnesty supporters with Papa when he is back. It is so incredibly sweet of everybody to have written them.”

The recent progress in Idris Khattak’s situation is believed to be a result of the global attention on his situation that Write for Rights has generated. The campaign led to the authorities admitting to Idris’ whereabouts and arranging a meeting between him and his daughter, a remarkable breakthrough considering the impunity for disappearances in Pakistan. Furthermore, the charges against Idris were also detailed, which were widely recognized as a stretch, given his alleged offence was a meeting with an EU diplomat ten years before his abduction.

It drew the attention of the United Nations Special Rapporteurs, who repeatedly intervened publicly with the Pakistani government. All of the three interventions from Special Rapporteurs came after Amnesty International took up the case, and the last one came after Write for Rights 2020 was launched. Interventions on individual cases are not a given from the Special Rapporteurs, but to get three on the same one is rare.

Despite these positive developments, a significant blow was the denial of Idris’ appeal to be tried in a civilian court instead of a military court. While this continues to be reason for concern of his access to a fair trial, it is promising that Idris has been allowed to be represented by a lawyer of his choice during the proceedings, which begun in February 2021.

Amnesty International maintains regular contact with Talia and will continue to campaign for her father’s release.



An activist in Taiwan creates a portrait of Idris
© Amnesty International Taiwan



Cards and letters of solidarity sent to Talia Khattak ©
Amnesty International

JANI SILVA – COLOMBIA



Since she was a child, Jani has refused to accept injustice and has dedicated her life to defend the Amazon ecosystem in the Colombian Putumayo region. Jani is the voice of hundreds of peasants (campesinos) who are silenced and threatened by illegal armed groups, the military, drug traffickers and multinational companies, all of whom dispute their territory, rich in natural resources because of its strategic geographical position.

In 2008, Jani and other leaders created the Association for the Integral and Sustainable Development of the Amazonian Pearl - ADISPA (Asociación para el Desarrollo Integral y Sostenible de la Perla Amazónica). This organization defends the rights and the environment of 700 families, close to 1,700 men, women, and children who live in the Amazonian Pearl Peasant Reserve Zone (ZRPCA) “La Zona de Reserva Campesina Perla Amazónica”. A fundamental ecosystem in the Amazonian region, it contains our oxygen and our

natural resources. The association was formalized in 2011. Since then, Jani is its legal representative.

Jani's fearless opposition to environment contamination and human rights violations has had frightening consequences. She's been followed, intimidated by unknown people, and threatened with death. On 3 December 2018, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) granted her precautionary measures (MC 204/17). As a response to these measures, the National Protection Unit granted Jani a protection scheme consisting of two bodyguards, a car and a bulletproof vest. However, these measures have been insufficient, as evidenced by at least six security incidents experienced by Jani Silva in the last 14 months.

Amnesty International was first alerted to Jani's situation in 2019 and her case was included in the report [“Why do they want to kill us? Lack of a safe space to defend human rights in Colombia”](#), published by Amnesty International in October 2020. Jani was chosen for the Write for Rights 2020 campaign because Colombia is the most dangerous country in the world for those who defend the environment and the territory. Jani represents the hundreds of human rights defenders that are at risk in Colombia.

Amnesty International has advocated for the individual protection of Jani Silva and the collective protection of all the defenders with whom Jani Silva works with in ADISPA, who are at risk of death and forced displacement. As a result, Jani believes that this campaign has saved her life and prevented her from being killed.

One of the highlights of the campaign was filming Jani Silva in early February 2020, producing a short film about her fight and struggles in the Putumayo region. It was distressing to learn that, despite the multiple threats and attacks she has suffered in the last 12 months, Jani has faced the withdrawal of her physical protection measures a number of times by the National Protection Unit (UNP in Spanish). The latest being in November 2020. However, it was through quick mobilization by Amnesty International that the withdrawal of her physical protection was stopped.

More than 460,000 actions were taken on behalf of Jani throughout the campaign, including both messages of solidarity and letters to calling for her protection, for which Jani is extremely grateful. She told us:

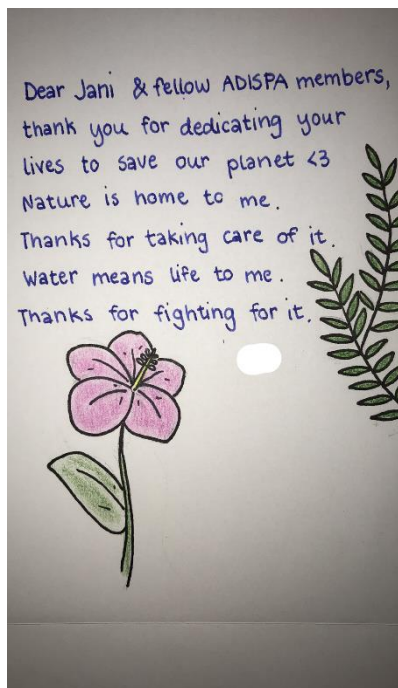
“I thank Amnesty International because the campaign has been very good. I am very grateful for all the letters. From the bottom of my heart, this campaign has kept me alive, it's what has stopped them from killing me because they

know that you are there."

To date, the President of Colombia has declined all invitations to meet Amnesty International, but on 22 April 2021 Amnesty International will invite the Minister of Interior to have a meeting with Jani Silva.

Our immediate next step in the campaign is to highlight the thousands of solidarity letters that Jani received, from dozens of countries, to form a single letter, "A Letter from the World", that will be published on 22 April, International Mother Earth Day. That same day we will project a video of national and international influencers reading the letter at the National Palace in Colombia.

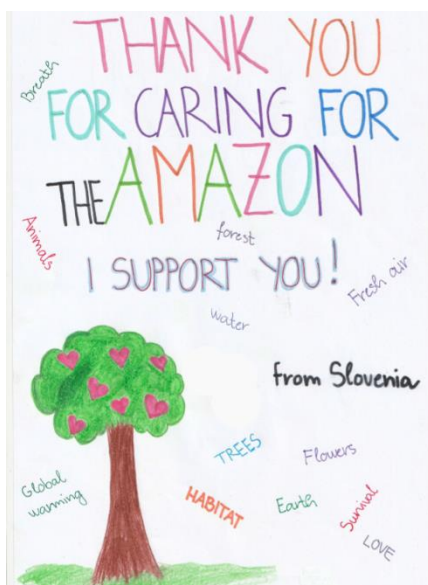
As the Colombian government has not yet granted integral protection to Jani Silva and to ADISPA, the fight continues and everyone is encouraged to get involved in all future campaign activities and initiatives!



Above and below: Letters of solidarity from students in Slovenia



"A Letter from the World", to be published on International Mother Earth Day



An activism action taken in support of Jani by an activist in Mexico

KHALED DRARENI – ALGERIA



Algerian journalist Khaled Drareni is an emblematic figure of the Algerian Hirak movement, which embraces freedom and respect for rights and liberties. Since 22 February 2019, mass demonstrations have taken place every Friday across Algeria, calling for political reform. Thanks to Khaled's reporting on the Hirak events, information was available to Algerians inside and outside the country.

In March 2020, Khaled was arrested while covering a peaceful demonstration. He was charged with inciting an unarmed gathering and harming the integrity of the national territory, even though he was simply doing his job as a journalist. As Khaled said: ***"I am a journalist and not a criminal. My job does not endanger my country. It protects it."***

Khaled was initially sentenced to three years in prison in August 2020, but this was reduced to two years at an appeal trial in September 2020. His

arrest and sentencing shocked many and revealed the extent of repression that the regime is willing to undertake to silence dissent and to end the Hirak movement in Algeria. It also sent a strong message to other independent journalists in Algeria that they might face the same fate.

The Write for Rights 2020 campaign urged people all over the world to call on the Algerian President to release Khaled Drareni immediately and unconditionally and to demand that the government allow journalists do their job freely and without restrictions. The campaign built on the tireless work and advocacy led by several other organizations on his behalf.

Amnesty International's largest global campaign was able to not only [increase international awareness](#) of Khaled's case, but also express solidarity that lifted his spirits whilst in prison. Thanking people for this support, Khaled said:

"I thank all those who supported me and the tremendous work that Amnesty's sections have done for me."

Khaled's case received more than 361,000 actions globally. National entities from across the movement held letter-writing events, coordinated events with Khaled's brother who was vocal in advocating for him from his place of residence in New York. His proximity to Amnesty International USA offered an opportunity for contact with AIUSA volunteers who supported his calls for protest in front of the Algerian consulate. Sections held card-writing activities in schools. Some entities also reached out to embassies especially during key trial dates to push the authorities for his release. The petition signatures and letters to the targets in Algeria will be delivered to targets shortly in anticipation of Khaled's retrial by an appeal court.



Khaled's photograph is projected on a building in Germany © Amnesty international Germany

It is believed that the continuous attention from the campaign, and mass mobilisation by activists, contributed towards Khaled receiving a presidential pardon on 18 February 2021. Khaled spent eleven months in prison before his release.

Despite his release from prison, Khaled is still facing charges. The Algerian Supreme Court re-examined his file on 25 March 2021 and quashed the two-year prison term against him and ordered a retrial in his case. An appeal court will retry him.

Amnesty International will continue campaigning for all charges against him to be dropped or his case to be closed.



Illustration by Fake Pan, as part of a carousel on Khaled's story © Pan Cooke.



A lesson on Write for Rights, including Khaled's story, in a school in Valencia, Spain © Amnesty International La Ribera Group



Khaled, after his release from prison © AFP via Getty Images

METU PRIDE DEFENDERS – TURKEY



Melike Balkan and Özgür Gür are two recent graduates of the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey, and have been defending the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI+) people since they started university in 2014.

A highlight of the *METU LGBTI+ Solidarity* club's calendar is the annual Pride march on campus, which they have organized every year since 2011. However, in 2018, it was at risk of being cancelled due to an indefinite blanket ban on all LGBTI events in Ankara. Introduced in November 2017, the ban had come into effect following a state of emergency that had been imposed in the country following the 2016 attempted coup.

In May 2018, Amnesty International mobilised its supporters to [publicly call](#) on the Governor of Ankara and the Rector of METU to ensure that the student's Pride march could go ahead without unlawful restrictions. It is believed that this action contributed towards the Rector ultimately allowing

the Pride march to take place, with hundreds of demonstrators peacefully marching across the university campus, in defiance of the ban on all LGBTI+ events imposed by the governor of Ankara.

Unfortunately, even after the state of emergency was lifted in July 2018, a similar ban on LGBTI+ events was imposed in Ankara from 3 October 2018 and the planned Pride march on METU campus on 10 May 2019 was prohibited. In protest, *METU LGBTI + Solidarity* organized a peaceful sit-in on the university campus. The police were called and, using excessive force including tear gas, detained at least 22 students, including Melike and Özgür, and one academic.

While the Administrative Court ruled in June 2020 that there was no legal basis for the second indefinite ban by the Governor of Ankara, the prosecution is continuing with charges against 19 of the people accused of joining the LGBTI+ Pride march on the University's campus on 10 May 2019. If convicted, they can be sentenced to up to three years in prison.

Write for Rights 2020 was an excellent opportunity to increase the international pressure in support of Melike, Özgür and the others on trial, and shine a light on the challenges faced by LGBTI people in Turkey and those defending and promoting their rights.

Melike and Özgür themselves are not only vocal activists on the case and within the LGBTI+ community in Turkey but have founded their own non-governmental organisation called UniKuir, advocating, campaigning and defending the rights of young LGBTI+ people and students after they graduated from METU in the summer of 2020.

They were eager to be active participants in Write for Rights and were directly involved in the development of the campaign strategy and in the production of key outputs.



Amnesty International Thailand's campaign materials for METU Pride Defenders © Amnesty International Thailand

Both Melike and Özgür became exceptional ambassadors of the campaign by proactively engaging diplomatic representatives and other organisations to amplify the publicity of their case. While the COVID-19 pandemic prevented travelling, they made themselves available to join over 20 online meetings which included campaigning activities, student conferences, and events organised by many Amnesty International entities, including in Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey and the UK. Many of these events offered opportunities to enlarge their networks, meet with other activists and students. Noteworthy were also the [illustrations](#) commissioned by the Americas Regional Office, and the campaign to engage prominent LGBTI+ influencers by Amnesty International UK.



Melike and Özgür's photograph is projected on a building in Germany
© Amnesty international Germany

Write for Rights 2020 tremendously increased the visibility of the activists, with *METU LGBTI+ Solidarity* noting a significant increase in support and engagement within their own channels. Social media and audio-visual materials also played a large role in Amnesty International Turkey's campaign, with a notable 25% growth in followers (10,000 new people), and a specific increase in numbers of young people aged 18-25.

At least 43 Amnesty International entities campaigned on behalf of the group, with over 445,000 actions reported. While Melike and Özgür have been the public representatives on the METU Pride Defenders' story, the other defendants were also very happy about the engagement and solidarity that the campaign inspired. It is believed that the Write for Rights 2020 successfully raised awareness about their situation, as well as of the broader context of increased homophobia and transphobia in Turkey.

Amnesty International continues campaigning and advocating for the right to peaceful assembly, on behalf of the many individuals facing criminal investigations and prosecutions in Turkey.

Para Grupos de Solidaridade LGBTI+



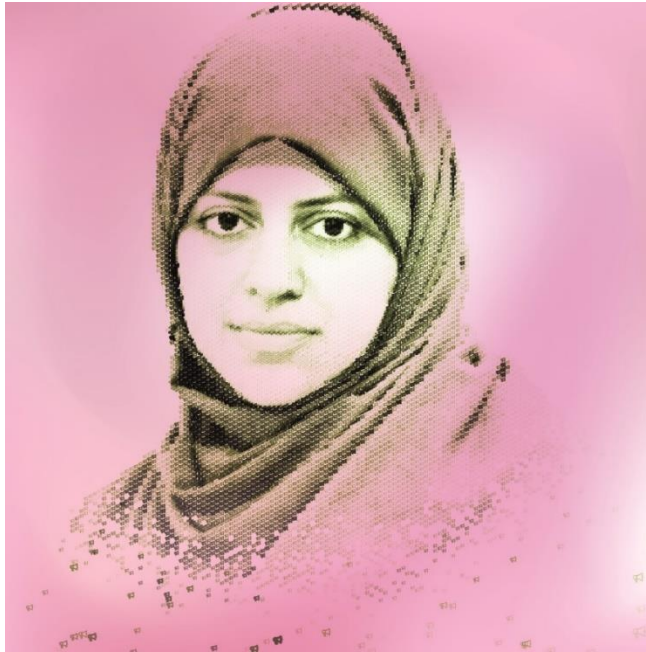
Solidarity artwork sent to the METU Pride Defenders by a student in Portugal

Most recently, in January 2021, protests by Boğaziçi University students and academics following President Erdogan's appointment of a new university rector were [met with excessive use of force](#) by police violence with the use of tear gas, water cannons and mass detentions. By systematically abusing the justice system to criminalise peaceful activities such as prides or art exhibitions, the LGBTI+ community feel unsafe and are constantly afraid of being targeted further.

In that context, the activism and engagement by Melike and Özgür, who also have been vocal supporters and campaigning on the case of the Boğaziçi students through their NGO UniKuir, is admirable. Attending the first hearing of seven Boğaziçi students, they were able to provide moral and practical support.

Amnesty International is committed to remaining in close contact with Melike and Özgür and the others and will continue to raise awareness, using media, advocacy, and supporting the activities of UniKuir, where and when appropriate. At the time of writing, the case is still ongoing in Turkey with the next hearing scheduled for 30 April 2021.

NASSIMA AL-SADA – SAUDI ARABIA



Nassima al-Sada is a Saudi activist and mother of three who has campaigned for civil and political rights, women's rights and the rights of the Shi'a minority in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia for many years. She stood in municipal elections in 2015 but was banned from participating, and has also fought for the right of women to drive and for the end of Saudi Arabia's male guardianship system.

Nassima al-Sada was detained without charge or trial from July 2018 until June 2019, when she appeared for her first court session, and was also placed in solitary confinement from February 2019 until the beginning of 2020. Amnesty International has been campaigning for the release of Nassima and many other Saudi Arabian WHRDs since their arbitrary arrest in mid-May 2018. Through activities such as an online petition, targeted private advocacy and even hosting a virtual court session on Facebook, the visibility of her case was

successfully maintained on the international agenda.

Then, given the mounting global pressure on Saudi Arabia to release woman human rights defenders (WHRDs), Write for Rights 2020 provided an opportunity to maintain the momentum for calling for Nassima's release.

Throughout the campaign Moussa, Nassima's son who is based in Amsterdam, received thousands of solidarity letters from supporters. He shared his sentiments and gratitude for participants on social media with pictures of him opening the letters stating:

"I am overwhelmed. My mom will love all the letters, it will mean so much to her and she will be amazed by all the efforts put into this. I was also surprised that some letters are addressed to me too. One woman wrote 'And for you I send a mother's love', so sweet. I thought first that I'd make a selection to read to my mom, but seeing the bags I realize she will want me to read each single one of them! A huge thanks to all of you for your solidarity."

The petition to target was delivered to the Saudi embassies in each target country by Amnesty International national entities. Finally, after months of delays and prolonged detention without trial, Saudi authorities resumed trials of



Nassima's son Moussa reads cards and letters of solidarity © Amnesty International Netherlands

detained women activists, including Nassima al-Sada, on 25 November 2020. It is believed that mounting international pressure, including Amnesty International's G20 and W4R campaigns, led to this development.

On 25 November 2020, Nassima al-Sada was sentenced by the Criminal Court in Riyadh to five years in prison - with a partial suspension of two years - and a travel ban of five years. The sentence was upheld by the Court of Appeal on 22 March 2021 and Nassima is expected to be released in June.



An activist in Côte d'Ivoire takes action for Nassima © Amnesty International Côte d'Ivoire

While the sentencing of Nassima is seen by her family as a relatively "positive" development, after prolonged detention without trial, they continue to demand her immediate and unconditional release. Nassima's family hope that her case will be included in the upcoming Ramadan pardon, so she can be reunited with her ill husband and two children with special needs.

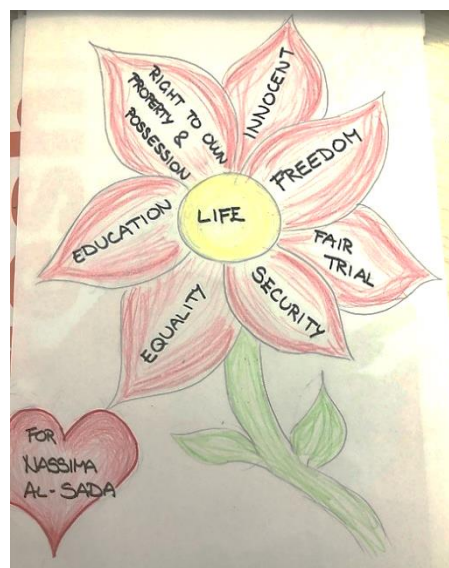
The extremely coercive climate in Saudi Arabia has always challenged our work with individuals at risk. Access to records, as well as the intimidation of families, makes the verification and collection of information extremely complicated.

However, international scrutiny following the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018, and the brutal crackdown on HRDs and peaceful activists, has led to mounting pressure by Western governments, especially in light of the G20 Summit, on Saudi authorities to release WHRDs. It is hoped that continued attention on the situation of activists will lead to positive and lasting human rights reforms in the country.

Nassima al-Sada remains a priority individual at risk for Amnesty International in 2021, and we continue to work closely with Nassima's family to campaign publicly and privately for her immediate and unconditional release as well as the quashing the travel ban instated on her.



Activists in Burkina Faso write letters for Nassima © Amnesty International Burkina Faso



Solidarity artwork for Nassima from a student in Slovenia

PAING PHYO MIN – MYANMAR



Paing Phyo Min (aka De Yay) is a 23-year-old student activist who is a member of the Peacock Generation, a poetry troupe dedicated to Thangyat – a traditional version of slam poetry. Fusing verse with comedy and music, Thangyat is usually performed in April during Myanmar's New Year Water Festival.

In April and May 2019, Paing Phyo Min and other Peacock Generation members were arrested after performing Thangyat dressed as soldiers. They made fun of the military, saying it could not take criticism, was desperate to hang on to power, and was bankrupting the country while its generals accumulated wealth.

Paing Phyo Min was convicted and sentenced to six years in prison. The charges against him include "incitement", that is, encouraging military officers to abandon their duties, and "online defamation" for sharing photographs and video of their

performance online. A shared image of a dog in military uniform seemed particularly upsetting to authorities.

"We have been performing Thangyat every year since 2013," said Paing Phyo Min. "We have been directly communicating with the public, expressing... what is wrong in our society... including criticisms of the government. But in 2019, the military targeted us. They are undermining Myanmar's democratic transition. We may be imprisoned, but we will not be deterred from speaking our minds."

Despite access restrictions to Paing Phyo Min at Insein prison, we were fortunate enough to be able to get in touch with him on a couple of occasions during his court hearings, and further collaborate with his family. Along with some powerful portraits and social media video, a heartfelt Q&A with his father was conducted via phone interview in September 2020. It was an honest conversation, with fatherly advice and aspirations for his son. When asked what he would say to Paing Phyo Min's supporters, he simply stated:

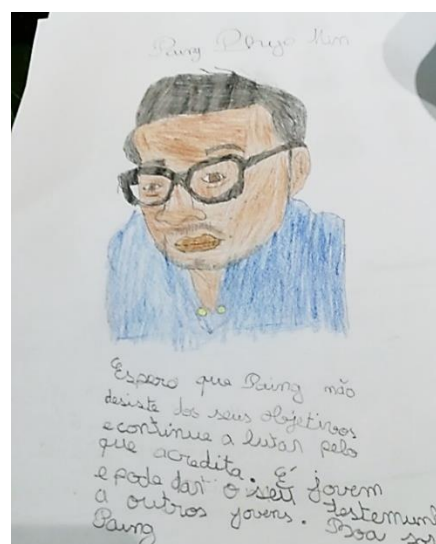
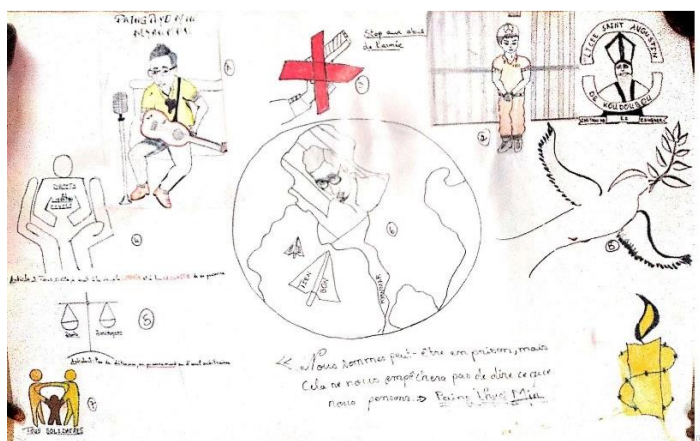
"I just wanted to say as a parent thanks so much for helping my son".

In addition to working closely with Paing Phyo Min's family, Amnesty International also teamed up with the Dagon University Student Union. The President of the Union, a fellow Peacock Generation member and successor to Paing Phyo Min, kindly agreed to deliver solidarity letters and cards directly to Paing Phyo Min when possible to visit him in prison. The group was heartened to receive the warm messages from activists across the globe, appreciating the attention that the campaign was bringing to the situation in Myanmar.

Inspired by Amnesty International's solidarity action, members of the Peacock Generation launched a national solidarity action for Paing Phyo Min and two other fellow members of the group who remained imprisoned for criticizing the military. Dozens of solidarity messages from friends and supporters were generated and shared with the three imprisoned individuals, who expressed that they were immensely appreciative of and strengthened by the letters – one of them remarked it was 'like a slowing current of a river receiving increasingly heavy and voluminous rain over it'.

Unfortunately, the dramatic events that unfolded in Myanmar on 1 February 2021 required us to end our campaign for Paing Phyo Min early. To ensure the safety of Paing Phyo Min, members of the Peacock Generation, the Dagon University Student Union and his family, there was a call to stop all public promotions, as well as to hold off any

It was a difficult decision as many national entities had worked for months collecting and inspiring actions from their supporters that we wanted to ensure were received. However, given the incredibly rapidly fluid and unpredictable situation, it was important that we were pre-emptive with our decisions and put the safety of our rights holders and partners first.



POPI & BONGEKA – SOUTH AFRICA



Popi Qwabe and Bongeka Phungula were shot dead and their bodies dumped by the side of the road on 12 May 2017. They may also have been raped. According to the families, the police failed to properly investigate the murders. While two taxi operators were arrested, the police released the men citing a lack of evidence and the case was withdrawn. In the almost four years since the murder, no thorough investigation into their murder has taken place.

In an [address to the nation](#) on 13 May 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa stated that “men have declared war on women in South Africa.” In 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared gender-based violence (GBV) a national crisis in South Africa. According to a government [report](#), a woman is murdered every 3 hours in South Africa and many are assaulted and raped before their death. This is an atrocity; an epidemic that has claimed and continues to threaten the lives of so many in South Africa.

Popi and Bongeka’s story is harrowing and they and their families deserve justice, not least so they can begin to heal. The Write for Rights campaign was an opportunity to call for justice for all those who have fallen victim to this ‘war on women.’ GBV continues to be one of the biggest challenges facing South Africa and it was important that Amnesty International highlight the urgent need for all police investigations to be conducted in a thorough, fair and impartial manner.

Over the course of the campaign, Amnesty International South Africa developed a strong relationship with Popi and Bongeka’s family members, namely Popi’s sister, Thembelihle, and Bongeka’s cousin, Mdu. Despite the trauma of their loss, their brave testimonies and personal campaigns for justice provided invaluable information regarding the killings of the two girls, as well as insights into the investigation and court proceedings.

On International Women’s day – 8 March 2021 – Amnesty International South Africa, along with Popi’s sister and mother, delivered the petition signatures at the National Office for Police. They met with the Deputy Commissioner for South African Police Service (SAPS), the Head of Detective Services, the Head of the Violence against Women and Children Unit and a representative from Visible Policing. It was a momentous moment in the campaign, as SAPS committed to investigating the progress and development of the Popi and Bongeka case and will meet with Amnesty International South Africa again on 13 April to brief them on their findings. Following the meeting with SAPS, Popi’s sister Thembelihle said:

“I feel optimistic, I feel like something is finally about to happen. I feel like



Popi’s mother and sister hand over petition signatures at the National Office for Police © Busisiwe Mphapang

there's a change coming. I feel like the SAPS officials we just spoke to are not deceiving us, and they are serious about helping. And there are key specifics, there are specific things that they said they would do. And it is easier for me to then follow up on their words and what they said. So, I feel like finally, something is about to change.

And if Minenhle, Bongeka's daughter asks me "How did it go?" And Mdu asks me "How did it go?" I will be able to respond, I will be able to answer. Thank goodness my mom is here because now she finally gets to see that you guys have been doing something. She always asked me "What is Amnesty?" "Who is Amnesty?", "What are they doing?", "What are they famous for?" So, finally, she saw it for herself that there is hope. I am very grateful."

Amnesty International South Africa received its highest number of Write for Rights actions from supporters and members, totalling 64,674 actions. Globally, more than 341,000 actions were taken for Popi and Bongeka. Raising awareness of this case was a big objective for this campaign, and Vice's [documentary-style video](#) was a powerful contributor to achieving this with 214,637 views to date.

It was promising to note the significant amount of media attention, both globally and nationally, that our campaign for Popi and Bongeka received. A number of local [news articles were published](#) on the case and the story was featured internationally as well.

In February 2021, Thembelihle and Mdu visited Amnesty International South Africa's office to receive the solidarity letters in person. Reading through hundreds of them in an emotional afternoon, the pair created a [video](#) to say thank you to all those who sent messages. Mdu told us:

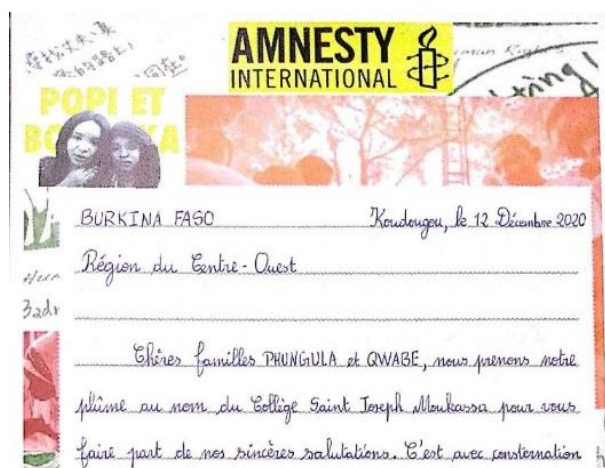
"Reading these letters makes me feel great. To know that thousands and thousands of people out there support us and want to see justice as much as we do, is so touching."



Thembelihle and Mdu receive solidarity letters © Amnesty International South Africa

Unfortunately, the issue of GBV in South Africa is widespread and, almost daily, people in South Africa wake up to the news of another brutal killing of a woman or girl. 21 women were killed in the month of June 2020 alone. Between October and December 2020, sexual assault increased by 4.2%. Therefore, as incidents of GBV are such a frequent occurrence, it makes it difficult to garner the attention of the authorities about one particular case.

Nonetheless, following the Write for Rights campaign, justice may be served for Popi and Bongeka. Not only has the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) reached out to Amnesty International South Africa asking for more information about the case so that they could look in to it but, following the 8 March meeting with SAPS officials, a specific investigator has been assigned to the case.



Amnesty International South Africa intends to broaden their scope of work on GBV in the country and will incorporate Popi and Bongeka's story into future campaign plans and calls, such as the [#InterruptGBV](#) Campaign that calls on people to become interrupters and stop the cycle of GBV in South Africa.

We hope that, together with the added pressure on South African embassies across the world, this will lead to further positive developments in the murder investigation of Popi and Bongeka. Amnesty International is committed to continue working with their family until justice is served. We will not give up!

A letter of solidarity sent to Popi and Bongeka's families from Burkina Faso

ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

ALGERIA

ACTIONS: 5,524

Because of the restrictions imposed by the authorities to control COVID-19, unfortunately Amnesty International Algeria's letter-writing marathon this year was held online only, with petitions shared on their social networks. They also organised email campaigns and their members organised days to write letters to the people featured in the campaign and took solidarity photos to post on social networks.

AMERICAS REGIONAL OFFICES

For Write for Rights 2020, the Americas Regional Office led on activities aiming to promote youth engagement, boost digital action, and strengthen and develop supporters' knowledge via Human Rights Education.

One highlight of the campaign was "Postales para Gustavo" (Postcards for Gustavo), in which the Americas Regional Office partnered with VICE and Amnesty International Mexico during Gustavo's Birthday week to send him audio postcards telling him stories of people's favourite moments. Audio messages were sent by young people in over eight countries. These were curated and the five most compelling messages were transformed into an asset [here](#) to mark Gustavo's birthday.

The Americas Regional Office also developed a Human Rights Education journey on Gustavo's and Jani's stories, in order for supporters and activists to have a better understanding of the human rights violations surrounding both individuals and to increase participation and action taken by young people. The journeys had more than 71,000 impressions on Twitter. For more info on how your entity can do this, please see the "Ultimate Nano Learning Guide" in [English/French](#) and [Spanish](#).

To visually explain the stories of each of the ten individuals and groups featured in the campaign how young supporters and activists could take action, the Americas Regional offices partnered with a young social justice artist and social media influencer called Fake Pan to develop ten carousel type illustrations for Instagram. These assets quickly hit the 100,000 likes milestone and were reproduced by many Amnesty International entities. Additionally, these were translated into English, Spanish, French and Turkish. The illustrations are available [here](#).



Illustration by Fake Pan, as part of an Instagram carousel on Gustavo's story © Pan Cooke.

The Americas Regional Office was also involved in "A Letter From the World" for Jani, which uses technology to curate all of the actions and letters written for Jani with the aim of developing one letter that will be read and displayed in important public spaces all over the world for decision makers and supporters to see and take action. This will act as a beacon of hope for Jani and will demand that human rights defenders are protected.

ARGENTINA

ACTIONS: 57,725

Due to the restrictions imposed by measures under COVID-19, Amnesty International Argentina's Write for Rights campaign strategy focused on promoting online activities to help spread the campaign and attract new people to get involved and sign petitions. They developed a website to present Write for Rights, to publicise the different stories, to integrate the Human Rights Education (HRE) material so that it was available to different audiences and to allow people to add their support with their signatures.

Staff facilitated online workshops for young people and adults, high school students and the general public. They also worked in partnership with teachers from different educational spaces and shared HRE materials with them, which made it possible for teachers to work on the themes and stories in their classes and for students to write letters of support.

Amnesty International Argentina's social media strategy was very important in amplifying their campaign. The outputs from the VICE partnership worked very well and captured the attention of new audiences. They also introduced the ability to send WhatsApp audio message solidarity actions.

Amnesty International Argentina worked on the story of a local individual, as they do every year. This year it was the story of Facundo Astudillo Castro, a 22-year old young man whose body was found after four months of being missing and for whose death four police officers of the Buenos Aires Province are under suspicion. It was the story with the highest number of signatures.

AUSTRALIA **ACTIONS: 184,097**

As in previous years, Amnesty International Australia integrated their fundraising acquisition strategies with their Write for Rights strategy, in order to bring in actions for the global individual stories, and to grow their donor base. As activists couldn't hold offline events, they held "10 days of activism" online events. These events included a session with Melike and Özgür, organised by the Australian LGBTQIA+ network, and a 10 December event with Fred Bauma, the first time someone previously featured in Write for Rights has spoken at an Australian event. Another first for Amnesty International Australia was handing over all of the actions taken during Write for Rights 2020 to embassies in Australia, and met with the ambassadors of Colombia, Chile, Pakistan, Malta and Turkey. They also included two Australian stories in their Write for Rights 2020 campaign. One focused on conversion practices in Australia and the other on Australian-Vietnamese prisoner of conscience Chau Van Kham. These stories allowed them to engage their online supporters and activists outside of letter writing and petition signing, which contributed to the banning of conversion practices in the Australian state of Victoria in February 2021.

AUSTRIA **ACTIONS: 33,166**

Amnesty International Austria's online performance in Write for Rights 2020 was a lot stronger than in 2019. They achieved a 156% increase in online actions and increased their online fundraising. They held two great webinars, one with Melike & Özgür and another one on "drawing human rights", where participants practiced basic drawing skills and then designed their own solidarity cards. Offline activism was difficult due to COVID-19. Schools' participation was limited, as they opened and closed frequently in autumn and winter. Many schools participated in online interactive workshops around Write for Rights, which was a great success. In addition, 708 people ordered an action kit to participate at home, compared to 149 in 2019.

BELGIUM (FLEMISH) **ACTIONS: 98,726**

Due to COVID-19, Amnesty International Belgium (Flemish - FL) chose to focus on online campaigning, writing letters at home, fundraising and increasing visibility.

To support people writing letters at home they launched free action packages with sample letters, cards and gadgets to make writing more fun. Thanks to a TikTok video, they saw a boost in the number of orders and more than 2,200 packs were ordered. However, as public events were forbidden, the number of letters delivered per package was limited.

They pushed their petitions online and tried out a Facebook event called 'letterwritingmarathon@home' in which they dropped an action idea every week. Doing this made them realise that above all that you have to put a lot of time and energy into such an event to make it vivid.

In terms of visibility, Amnesty International Belgium (FL) put up posters with a QR code that linked to their petitions. They also had advertisements in magazines and two newspapers published an interview with one of the people featured in the campaign.

They also did fundraising alongside the Write for Rights campaign for the first time. After ordering the action package and signing a petition, people were asked for a voluntary donation which raised more than 7,000 euros.

Their marathon was concluded with a tour of the embassies. With bicycles and banners, they brought the letters to the embassies and handed them over.

BELGIUM (FRENCH-SPEAKING)**ACTIONS: 161,994**

Given the health measures in force in Belgium at the end of 2020, Amnesty International Belgium (French-speaking) were unable to organize the public and convivial events that local groups organized in previous years. Instead, they created writing kits that were distributed through the networks of group members and launched an appeal via social media and their website. These kits consisted of instructions for use, blank postcards for each of the 10 global individuals and groups, a presentation and models of letters and messages of solidarity to be copied. 8,000 kits were distributed, and the approach was greatly appreciated by the general public because it made it possible to take action within their home.

BENIN**ACTIONS: 179,148**

Amnesty International Benin's 2020 Write for Rights campaign was carried out in the midst of the COVID-19 health crisis. Committed activists from 51 local groups took an active part in this campaign in strict compliance with the COVID-19 restrictions. In preparation, Amnesty International Benin ran training sessions for all of the groups, providing them with information about the individual stories and giving them the tools they needed for their campaigning. The campaign was launched by local groups throughout the country on 21 November. Equipped with masks and gathered in very small groups, they travelled to schools, health centres, public squares, churches and mosques, markets and craftsmen's workshops. At the end of the campaign, 179,148 actions were carried out online and offline and about 100,000 people were reached by the campaign. Amnesty International Benin saw an increase in subscribers on their Facebook page during the campaign, and many people expressed the desire to join the Amnesty International movement.



Activists at the launch of Amnesty International Benin's Write for Rights Campaign © Amnesty International Benin

BRAZIL**ACTIONS: 5,466**

Unlike in recent years, in 2020 Amnesty International Brazil decided to campaign on only two individual stories: Jani Silva's (Colombia) and Gustavo Gatica's (Chile). These were selected for their regional proximity, which generated more empathy with the Brazilian audience and became a way to communicate similar violations that also occur in Brazil. Amnesty International Brazil launched the campaign on 10 December, Human Rights Day, which was an excellent opportunity to introduce the issues and engage their audience for Write for Rights. In 2020, the launch of the campaign was online because of the pandemic. An online concert was hosted and was attended by more than two thousand participants, including indigenous organisations, social movements and independent artists.

BURKINA FASO**ACTIONS: 16,542**

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, Amnesty International Burkina Faso showed resilience and still managed to conduct activities in defence of victims of human rights violations, whilst taking measures to limit the spread of the pandemic and protect the health of its members and supporters. They used digital mobilisation techniques to overcome the



Students take action for Khaled in Burkina Faso © Amnesty International Burkina Faso

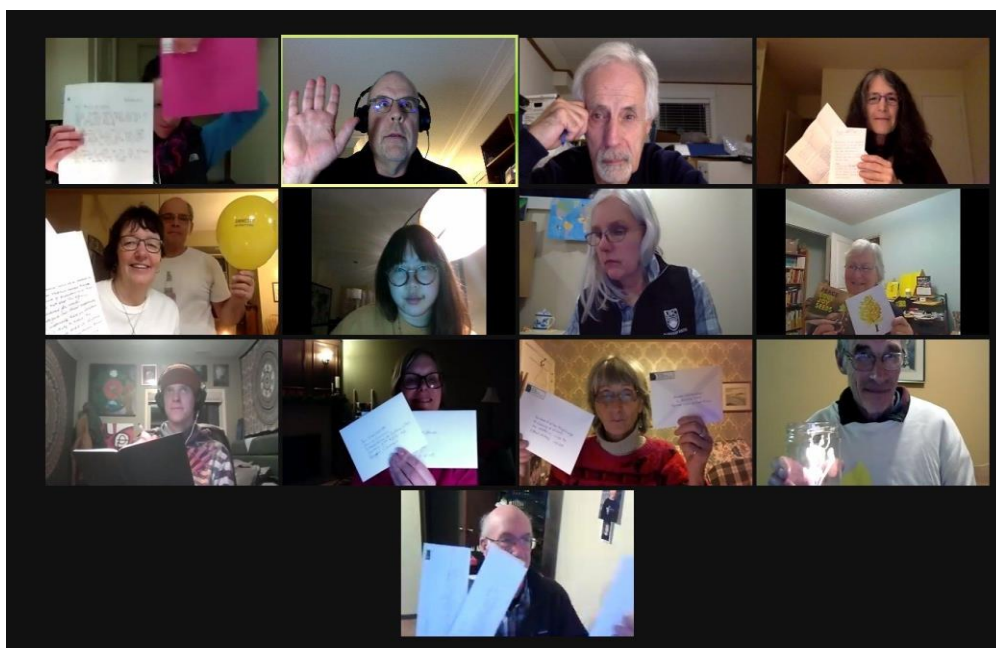
limits on face-to-face activities.

In addition, the COVID-19 context was an opportunity for Amnesty International Burkina Faso to explore new mobilisation techniques. Capacity building sessions also helped to better equip activists and members and familiarise them with the ten global stories. Emphasis was placed not only on symbolic actions to raise awareness and engage their audience, but also on communication tools to convey the call to action messages around the campaign.

CANADA (ENGLISH-SPEAKING)

ACTIONS: 79,015

Amnesty International Canada (English-speaking) shifted their Write for Rights campaign almost entirely online for 2020 and saw their highest engagement yet. While there were fewer events, they had more individual participants than ever before. Event organizers wonderfully adapted their events during the COVID-19 pandemic, whether they were hosting events online, with their social bubbles, or in socially distant settings where appropriate. Amnesty International Canada (English-speaking) focused on engaging young people through an influencer strategy, the global partnership with VICE Media, an emphasis on social media advocacy, and targeted advertisements. Amnesty International Canada (English-speaking) felt more connected globally on Write for Rights than ever before. They organized a national marathon for twelve hours on 10 December where they featured other national entities and content on each of the ten global stories. Supporters loved hearing more directly from the individuals featured in the 2020 campaign.



Activists in the Okanagan region of British Columbia, Canada, gathered for a virtual Write for Rights event © Amnesty International Okanagan Group

CANADA (FRENCH-SPEAKING)

ACTIONS: 34,857

Amnesty International Canada (French-speaking) organised webinars for each of the ten stories of the 2020 Write for Rights campaign and had a whole day dedicated to Human Rights Day on 10 December. The participation of artists, campaign managers and human rights defenders made these virtual events very dynamic. Amnesty International Canada (French-speaking) also ran a campaign on social networks pushed by their partners, schools, local and university groups and supporters.

CENTRAL ASIA (KYRGYZSTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN)

Following two blended-learning courses, 67 teachers from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan participated and 29 teachers graduated with certificates of full completion. 95% of the graduates reported that they improved their abilities to teach about human rights, women's rights, peaceful protest and the Write for Rights campaign in their classrooms and felt confident and empowered to organize the campaign in their schools.



Students in Central Asia take action for Write for Rights © Amnesty International

Overall, 2,653 young people (2,084 students from 14 schools and 510 activists) in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan were trained and took action within Write for Rights 2020 to support Nassima from Saudi Arabia and Gustavo from Chile. Before taking action (signing petitions, writing letters or posting on their social media), they all participated in Write for Rights events, organised by teachers and activists trained by Amnesty International. All these young people raised their awareness about the discrimination of women in Saudi Arabia and drew parallels with disparities in Central Asia. Gustavo's case allowed for extensive debates on the freedom of peaceful

assemblies and the discussion about recent protests in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, activists' freedoms and authorities' obligations.

Write for Rights 2019 reached 823 students and activists in Central Asia. In comparison, in 2020, 2,653 secondary school students and activists were trained and engaged into human rights action, which is a 215% growth.

In addition, a special project with Kloop media was released in December 2020 in Russian and Kazakh, featuring quizzes, animations and learning materials about Nassima and Gustavo.

CHILE

ACTIONS: 3874

Amnesty International Chile worked on five of the global stories, including the story of Gustavo Gatica from Chile. They also featured Fabiola Campillai, also from Chile. The main activities in their campaign were the collection of signatures for online actions, communication on social networks, conversations on police violence with other Amnesty International entities in the region, Human Rights Education work, including nano-learning and training of trainers workshops and the sending of hundreds of messages of solidarity for Gustavo and Fabiola, both written and audio, sent via WhatsApp.

The main difficulty they faced was the low participation in the campaign due to the fact that it was launched globally in the summer of the southern hemisphere, which made it impossible to carry out activities in educational spaces. Also, activists were tired and worn out after a very hard year for everyone, especially in Chile with the social uprising

and the political situation, as well as the pandemic. This meant that the actions they carried out did not have the impact they could have had earlier in the year.



An advert for a virtual event hosted by Amnesty International Chile and Amnesty International Uruguay

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

ACTIONS: 906

Due to the context of COVID-19, Amnesty International Cote d'Ivoire were unable to do any physical activities, nor Human Rights Education activities, so all activities were online. They established partnerships with other local NGOs on the themes of the individual stories they selected, to try to reach as many people as possible. Also, to better share their activities, they called upon a professional photographer who covered the launch of their Write for Rights campaign where they were joined by members of Amnesty International Côte d'Ivoire's Women's Commission.



Members take online actions at Amnesty International Côte d'Ivoire's launch event © Amnesty International Côte d'Ivoire

CZECH REPUBLIC

ACTIONS: 8,325

Amnesty International Czech Republic managed to engage with more participants in Write for Rights 2020 than in previous years, with a 35% growth in the number of participants since 2019. However, because of the COVID-19 situation, their big offline writing events could not take place and therefore the number of actions collected was lower than the previous year.

DENMARK**ACTIONS: 88,051**

Amnesty International Denmark's Write for Rights campaign usually engages a high number of school students. They felt that their campaign went well in the autumn months, with many people, especially school students, signing petitions. However, as a lockdown was introduced in December and January and students had to stay at home, the number of letters written was low.

However, they collected many actions for three of the individuals by sending messages to their SMS network, calling people to take action.

EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL OFFICE**ACTIONS: 17,910**

In 2020, the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional (EECA) Regional Office supported and promoted the stories of two individuals featured in the Write for Rights Campaign: Nassima al-Sadah from Saudi Arabia and Gustavo Gatica from Chile; and two cases from the region: Yulia Tsvetkova from Russia and Marfa Rabkova from Belarus.

In 2020, thousands of people from EECA countries took 17,910 actions, which is twice the number of actions taken in 2019.

For the 2020 campaign, the EECA Office developed a new strategy for Instagram, focusing on solidarity messages and meaningful engagement around the cases, and Facebook, maximising their engagement via digital actions, proving its efficiency with a 50% increase in engagement rate and significant follower growth on both channels.

FINLAND**ACTIONS: 32,540**

Amnesty International Finland focused on online activities by offering the possibility to write solidarity messages online and by organising online campaign trainings. Both online and offline versions of an action tool kit for activists and members and supporters was provided. The number of individual activists and supporters participating by writing messages online and offline increased compared to 2019. Supporters and new audiences were also targeted with online petitions for each individual and group featured in the campaign. Local groups primarily campaigned online.

Comprehensive Human Rights Education material was produced for secondary schools and a teacher's manual was provided both in Finnish and Swedish. Over 2,500 students from 56 schools participated in the campaign.

FRANCE**ACTIONS: 448,731**

Amnesty International France's activists and supporters mobilised strongly for Write for Rights 2020, carrying out more than 380,000 digital actions to challenge the authorities and support the ten people and groups featured, in addition to Tatiana Revva, a persecuted woman carer in Russia. Despite the COVID-19 context, more than 160 activist structures carried out public activities in compliance with security measures, with 50,000 actions carried out on the ground. These activities included Human Rights Education interventions in schools, colleges, universities and penitentiaries.

In addition, music groups organised online concerts supporting Amnesty International, and messages were shared on social networks and by a large number of media outlets at local, regional and national level. Amnesty International France also organised video conference meetings with their supporters, where Yves Makwambala, a human rights defender from the Democratic Republic of Congo who was released following the 2015 Write for Rights campaign, participated to testify about his experience and the impact of the campaign on his life.

In France, the campaign will be extended until April, and more than thirty activist groups will continue to defend and support these people over the long term!

GERMANY**ACTIONS: 324,712**

Because of COVID-19, Amnesty International Germany focused more on online participation this year and were able to double their results here. Despite the lockdown in the middle of the campaign phase, many schools participated

and they were almost able to maintain the engagement levels of Write for Rights 2019. Overall, they reported a small growth compared to 2019.



A Write for Rights message projected on a building in Germany © Amnesty Germany

GHANA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ghanaian president introduced several restrictions including the lockdown of the capital, a ban on gathering, and the closing of schools. Most of Amnesty International Ghana's Write for Rights campaign usually takes place in schools, but the closing down of the schools meant they could not do this in 2020.

However, Amnesty International Ghana took some joint online actions with their German Youth counterparts. The main problem they faced was their lack of appropriate tools to monitor and count online actions.

GUINEA

ACTIONS: 12,173

Amnesty International Guinea's Write for Rights 2020 campaign went well overall despite the socio-political situation and the COVID-19 pandemic. For the 2020 edition they had to adapt and reorganise their initial plans and focused their campaign on HRE, film screenings and press conferences.

HONG KONG

ACTIONS: 49

Amnesty International Hong Kong launched an online petition page in December 2020 to rally local support for all ten global Write for Rights stories. In terms of Human Rights Education, they rolled out a series of educational infographics on six individuals via their social media platforms, which were well received by local supporters. The series not only introduced the human stories of these human rights defenders, but also the human right implications of their situations and relevant country profiles. For example, when they introduced Nassima al-Sada's story, they also included an overview of the women's rights situation in Saudi Arabia and the progress yielded by dedicated feminists in the past years.

HUNGARY

ACTIONS: 1,247

The challenges of 2020 provided Amnesty International Hungary with the opportunity to derail from their original, and more traditional, Write for Rights plans, and instead experiment with new tools and methodologies for their campaign. Their Human Rights Education department put together a handbook for teachers, and for anyone wanting to hold Write for Rights workshops. They held a series of training sessions and workshops within the campaign, from letter-writing workshops to storytelling workshops, to training activists to hold workshops themselves, enabling them

to participate as multipliers as well. They translated the online Amnesty Academy course on Write for Rights to Hungarian, bringing the campaign to even more people. Finally, they carried a social media campaign unlike they have had in previous years, trying out multiple approaches to engage their followers and inspire them to participate.

ICELAND

ACTIONS: 70,718

Due to COVID-19, Amnesty International Iceland's 2020 Write for Rights campaign took place online only. They explored new methods to collect signatures online and collaborated with many social media influencers, which drew great attention to the ten Individuals and groups. They also collected some signatures through telemarketing.

Furthermore, they produced a video with two well-known Icelandic journalists, calling for Khaled Drareni's freedom. They also got a quote from a famous writer in Iceland that called for freedom of expression in Myanmar and the immediate release of Paing Phyo Min.

Amnesty International Iceland also collaborated with an advertisement agency that produced two TV advertisements inspired by Nassima al-Sada and Idris Khattak. Advertisements were also produced for billboards and bus shelters and bus exteriors.

In addition, they collaborated with a street artist that designed artwork of Nassima on the front of a building in downtown Reykjavík.

In terms of Human Rights Education, nearly 8000 signatures were collected in primary and secondary schools. A video contest was designed for the 16-25 age group, with the purpose of introducing the ten stories via Instagram.

Their fundraising element of Write for Rights was successful and they collected roughly 3,000 euros through individual giving. They also expect to gain 1,110 new members through W4R 2020.

INDONESIA

ACTIONS: 1,799

Amnesty International Indonesia's Write for Rights 2020 campaign looked a little different to previous years as they had to shift all of their activities online.

Despite the many challenges, their supporters continued to fight the good fight. A total of 39 action groups and university chapters in 21 cities across the archipelago organised online mobilisation and participated in a human rights education event for Nassima from Saudi Arabia. Their actions contributed to over 1,100 new supporters. It was also great to see incredible enthusiasm by high school students in Green School, Bali who took action on issues they cared about by writing hand-written letters as part of their classes.

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

International Members (IMs) refers to international members and supporters in countries where Amnesty International does not have a formal presence, including countries such as Nigeria, Colombia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Egypt.

With regards to IM engagement, this year colleagues were highly focused on optimizing outputs and maximizing efforts. They developed a series of supporter engagement journeys for current and highly engaged IMs on one hand; and repurposed existing journeys to onboard new IMs joining us for the first time, after having taken a Write for Rights -related action.

The most innovative aspect of the engagement strategy this year was the way in which it introduced a standalone multi-action page where supporters could take action for all ten individuals and groups featured in the campaign simultaneously, which was particularly effective for those landing on this page form email, given that their personal details were already pre-populated with CRM data, thus making it a one-click multi-case action.

As in previous years, similar journeys were offered to IMs in Amnesty International's strategic languages (English, Spanish, French and Arabic), as well as Russian and Chinese, where highly engaged IMs were given the opportunity

to do more for Write for Rights and get involved in hosting an event. An event support package was developed, updated and promoted, including Amnesty Academy resources and courses, as well as a new event resources hub. Thanks to the pandemic this year, the number of event participants more than doubled, possibly as people around the world got more exposed to and more confident in using technology to connect with one another.

Finally, participation-wise, content was developed in the first person, creating email messages approved by the individuals featured in the campaign, a member of their families, or activists affected in a similar way. Also, having realised that audiences would require additional support from us in terms of hosting events, mostly digitally, a platform for peer-to-peer support was offered, inviting leading members to encourage and support other IMs to host their events.

IRELAND ACTIONS: 32,039

No details provided.

ITALY ACTIONS: 74,255

Amnesty International Italy worked on six of the ten global stories and ran activities with local groups and in schools. They hosted webinars on the stories of the individuals and groups featured in the campaign and asked their supporters to take solidarity actions for Jani Silva.

JAPAN ACTIONS: 14,878

Amnesty International Japan's Write for Rights campaign was a little more quiet than usual due to COVID-19. Both the communications and fundraising teams contributed by asking supporters to write and volunteer groups got together and wrote letters.

They also ran online petitions for the METU Pride Defenders and Popi and Bongeka. They added one additional case to the mix, asking people to write to Kirin Brewery and demand that they cut ties with the Myanmar military owned company MEHL.



A local group writes letters in Hirosaki, Japan © Amnesty International Japan Hirosaki Group

LUXEMBOURG**ACTIONS: 3,077**

Amnesty International Luxembourg mainly ran their Write for Rights campaign online in 2020. They set up a mini website explaining the ten global stories and supporters could sign the petition and write the solidarity messages within the website.

Some supporters organised letter writing events in their workplaces or with their families. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, Amnesty International Luxembourg did not organise any offline events.

MALAYSIA**ACTIONS: 785**

Amnesty International Malaysia pivoted their Write for Rights strategy to a fully online experience which allowed them to run sessions with students and members from all over the country.

MALI**ACTIONS: 18,619**

Amnesty International Mali felt that their Write for Rights 2020 campaign was a great success as they succeeded in establishing partnerships with eleven young activist organisations and the faculty of Private Rights of the University of Bamako.



Activists in Mali support Germain, Gustavo and Nassima © Amnesty International Mali

MEXICO**ACTIONS: 27,730**

Amnesty International Mexico managed to deliver a 100% digital campaign.

Through the digital initiative "Creating for Rights", activists reflected on the stories of the individuals and groups featured in the campaign and expressed solidarity through art and crafts. In the same vein, a virtual session organised with the Amnesty International Chile focusing on Gustavo Gatica's story. This closed with a DJ performance that mixed music with solidarity messages.

Activists also replicated HRE workshops, reflecting on the stories and using art as an expression of solidarity. To support them, some groups received resources to promote their activities on social networks. At the same time, the HRE team organised campaign workshops with educational institutions.

Amnesty International Mexico also carried out an action for Gustavo, in partnership with VICE Media. In it, the audiences sent inspiring photos with audio descriptions for Gustavo. They also shared all the VICE Media content which, with a strong investment in advertising, increased the number of signatures and traffic to Amnesty International Mexico's website.



A DJ performance at Amnesty International Mexico's online event

MOLDOVA

ACTIONS: 19,586

Amnesty International Moldova's school groups from different regions organized offline events to raise awareness of human rights violations. Although restrictions have been in place in Moldova, school groups took part in the campaign. Events were held in at least 25 schools from different regions. Amnesty International Moldova also had an online platform for collecting signatures where they managed to collect over 1000 signatures.

MONGOLIA

ACTIONS: 2,836

A strict nationwide lockdown since mid-November meant that Amnesty International Mongolia could not organise offline event as they had in previous years and instead had to focus on online events and petitions. One local group engaged their audience through their local TV channel and broadcasted news about Write for Rights.

In order to attract more young people, student group members organized a writing competition for young people on Facebook.

MOROCCO

ACTIONS: 12,663

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic restricted Amnesty International Morocco's offline presence and therefore their Write for Rights activities focused mainly on online methods, including online HRE workshops, social media, mass-mailing and SMS actions.

Amnesty International Morocco activists took the lead in organizing online Write for Rights events. Youth activists embraced social networks to raise awareness of the individuals and themes featured in the 2020 campaign. These activities led to an increased awareness of human rights among different demographics in Morocco.

Amnesty International Morocco's HRE program continued to be a major source of opportunities to raise awareness and increase activism around the Write for Rights campaign, whilst also supporting growth objectives within youth

constituencies. The HRE network organized an awareness-raising workshop and signature booths in a number of human rights friendly schools.

NEPAL

ACTIONS: 56,550

Over the years Amnesty International Nepal has prioritized W4R campaign as one of its most important campaigns and widely mobilizes its membership to advance the campaign's outreach. In 2020, Amnesty Nepal focused on five of the global individual stories and an additional national one featuring an appeal to the Prime Minister of Nepal to open an independent and impartial investigation into all incidents of custodial deaths.

Amnesty International Nepal translated the campaign materials from English to Nepali and shared them on its website and social media platforms. They also issued a press release to local media announcing the launch of the Write for Rights campaign. Also, prior to the campaign launch they organized preparatory workshops for their members to introduce the stories and provide guidance on taking actions at the local level as well as running online campaigns.

NETHERLANDS

ACTIONS: 413,510

Despite the pandemic, Amnesty International Netherlands had another successful edition of Write for Rights and, to their surprise, more students joined the campaign than in previous years. For traditional letter writers in the Netherlands they produced individual writing kits, which were ordered by individuals and by organizers who distributed kits and collected the written letters.

In their online campaign, Amnesty International Netherlands perfected the growth hack method which they started in 2019. They also trained members in facilitating an online letter writing event. Although this was not widely taken up, there were some brave elderly members who succeeded in organizing their own letter writing zoom events.

On 10 December, Human Rights Day, they had a six-hour livestream with guests from different countries joining both in the studio and online. In addition, they organised an Amnesty International van that toured the country and put on several performances. Although the number of viewers was not what Amnesty International had hoped, it was an entertaining event of high quality and the lessons they learned will help them to produce other livestreams and live events in the future.

NEW ZEALAND

ACTIONS: 6,310

Unlike many national entities, Amnesty International New Zealand did not have to plan their Write for Rights campaign around COVID-19 restrictions and fortunately they were able to organise both offline and online events.

Excitingly, more events were organised and actions taken in New Zealand than in previous years. They organised a webinar with Nicole Millar, Amnesty International's Individuals at Risk Campaigner for the Asia-Pacific region, through which supporters were able to find out more about Amnesty International's work with



Amnesty advocates & supporters take action at a stall in Waiheke Island market, Auckland
© Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand

individuals at risk in the region and the 2020 Write for Rights Campaign.

Their newly launched Write for Rights website proved very useful for supporters to sign the petitions, download the campaign resources and share their event details.

NIGERIA

For the first time, Amnesty International Nigeria conducted their Write for Rights campaign virtually. The national entity's Growth and Activism Coordinator and Campaigner facilitated two webinars focused on the success stories of the Write for Rights 2019 campaign and the stories of the individuals and groups featured in Write for Rights 2020.

Amnesty International Nigeria hosted a Facebook Live Session on International Human Rights Day, on the theme of "Youths and Defending the Right to Freedom of Expression in Nigeria", which brought together critical voices of young people who are inspiring others to stand up for human rights in Nigeria. On 6 February 2021, they also did a "Write for Rights Drive" on Microsoft Teams with their supporters and activists to mobilise the Nigerian audience to take action.

NORWAY

ACTIONS: 117,386

Amnesty International Norway felt that their campaign went well, despite the COVID-19 context. This was helped by the fact that they already collect signatures digitally, via SMS and a newsletter. In terms of activities, they visited schools through digital lectures and letter writing workshops, through which they collected many digital and physical solidarity letters. About 50 groups were active, albeit with limited ability to have physical activities, and some wrote in pieces their local newspapers. Moreover, staff did quite a few lobby efforts which they were happy with.

PARAGUAY

ACTIONS: 570

Write for Rights 2020 challenged Amnesty International Paraguay, but they were able to connect closely with members, activists and supporters through social media platforms and reach more people. They organised JAHAI FOR RIGHTS (Jahai is a word in Guaraní that means to write), a project which involved intense social media work, the collaboration of influencers, activists, and an online festival with the participation of an artist, to give visibility to the individual stories they worked on and to collect signatures for petitions.

POLAND

ACTIONS: 179,544

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the vast majority of events and actions in Poland were conducted online. Even though schools had switched to distance learning, and cafes and bars were open only for take away, Amnesty International Poland's Write for Rights campaign managed to mobilise several hundred event organisers, and almost 180,000 actions were taken! Amnesty International Poland organised several online discussions, workshops and webinars, hosting individuals who had featured in previous Write for Rights campaigns. Schools, student groups and activists engaged also held online events and the switch to online activities led to an intergenerational knowledge exchange, with pupils helping their teachers with digital skills, so that together they could create impact together!

Other activists came up with creative ideas, such as placing a box to collect Write for Rights letters in a local café, which not only led to actions being taken, but also helped a small local business to survive the pandemic by bringing in customers!

PORTUGAL

ACTIONS: 128,230

As Amnesty International Portugal had developed a "total online experience" for Write for Rights 2019, they were prepared to develop a full online campaign in 2020. To understand what the main challenges for some of their participants could be, due to COVID-19 and lockdowns, they started with a sensing activity of their local groups, student groups, schools and universities. Based on the results, they decided to make all materials available online and also shipped printed materials to those who needed them. Also, for the second year, they created an online contest between schools to inspire them to reach new audiences when collecting signatures. Each school was

assigned a secret code and the school with the most online signatures registered with their specific code won. This strategy encourages students to involve people outside of their school, increases activism and visibility and contributes to Amnesty International Portugal's growth.



Students look at a Write for Rights display in a school in Portugal © Amnesty International Portugal / Agrupamento de Escolas Abade Baçal

PUERTO RICO

In 2020, Puerto Rico faced the COVID-19 pandemic and a negligent government response to this pandemic. Despite this, Amnesty International Puerto Rico employed social media strategies to get people to sign up. They had good engagement with Write for Rights posts on social media.

SENEGAL

ACTIONS: 893

Due to COVID-19 and the restrictive measures imposed by the authorities in Senegal, Amnesty International Senegal's Write for Rights campaign took place mainly online. A dedicated website was set up to allow activists and the general public to sign their petitions. The website also published stories from activists about their activism its impact. Because of the COVID-19 context, activists had to use the digital tools at their disposal (computers, tablets and phones) to communicate about the campaign and how everyone could participate, to recruit new members and to raise awareness of human rights issues among the general public through the sharing of HRE toolkits.

SLOVAKIA

ACTIONS: 8,456

Amnesty International Slovakia couldn't organize any physical events in 2020, so most of the events at schools were organized virtually. Despite this, they managed to get some physical letters of solidarity with lovely pictures and lots of digital solidarity actions. They also organized an online debate about art and artists fighting for human rights with the focus on Myanmar and Paing Phyo Min. They collected about half the number of the previous year's signatures but were quite satisfied with participation in the difficult context of COVID-19.

SLOVENIA

ACTIONS: 24,230

Amnesty International Slovenia worked on all ten global stories in Write for Rights 2020. They also added a local story, calling on the government to stop changes to the law on aliens. During Write for Rights 2020 schools in

Slovenia were closed and pupils were studying from home, which is why Amnesty International Slovenia collected less letters to targets and solidarity letters. Only 26 schools took part, but they wrote more than 1,000 letters to target and solidarity letters.

SOUTH AFRICA **ACTIONS:** 60,171

Write for Rights 2020 went very well for Amnesty International South Africa. Even though they were not able to conduct offline activism, they managed to collect thousands of actions which they are hoping will lead to an impact.

SOUTH EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE

The South East Asia and Pacific Regional Office used social media assets like gifs, videos and visuals to drive traffic to the campaign and petition page on their social media spaces. [Padlet](#), an online free source tool was used to encourage supporters to send solidarity messages addressed to Talia online.

SOUTH KOREA **ACTIONS:** 35,401

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Amnesty International Korea could not do any offline activities or events. As an alternative, they focused on digital activity. They created a special Write for Rights microsite and promoted it through social media and digital advertisement. They also made a special package including a letter-writing kit and a paper toy describing Write for Rights for members to use in their homes.

On 10 December 2020 they held an online letter night event for supporters. A local celebrity participated as a moderator and promoted the campaign. Amnesty International Korea also collaborated with a new online media company to promote two stories. At least 2,380 participated in the campaign through this collaboration.



Amnesty International South Korea's Letter Night Event © CampKoreahome

SPAIN **ACTIONS:** 23,702

For their 2020 campaign, Amnesty International Spain's local groups developed actions to bring in signatures and bring visibility, including a symbolic candlelit action on 10 December, the placing of banners in the streets, including QR codes linking to an online petition, and outdoor stalls where people could sign petitions and take home a pen.

In addition to these offline actions, Amnesty International Spain promoted the three individual stories that they selected for their campaign through online actions, collaborating with an internet information company with a large

following to disseminate the actions. In choosing only three of the ten individuals' stories, Amnesty International Spain was able to tailor their campaign in order to reach audiences interested in the themes of each of the stories.



An illuminated building is the backdrop for a Write for Rights stall in León, Spain © Amnesty International León

SWEDEN

ACTIONS: 48,810

Amnesty International Sweden framed their Write for Rights 2020 campaign under the umbrella of the right to peacefully protest. In addition to the ten global individuals and groups, they added two Black Lives Matter stories from the US, as well as one from Iran. Because of COVID-19, they placed more focus on digital strategies and new audiences than they had done in previous years.

The pandemic made offline activism challenging and had an impact on the activities in schools and of local groups which resulted in fewer actions taken than Amnesty International Sweden usually collects.

SWITZERLAND

ACTIONS: 31,789

Whilst some of unflinching Amnesty International Switzerland's activists dared to organize W4R-activities in streets, shops, schools and universities despite the pandemic situation (always respecting official measures in place to fight the spread of the virus of course), most of their Write for Rights campaign took place online. They collected more than 32,000 actions throughout Switzerland to support five of the ten individual stories of human rights defenders.

TAIWAN

ACTIONS: 323,890



More than 560 schools and 116,200 students took part in Amnesty International Taiwan's Write for Rights campaign, alongside nearly 2,000 teachers. More than eighty people held their own Write for Rights parties, inviting friends and families to take action with them. Nearly 900 people participated in these private parties. Amnesty International Taiwan also held eight official events to introduce the individual stories to people and invite them to take action.

People write letters at Amnesty International Taiwan's 8-hour letter-writing marathon © Amnesty International Taiwan

THAILAND**ACTIONS:** 6,736

For their 2020 campaign, Amnesty International Thailand invited dedicated members of their AI Club to help them select which of the ten stories of individuals to work on. They also recruited volunteers to support the campaign, called “The leaders of W4R”.

Restrictions on offline activities due to COVID-19 and the national political situation led Amnesty International Thailand to launch an online HRE course on Write for Rights.

Other exciting aspects of their campaign included engaging with the leader of protests in Thailand and working with an agency to create content such as videos and games to promote Write for Rights on online platforms and social media channels. They also hosted a “Friday Night Rights: Why Our Movement Matters” event and held an activity in a juvenile detention centre.



A Write for Rights event hosted by Amnesty International Thailand @Amnesty International Thailand

TOGO**ACTIONS:** 169,040

Write for Rights 2020 brought together members, activists, supporters and volunteers from Amnesty International Togo’s different local groups and clubs. To mark the launch of the campaign on 1 December, a 30-second video action was produced by members.

Amnesty International Togo visited 54 schools and two craft centres talk to and engage students on the stories of the individuals selected for the campaign. Students from some schools wrote letters showing support to the individuals featured in the campaign and their relatives. Other groups of people such as fishermen, motorbike taxi drivers and female traders signed petitions.

To mark the 72nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on 20 December Amnesty International Togo organised a lantern launch at the bottom of the Bè lagoon to reaffirm its commitment to always keep the flame of human rights burning and to show those featured in the campaign that no matter how far away they are, that the light is theirs, encouraging them to keep their hope alive.

TURKEY**ACTIONS:** 86,677

Even though Turkey is under the tough circumstances because of COVID-19, Amnesty International Turkey's Write for Rights 2020 campaign was successful and they almost doubled their number of actions from 2019. It also provided the opportunity to engage with young people on different themes. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, they could not organize an offline event and the campaign was online. They used Instagram Live for the first time to do a live broadcast with METU students. Also, Write for Rights videos got considerable attention on Instagram and more than 10,000 new people followed Amnesty International Turkey's Instagram account during the Write for Rights campaign.

Amnesty International Turkey delivered solidarity letters to METU Pride Defenders Özgür and Melike before the hearing on Human Rights Day. On that day, they were also at the courtroom to observe the trial. From the delivery of letters they produced a "Thank You" video to share with the Amnesty International movement.



A solidarity message for Özgür and Melike from Amnesty International Turkey activists. Translation: Let METU get its colour

UK**ACTIONS:** 112,791

Write for Rights 2020 was a big success for Amnesty International UK, with more actions taken than any previous year and all solidarity actions created and delivered in line with the rightsholders' requests. The individual stories they worked on indicated a need for online action, so all of their activity focused on driving this.

UKRAINE**ACTIONS:** 10,173

Amnesty International Ukraine conducted Write for Rights on a smaller scale compared to previous years due to the lockdown restrictions in the country. Most of their offline events were conducted in schools, the number of other types of offline events was very small. To promote Write for Rights online they created a special online project called "The Museum of Justice" that featured the history of human rights, stories of world-known champions of human rights, and individual stories from Write for Rights. The online museum was very well-received by the public in

Ukraine and even made headlines in Ukrainian news.

URUGUAY **ACTIONS: 2,445**

Amnesty International Uruguay decided to work with greater emphasis on individual stories in the Americas region for its Write for Rights 2020 campaign. They selected Chile as a priority country, following the social uprising of 2019, and campaigned for justice for Fabiola Campillai and Gustavo Gatica, who were both blinded by police.

USA **ACTIONS: 171,554**

Amnesty International USA's Write for Rights 2020 was quite different than in prior years because of COVID-19, which meant most of their activities moved to an online platform. The US Presidential elections also greatly affected their campaign. However, they still focused on grassroots activism and employed their local and student groups to hold virtual parties. They also had online petitions for all global individual stories and used their "sign for all" petition for the third year in a row. Activists were very creative with their events! They had local artists perform on their video calls, games related to Write for Rights, and state-wide events to promote mass action-taking.

VENEZUELA **ACTIONS: 3,297**

Amnesty International's campaign was carried out differently to usual, adapted to the pandemic situation. Their activities were carried out online, which was a new and unfamiliar process for most of their activists and supporters.

ZIMBABWE **ACTIONS: 58**

For their 2020 campaign, Amnesty International Zimbabwe chose to focus on stories which had themes which resonated with Zimbabweans. On Human Rights Day 2020 they hosted a letter-writing event in a mall, asking people to sign petitions and write letters to the South African, Burundian and Algerian governments.

INNOVATIVE ACTIVISM

Traditionally, Write for Rights is a largely offline campaign, with letter-writing events taking place in schools and local communities. In recent years, Amnesty International entities have been starting to innovate the way they run their Write for Rights campaigns, with some taking their campaigns online. However, as you will have read from the activities outlined above, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 both forced and inspired many entities to take this innovation to the next level, re-thinking the way they organise and mobilise people in their countries to take action for Write for Rights. We wanted to acknowledge this achievement and have highlighted some of the brilliant new ideas trialled by Amnesty International entities in 2020.

- **Amnesty International Côte d'Ivoire** created new partnerships with local non-governmental organisations, based on the themes of the stories of the individuals and groups featured in the campaign. This led to members of the local organisations taking actions for Write for Rights.
- **Amnesty International Czech Republic** launched a new "ambassador project", where they approached existing Amnesty International members and volunteers who are active in different regions of Czech Republic to help them grow their Write for Rights network regionally. The ambassadors were from different target groups - teachers, students, church, various communities - and their task was to spread the word and approach new potential partners and grow the Write for Rights network.
- **Amnesty International France's** produced high-quality podcasts to tell the stories of the individuals and groups featured in the campaign which were appreciated by listeners. Similarly, **Amnesty International Sweden** partnered with podcast production company Acast to produce podcasts which raised awareness amongst their target groups.
- **Amnesty International Turkey** did an Instagram livestream, featuring the METU Pride Defenders. They got really positive feedback and engaged many more people using this than they would have done with a Zoom meeting, for example.
- **Amnesty International UK** conducted an influencer pilot project, working with influencers who created their own content and shared on their own channels. This resulted in 10,000 actions being taken for Write for Rights. It also brought in new people, possibly of a younger audience profile, increasing Amnesty International UK's supporter base.
- **Amnesty International Ukraine and Amnesty International USA** hosted online training for Write for Rights volunteers who planned to host their own online events.

This is just a snapshot of so many inspiring initiatives which Amnesty International entities took on for Write for Rights 2020, amongst many more. We look forward to seeing what entities have in store for Write for Rights 2021!