



STOP TORTURE

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

EXIT STRATEGY UPDATE

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



STOP TORTURE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN EXIT STRATEGY

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INTRODUCTION

The Exit Strategies for the Stop Torture Campaign is written to provide sections, structures and national offices as well as IS London and IS regional offices with a comprehensive overview of the current status of the campaigns, an overarching assessment of impact and the milestones to expect beyond the campaign.

Stop Torture will close at the end of May 2016 marking two years of campaigning. As we move toward launching our new global campaigns it is essential that we are clear on which aspects of the current campaign will continue, in what form and where this work will be located within Amnesty as well as having a clear understanding of how we will continue to build on and nurture existing and new partnerships.

The exit strategy will also provide colleagues with an assessment of national, regional and international advocacy, HRE work continuing beyond the campaign and finally provide useful contacts, materials and resources created for the campaign.

This document will be translated into core languages.



OVERVIEW

The Stop Torture campaign was launched in May 2014, with the aim to expose the use of torture by governments and state actors – focusing on all contexts where people are detained by the state.

The campaign called for the establishment and implementation of effective safeguards against torture as the route to change. Safeguards were identified as a key solution: where safeguards are effectively implemented, reports of torture fall dramatically.

After assessing a number of countries where torture is widespread, we selected five where we believed we could achieve tangible improvement in the struggle against torture during the campaign timeframe – in terms of legislation, policy and practice. These countries are Mexico, Morocco/Western Sahara, Nigeria, Uzbekistan and the Philippines.

Since the launch of the campaign, more than two million people worldwide have joined our call to governments to stop torturing and give survivors justice, achieving remarkable successes and impacting people's lives as well as laws and practices.

Information on how the work on torture in the five countries of focus will be carried forward beyond 31 May 2016 is conveyed below.

TIMELINE



Key moments beyond the campaign (1 June 2016 onwards)

Mexico

- 20 June 2016: EU-Mexico Human Rights Dialogue (governmental and non-governmental meeting)
- 26 June 2016: Day of Solidarity with Victims of Torture
- 28 June: Report on torture against women
- 13 July 2016: Federal Police Day
- 30 August 2016: Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances
- October 2016, date tbc: Report launch on arbitrary detentions, some of which amount to torture and other human rights violations
- Late 2016: Capacity building project with independent forensic experts coming to a close
- Ongoing: Some emblematic cases, like Yecenia Armenta (see below), will have key campaigning dates until the end of 2016. The Mexico team will update sections in due course

Morocco/Western Sahara

- Reform of the Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure (exact date tbc but expected by October 2016).
- Establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (exact date tbc, vote in May 2016 with NPM operational in September 2016).
- October 2016: Legislative elections. The Morocco/Western Sahara team is planning to issue a manifesto/campaigning output calling for action on human rights violations including torture, and on legislative reforms if they have still not been enacted by that time.

Nigeria

There are a number of events both within and outside Amnesty International that may constitute key moments after the campaign. Potential key dates include:

- Week of 26 June 2016: Torture Victims' Day. Victims' experience sharing session
- 28 June, tbc: Launch of SARS briefing
- July 2016 (exact date tbc): Launch of mini report on torture and CIDT in NDLEA & Civil Defence detention centres in Nigeria
- Adoption of revised force orders is undergoing decentralization plans. The decentralization is likely to take place in the second half of 2016

Philippines

The Philippines team and Amnesty International Philippines will follow up on the outcome of the December 2015 Senate hearing and the state review of the Philippines under the Committee against Torture, specifically on progress on individual cases and the passage of the National Preventative Mechanism Bill in the Senate.

Uzbekistan

- UN Complaints Committee: taking forward September 2015 submission on Uzbekistan
- Submission to the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) on the systematic nature of torture under Article 20 of the Convention against Torture
- OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw in September/October 2016

IMPACT OF CAMPAIGN



Impact on the countries of focus

Mexico

The following changes can be partly attributed to Amnesty International's campaign:

- In November 2014, President Peña Nieto announced that he would support a constitutional reform in order for Congress to pass a "general anti-torture law" which would apply nationwide. In 2015, the government organized a series of round-table discussions with NGOs, including Amnesty International, and other stakeholders regarding the contents of the law. In April, the Senate approved the bill and sent it to the Lower Chamber for further approval. It is possible that this Chamber will pass the bill in September 2016 when they reconvene after the summer. The bill approved by the Senate is a step forward in many respects, but there are some areas where the wording has not gone far enough. Amnesty International will continue to be involved in this process.
- In December 2014, the Supreme Court published a Special Protocol for judges and the judicial branch in relation to torture, which quoted Amnesty International's report [Out of Control: Torture And Other Ill-Treatment in Mexico](#)
- In August 2015, the Federal Attorney General's Office consulted and approved a National Protocol for the Investigation of Torture. The Protocol was also approved by all state-level Attorneys General. It has been in force since August 2015. This is a step forward in principle. It all depends on adequate implementation, results and accountability. Amnesty International was part of the group of NGOs and experts who were consulted for this Protocol. Many of our suggestions were taken onboard.
- In October 2015, the Federal Attorney General's Office reformed its Special Procedure for Special Medical/Psychological Forensic Examinations in line with

the Istanbul Protocol. There are some improvements that take into account the recommendations of our *Out of Control* report.

- Amnesty International's casework: Ángel Colón (released without charges); Claudia Medina (case against her thrown out of court); Adrián Vásquez (released without charges); Cristel Piña (acquitted and released); Enrique Guerrero (torture investigation opened on his case).

Morocco/Western Sahara

- The campaign showed impact from its launch, which was timed days before the visit of then-UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, to Rabat. Pillay took up the issue of torture that we had raised with the launch of the campaign on 10 May 2014, and immediately after she met the King, the Minister of Justice and Liberties issued a set of memorandums to police and gendarmerie stations, prosecutors and judges, and prisons, outlining the need to adequately investigate allegations of torture and other ill-treatment.
- The campaign also began days before the Committee against Torture issued its decision that Morocco had breached the Convention against Torture in the case of Ali Aarrass, and Morocco's judicial authorities announced they were reopening the investigation into his torture in May 2014. Although the investigation was reportedly closed in October 2015 (no dated written decision), this was still an important precedent given Ali Aarrass' allegations of torture during incommunicado detention in the Temara secret detention centre, a facility which the Moroccan authorities have always denied existed.
- The launch of the Morocco/Western Sahara Stop Torture report on 19 May 2015 was a great success in a challenging context. Events in Rabat, Madrid and Paris generated extensive media coverage both nationally and internationally and gave a voice to torture survivors. In a telling example, Assabah, a conservative paper, covered the event to Amnesty International's advantage in its front page and only included a few lines on the response of the government, in an unusual move.
- A further positive impact of the campaign has been to raise the bar of Morocco's national human rights council's (CNDH) recommendations for the amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure, especially the requirement for lawyers to be present during the police interrogation of all suspects. The CNDH also requested the introduction of provisions requiring the medical examination of all suspects and the appropriate treatment of torture complaints, in line with Amnesty International recommendations. In effect, Amnesty International helped raise the bar of what Morocco's national human rights institution was able to push for with regard to torture, which topic is usually held too sensitive for the CNDH to address.
- Movement mobilization on key individual cases raised their profile both nationally and internationally (216,000 people signed a petition calling for justice for Ali Aarrass, while almost 200,000 people called on the Moroccan authorities to release Wafae Charaf and Oussama Housne immediately and unconditionally). It helped garner support from Moroccan civil society organizations, who also engaged much more with torture as a theme.
- Amnesty International Morocco's work and partnerships with other Moroccan civil society organizations attracted more activists and sympathizers with key

cases and the campaign calls in general thus giving more visibility to the campaign and encouraging others to talk about torture.

- More torture survivors and witnesses reached out to Amnesty International and local human rights groups.
- Several European sections carried out intense lobbying work targeting their governments to influence their stance towards Morocco and key cases.

Nigeria

- Moses Akatugba (the flagship case for the campaign in Nigeria) was pardoned and released from prisons following Amnesty International campaign and advocacy.
- In June 2015, Nigerian lawmakers passed the Anti-Torture Bill, which was one of the major advocacy calls of the campaign in Nigeria. The bill was among 46 bills passed in less than five minutes by the previous National Assembly. President Buhari, upon inauguration, refused to sign the bill and sent it back for review. It is currently being reviewed by the Law Reform Commission and will be sent back to the National Assembly for further debates.
- Increased public debates and engagement on the issue of torture following the release of Amnesty International's report [*Welcome to Hell Fire. Torture and ill-treatment in Nigeria*](#), which was the campaign's main research output.
- In December 2014, the Nigerian police released a Human Rights Practice Manual setting out standards expected of police officers and guidance on how to achieve these. The manual, which Amnesty had pushed for, was drafted by one of Amnesty's partners.
- Amnesty International members in Nigeria participated in public awareness events, which was perhaps the first time in several years that Nigerian Amnesty International members took action on a Nigerian case and targeted a state authority.
- The Delta State governor was forced to publicly respond to Amnesty's petitions and activists' actions following thousands of letters sent to him on Moses Akatugba's case.
- The National Committee Against Torture started visiting places of detention.
- The Inspector General of Police (IGP) announced significant reforms to Force Orders, Special Anti Robbery Squads and the establishment of a complaints commission.

Philippines

- The Philippines' Senate opened an inquiry into Amnesty International's report [*Above the law: Police torture in the Philippines*](#) on the day of its launch.
- The Philippines National Police (PNP) Internal Affairs Service (IAS) commenced administrative investigations into the campaign's key cases of Alfreda Disbarro and Jerry Corne upon receipt of letters from Amnesty members and activists.
- In March 2016, police officer Jerick Dee Jimenez was sentenced to a maximum of two years and one month imprisonment by a court in Pampanga, north of the capital Manila, having been convicted of the torture of Jerry Corne. It was the first conviction under the country's 2009 Anti-Torture Act, however, no other conviction has occurred in the past six years since its adoption.

- Various media, domestic and international, featured Amnesty's report.
- Other impacts for consideration:
 - The United Against Torture Coalition (UATC) included in its mandate working on torture on non-political cases with Amnesty International Philippines in its lead.
 - Amnesty's *Above the Law* report was considered by the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT) in its visit in the Philippines. The first part of the Briefing Paper submitted by the coalition to the SPT was based on Amnesty's *Above the Law* report.
 - Jerry Corne's case was considered a priority case by the National Monitoring Mechanism (NMM), a network of civil society organizations and select government agencies monitoring cases of Disappearances, Extra Judicial Killings (EJKs) and Torture. The NMM primarily monitors the work of the government superbody created by Administrative Order 35 (AO 35).
 - Although the superbody created by AO 35 has yet to prove its worth by ultimately prosecuting those responsible for torture, EJKs and disappearances, Amnesty's campaigning on the ground allowed for the inclusion of torture of criminal suspects as part of AO 35's work.
 - The rationale to ensuing public hearings and debates for the need to set up the National Preventive Mechanism (or National Committee on the Prevention of Torture in the proposed laws in the Philippines) in 2015 included Amnesty's *Above the Law* report as a key reference for the urgency of setting up a preventive monitoring mechanism in the Philippines. All members of the committees on justice and human rights were supplied with Amnesty's report at the beginning of the year.
 - In 2016 and before the 17th Congress, the UATC will start working on a proposed law that will bring about an Independent Police Complaints Commission and will provide a legislative framework to replace other existing process for police discipline.
 - A Senator who chaired a Senate hearing on torture welcomed Amnesty's presentation, raised numerous questions (prepared by Amnesty) to the police and other government agencies that were present, and took many of Amnesty's recommendations on board.
 - The Senator committed publicly to file the NPM bill week ending 11 December in the Senate and to push the Commission on HR to convene the Oversight Committee on the Anti-Torture bill.
 - Following the review of the Philippines before the UN Committee against Torture in April 2016, Concluding Observations were adopted by the Committee and released in May 2016. A large majority of the recommendations in Amnesty's submission, including main calls, based on the *Above the Law* report were incorporated. Many of the issues and recommendations from Amnesty's report were mentioned by NGOs or Committee Members during the review itself.

Uzbekistan

- Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and relatives of torture survivors felt supported, encouraged by solidarity actions, contact with Amnesty International groups/members and with research team. At the UN Human Rights Committee review of Uzbekistan's fourth periodic report in July 2015, the head of the government delegation referred to Amnesty's report, [*Secret and Lies. Forced confessions under torture in Uzbekistan*](#), and said that the government would consider some of the recommendations on legislative changes put forward in the report. At the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw in September 2015, the government delegation used the right to reply to refute claims made in the April torture report and the oral statement delivered during the plenary session on torture. The head of the government delegation was seen reading through the Amnesty report.
- Impact on HRDs in exile – important factor in a country effectively closed to Amnesty International: HRDs, including torture survivors, felt energized and encouraged by speakers' tours, contact with Amnesty section staff and Amnesty members in different countries, opportunities to lobby Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other officials in EU countries, to participate in Amnesty press conferences, to be given a platform to address the international community more effectively. The latter applies in particular to joint platforms at UN Human Rights Council and UN Human Rights Committee.
- Impact in relation to advocacy:
 - As a result of a meeting that an Amnesty International delegation and Muhammad Bekzhanov's family had with two US State Department deputy secretaries on 16 April 2015, the US State Department called for the release of Muhammad Bekzhanov at a press briefing on 1 May.
 - Amnesty International was the only international human rights group asked to testify at a House of Representatives' Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on civil and political rights in Uzbekistan and Central Asia, and the implications for United States foreign policy towards the region, on 25 June 2015. This was the result of hard work by Amnesty International USA, the International Secretariat Uzbekistan team and other international human rights NGOs working on Uzbekistan, particularly Human Rights Watch. The concerns expressed in the Tom Lantos hearing require follow-up by the State Department, which opens the door to a follow-up hearing. Prior to the formal hearing on 21 May, the House of Representatives' Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission held a briefing "The Andijan Massacre Ten Years Later: The Human Rights Situation in Uzbekistan" to mark the tenth anniversary of the Andizhan events.
 - The EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue took place on 24 November 2015 in the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent. A press release published by the European Union External Action Service following the Dialogue is the strongest press release that has been published in the past couple of years. The press release included the specific mention of torture and a call to free all imprisoned human rights defenders. We believe that it is definitely a result of Amnesty International advocacy efforts in Brussels, Berlin and other European capitals.

- Amnesty International Germany co-operated with MPs from the Green Party/Bundnis 90 to submit parliamentary questions to the German government on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan and co-operation between the German government and Uzbekistan. In November, the German government issued relatively detailed responses to the MPs' questions, explaining that human rights concerns were raised bilaterally, at the UN Human Rights Council and during the EU-Uzbekistan human rights dialogue, always in a non-confrontational manner. On 19 November, Amnesty Germany issued a public statement urging the German government to be robust in questioning Uzbekistan's human rights record, especially the pervasive use of torture, during the upcoming EU-Uzbekistan human rights dialogue (November 2015) and to raise human rights violations at every opportunity.
- The Concluding Observations issued by the UN Human Rights Committee on the Fourth Periodic Report of Uzbekistan reflected main Amnesty International concerns about the routine use of torture and the use of forced confessions, the lack of a full, independent and effective investigation into the Andizhan events in 2005, among others, and made recommendations to address these issues.
- Lawyers working on cases of forcible returns from Russia to Uzbekistan have been appreciative of the *Fast-track to torture* briefing and have expressed their gratitude to Amnesty for working on these cases. In December 2015, the Constitutional Court in Turkey refused extradition to Uzbekistan on the basis of the *Secrets and lies* report.
- On 19 May, Amnesty International organized a round table in Moscow, Russia, to discuss the findings of its briefing [*Fast-track to torture: Abductions and forcible returns from Russia to Uzbekistan*](#) published in April 2016. Amnesty International invited leading refugee lawyers (including Mirsobir Khamidkariev's lawyer) and human rights defenders, including representatives of the Civic Assistance Committee (Moscow), Erdam (Help, Moscow), Human Rights Institute (Moscow) and Memorial, to participate in a confidential discussion to allow for an open and effective exchange of information and opinion on a sensitive issue. The round table was chaired by the Director of Amnesty International Russia, which helped to set the discussion in a framework relevant to the Russian and Central Asian contexts. Participants agreed with the findings and recommendations of the briefing presented by Amnesty International's Central Asia researcher and the importance of raising the issue of forcible returns to torture on an international level. The participants discussed how to end abductions and forcible returns to torture, and in which areas the different organizations should work together to bring about change at the international and national level and in Central Asia. The participants discussed co-operation and joint actions/advocacy work including joint awareness-raising and media work by publishing the stories of refugees. All participants agreed that the main added value of Amnesty International is its expertise in conducting successful international advocacy on the issue of abductions and forcible returns to torture with the Council of Europe and the UNHCR. The main outcome of the round table was an

agreement on a joint submission to the Council of Europe and a letter to the UNHCR. All participants agreed on the importance of regular communication and information exchange and on NGOs and lawyers providing relevant and up-to-date case information to Amnesty International.

Amnesty International's researcher also highlighted that the briefing and the round table were part of Amnesty International's global Stop Torture campaign, which ended in May 2016. Therefore, the participants discussed the pressing issues of future available resources and capacity to effectively take up cases of forcible return to torture at international, national and regional levels. It was also stressed by the HRDs that this kind of work is impossible to carry out without extra resources, i.e. funding. Participants looked into the need for more coordinated work to address the issues raised in the briefing, including joint awareness-raising, joint advocacy, and media work, including publishing the stories of refugees. The round table was chaired by the director of Amnesty International Russia, which helped to set the discussion in a framework, relevant to the Russian and Central Asian contexts and to the work of Amnesty International on a global level.

ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT LIST

OP projects on torture and other ill-treatment from 2016 onwards:

Torture related projects list ("Full project portfolio"):

Stop Torture and torture related projects can be found on the [Intranet](#). Please note that only templates that were shared with the Strategy and Evaluation (SEU) team appear on this site. For more information please contact SEU@amnesty.org.

Mexico:

- The Mexico team will launch a report on torture against women on 28 June 2016. The report will be part of a campaign to highlight the specific vulnerability of women and the specific impact that torture and other related human rights violations have on them. It will present the highest number of cases ever published by an NGO on this issue. In the vast majority of cases the survivors have suffered sexual violence. The women whose testimonies Amnesty collected are in detention in the only female federal prison in the country. The campaign will support local NGO efforts to urge the government to deliver on its promise to establish an effective task force to review and assess criminal cases against women who have been tortured.
- The Mexico team will develop a project on arbitrary detentions in Mexico, which will include torture, enforced disappearances and other human rights violations such as undue process and will fall under the project "Mexico: Grave HRV and State Accountability" (project code CP40AME07, goal 4, Ensuring Accountability). Possible launch in October 2016.

Morocco/Western Sahara:

- Work on torture and other ill-treatment will continue as “legacy work” through advocacy and campaigning activities with specific focus on the campaign’s key individual cases and on judicial reforms. Existing work on false reporting and slander will continue as part of the Morocco/Western Sahara team’s upcoming project “Morocco/WS: Freedom of expression and association” (project code 10MEN03, goal 1, Reclaiming Freedoms).
- Following the end of the Stop Torture campaign, torture will become a medium priority project at AI Morocco. For 2016, the section’s work in this area will focus mainly on Fighting Against Impunity in Morocco/Western Sahara (Goal 4 - Ensuring Accountability) and the global campaign Enabling and Protecting Civic Space and Human Rights Defenders, with a focus on freedom of expression and association in Morocco/Western Sahara, as part of the Morocco/Western Sahara team project (code 10MEN03) - (GOAL 1 - Reclaiming freedoms). The section will continue to work on torture related I&R cases in the MENA region and the commemoration of 26 June, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

Nigeria

The work on torture will continue under the project “Stop torture in Nigeria” (project code CP40AFR10, goal 4, Ensuring Accountability) and “Conflict in NE Nigeria” (project code CP30AFR05, goal 3, Crisis).

Philippines:

There will not be a project related to torture in the Philippines.

Uzbekistan

The Uzbekistan team will work on the project “Eurasia access to remedies for torture victims” (project code CP40ECA04, goal 4, Ensuring Accountability).

Areas of work carried forward by country/region**Global:**

- ‘*Torture – the International Outlaw*’, an exhibition jointly organized by Amnesty International, the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) will be launched at the UN New York Headquarter on 10 December 2015. Through torture survivors’ stories, the exhibition showcases an inspiring visual narrative of the key milestones in the fight against torture since the first world conference for the abolition of torture in 1973. We are working towards making the exhibition available for sections online and offline, should they wish to host the exhibition next year and beyond the duration of the Stop Torture campaign.
- The ‘*Empower Against Torture – Human Rights Education for Youth Activism Fund*’ was launched in September 2015 for activities taking place by end of May 2016. Sections wishing to continue HRE activities on torture beyond the campaign can continue to use the online tool as well as sharing the electronic and printed version of the HRE guide. Please contact the HRE team (hre.team@amnesty.org) if you have any questions on continuing your activities beyond the campaign.

Mexico

- Project on migration (Mexico, US, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras), the project focus will be on migration as part of the new global campaign “People on the move” and not so much on torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

Morocco/Western Sahara

- Lifting restrictions on freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Nigeria

- The reform of the criminal justice system project is a priority project for Amnesty International Nigeria in 2016-2018.
- Swedish Postcode Lottery (SPL) funded the Frontline and Legal Intervention Network project. This project, launched as part of Amnesty International’s Stop Torture global campaign, will support the national work through frontline intervention and global advocacy. International solidarity will add further pressure on the Nigerian authorities not to turn a blind eye to the illegal activities in their detention centres. It will also seek to strengthen the Nigerian criminal justice system and show the individuals at risk that the world cares about them.

Philippines

Although there will not be a project on torture and other ill-treatment on the Philippines for 2016, the Philippines team will continue to monitor human rights developments and cases related to this issue in the coming year, working closely with Amnesty International Philippines.

In addition:

- There will be campaigning and advocacy around a report set to be published on torture and other ill-treatment in **Thailand**.
- The project on **Indonesia** in 2016 will be looking at violations by security forces which include possible cases of torture and ill-treatment in the province of Papua.

Uzbekistan

- Eurasia: defending fundamental freedoms (Uzbekistan).

COUNTRIES OF FOCUS

MEXICO



Status and rationale (what continues, what doesn't and why)

The end of the Stop Torture campaign will scale down Amnesty International's work on the subject in Mexico to release resources which will focuss on other projects. The Mexico team will follow up on the torture campaign by publishing a report on torture against women and by launching a campaign to achieve key goals in this respect. The campaign is expected to last until June 2017. We will continue to work with sections on this campaign, both on structural issues and with emblematic cases.

Over the last few years, we have met dozens of victims across the country. We have worked closely with human rights defenders who accompany them, usually under challenging circumstances. We have made efforts to keep their expectations in check, but it is possible that many of them will come back to us with further requests for support. We will assess these cases as they arise and take action if and when necessary.

Key moments beyond the campaign

- 20 June 2016: EU-Mexico Human Rights Dialogue (governmental and non-governmental meeting)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 June 2016: Day of Solidarity with Victims of Torture • 28 June: Launch report on torture against women • 13 July 2016: Federal Police Day • 30 August 2016: Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances • October 2016, date tbc: Report launch on arbitrary detentions, some of which amount to torture and other human rights violations • Ongoing: Some emblematic cases, like Yecenia Armenta, will have key campaigning dates until the end of 2016. The Mexico team will update sections. • Late 2016: Capacity building project with independent forensic experts coming to a close. |
| <p>Useful Contacts</p> <p>Mexico team: Mexteam@amnesty.org Mariano Machain, Campaigner on Mexico, mmachain@amnesty.org Madeleine Penman, Researcher on Mexico covering torture, madeleine.penman@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Materials and useful links</p> <p>(see “<i>RESOURCES</i>” below)</p> |

KEY CASES

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| <p>Yecenia Armenta</p> |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>In July 2012, Yecenia Armenta Graciano was taken by plain clothed police in Culiacán, Sinaloa state. She was detained and tortured – including through asphyxiation, being hung upside down, and raped. She was forced to sign a confession, which was later used as evidence to charge her</p> <p>Medical forensic staff from the Federal Attorney General’s Office examined her months later. However, they concluded that Yecenia Armenta had not been tortured because initial medical examinations, which were carried out by staff from the same Federal Office which detained her, did not mention any signs of torture or other forms of ill-treatment.</p> <p>In contrast, two independent expert examinations in line with international standards - such as the Istanbul Protocol - have confirmed that the medical and psychological evidence coincides with Yecenia Armenta’s testimony. The National Human Rights Commission has also issued a recommendation on this case.</p> |

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| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Yecenia Armenta remains in prison. She is going through the last phase of the trial, with charges against her based on her confession obtained through torture and other human rights violations. There is no progress in the investigation into her torture complaint.</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>The Mexico team will continue the campaign in support of Yecenia Armenta and will continue to provide information on the case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio. For up-to-date information on this case, please see the portfolio and the latest UA update.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams</p> <p>Mexico team: Mexteam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

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| <p>Claudia Medina</p> |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>In August 2012, marines broke into the home of Claudia Medina in Veracruz Cit., They tied her hands, blindfolded her and took her to the local naval base where she was severely tortured and sexually assaulted.</p> <p>She was then transferred to the local branch of the Federal Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de la República, PGR). Claudia Medina was pressured into signing a statement that she wasn't allowed to read. A public defender, who was assigned to her by the prosecutor, failed to intervene to protect her rights. State authorities paraded Claudia Medina and other detainees in front of the media, announcing the arrest of a heavily armed and dangerous criminal gang caught earlier that day after an anonymous tip-off.</p> <p>When Claudia Medina was put before the court, she retracted the statement she had been forced to sign and informed the court about her treatment and the circumstances of her detention. All charges against her were dropped, except the one of carrying an illegal weapon. Claudia Medina was released on bail pending the outcome of judicial proceedings.</p> |

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| <p>When Claudia Medina testified in court in September 2012, regarding the one remaining charge against her, she provided further details about the torture she had suffered. The judge requested the PGR to investigate the allegations but, to date, no-one has been held to account.</p> <p>In February 2015, all charges against Claudia Medina were finally dropped.</p> |
| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Claudia Medina continues to fight for justice and reparation for the torture that she suffered. She has become a vocal spokesperson and is working with many other female survivors of torture, including those who suffered sexual violence, on a campaign to address torture against women.</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>The Mexico team will carry on the campaign in support of Claudia Medina and will continue to provide information on the case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio. For up-to-date information on this case, please see the portfolio and the latest UA update.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams</p> <p>Mexico team: Mexteam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

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| <p>Miriam López</p> |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>In February 2011, two men, who were later identified as soldiers, took Miriam López to a military base in the nearby city of Tijuana. She was held for a week at the base, during which she was severely tortured and raped, to coerce her into signing a self-incriminating confession which implicated her in drug trafficking offences. A state appointed public defender was present during parts of the interrogation but allegedly failed to take any action to protect her rights or stop her ill-treatment.</p> <p>Miriam López was held in pre-charge detention until April 2011, when she was charged and remanded into custody on drug offences. Following a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) which she filed with a local human rights organization, the CNDH launched an investigation into her detention and treatment. In September 2011, a federal judge acquitted her for lack of evidence and she was</p> |

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| <p>released.</p> <p>At the end of 2013, despite a previous report which concluded that she had been subjected to torture and which called for a criminal investigation and reparations, the CNDH concluded that the military had complied with its recommendations, ignoring the fact that Miriam López continued to be denied justice and reparations.</p> |
| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Miriam López continues to demand justice and reparation for the torture that she suffered, including sexual violence. Her torturers remain at large.</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>The Mexico team will continue the campaign in support of Miriam López and will continue to provide information on the case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio. For up-to-date information on this case, please see the portfolio and the latest UA update.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams (IS team and/or key Sections)</p> <p>Mexico team: Mexteam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

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| <p>Adrián Vasquez</p> |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>Adrián Vasquez spent three years in prison. In 2012, police picked him up and claimed he was the notorious local drug lord “Macho Prieto”. They tortured him to the point of near-death, pouring water through his nose and filling his lungs. One year later, authorities announced they had captured the real Macho Prieto.</p> <p>In April 2015, after years of campaigning by Adrián Vasquez’s family, three of the police officers who tortured him were finally charged.</p> <p>Adrián Vasquez was finally released in December 2015.</p> |
| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Unconditionally released on 2 December 2015.</p> |

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| <p>Action plan</p> <p>The Mexico team will inform whether Adrian will consider demanding an investigation into the allegation of torture and demand reparation.</p> |
| <p>Contact Teams</p> <p>Mexico team: Mexteam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent Action update Torture Victim Must Be Released From Prison: Adrián Vasquez (5 August 2015) All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

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| <p>Ángel Colón</p> |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>Ángel Amílcar Colón Quevedo is a Honduran of Afro descent. He travelled to Mexico in early 2009 as an irregular migrant trying to reach the USA. In March, Police officers stormed the house in Tijuana, northern Mexico, where he was temporarily staying and arrested him. Armed gangs were also using the house as part of their drug trafficking activities.</p> <p>In the days that followed, Ángel Colón was tortured, subjected to racial abuse, and forced to make a statement to the Public Prosecutor, which was used to charge him with belonging to a criminal gang.</p> <p>In May 2014, independent medical experts examined Ángel Colón in line with international standards such as the UN-backed Istanbul Protocol. The experts concluded that there was a high degree of certainty that he had been the victim of torture and other ill-treatment. Weeks later, their expert report was submitted as evidence to the court.</p> <p>In October, including as a result of Amnesty's campaigning, the prosecution filed "non-accusatory conclusions" (<i>conclusiones no acusatorias</i>), dropped the charges against Ángel Colón and requested his unconditional release. Ángel Colón had spent more than five years in pre-trial detention.</p> <p>No police or military official has been brought to account. The Mexican government is yet to provide any reparation for the range of human rights violations that Ángel Colón suffered.</p> |

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| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Ángel Colón continues to demand justice and reparation for the torture he suffered. He is pursuing a public report (“recomendación”) from the National Human Rights Commission.</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>The Mexico team will continue the campaign in support of Angel Colón and will continue to provide information on the case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio. For up-to-date information on this case, please see the portfolio.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams</p> <p>Mexico team: Mexteam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • Urgent Action: Mexico: Further Information: Tortured Prisoner Of Conscience Released: Ángel Amílcar Colón Quevedo, 17 October 2014 • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

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| <p>Overview – assessment of existing and potential partners</p> <p>We have worked well with the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture (IRCT), in particular with James Lin. Also with the IRCT’s network of forensic experts, including Duarte Nuno, Felicitas Treue and Jorge Quiroga. We co-organized one event in Geneva with the World Organization Against Torture.</p> <p>Potential partners: We have been in touch with the Latin America branch of the Association for the Prevention of Torture, but they are not prioritizing Mexico so we have not worked together.</p> |
| <p>Advice for sections on how to have conversations with partners</p> <p>The relationship with these two partners (on Mexico-related work) has been led by the IS Mexico team. Sections have not been involved so far. Should they wish to communicate with these partners in the future (or if they are approached by these partners), please consult with the IS Mexico team.</p> |
| <p>List of existing partners</p> <p>The Regional Office Mexico works with a number of NGOs and experts in the country.</p> |

For information about specific partners please contact the Mexico team.

Contact teams

Mexico team: Mexteam@amnesty.org

NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Overview

International: UN Rapporteur on Torture; EU Parliament; EU External Action Service

Regional: Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly; Inter-American Human Rights Commission

National: Mexican federal government and state-level governments; National and State-level Human Rights Commissions; etc. AI Mexico involved in this.

Upcoming key moments/dates/opportunities

Forthcoming anti-torture and disappearances law to be approved in the coming months. We continue to work with the above mentioned stakeholders, key dates and opportunities vary. For example, the EU High Representative on Foreign Policy will visit Mexico at the end of May 2016 and we will brief her and her team in Brussels and Mexico City. The EU-Mexico Human Rights Dialogue will take place on 20 June. There will be numerous key moments, dates and opportunities, please contact the relevant teams for more information.

Contact teams

Mexico team: Mexteam@amnesty.org

European Institutions Office (EIO) team: dnichols@amnesty.eu; Katharine Derderian: kderderian@amnesty.eu

UN team: Please contact the Mexico team (Mexteam@amnesty.org)

HRE/ACTIVIST SUPPORT

Existing or planned HRE projects beyond the campaign

No HRE projects specific to Mexico are planned.

Tools to enable the move to new global campaigns

[Empower against torture: a series of human rights education workshops](#) (Index number: ACT 40/1433/2015)

Contact Teams

Mexico team: Mexteam@amnesty.org

HRE team: hre.team@amnesty.org

MOROCCO/ WESTERN SAHARA



Status and rationale (what continues, what doesn't and why)

The Morocco/Western Sahara team at the International Secretariat will continue to work on torture and other ill-treatment as “legacy work” through advocacy and campaigning activities with specific focus on the campaign’s key individual cases and on judicial reforms.

Amnesty International Morocco will play a key role in promoting torture-related outputs in the country, notably through human rights education and other campaigning activities.

Key moments beyond the campaign

The Morocco/Western Sahara team will comment/initiate appropriate advocacy and campaigning activities on the following (subject to legislative calendar):

- Establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism against Torture and Ill-Treatment
- Reform of the Penal Code
- Reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure
- Legislative elections (October 2016)

26 June and 10 December will represent key mobilization moments for Amnesty International Morocco.

Useful Contacts

Morocco/Western Sahara team: Morocco-WSteam@amnesty.org

Amnesty International Morocco:

AMorocco@sections.amnesty.org, salima.bakkass@gmail.com

Materials and useful links

See “*RESOURCES*” below.

KEY CASES

Ali Aarrass

Background information

Ali Aarrass, a dual Belgian-Moroccan national, has been detained in Morocco since 14 December 2010, when he was forcibly returned from Spain. He said he was held incommunicado and tortured for 12 days in a secret detention centre run by the General Directorate for the Surveillance of the Territory (*Direction générale de la surveillance du territoire*, DST) in Témara. He is serving a 12-year prison sentence handed down after he was convicted of participating in and procuring arms for a criminal group known as the “Belliraj network”. The court had relied on a “confession” which he said had been obtained through torture.

In October 2013, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention determined that his detention was arbitrary and called for his immediate release and adequate compensation. In July 2014, the UN Human Rights Committee decided that Spain had breached its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by extraditing Ali Aarrass to Morocco, in spite of warnings by the UN and Amnesty International. It asked Spain to award Ali Aarrass adequate compensation and take all possible measures to work with the Moroccan authorities to ensure he was well treated in Morocco. In 2015, the Committee against Torture also expressed concern about the extradition and called on Spain to investigate his torture allegations.

Status of the case

In May 2014 the Moroccan authorities announced that they were opening an investigation into Ali Aarrass’ torture allegations. This came two days after the Committee against Torture had found Morocco in breach of the UN Convention against Torture. Ali Aarrass’ lawyers were informed at the end of 2015 that the investigation had been closed. According to the information currently at their disposal, the investigation primarily focused on Ali Aarrass’ conviction on terrorism-related charges as opposed to his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment.

In December 2015, Ali Aarrass' lawyers received a copy of the report of the medical examination he had undertaken in November 2014. They asked the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) to provide them with a second opinion, which it did in February 2016. IRCT concluded that while the second forensic medical report improves upon the one drafted after a previous medical evaluation performed in 2011, it still falls short of the Istanbul Protocol standards in key areas. In particular, the review points out that the forensic medical report's conclusions on physical evidence are inadequate and the conclusions on psychological evidence are unjustified.

The case of Ali Aarrass will remain open until his release. In light of recent developments, our calls have been updated as follow:

- We urge the Moroccan authorities to implement the decision of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and we are calling on them to release Ali Aarrass immediately and give him adequate compensation.
- The Moroccan authorities must ensure that the Court of Cassation reaches a decision in Ali Aarrass' case, four years after he appealed against his conviction.
- The Moroccan authorities need to take all necessary steps to comply with the 2014 decision of the Committee against Torture in relation to Ali Aarrass, which includes conducting an independent and impartial investigation into his torture allegations as well a forensic medical examination conforming to the Istanbul Protocol; anyone against whom there is sufficient admissible evidence of responsibility for torture or other ill-treatment should be brought to justice.
- The Moroccan authorities must ensure that Ali Aarrass is protected from further ill-treatment and treated humanely.

We are also calling on the Belgian authorities to take all the necessary steps to ensure that Ali Aarrass is granted effective consular assistance and to pressure the Moroccan authorities to ensure a decision by the court of Cassation is reached.

Action plan

Both Amnesty International Morocco and the Morocco/Western Sahara team are committed to continue the campaign in support of Ali Aarrass and will assign as much capacity as possible to the case. The Morocco/Western Sahara team will continue to provide information and materials. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio and the latest UA update.

Contact teams

Morocco/Western Sahara team: Morocco-WSteam@amnesty.org
Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org
Amnesty International Morocco: AMorocco@sections.amnesty.org,
salima.bakkass@gmail.com

Useful links

- [IAR Portfolio](#)
- Urgent Action update: [Morocco: Further Information: Ali Aarrass Suspends Hunger Strike](#), 6 November 2015
- All assets produced on the case are available on [Box](#)

Wafae Charaf and Oussama Housne

Background information

Human rights and political activists, Wafae Charaf and Oussama Housne said they were separately abducted and tortured in 2014 by unknown men. They are respectively serving two-year and three-year prison terms for “falsely reporting” torture or other ill-treatment, and for slandering Morocco’s police force, even though neither of them accused the police. Amnesty International considers them prisoners of conscience and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release

Status of the cases

The Moroccan authorities refuse to acknowledge that the detention of Wafae Charaf and Oussama Housne amount to a freedom of expression issue, nor have they made any concessions for them to be released early from detention or otherwise lightening their sentences (which include significant fines). During a meeting in Rabat in March 2016, the Moroccan authorities were particularly critical of Wafae Charaf, saying they made an example out of her. She is due to be released in August 2016 but Oussama Housne still faces another year behind bars.

Both Amnesty International Morocco and the Morocco/Western Sahara team are committed to continue the campaign in support of Wafae Charaf and Oussama Housne until they’re both released. The work on this case will also fall under the team’s upcoming freedom of expression, association and assembly project.

Action plan

The Morocco/Western Sahara team will continue to provide information and materials. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio.

Contact Teams

Morocco/Western Saharateam: Morocco-WSteam@amnesty.org
Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org
Amnesty International Morocco: AMorocco@sections.amnesty.org,
salima.bakkass@gmail.com

Useful links

- [JAR Portfolio](#)
- All assets produced on the case are available on [Box](#)

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Overview – assessment of existing and potential partnerships

Work with national partners will continue and will be led by the Morocco/Western Sahara team and Amnesty International Morocco. Both teams have strong relationships with partners, which they plan to consolidate if not improve.

Advice for sections on how to have conversations with partners

Please contact the Morocco/Western Sahara team before engaging with partners on the ground.

List of existing partners

Human rights groups in Morocco/Western Sahara; organizations working on rehabilitation

Contact teams

Morocco/Western Sahara team: Morocco-WSteam@amnesty.org
Amnesty International Morocco:
AMorocco@sections.amnesty.org, salima.bakkass@gmail.com

NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Overview

The Morocco/Western Sahara team will continue its advocacy work on key individual cases and judicial reforms.

Colleagues from sections are encouraged to keep raising the recommendations of the report and concerns on our key cases with their Foreign Ministries, the Moroccan embassy in their country and their diplomatic representatives in Rabat. Sections and members in the EU are further encouraged to engage with their MEP, including on the use of the EU Torture Guidelines and on how diplomatic staff in Morocco should use it

Upcoming key moments/dates/opportunities

- Parliamentary elections scheduled for October 2016.
- Morocco/Western Sahara's ICCPR review is planned for October 2016. Its UPR review will take place in April-May 2017. The Morocco/Western Sahara team will prepare submissions and is planning advocacy trips to Geneva.
- The Special Rapporteur on Torture is hoping to visit Morocco before the end of his mandate and will be briefed by the Morocco/Western Sahara team. If he is not able to visit, the team will seek to brief his successor.

Contact teams

Morocco team: Morocco-WSteam@amnesty.org

EIO team: EIO team: Admin-Assistant@amnesty.eu; dnichols@amnesty.eu – please copy the Morocco/Western Sahara team

UN team: please contact the Morocco/Western Sahara team

HRE/ACTIVIST SUPPORT

Existing or planned HRE projects beyond the campaign

Human rights education is an integral part of Amnesty International Morocco's planned work. The section will continue to organize workshops which will include sessions on torture.

Tools to enable the move to new global campaigns

[Empower against torture: a series of human rights education workshops](#) (Index number: ACT 40/1433/2015)

Contact Teams

Morocco team: Morocco-WSteam@amnesty.org

Amnesty International Morocco: AMorocco@sections.amnesty.org,
salima.bakkass@gmail.com

HRE team: hre.team@amnesty.org

NIGERIA



Status and rationale (what continues, what doesn't and why)

Torture remains a key strand in the planned work of Amnesty International Nigeria in 2016 and will fall under the projects on criminal justice and conflict in the northeast. The Swedish Postcode Lottery (SPL) funded project to create an intervention network to prevent and stop torture will also form a key part of the legacy of the global campaign against torture. The project will be implemented with three main local partners in Nigeria: Human Rights Social Development and Environmental Foundation (HURSDEF), the Bauchi Human Rights Defenders Network and Collaborative Media Advocacy Platform (CMAP). Additionally, a number of other organizations operating in Nigeria will contribute to the project, namely Media for Justice, Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP), and Protection International.

The three main partners and Amnesty International will create an Intervention Network, which will rapidly deploy community volunteers to detention centres where it is known that torture chambers exist, when an arrest becomes known. These volunteers will document the cases including via video, and support the victims and survivors of torture in accessing medical care and legal assistance. Each partner will bring their respective strengths to the project.

Key moments beyond the campaign

The Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari, has merged the Ministry of Police Affairs into the Interior Ministry. The implications of this will become more obvious in 2016, when the new administration settles into office. It is also likely that the Police Service Commission's mandate will be reviewed as well as that of the National Committee Against Torture (NCAT), which is currently under-resourced and operates within the purview of the Ministry of Justice, rather than independently. Amnesty International

Nigeria will keep sections updated and provide information on possible actions around any of the potential key moments and those that are not yet envisaged. Additionally, with the new project, there is likely to be increased campaigning and advocacy on new torture-related cases in Nigeria.

Useful Contacts

Nigeria researcher: damian.ugwu@amnesty.org.ng
 Nigeria campaigner: esther.ikubaje@amnesty.org.ng

Materials and useful links

See “*RESOURCES*” below.

KEY CASES

Moses Akatugba

Background information

In 2005, aged 16, Moses Akatugba was arrested for robbery by the Nigerian army. After eight years in prison, he was sentenced to death by hanging. Following a year of campaigning by Amnesty International activists across the world and advocacy work at the national level by Amnesty’s local partners, Moses Akatugba was pardoned on 28 May 2015 and released from jail on 2 June. His claims of torture have still not been investigated.

Status of the case

Moses Akatugba was pardoned and released during the course of the campaign. Amnesty International is providing some relief support to help him continue his education which was interrupted as a result of his arrest and imprisonment. The Amnesty International Nigeria team will suspend working on his case for the moment.

Action plan

Casefile suspended

Contact teams

Nigeria researcher: damian.ugwu@amnesty.org.ng
 Nigeria campaigner: esther.ikubaje@amnesty.org.ng
 Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org

Useful links

- [IAR Portfolio](#)
- Blog [From the classroom to death row.... and now freedom](#), 19 June 2015
- Blog [My First Week of Freedom after 10 Years in a Nigerian Jail](#), 30 June 2015
- All assets produced on the case are available on [Box](#)

NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Overview – assessment of existing and potential partnerships

The work on torture in Nigeria will continue to be executed in a partnership of Amnesty International Nigeria, the Amnesty International Secretariat based in London and a coalition of credible Nigerian civil society organizations working on the issue. For more than ten years, the IS Nigeria team had built a solid relationship with several national, regional and international partners on the issue of torture and other criminal justice matters. This foundation will be built upon by the new Amnesty International Nigeria office, who will continue to work on the issue.

The establishment of the Frontline and Legal Intervention Network in Nigeria will also further strengthen the gains that have already been made over the years. The Intervention Network will rapidly deploy community volunteers to detention centres where it is known that torture chambers exist, when an arrest becomes known. These volunteers will document the cases including via video, and support the victims and survivors of torture in accessing medical care and legal assistance.

Advice for sections on how to have conversations with partners:

Please contact the Nigeria team before engaging with partners on the ground.

List of existing partners:

- The Human Rights Social Development and Environmental Foundation (HURSDEF) is a Nigerian non-profit organization based in Port Harcourt, Rivers State in the Niger Delta.
- Bauchi Human Rights Defenders Network (BAHRN) is a network of 16 civil society and non-governmental organizations in Bauchi state, north-central Nigeria.
- Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP) is a non-profit organization working to advance human rights, the rule of law and good governance in Nigeria through provision of public defender service, raising awareness of human rights among the people, and advocating for change of policies, attitudes and practices among public officials in order to increase the respect for human rights, improved access to justice and good governance in Nigeria.

Contact teams

Nigeria researcher: damian.ugwu@amnesty.org.ng
Nigeria campaigner: esther.ikubaje@amnesty.org.ng

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ADVOCACY

Overview

The Nigeria team will continue to provide information on advocacy opportunities and guidelines on how to lobby Nigerian embassies and EU member states representatives.

Upcoming key moments/dates/opportunities

Amnesty International Nigeria will inform sections of any action planned around advocacy opportunities.

Contact teams

Nigeria researcher: damian.ugwu@amnesty.org.ng
Nigeria campaigner: esther.ikubaje@amnesty.org.ng
EIO team: Admin-Assistant@amnesty.eu; dnichols@amnesty.eu
UN team: please contact the Nigeria team

HRE/ACTIVIST SUPPORT

Existing or planned HRE projects beyond the campaign:

There are plans for the HRE Co-ordinator in Amnesty International Nigeria to work on the following key activities (TBC), with the respective project partners:

- Develop a "know your rights" manual or messaging for HRD and members of the volunteer network in Rivers State and Bauchi. This could focus specifically on torture — what constitutes torture, why is it prohibited; what Nigerian law says about torture, what international law says about it, etc.
- Develop and, where possible, execute a training curriculum for HRDs and volunteers involved in this project, on the general rights and responsibilities of citizens, using the Nigeria context (some of these have already been done in the pilot project).
- Work with core implementing partners to participate in partner-led community dialogue events in Port Harcourt and Bauchi and Jos (where possible).
- Serve as panel or expert in radio discussion and phone-in programmes (where possible) in partner-led radio shows in Port Harcourt and Bauchi.
- Participate in community film screening and respond to human rights-related questions during Q&A sessions.

- Initiate a pilot engagement with university students in Port Harcourt and Bauchi to generate human rights activism at tertiary level as well as build a base for potential growth recruitment for Amnesty International membership and supporters.

Tools to enable the move to new global campaigns

[Empower against torture: a series of human rights education workshops](#) (Index number: ACT 40/1433/2015)

Contact Teams

Nigeria researcher: damian.ugwu@amnesty.org.ng

Nigeria campaigner: esther.ikubaje@amnesty.org.ng

HRE team: hre.team@amnesty.org

PHILIPPINES



Status and rationale (what continues, what doesn't and why)

Although there will not be a project on torture and other ill-treatment on the Philippines beyond the end of the campaign, the Philippines team will continue to monitor human rights developments (for example Senate enquiry) and cases related to torture, working closely with Amnesty International Philippines. The section continues to maintain a focus on working to end torture as part of their core work.

Key moments beyond the campaign, if any

The Philippines team and Amnesty International Philippines will follow up on the outcomes of the November/December 2015 Senate hearing and Philippines CAT review, specifically on results towards the launch of investigations on individual cases and the passing of the National Preventive Mechanism bill.

Amnesty International Philippines is planning to carry out the following areas of work:

- For 2016 and before the 17th Congress, the UATC will start working on a proposed law which will bring about an Independent Police Complaints Commission and will provide a legislative framework to replace other existing process for police discipline.

Furthermore, Amnesty International Philippines will continue:

- lobbying for the creation of a national Preventive Mechanism/National Committee on the Prevention on Torture;
- working on and with the Oversight Committee on the Anti-torture Act;
- working with the proposed new charter for the Philippines Commission on Human Rights with key provisions on: strengthening leadership role in its oversight function as committee head on the Anti-torture Act; strengthening its mandate in providing witness protection for torture victims and their families; strengthening its quick reaction mandate on cases of torture, including ensuing investigations; strengthening its mandate on providing human rights complaints clearances on appointment, promotion and retirement purposes for law enforcement and security personnel and officials; and
- conducting mass mobilization activities for 26 June and the Martial Law Commemoration in the Philippines.

Useful contacts

IS Philippines Researcher: Rachel Chhoa-Howard rachel.chhoahoward@amnesty.org
 IS Philippines Campaigner: Michelle Yesudas michelle.yesudas@amnesty.org
 IS Research and Campaigns Assistant, Southeast Asia & Pacific: Huw Davies-Bell huw.daviesbell@amnesty.org
 Amnesty International Philippines campaigner: Wilnor Papa (wpapa@amnesty.org.ph)

Materials and useful links

See “*RESOURCES*” below.

KEY CASES

Jerry Corde

Background information

Jerry Corde, a *jeepney* driver (a local bus), lived a quiet life until plain-clothed police officers violently arrested him on 10 January 2012, accusing him of robbery and killing a foreigner and a police officer. He was taken into custody, tortured, charged with drugs possession and remains in jail four years on.

Jerry Corde said that while in custody the police kept on addressing him with the surname “Boyett” as they tried to force him to confess. Although he repeatedly told them that his name was not Boyett and volunteered to show his police clearances and

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| <p>his employment license (he used to work as a security guard), the police officers refused to believe him.</p> <p>Jerry Corre's wife complained to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), and they conducted a medical examination on 1 February 2012. The results showed Jerry Corre sustained scars in the right thigh, right knee and right leg. The CHR concluded that the newly healed injuries were compatible with the alleged date of infliction and the scars were compatible with the application of electrical wires and hitting with the butt of a gun. The report further stated that, at the time of the examination, Jerry Corre also complained of recurring severe headaches and numbness of hands.</p> <p>Jerry Corre said that in March 2012 a military officer with the rank of major visited him and tried to get him to "settle" his complaint. When this did not work, he said police officers visited him and forced him to sign an affidavit of desistance, thereby withdrawing his complaint.</p> <p>On 19 July 2012, the CHR released a resolution that found that there was a violation of the Anti-Torture Act in Jerry Corre's case and subsequently filed a case before the Department of Justice (DOJ). On 26 December 2012, the DOJ found probable cause and recommended the filing of charges against two police officers.</p> <p>On 27 March 2015, Amnesty International Philippines handed over a petition with 70,000 signatures collected during the annual Write for Rights campaign to the Philippine National Police. Following this, Jerry Corre and his family were informed that an investigation would be opened by the police's Internal Affairs Service (IAS), in line with Amnesty International's calls. During the first hearing it was confirmed that the IAS initiated the investigation based on letters received "by a human rights organization."</p> |
| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>On 29 March 2016, police officer Jerick Dee Jimenez was sentenced to a maximum of two years and one month imprisonment by a court in Pampanga, north of the capital Manila, having been convicted of torture. He must also pay Jerry Corre damages amounting to 100,000 pesos (US\$2,173). Another police officer faces the same charges but remains at large.</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>N/A. For more information please contact the Philippines team.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams</p> <p>IS Philippines Researcher: Rachel Chhoa-Howard rachel.chhoahoward@amnesty.org IS Philippines Campaigner: Michelle Yesudas michelle.yesudas@amnesty.org IS Research and Campaigns Assistant, Southeast Asia & Pacific: Fariha Khan (fariha.khan@amnesty.org) Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |

Useful links

- [IAR Portfolio](#)
- All assets produced on the case are available on [Box](#)

Alfreda Disbarro

Background information

Single mother Alfreda Disbarro, aged 32, was tortured by police in Parañaque City, Philippines, after being arrested on 3 October 2013. She was kicked and beaten repeatedly, including with a police baton and a metal bar, and suffered serious injuries as a result. Alfreda Disbarro was accused of selling and possessing illegal drugs, charges she strongly denies. She claims that the police have fabricated evidence against her, and forced her to sign a piece of paper.

An investigation was launched In March 2014 by the Internal Affairs Service (IAS) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) into the Alfreda Disbarro's torture allegations. As a result, in August 2015, two police officers positively identified by Alfreda Disbarro were found guilty of grave misconduct (physical injuries and irregularities in the performance of duty). Both received a one rank demotion. Meanwhile, the other respondents who were not part of Alfreda Disbarro's complaint (but were mentioned in the narrative), were exonerated.

The drug related case file against Alfreda Disbarro remains open.

Status of the case

Ongoing campaign

Action plan

Both Amnesty International Philippines and the Philippines team are committed to continue the campaign in support of Alfreda Disbarro and will continue to provide information and materials. All three cases are being handled by CenterLaw/Roque Butuyan Law Offices. There is a need to finalize Amnesty International's financial obligations to the law office since we contracted their services on behalf of Alfreda Disbarro.

The relief application for Alfreda Disbarro and her family is currently being finalized, particularly if she is released from and the court grants her demurrer and dismisses her case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio.

Contact teams

IS Philippines Researcher: Rachel Chhoa-Howard rachel.chhoahoward@amnesty.org
IS Philippines Campaigner: Michelle Yesudas michelle.yesudas@amnesty.org

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| IS Research and Campaigns Assistant, Southeast Asia & Pacific: Fariha Khan fariha.khan@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org |
| Useful links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

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| Dave Enriquez |
| Background information <p>Dave Enriquez, a bakery worker from south Manila with intellectual disabilities, was arrested and tortured by the police in July 2012. He was accused of stealing two roosters. Since his release nobody has been held to account and a complaint filed against the police, with support from the Philippine Commission on Human Rights, was dismissed by the prosecutor's office.</p> |
| Status of the case <p>Ongoing campaign</p> |
| Action plan <p>Both Amnesty International Philippines and the Philippines team are committed to continue the campaign in support of Dave Enriquez and will continue to provide information and materials. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio.</p> |
| Contact teams <p>IS Philippines Researcher: Rachel Chhoa-Howard rachel.chhoahoward@amnesty.org IS Philippines Campaigner: Michelle Yesudas michelle.yesudas@amnesty.org IS Research and Campaigns Assistant, Southeast Asia & Pacific: Fariha Khan (fariha.khan@amnesty.org) Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| Useful links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

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| Darius Evangelista |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>Darius Evangelista was arrested on 5 March 2010 in Manila on suspicion of theft. According to the Philippine Commission on Human Rights, which investigated the case, three fellow detainees saw him being brought into a police station in Tondo, Manila and detained there. They said that he was taken to the office of the police chief in that police station and then brought back to their cell badly injured, with his face looking like it suffered from blunt trauma and with his swollen eyes covered with tape. After that, he was taken out of the police station. The former detainees said that they then heard one of the police officers say to his subordinates, "Get rid of him." They never saw Darius Evangelista again.</p> <p>On 17 August 2010 a video of Darius Evangelista being tortured was broadcast in a news programme on national Philippines television (and then worldwide on CNN, Al Jazeera and YouTube). The video was that of a naked man, writhing on the floor and crying out in pain while a police officer beat him and repeatedly yanked a string tied to his genitals, while uniformed police officers watched. The naked man being tortured was Darius Evangelista.</p> <p>The Evangelista family has filed a criminal complaint for torture against nine policemen. The primary suspect, who was seen committing the act of torture in the video, was dismissed by the National Police in January 2011. He later worked as a lecturer for a criminology college, teaching crime detection investigation to trainee police officers.</p> <p>In November 2011, a Manila court ordered the arrest of seven of the policemen suspected of torture in the case and charged them for the violation of the Anti-Torture Act of 2009. The case remains pending in court.</p> |
| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Ongoing campaign</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>Both Amnesty International Philippines and the Philippines team are committed to continue work on the case of Darius Evangelista and will continue to provide information. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams</p> <p>IS Philippines Researcher: Rachel Chhoa-Howard rachel.chhoahoward@amnesty.org IS Philippines Campaigner: Michelle Yesudas michelle.yesudas@amnesty.org IS Research and Campaigns Assistant, Southeast Asia & Pacific: Fariha Khan (fariha.khan@amnesty.org) Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |

Useful links

- [IAR Portfolio](#)
- All assets produced on the case are available on [Box](#)

NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Overview – assessment of existing and potential partnerships

The Philippines team has a solid relationship with several national, regional and international partners, with whom they plan to continue to work with.

Advice for sections on how to have conversations with partners

Please contact the Philippines team before engaging with partners on the ground.

List of existing partners

On the national level, Amnesty International Philippines works with:

- A. United Against Torture Coalition (since 2002)
AIPH, Balay Rehabilitation Center, Medical Action Group, Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances, Asian Federation Against Disappearances, Ateneo Human Rights Centre, University of the Philippines Institute on Human Rights, Coalition on Trafficking Against Women, Women's Legal Bureau, Women LEAD, Children's Legal Rights and Development Centre, Association for Progressive Labour, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (Union of Filipino Workers), Partido ng Manggagawa (Workers party), Ex-Detainees Initiative, Philippine Legislator's Committee on Population and Development, SANLAKAS, SANLAKAS Youth, Akbayan Citizens Action Party List, Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, Women's Education, Development, Productivity and Research Organization, People's Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance, Lesbian and Gay Legislative and Advocacy Network, Psycho-Social Support – Children's Rights Resource Centre, Philippine Trial Lawyers Association, and Philippine Human Rights Information Centre.
- B. Philippine OPCAT Working Group (since 2008)
AIPH, Balay Rehabilitation Center, Medical Action Group, PAHRA, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, Department of Local and Interior Government, Department of Justice, Bureau of Corrections, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Philippine National Police, National Police Commission, Armed Forces of the Philippines Human Rights Office, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Presidential Human Rights Committee, Commission on Human Rights.
- C. Mindanao Alliance Against Torture (since 2014)
Mostly individuals and torture victim-survivors from Zamboanga City, Sulu,

Basilan and Tawi-Tawi.

The Philippine section also occasionally works with the following international organizations against torture:

- A. Association for the Prevention of Torture (since 2008)
- B. International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (since 2002)
- C. World Organization Against Torture (since 2004)

On a number of occasions, the Philippine Section has worked with the following agencies, organizations and political organizations on different levels concerning torture:

- A. Christian Aid
- B. UNDP
- C. British Embassy – Manila
- D. Department of Justice – Public Attorney's Office
- E. Swedish Embassy (before it closed in Manila)
- F. European Commission
- G. Dutch Embassy
- H. Karapatan
- I. Bayan Muna

Contact teams

IS Philippines Researcher: Rachel Chhoa-Howard rachel.chhoahoward@amnesty.org

IS Philippines Campaigner: Michelle Yesudas michelle.yesudas@amnesty.org

IS Research and Campaigns Assistant, Southeast Asia & Pacific: Fariha Khan (fariha.khan@amnesty.org)

Amnesty International Philippines campaigner: Wilnor Papa (wpapa@amnesty.org.ph)

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ADVOCACY

Overview

The Philippines team will continue to provide information on advocacy opportunities and guidelines on how to lobby Philippine embassies and EU member states representatives.

Upcoming key moments/dates/opportunities if any

National:

- June 2016: Inauguration of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte
- July 2016: Formal turnover of the National Government
- September 2016: Martial Law Commemoration
- October 2016: First 100 Days of the new administration

- November 2016: Anniversary of the Anti-Torture Act

International:

- 26 June 2016: International Day Against Torture

Contact teams

IS Philippines Researcher: Rachel Chhoa-Howard rachel.chhoahoward@amnesty.org

IS Philippines Campaigner: Michelle Yesudas michelle.yesudas@amnesty.org

IS Research and Campaigns Assistant, Southeast Asia & Pacific: Fariha Khan

(fariha.khan@amnesty.org)

Amnesty International Philippines Campaigner: Wilnor Papa (wpapa@amnesty.org.ph)

EIO team: Admin-Assistant@amnesty.eu; dnichols@amnesty.eu

UN team: please contact Philippines team

HRE/ACTIVIST SUPPORT

Existing or planned HRE projects beyond the campaign

Amnesty International Philippines is planning to carry out several HRE projects:

- Stop Torture Poster Project: During the project roll-out beginning early 2016, members have been trained in community HRE, targeting local police precincts with lock-up cells and *barangay* (village) detention centres. The concept is to put up two to three posters per detention facility in the areas targeted by members. The members are expected to conduct simple freedom from torture sessions with the local police, *barangay* guards and those who are detained.
- Another major HRE project for 2016 is the continuation of the Freedom From Torture Seminars that the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and Amnesty International Philippines are currently conducting for new graduates/correctional officers of the training course of the Bureau of Corrections – the institution tasked to manage correctional facilities and penal institutions (New Bilibid Prison, Correctional Institution for Women, Davao Penal Colony, Iwahig Penal Prison and Farm, etc).

The Bureau of Corrections have two to three classes of new correctional officers every year with around 125-150 new correctional officers per class. The training of new correctional officers is usually held in New Bilibid Prison (NBP), Muntinlupa City in Metro Manila. These trainings usually run for four to six months. Before the trainees graduate, they have to take part in a two to three day Freedom from Torture Seminar from the CHR. The CHR decided to partner with Amnesty International Philippines early this year to conduct these seminars. In 2015, we were able to train around 424 new correctional officers. Next year, Amnesty International Philippines will be expanding its reach to the senior correctional officers assigned in Davao, Palawan and Zamboanga aside

from the usual trainees at the NBP.

- Amnesty members will continue the following HRE activities on torture:
 - Torture Chamber and Devices Exhibit
 - Stop Torture Training of Trainers
 - Stop Torture Community and School HREs
 - Regular Freedom from Torture Forums

Tools to enable the move to new global campaigns

[*Empower against torture: A series of human rights education workshops*](#) (Index: ACT 40/1433/2015)

Contact teams

IS Philippines Researcher: Rachel Chhoa-Howard rachel.chhoahoward@amnesty.org

IS Philippines Campaigner: Michelle Yesudas michelle.yesudas@amnesty.org

IS Research and Campaigns Assistant, Southeast Asia & Pacific: Fariha Khan (fariha.khan@amnesty.org)

AI Amnesty International Philippines Campaigner: Wilnor Papa (wpapa@amnesty.org.ph)

HRE team: hre.team@amnesty.org

UZBEKISTAN



Status and rationale (what continues, what doesn't and why)

The Uzbekistan team will carry on working on the country objectives of the Stop Torture campaign, in collaboration with the relevant sections, continuing to expose the sheer extent of the problem of torture and other ill-treatment in Uzbekistan and using all relevant international and regional forums. The work will continue to target the Uzbekistani authorities directly, the EU and its member states, third governments and the UN.

Key moments beyond the campaign

- UN Complaints Committee: Taking forward September 2015 submission on Uzbekistan
- Submission to UN CAT on systematic nature of torture under Article 20
- OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw in September/October 2016

Useful Contacts

Uzbekistan team: centralasiateam@amnesty.org

Materials and useful links

See “RESOURCES” below.

KEY CASES

Muhammad Bekzhanov

Background information

Muhammad Bekzhanov, the former editor of the banned opposition newspaper *Erk*, is one of the world’s longest-imprisoned journalists. He has spent the last 16 years in prison for allegedly committing “anti-state” offences. His claim at the trial that his confession was obtained under torture was ignored by the court. He was due to have been released in February 2012, but shortly before the release he was sentenced to an additional four years and eight months for allegedly violating prison rules. Amnesty International is calling for his release on the grounds that repeated calls for a fair retrial in his case have been ignored for more than 15 years.

Status of the case

Ongoing campaign

Action plan

The Uzbekistan team is committed to continue the campaign in support of Muhammad Bekzhanov in collaboration with partners, and will continue to provide information on the case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio and latest UA update.

Contact Teams

Uzbekistan team: centralasiateam@amnesty.org
Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org

Useful links

- [IAR Portfolio](#)
- All assets produced on the case are available on [Box](#)

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| Mirsobir Khamidkariev |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>Mirsobir Khamidkariev, an asylum-seeker from Uzbekistan, was abducted by officers of the Russian Federal Security Service in June 2014 in Moscow. He was held incommunicado in an unidentified location for a day, was forced to wear a bag over his head, and was subjected to repeated beatings. The following day, he was handed over to Uzbekistani security agents on the tarmac at an airport in Moscow and forcibly returned to Uzbekistan where he was tortured by Uzbekistani security forces for two months.</p> <p>Mirsobir Khamidkariev was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment on "anti-state" charges following a flagrantly unfair trial. No one has been held accountable for the human rights violations that Mirsobir Khamidkariev has suffered in Russia and Uzbekistan.</p> |
| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Ongoing campaign</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>The Uzbekistan team is committed to continue the campaign in support of Mirsobir Khamidkariev in collaboration with partners, and will continue to provide information on the case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams</p> <p>Uzbekistan team: Centralasiateam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

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| Dilorom Abdukadirova |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>Dilorom Abdukadirova, a prisoner of conscience, is serving an 18-year sentence in Tashkent Women's Prison, Uzbekistan. She was imprisoned after she returned to Uzbekistan in January 2010 to be reunited with her husband and children, charged with attempting to overthrow the constitutional order and illegally exiting Uzbekistan.</p> |

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| <p>She had fled the country after the events in Andizhan in 2005 when hundreds of individuals, including women and children, were killed when security forces opened fire on mostly unarmed demonstrators.</p> <p>In April 2010, Dilorom Abdukadirova was sentenced in a trial that violated international fair trial standards and she was allegedly subjected to torture and other ill-treatment while in pre-trial detention.</p> <p>In 2012, Dilorom Abdukadirova's sentence was extended by eight years after she had been accused of allegedly breaking prison rules. Currently, Dilorom Abdukadirova remains in prison, where her family fears she is again being ill-treated.</p> |
| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Due to difficulties accessing Dilorom Abdukadirova's family, the Uzbekistan team will suspend working on the case for the moment. The team will continue to monitor the situation and, if needed, will resume the work on the case.</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>Any action will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio.</p> |
| <p>Contact Teams</p> <p>Uzbekistan team: centralasiateam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

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| <p>Erkin Musaev</p> |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>Erkin Musaev, a former Ministry of Defence official, was working for the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in Uzbekistan when he was detained in January 2006.</p> <p>He was sentenced to a total of 20 years' imprisonment on politically motivated charges of treason and abuse of office following three separate unfair trials in 2006 and 2007. His family claim that he was tortured to force him to confess.</p> <p>No effective investigation has taken place into allegations that he was tortured in detention despite numerous complaints submitted to the authorities by Erkin Musaev, his lawyer and his family.</p> <p>In March 2012, the UN Human Rights Committee concluded that Erkin Musaev's rights under Article 7 (prohibition of torture), Article 9 (right to liberty and security of person)</p> |

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| and Article 14 (fair trial guarantees) of the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) had been violated. |
| Status of the case Ongoing campaign |
| Action plan The Uzbekistan team is committed to continue the campaign in support of Erkin Musaeu in collaboration with partners, and will continue to provide information on the case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio and latest UA update. |
| Contact teams Uzbekistan team: centralasiateam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org |
| Useful links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

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| Overview – assessment of existing and potential partners The Uzbekistan team has a solid relationship with several international and regional partners, with whom they plan to continue to work. The team is also working with lawyers based outside Uzbekistan who work on cases of forcible returns to Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states. |
| Advice for sections on how to have conversations with partners Please contact the Uzbekistan team before engaging with partners on the ground. |
| List of existing partners The team is part of a working group of International NGOs which manage the work and collaboration with human rights defenders. Members of the working group are: HRW, IPHR, FIDH, ACAT, Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Cotton campaign, Association for Human Rights in Central Asia and Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights. The aim of the working group is to identify areas |

where co-operation and joint actions/advocacy will achieve greater impact and to co-ordinate activities to explore external/internal opportunities to effect change.

Contact teams

Uzbekistan team: centralasiateam@amnesty.org

NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Overview

The work around opportunities which will come up with the UN Human Rights Council, the OSCE, and the EU and CoE institutions will carry on and be led by the Uzbekistan team in collaboration with the Europe Institutions Office (EIO) and the UN team. However, we are expecting the involvement of the EIO and UN teams to reduce after the end of the campaign. Specific work on lobbying the US government will also continue in collaboration with Amnesty International USA.

Upcoming key moments/dates/opportunities

- September/October 2016: OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw in
- October/November 2016: EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue (date tbc)

Contact teams

Uzbekistan team: centralasiateam@amnesty.org
EIO team: Admin-Assistant@amnesty.eu; dnichols@amnesty.eu
UN team: please contact the Uzbekistan team

HRE/ACTIVIST SUPPORT

Existing or planned HRE projects beyond the campaign

No HRE projects specific to Uzbekistan are planned.

Tools to enable the move to new global campaigns

[*Empower against torture: a series of human rights education workshops*](#) (Index number: ACT 40/1433/2015)

Contact Teams

Uzbekistan team: centralasiateam@amnesty.org

HRE team: hre.team@amnesty.org



RESOURCES

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| Impact reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 Impact and Learning Report, Index ACT 40/1402/2015 |
| Upcoming materials – global and per country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global: 2015 Impact and Learning report (December 2016) • Mexico: Report on torture against women (28 June 2016) • Nigeria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ SARS briefing (28 June, tbc) ➢ Mini report on torture and CIDT in NDLEA & Civil Defence detention centres in Nigeria (July 2016 exact date tbc) |
| Existing materials – global and per country <p>Global:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing: Torture in 2014: 30 Years of Broken Promises, Index: ACT 40/004/2014 • Survey: Attitudes to Torture: Stop Torture Global Survey, Index: ACT 40/005/2014 • Facts and Figures: Torture around the world: what you need to know • Video “What Happens When We Work Together”, May 2016 <p>Mexico:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing: Paper Promises, Daily Impunity. Mexico’s Torture epidemic continues, Index AMR 41/2676/2015 • Report: Out of Control: Torture and Other Ill-Treatment in Mexico, Index: AMR 41/020/2014 <p>Morocco:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report: Shadow of impunity: Torture in Morocco and Western Sahara, Index: MDE 29/001/2015 • Executive summary: Shadow of impunity: Torture in Morocco and Western Sahara, Index: MDE 29/1491/2015) <p>Nigeria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report: Welcome to Hell Fire: Torture and Other Ill-Treatment in Nigeria, Index: AFR 44/011/2014 <p>Philippines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report: Above the Law: Police Torture in the Philippines, Index: ASA 35/007/2014 • Executive Summary: Above the Law – Police Torture in the Philippines: Executive Summary, Index: ASA 35/008/2014 |

Uzbekistan:

- Briefing [*Fast-track to torture: Abductions and forcible returns from Russia to Uzbekistan*](#), Index EUR 62/3740/2016
- [*Report: Uzbekistan: Secrets and Lies: Forced confessions under torture in Uzbekistan*](#) Index: EUR 62/1086/2015
- [*Executive Summary: Uzbekistan: Secrets and lies: forced confessions under torture in Uzbekistan*](#) Index: EUR 62/1119/2015

ANNEX- WORK ON REACTIVE CASES

CHINA

| Jiang Yefei and Dong Guangping |
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| <p>Background information</p> <p>In China, Chinese activists Jiang Yefei and Dong Guangping are at grave risk of torture and other ill-treatment, as well as unfair trials after having been deported from Thailand by local authorities. They had been arrested by Thai authorities on 28 October 2015 for not having valid visas. Their families have not received official notice of their deportation, which took place between 12 and 16 November. Their families have not been able to contact them since 5 November.</p> <p>Both men had previously been detained in China for their peaceful activism. Jiang Yefei was detained and tortured in China in May and August of 2008 after criticizing the official response to the 2008 earthquake in China's Sichuan province. He fled to Thailand with his wife shortly after. In April 2015, he was granted refugee status by the UNHCR.</p> <p>Dong Guangping was detained by Chinese authorities from May 2014 to February 2015 after participating in an event commemorating victims of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. He arrived in Thailand with his wife and daughter in September this year to escape harassment. At the time of his arrest, he had a pending request for refugee status with UNHCR. This has since been approved.</p> <p>For violating immigration laws and failing to pay fines related to this, Jiang Yefei and Dong Guangping were supposed to be held in a Bangkok prison until 20 November and 25 November respectively, during which the UNHCR could handle their resettlement to a third country that would ensure their protection. Unidentified individuals, not known to either of the men or their families, made unsolicited payments of the fines on 6 November. This led to the men being transferred immediately to the immigration detention centre and their deportation a few days later.</p> <p>While the families and lawyers of Jiang Yefei and Dong Guanping have no information about their current whereabouts after their forced return to China, footage of Dong Guangping and Jiang Yefei "confessing" to human-trafficking offences and "admitting" that Jiang Yefei had assisted Dong Guangping to cross the border "illegally" into Thailand was aired on 26 November 2015 on state media news agency CCTV. When watching the footage, their families found the men's facial expression and tone of voice to be suspiciously different from usual, showing signs of pains and stress, and raised the allegation that the men had been tortured to "confess".</p> |

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| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Ongoing action</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>The China team will continue the campaign in support of Jiang Yefei and Dong Guangping and will continue to provide information on the case.</p> <p>For up-to-date information on this case, please see the sample letter to Chinese embassies (CC Email 50/2015 - 17 December 2015). A I@R casefile will be created.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams</p> <p>Astor Chan, China researcher, astor.chan@amnesty.org China team: China_Team@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent Action China: Deported Chinese activists at risk of torture, 16 November 2015 Sample letter to Chinese embassies |

EGYPT

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| <p>Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein</p> |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>Mahmoud Hussein spent more than two years behind bars after being arrested in 2014 at the age of 18 for wearing a “Nation Without Torture” T-shirt, and a scarf with a logo of the “25 January Revolution”.</p> <p>He was tortured and ill-treated by security officers during his arrest and in detention. He was videotaped by National Security officers ‘confessing’ after being heavily tortured. The trumped-up charges he ‘confessed’ to were belonging to a banned group, possessing Molotov cocktails and hand grenades, protesting without authorization, and receiving money to protest.</p> <p>In the two years and two months that Mahmoud Hussein was in detention, he was not tried for any crimes. Instead, the judge kept renewing his detention order every 45 days. Under Egypt’s Criminal Procedures Law (Article 143), if a detainee facing charges that could lead to life imprisonment or the death penalty, has not been sentenced within the</p> |

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| detention limit of two years, they must be released immediately. Mahmoud was at risk of life imprisonment |
| Status of the case Released on bail on 24 March 2016. A Cairo court ordered his release on bail after rejecting an appeal by Egypt's Public Prosecution. However, the charges against him were not dropped. |
| Action plan The Egypt team will continue to provide information on the case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio. For up-to-date information on this case, please see the portfolio . |
| Contact teams Egypt team: egypt.team@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org |
| Useful links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • Urgent Action update: “Egypt: further information: prisoner of conscience’s detention extended: Mahmoud Hussein” 6 January 2016 • “Jailed over a T-shirt: freedom for Mahmoud Hussein” Letter from Tarek to his brother – 12 June 2015 • Blog: A letter to my brother, in jail for wearing an anti-torture T-shirt – 18 September 2015 • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

IRAN

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| Saman Naseem |
| Background information Saman Naseem, a member of Iran’s Kurdish minority, was sentenced to death in April 2013 on charges of “enmity against God” (<i>moharebeh</i>) and “corruption on earth” (<i>efsad fil-arz</i>). He was 17 years old at the time of his arrest. He has described how he was tortured following his arrest to “confess”. The forced “confessions” were used to sentence him to death. Amnesty International mobilized a worldwide campaign to stop Saman Naseem’s execution which was scheduled for 19 February 2015. A day before |

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| <p>the execution, Saman Naseem was transferred to an undisclosed location. His fate and whereabouts remained unknown for the next five months. During this period, Amnesty International engaged in intensified campaigning, calling on the authorities to disclose Saman Naseem's fate and whereabouts. Finally, Saman Naseem's family were able to visit him in prison on 13 July 2015. The Iranian authorities subsequently confirmed that they had quashed his death sentence and granted him a retrial based on the juvenile sentencing guidelines in Iran's 2013 Islamic Penal Code. These allow judges to replace death sentences with alternatives if they determine that there are doubts about the juvenile offender's "mental growth and maturity" at the time of the crime.</p> <p>Since December 2015, the criminal court presiding over Saman Naseem's retrial has sent him to the Legal Medicine Organization of Iran three times purportedly for the forensic body to assess whether he had attained "mental maturity" at the time of the crime.</p> <p>Since March 2016, Saman Naseem is believed to have been put under renewed pressure to give a video interview and has been threatened with "consequences", including execution, if he fails to comply. He is currently held in Oroumieh Prison in West Azerbaijan Province, north-western Iran.</p> |
| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Ongoing campaign</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>The Iran team will continue the campaign in support of Saman Naseem calling on the Iranian authorities to: 1) ensure that Saman Naseem's retrial adheres strictly to international law and standards on juvenile justice, without recourse to the death penalty; and 2) protect Saman Naseem from torture and other ill-treatment, including coercion to be interviewed on video, investigate his enforced disappearance and the allegation that he was subjected to torture or other ill-treatment, and ensure that "confessions" obtained under torture and other ill-treatment are not used as evidence in court.</p> <p>We will continue to provide information on the case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio. For up-to-date information on this case, please see the portfolio and the latest UA update.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams</p> <p>Iran team: iranteam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • Urgent Action - Iran: Juvenile offender Saman Naseem threatened, 15 March |

2016

- All assets produced on the case are available on [Box](#)

Himan Uraminejad

Background information

Himan Uraminejad was sentenced to death in August 2012 after he was convicted of murder over the fatal stabbing of a boy during a fight. He was 17 years old at the time of the crime. The death sentence was imposed after an unfair trial which relied on torture-tainted evidence.

Himan Uraminejad was granted a retrial in 2015 after the Supreme Court quashed his death sentence based on new juvenile sentencing guidelines in Iran's 2013 Islamic Penal Code. However, the court presiding over his retrial used its discretion to resentence Himan Uraminejad to death. In its ruling, the court ignored the prohibition in international law to use the death penalty against people who were aged under 18 at the time of a crime. Instead, it focused on Himan Uraminejad's "mental health", noting an official medical opinion from June 2015 that found no evidence of "a disorder at the time of the crime which would extinguish [the accused's] criminal liability." The court also referred to Himan Uraminejad's statements confirming that he had no "mental illness or history of hospitalization." This reasoning was confirmed by the Supreme Court in November 2015.

Himan Uraminejad is now aged 21 and on death row in Sanandaj's Prison, western Kurdistan Province.

Status of the case

Ongoing campaign

Action plan

The Iran team will continue the campaign in support of Himan Uraminejad, urging the Iranian authorities to: 1) halt any plans to execute Himan Uraminejad and commute his death sentence without delay; 2) order that he is retried in fair proceedings in accordance with the principles of juvenile justice, and that no statements obtained through torture and other ill-treatment are admitted as evidence; and 3) ensure his allegations of torture are investigated and those responsible are brought to justice.

The team will continue to provide information on the case. For up-to-date information on this case, please see the latest UA update.

Contact teams

Iran team: iranteam@amnesty.org

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| Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org |
| Useful links: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent Action - Iran: Man arrested in his teens nears execution, 24 March 2016 All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

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| Alireza Tajiki |
| Background information <p>Iranian teenager Alireza Tajiki, now 19 years old, was sentenced to death in April 2013 after a criminal court in Fars Province, southern Iran, convicted him of murder and “<i>lavat-e be onf</i>” (forced male-male anal penetration). Alireza Tajiki has consistently denied the charges against him and said that the “confessions” on which the court relied to convict him were extracted through torture and other ill-treatment.</p> <p>Iran’s Supreme Court quashed Alireza Tajiki’s death sentence in April 2014 due to a lack of forensic evidence linking him to the sexual assault. The Supreme Court ordered the lower court to carry out further investigations. It also instructed the lower court to examine Alireza Tajiki’s “mental growth and maturity” at the time of the crime in light of the juvenile sentencing provisions in Iran’s 2013 Islamic Penal Code.</p> <p>In November 2014, the lower court resented Alireza Tajiki to death, referring to an official medical opinion that stated he had attained “mental maturity”. However, the lower court’s decision made no reference to the concerns raised by the Supreme Court about the lack of forensic evidence, suggesting that the investigation that the Supreme Court ordered was not carried out. The court also relied once again on Alireza Tajiki’s forced “confessions” as proof of his guilt, without conducting any investigation into his claims of torture.</p> <p>Alireza Tajiki’s execution was scheduled to take place on Sunday 15 May in Shiraz’s Adel Abad Prison in Fars Province. The execution was stopped in the final 24 hours after Amnesty International generated a massive global outcry. Alireza Tajiki remains, however, at continued risk of execution as the authorities have not committed to not rescheduling the execution.</p> |
| Status of the case <p>Ongoing campaign</p> |
| Action plan <p>The Iran team will continue the campaign in support of Alireza Tajiki, calling on the Iranian authorities to: 1) immediately halt any plans to execute Alireza Tajiki and</p> |

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| <p>ensure that his death sentence is quashed and he is granted a fair retrial without recourse to the death penalty; and 2) to investigate the allegation that Alireza Tajiki was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment and ensure that “confessions” obtained from him under torture are not used as evidence in court.</p> <p>We will continue to provide information on the case. For up-to-date information on this case, please see the latest UA update.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams</p> <p>Iran team: iranteam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent Action- Iranian teenager execution still pending, 18 May 2016 • Video - An Urgent Appeal: Save Alireza • Update on the case, 16 May 2016 |

SAUDI ARABIA

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| <p>Raif Badawi</p> |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>Raif Badawi was sentenced by the Criminal Court in Jeddah on 7 May 2014 to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes, followed by a 10-year travel ban, a ban on using media outlets, and a fine of one million Saudi Arabian riyals (about US\$266,600). The conviction and sentence stemmed from Raif Badawi’s creation of the Saudi Arabian Liberals website - which the court ordered to be closed - and the accusation that he had “insulted Islam”. The sentence was upheld by the Court of Appeal in Jeddah on 1 September 2014.</p> <p>On 9 January 2015, a security officer administered 50 lashes with a cane on Raif Badawi in a public square in Jeddah. Further floggings were delayed, initially due to medical concerns and since then for unknown reasons.</p> |
| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Ongoing campaign</p> |

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| <p>Action plan</p> <p>The Saudi Arabia team will continue the campaign in support of Raif Badawi and will continue to provide information on the case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio. For up-to-date information on this case, please see the portfolio and the latest UA update.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams</p> <p>Saudi Arabia team: SaudiArabiateam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JAR Portfolio • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

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| <p>Ali Mohammed Baqir al-Nimr</p> |
| <p>Background information</p> <p>Ali al-Nimr was sentenced to death on 27 May 2014 by the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) for offences that included taking part in demonstrations against the government, attacking the security forces, possessing a machine-gun and armed robbery. He “confessed” to offences that had taken place when he was 17 years old. The Court seems to have based its decision on “confessions” which Ali al-Nimr has said were extracted under torture and other ill-treatment and has refused to look into this allegation.</p> <p>The case was sent to the Ministry of Interior in August 2015 for the sentence to be implemented. He is liable to be executed as soon as the King has ratified the sentence.</p> <p>Ali al-Nimr is the nephew of a prominent Shi’a cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr, from al-Awamiyya in Qatif, eastern Saudi Arabia, who was sentenced to death by the Specialized Criminal Court on 15 October 2014 and was executed in January 2016 along with 46 other people.</p> |
| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Ongoing campaign</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>The Saudi Arabia team will continue the campaign in support of Ali al-Nimr and will continue to provide information on the case. Actions will be in line with the individuals at risk portfolio. For up-to-date information on this case, please see the portfolio and</p> |

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| the latest UA update. |
| Contact teams Saudi Arabia team: SaudiArabiateam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org |
| Useful links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAR Portfolio • All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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| Dr Nasser bin Ghaith |
| Background information <p>On 18 August 2015, prominent economist, academic, and pro-reform activist Dr Nasser bin Ghaith was arrested at his workplace in Abu Dhabi, by State Security officers. They took him to his home in Dubai where 13 officers carried out a lengthy search of the house before transferring him to an unknown location. They did not inform him or his family of the reasons for his arrest.</p> <p>Amnesty International believes that Nasser bin Ghaith was held in a secret detention facility run by the UAE's State Security apparatus. There is evidence that torture and other ill-treatment is routinely used against detainees in these facilities, often to extract "confessions" that can later be used as evidence against them in court. Nasser bin Ghaith has several medical conditions, including high blood pressure and requires regular medication.</p> <p>Nasser bin Ghaith appeared briefly before the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi on 4 April 2016. This was the first time he had been seen since he was forcibly disappeared in the United Arab Emirates on 18 August 2015.</p> <p>The court session took place almost eight months after Nasser bin Ghaith's enforced disappearance and was held to refer his case to court. According to a press article, the hearing was closed except to family members and the UAE state media. Nasser bin Ghaith spoke briefly to confirm his name. The UAE authorities denied Nasser bin Ghaith access to a lawyer prior to the hearing.</p> <p>According to information received by Amnesty International, Nasser bin Ghaith told the court that over nearly eight months, UAE officials held him in secret detention and tortured him by both beating and depriving him of sleep. The presiding judge angrily asked him how he knew he had been in secret detention and prevented Nasser bin</p> |

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| <p>Ghaith from speaking further. The judge did not order an investigation into his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment.</p> <p>The next hearing is set for 30 May 2016 before the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court. While it is a court of first instance, verdicts handed down by the court cannot be appealed.</p> <p>Nasser bin Ghaith faces charges relating solely to the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association. The charges include: “committing a hostile act against a foreign state” in relation to comments he made on Twitter criticising the Government of Egypt; “posting false information in order to harm the reputation and stature of the State and one of its institutions” based on comments he made on Twitter stating that he had not been given a fair trial in the “UAE 5” case; “posting false information” about UAE leaders and their policies; “offensively criticizing the construction of a Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi and inciting UAE citizens against their leaders and government” in reference to a Twitter posting that he told the court had been misinterpreted and had been intended to promote tolerance. Finally, he is charged with “communicating and co-operating with members of the banned al-Islah organization”, based on meetings he had with individuals who were tried in the “UAE 94” case; and with “communicating and cooperating with the banned Emirates Ummah Party”.</p> |
| <p>Status of the case</p> <p>Ongoing campaign</p> |
| <p>Action plan</p> <p>The UAE team will continue the campaign in support of Nasser bin Ghaith and will continue to provide information on the case. For up-to-date information on this case, please see the latest UA update.</p> |
| <p>Contact teams</p> <p>UAE team at uaeteam@amnesty.org Individuals at Risk: individuals@amnesty.org</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent Action <i>United Arab Emirates: Further Information: Dr Nasser Bin Ghaith Charged, Case Adjourned</i>, 20 May 2016 All assets produced on the case are available on Box |

STOP TORTURE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN EXIT STRATEGY

Since 2014 Amnesty International has run a Stop Torture global campaign seeking to expose the use of torture by governments and state actors and calling for the establishment and implementation of effective safeguards by focusing its campaign on five countries where tangible improvements were thought to be achievable within the campaign timeframe, namely, Mexico, Morocco/Western Sahara, Nigeria, Uzbekistan, and, The Philippines.

This exit strategy report, provides in-depth, country by country assessment of the impact the campaign has had so far, and, outlines how to continue the work in these countries beyond 31 May 2016.



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