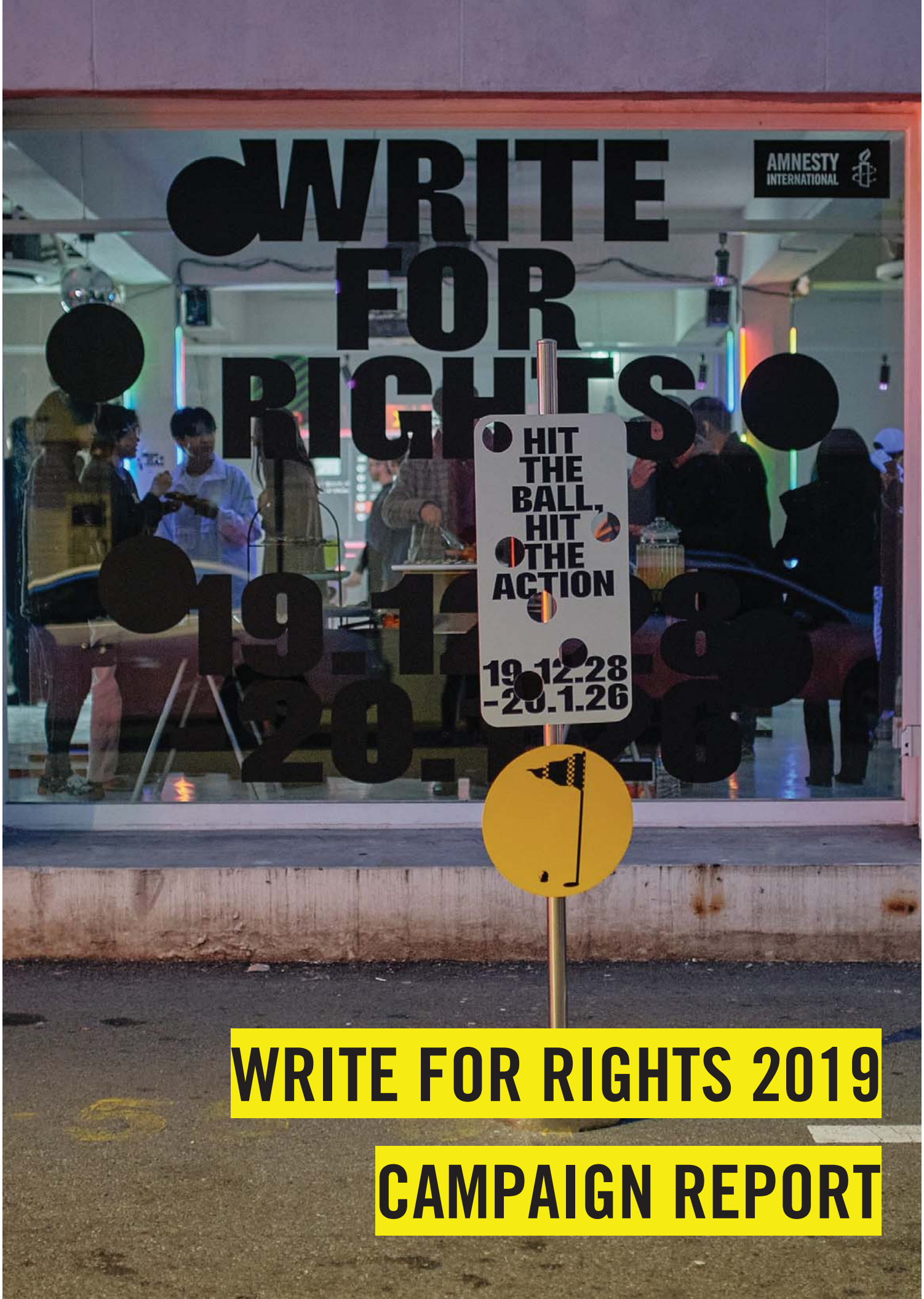

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2019

CAMPAIGN REPORT

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Cover photo:

Amnesty Korea held an exhibition called 'Hit the Ball, Hit the Action' in Seoul, South Korea for the Write for rights campaign in 2019. The month-long pop-up exhibition turned 6 of the W4R cases into creative mini-golf courses, highlighting the leading causes of the violation as an obstacle to getting to the hole. When visitors completed the course, they used a hand printer device to leave a solidarity message on their ball.

Write for Rights 2019 – Campaign report

Published in April 2020 by the Individuals at Risk team

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Index: ACT 30/2200/2020

WRITE FOR RIGHTS (W4R) 2019 – SOME FACTS

Write for Rights reached the age of 18 in 2019! Every December, supporters across the globe write hundreds of thousands of letters, send thousands of solidarity cards, sign thousands of petitions and many other kinds of action – all calling for justice for those whose basic human rights are being attacked. Every year the campaign grows, in numbers and strength and 2019 was no exception! **Here are some facts about W4R 2018:**

At least….

6,609,837[1]

ACTIONS WORLDWIDE

Write for Rights increased in numbers of global actions for the 18th consecutve year!

12 AMNESTY ENTITIES[2] worked on cases outside of the global 10

ADDING OVER 300,000 ACTIONS to the global total!

AMNESTY.ORG achieved **DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF ACTIONS** as compared to 2018!

48 AMNESTY ENTITIES reported **HIGHER NUMBERS OF ACTIONS** in 2019

22 ENTITIES reported less.

YASAMAN FROM IRAN received **OVER ONE MILLION ACTIONS!**

The only time a single case has achieved this, was with the already very famous, Edward Snowden in 2017.

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

2 'Amnesty Entities' includes all formal Amnesty presence in a country. This can include Sections, structures and/or Regional and National Offices

NUMBER OF ACTIONS BY CASE

CASE	COUNTRY	ESITMATED # OF ACTIONS
NASU ABDULAZIZ AND OTODO-GBAME YOUTH ACTIVISTS	NIGERIA	**458,981**
MAGAI MATIOP NGONG	SOUTH SUDAN	**765,014**
GRASSY NARROWS YOUTH	CANADA	**448,418**
JOSÉ ADRIÁN	MEXICO	**466,423**
MARINEL SUMOOK UBALDO	PHILIPPINES	**528,070**
YILIYASIJIANG REHEMAN	CHINA	**451,943**
EMIL OSTROVKO	BELARUS	**292,418**
SARAH MARDINI AND SEÁN BINDER	GREECE	**731,392**
IBRAHIM EZZ EL-DIN	EGYPT	**392,562**
YASAMAN ARYANI	IRAN	**1,240,686**

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

Not all Entities were able to share their data, and some were not able to collate accurate or complete numbers. There are likely many more actions taken around the world without us being able to track them.

You will notice that the total number of actions for each of the global cases does not correspond with the global total of actions recorded for Write for Rights 2019. This is because the list above does not include actions that were recorded, but where Entities were unable to differentiate which case the actions were taken for.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Every year Write for Rights achieves real change in the lives the individuals featured and 2019 was no exception. On the following pages you will find the impact assessments for each of the global 10 cases.

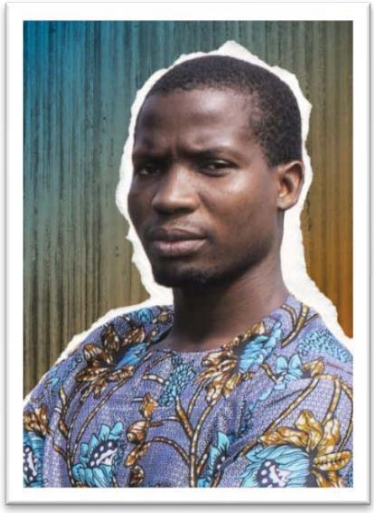
The assessments give a brief overview of the case, some background into Amnesty's previous involvement and how the case came to be selected to be a part of the campaign, some highlights of activities around the world, any changes to the situation of the individual, some information on the wider context of human rights issues happening in the country/region at the same time that may have impacted the work on the case, and lastly, how Amnesty intends to keep up work on the case after the close of the campaign.

Impact assessments are carried out every year following the campaign and all updates to the cases from this year and all previous years are shared on the Write for Rights Podio space throughout the year.

Impact assessments are carried out in several ways, including interviews with the individuals themselves or their representatives, with family members and local NGOs also working on their cases. In addition to this, country experts look at signs of impact from the authorities, such as big obvious changes to laws or official procedures, to more incremental changes such as differences in the treatment of the individual themselves.

Since this assessment is very close to the end of the campaign, we are still unable to see the full impact, for a full review of the assessment, keep following their cases on the Individuals at Risk Platform and on the Write for Rights Podio space.

NASU ABDULAZIZ & OTODO-GBAME YOUTH ACTIVISTS - NIGERIA



Nasu Abdulaziz was only 21 when he was shot and forced from his home in Otodo Gbame, a village in the city of Lagos, Nigeria.

Men arrived with guns and bulldozers, at night and without warning. Acting on the orders of the government, these men set upon the homes within this century-old community, demolishing and burning down houses, shooting at fleeing families, and destroying small businesses and the livelihoods they sustained. The men came back again and again inflicting devastating damage and fear on the community.

During one raid, Nasu was shot in the arm and barely survived. Later, when the men returned, they fired shots and used tear gas to force residents out of their homes. The panicked residents fled and some drowned in the nearby lagoon while trying to flee the fire and violence.

Amnesty International understands that nine people were killed, fifteen are still missing and in total, 30,000 people have been evicted. Many have been forced to live in canoes, under bridges, or with other people in over-crowded conditions.

Global campaigning around the case of Nasu and his community will further help to promote Amnesty's call for an investigation into the forced eviction of Nasu's community, and to make sure that they are resettled and given full compensation. Before Write for Rights, Amnesty had been working on the case of the Otodo-Gbame community since 2016. In November 2017, Amnesty released a report titled *The Human Cost of Lagos Mega City: Forced evictions of the urban poor in Lagos.*

The report documented seven forced evictions which have affected over 30,000 people in Ilubirin fishing community and Otodo-Gbame community in Lagos, Nigeria and how the land formerly occupied by these two communities are now the construction site of luxury real estate projects owned by the government and private bodies. Also, Amnesty International released a briefing titled *Nigeria: Left with Nowhere to Go, stories of survivors of forced evictions in Nigeria's megacity* to further make calls on the authorities.

Photo, above: Street art from Amnesty International Luxembourg of Nasu Abdulaziz in central Luxembourg, 10 December 2019.

Amnesty's contact during Write for Rights was an NGO partner- Justice and Empowerment Initiatives (JEI). JEI is an organization that empowers poor and marginalized individuals to lead in campaigning for the changes that they would like to see in their own communities -- whether that be greater access to justice for the poor, pro-poor[3] urban governance and policy, or community-led in-situ upgrading and development. Amnesty worked very closely with JEI during the research, public campaigning and advocacy towards justice for Otodo-Gbame and subsequently Nasu during Write for Rights. Working on the campaign has strengthened that relationship.

The solidarity from Amnesty Entities for Nasu and his community has been huge. By the end of February 2020, AI Nigeria had received (on behalf of Nasu) over 20,000 solidarity cards/letters from Entities/groups in over 18 countries. Over 400,000 letters and messaged were sent to the Governor of Lagos state to demand for justice for Nasu and his community.

So far, the Nigerian authorities have not taken steps to investigate the shooting of Nasu, however for his community there has been an ongoing dialogue with the authorities towards a resettlement programme.

AI Nigeria visit Nasu and share the Write for Rights solidarity messages from around the world. © Amnesty International

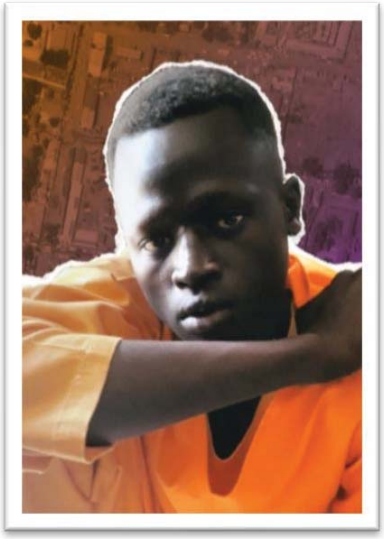
Amnesty International Nigeria recently met with Nasu to handover thousands of cards and letters from the movement, to him. Nasu found the experience of Write for Rights a positive one and stated:

"I am very happy to receive all these messages. It means that people care about me and what happened! Thank you so much"

Going forward, Amnesty International will continue to work with JEI, Nasu and his community to ensure that their demands for justice are met.

[3] 'pro-poor' policies are those that directly target poor people, or that are more generally aimed at reducing poverty.

MAGAI MATIOP NGONG – SOUTH SUDAN



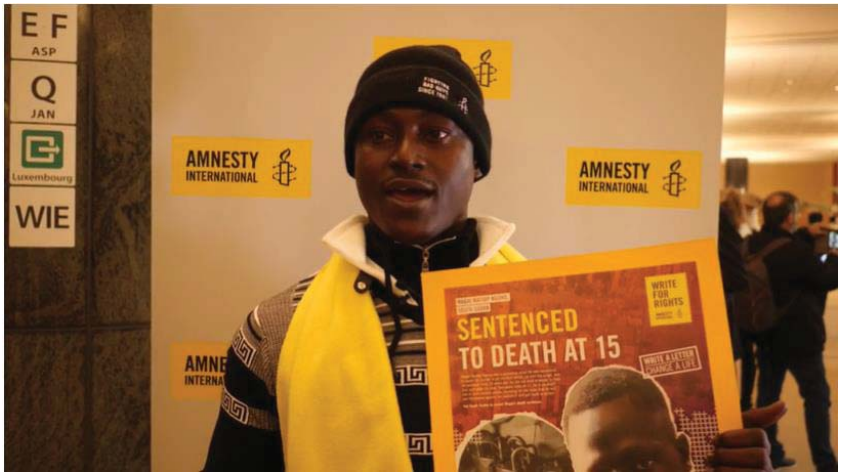
Magai Matiop Ngong was just fifteen when he was sentenced to death in South Sudan. According to his testimony in court, Magai had fired his father's gun at the ground, as a warning to his cousin who was trying to prevent him fighting with another boy in his neighbourhood. The bullet ricocheted and hit his cousin, who later died in hospital. Magai recounted how he told the judge it was an accident and that he was only 15 years old, but despite this Magai faced trial for murder, without any access to a lawyer. He was convicted and sentenced to death. By campaigning globally on a huge scale, it is hoped that President Salva Kiir will commute Magai' sentence and stop South Sudanese authorities from using the death penalty against children.

Amnesty International was first alerted to Magai's situation by human rights workers in South Sudan. Amnesty International managed to interview Magai in Juba Central Prison and his case was included in a briefing on South Sudan's use of the death penalty that Amnesty International published in December 2018. In mid-2019 Magai was selected to feature in Write for Rights, as Amnesty International continued to report on South Sudan's use of the death penalty (March 2019 and October 2019).

Despite being in the bottom three in numbers of Entities to pick the case up, Magai's case turned out to be the second most popular case in the campaign, with over 700,000 actions worldwide. The Amnesty International East African Regional Office received thousands of physical letters for Magai. Due to concerns for Magai's safety in prison, we cannot send solidarity letters to him now, but we will find creative ways for him and his family to receive them in the near future.

Moses Akatugba, a former individual at risk featured in the Write for Rights campaign in 2014, attended a Write for Rights event at the European Parliament in support for Magai's case. Moses was tortured and sentenced to death at the age of 16 in his country of Nigeria.

Following Write for Rights 2014, Moses was freed, no doubt in part because of Amnesty International' successful campaign on his case. Moses has now become a human rights defender and joined the campaign to save Magai's life.



Moses Akatugba at the European Parliament. December 2019 © Amnesty International/ Youri Vandeputte

In South Sudan, the campaign's launch led to a lot of discussion on social media. The discussions were around his case and the use of the death penalty against children. The majority of the commentary online within South Sudan was positive to Magai and his situation – this is a great development for changing attitudes within South Sudan. Magai's case also caught the attention of a leading youth activist in the county, who expressed interest in leading on some work for Magai's case in South Sudan. While he was unable to work on it at this time, we will keep in touch and work on Magai's case with him in the future. It is extremely positive that the case received so much attention in South Sudan and we hope this continues.

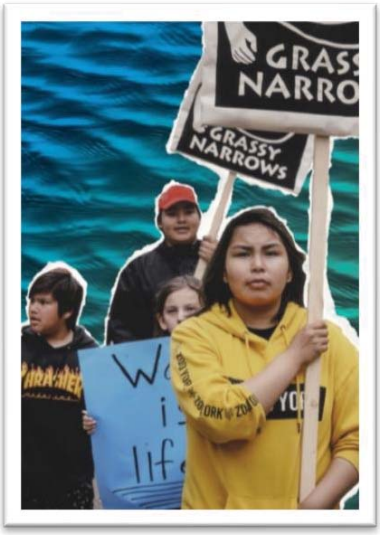
The global response was also amazing and the fact so many people were engaging on South Sudan was very positive – it is often hard to get people to show an interest in South Sudan and this campaign led to far more coverage than usual.

South Sudan's overall human rights situation is dire. The six-year conflict is characterized by brutal violations including mass rape, enforced disappearance, food as a weapon of war and targeting killings along ethnic lines. Focus on violations committed in relation to the conflict as well as ongoing inter-communal violence leaves little space for addressing South Sudan's serial and increasing use of the death penalty. Magai's campaign contributed greatly to much needed South Sudanese questioning the government's use of the death penalty, especially against children.

The Amnesty International East Africa Regional Office has around 60kg of letters to send to South Sudan. They are exploring ways we can use these letters for campaigning and to get a bit creative with our delivery. One of the ideas we are exploring is to film a video message, from either Amnesty International's Secretary-General or by Regional Director Deprose Muchena, showing the letters from around the word. This video would then be shared with President Salva Kiir.

An activist in Canada writes for Magai, at the "Write for Rights, Toronto!" event, December 7, 2019, Centre for Social Innovation
© Amnesty International

GRASSY NARROWS YOUTH – CANADA



Young people from the Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishnabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation) Indigenous community in north-western Ontario, Canada, are fighting for a healthy future for themselves and their community.

Fifty years ago, an upstream pulp mill dumped an estimated 10 tons of mercury into the river system. The people of Grassy Narrows rely on fishing for subsistence, cultural traditions, and livelihood. The accumulation of high levels of mercury in fish at Grassy Narrows has had a tragic impact on generations of community members.

For much of the last five decades, the federal and provincial governments have withheld crucial health information from the people of Grassy Narrows, refused to clean-up the river system, failed to provide specialized health care, and even denied that there was a threat from mercury poisoning.

If Canada had taken decisive action to fulfil its human rights obligations years ago, the lives of young people from Grassy Narrows would be profoundly different. A recent expert study sets out the case that mercury poisoning has created one of the worst community health crises in Canada and that young people are particularly affected.

Appeals for justice led by the youth of Grassy Narrows have resulted in important promises from both the federal and provincial governments. However, government officials are still not doing enough to meet the immediate and ongoing needs of the community. The next step of escalation to achieve justice for Grassy Narrows is global action, which is why the Write for Rights campaign has been so important. The Canadian government must know that it is accountable not only to the Grassy Narrows community, but the global human rights movement of Amnesty International.

Amnesty International Canada (English-speaking) has had a longstanding relationship with the community of Grassy Narrows. In 2007, the International Secretariat (IS) supported AI Canada in creating a policy brief on the community's fight against industrial logging. This became the basis of a 2009 campaign digest issued by the IS as part of the global Demand Dignity campaign on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Amnesty International has continued to build on that base of knowledge through ongoing collaboration with the community, which has included frequent meetings with community leaders and activists, support to community-led research, and participation in joint media work.

In the lead-up to the Write for Rights campaign, a legal fellow at AI Canada (English-speaking) carried out an extensive review of government documents, obtained over a period of many years of access of information requests filed by journalists and others, as well as various reports by independent researchers going back to the early 1970s. In addition, AI Canada collaborated closely with lawyers working for the First Nation, as well as with the medical scientists who supervised a recent community-based health survey. Through our ongoing campaigning, we have had many conversations with a wide range of community members. In 2019, an AI Canada staff member accompanied the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxic Wastes during a fact-finding visit to the community.

We launched Write for Rights campaign with a press conference in Winnipeg on November 4, 2019, featuring Grassy youth Paris Meekis, Darwin Fobister, and RJ Bruce. You can check out the incredible coverage of the event via APTN, CTV, CBC, the Winnipeg Sun, and the Winnipeg Free Press.

Grassy Narrows community representatives also participated in Amnesty International Brazil's Write for Rights launch, meeting activists and land and water defenders from Brazil and Paraguay.

Throughout the campaign, Amnesty International supporters across Canada and around the world have been sharing their support for Grassy Narrows youth, with many of the 360 events happening in Canada alone dedicated to raising awareness about the Anishinaabe community's fight for mercury justice.

Entities from all over the world also took action: from Japan to New Zealand, from Peru to Nepal to the USA. More than 400,000 letters from around the world called for justice for Grassy Narrows, including 15,000 letters in Canada. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the people of Asubpeeschoseewagong in their call for justice so that they and the next generations of young people can have a healthy future.

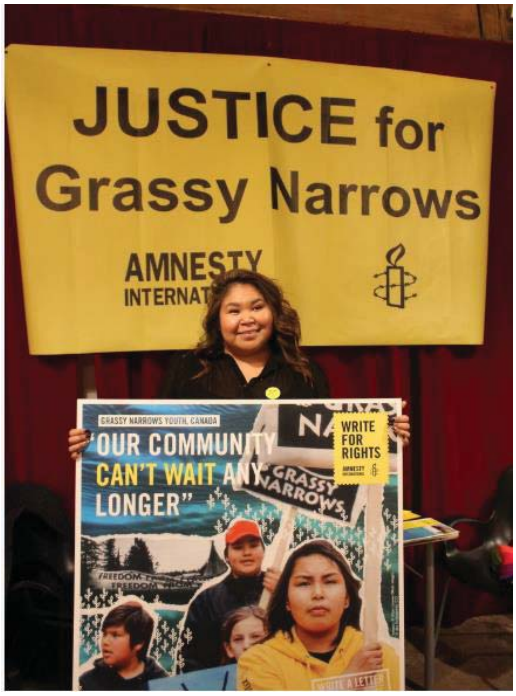
In June of 2017 the provincial government agreed to fund a clean-up of the river system, but this never happened. In November 2017, the federal government committed to building a specialized care facility at Grassy Narrows for persons with mercury poisoning, yet the facility has yet to be built. In 2018, community-led health studies found that Grassy Narrows faces the worst health crisis in Canada, and youth are particularly affected.

But in good news, after years of delay, a $19.5 million agreement to build the care facility was finally signed on 2 April 2020! This agreement is an important step forward for justice, but long-term funding for the operation and services of the facility still needs to be secured. While more pressure is needed to secure long-term funding, this agreement is certainly a victory for the people of Grassy Narrows who have been calling for justice for decades.

In the background of the Write for Rights 2019 campaign, Canada was in the middle of the election season. This slowed down advocacy efforts for Grassy Narrows as activists awaited the results of the election, and it took the spotlight in the national media.

Also, at the same time, activists from the Wet'suwet'en Indigenous nation engaged in defending their traditional territory to pressure the Canadian government to stop a major gas pipeline project. They were supported by international actions, including staged blockades of railway lines in Canada.

We heard many messages of hope and excitement from young people and community members from Grassy Narrows. **"We are joining hands around the world to combat all the injustice,"** said Crystal Swain, writing from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where she and her daughter Hazel Sneaky, participated in Amnesty International Brazil's Write for Rights launch, meeting activists and land and water defenders from Brazil and Paraguay.



Above, Elsie Assin from Grassy Narrows at "Write for Rights, Toronto!" on December 7, 2019 © Amnesty International

While Amnesty International has enjoyed close relationships with members of the Grassy Narrows community for many years, the AI Canada is carrying out an internal analysis of how effective those relationships have been in maintaining the most inclusive campaign design process for Write for Rights as possible. This analysis stems from some feedback from the community which conveyed that the massive scope of the campaign wasn't fully understood by everyone at Grassy Narrows.

The Grassy Narrows Community will pursue discussions with the newly elected Canadian government and decide the most strategic way to utilize all the solidarity letters activists from around the planet have sent them. Whatever they decide, Amnesty International will be there to support and accompany them. Thank you to each and every person who wrote a letter, sent an email, or otherwise took action in solidarity with the community of Grassy Narrows.

Children at the Grassy Narrows Summer Powwow, where some of the Write for Rights video was filmed, August 17, 2019.
© Amnesty International/Allan Lissner

JOSÉ ADRIÁN – MEXICO

José Adrián, a Mayan teenage boy with an undiagnosed disability that impacts his capacity to hear and communicate easily, was only 14 years old when police arbitrarily arrested and beat him near his home in the X-Can community in the State of Yucatan, Mexico on 25 February 2016.

José Adrián was walking home from school, just after a group of boys had been in a fight on the street and stones were thrown at a police car. When the police arrived, they arrested and beat up José Adrián, who had not been a part of the group throwing stones. They pulled off his shirt and shoes and took him to the cells of the municipality in the nearby town of Chemax. He was handcuffed and hung from the wall.

José Adrián's family had to pay a fine and the cost of damages to the police car before police would release him. Following the incident, José Adrián and his family could have simply gone home and tried to forget about what happened, instead they chose to fight for justice.

José Adrián was selected to be a part of Write for Rights because his case was such a clear violation: a child, beaten and tortured by those who should protect him, and who needed to gain justice and reparations for what he and his family had lived through. The AI Americas Regional Office had been campaigning for José Adrián's case already but believed a global campaign would help accelerate the process of getting him the reparations needed, so that he can work at building his life and moving on.

José Adrián is a young and from a low-income home and has an indigenous background. As with other young people like him and especially men and boys, this meant he was at a higher risk of being arbitrarily detained in Mexico. Based on the profile of being poor ad indigenous, police forces in Mexico arbitrarily detain thousands of people in the country for reasons such as extortion, wanting to detain someone (anyone) for a crime, and at times just because they "look suspicious". Although women are also exposed to arbitrary detentions in the country, the majority fit the profile mentioned above. Many times, these arbitrary detentions are accompanied with excessive use of force and torture, like in José Adrián's case, and in many other cases arbitrary detentions in Mexico can lead to other grave human rights violations such as enforced disappearance and extrajudicial executions.

José Adrián's case was submitted to Amnesty International in 2016 by the local NGO Indignación, who had learned about the situation and taken legal representation. In 2017, Amnesty International Launched the report False Suspicions where the case of José Adrian was featured to illustrate the impact of arbitrary detentions in Mexico.

On April 2018, Amnesty International began the first campaign for José Adrián and worked with Indignación to push for advances in the case's investigation for the family.

On November 2018, the team evaluated the Istanbul Protocol[4] as had been applied to José Adrián's case and got an expert to advise on the deficiencies of the recommendations made by Mexico's National Human Rights Commission (*Comision Nacional de Derechos Humanos,* CNDH) on the child's case.

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[4] *The Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishmen*t, commonly known as the Istanbul Protocol, is the first set of international guidelines for documentation of torture and its consequences. It became an official United Nations document in 1999.

An appropriate expert was commissioned to talk to José Adrián and evaluate his emotional state. The expert helped José Adrián to start thinking about his goals for the future and to focus on moving forward.

In December 2018, Amnesty handed 35,000 signatures to the Governor's office and had a meeting with his representatives, which allowed us access to the Commission of Attention to Victims of the State, and to begin a conversation regarding the measures needed for reparations on his case.

In February 2019, José Adrián received a hearing aid from the Commission of Attention to Victims (CEAV). With this first positive move on José Adrián's case, it was decided that Write for Rights would be the perfect next step for continuing momentum on his case with the hopes of getting integral reparation for him and his family.

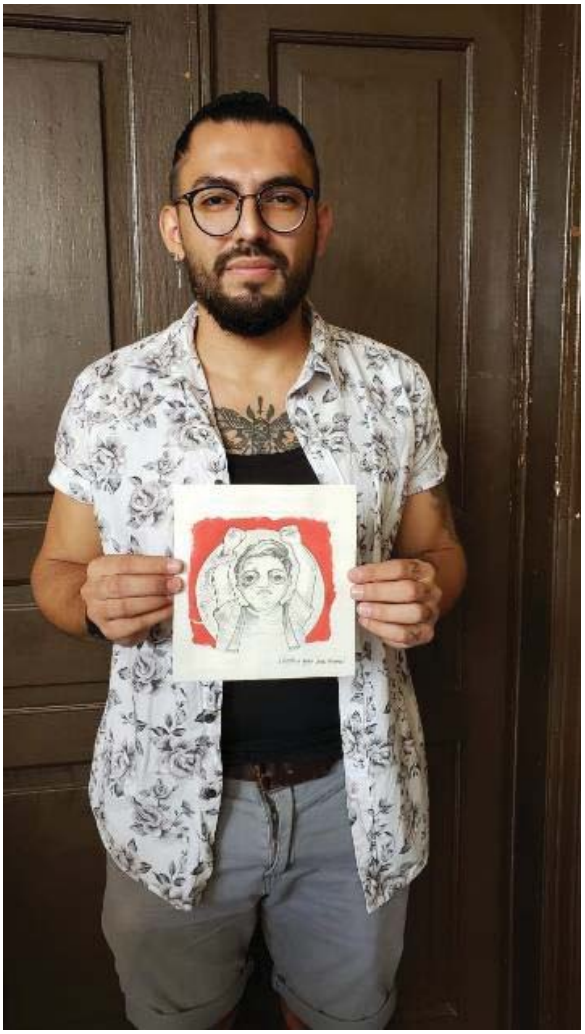
In August 2019 Amnesty International visited José Adrián and supported the family and Indignación on the creation of a reparation plan for him and his family which would allow them to move forward. And from September to December 2020 Amnesty followed up advocacy efforts, in parallel to the public Write for Rights campaigning around the world. During this time, José Adrián's mother accompanied the delegations to these meetings and grew more and more empowered to ask for what she and her family needed during these advocacy meetings.

Since the Write for Rights campaign José Adrián has also felt more empowered and in early 2020 he attended his first advocacy meeting, with AI Mexico and Indignación to support him. From this meeting Amnesty International expects that the local government will sign a reparation agreement soon.

The most challenging area of José Adrián's case moving forward is to push for the official investigation into who committed the violations against José Adrian and hold them responsible for what happened. One of the next steps is to make a symbolic signature delivery, pushing further to finalise the reparation agreement and its implementation, and to provide impetus for the investigation to continue.

Within the Americas region there was some amazing activities for José Adrián. Amnesty Entities in the Americas and the Activism team from the regional office organized an 'Artivism' contest for Write for Rights and one of the winners, a young artist from Guatemala, won with a piece representing José Adrian's case.

Thanks to constant follow up on advocacy work and an added pressure of an ongoing campaign, José Adrián and his family are about to reach a written agreement with the CEAV which, among other requests from the family, includes scholarship to continue school and phycological treatment. José Adrián has also received an official letter that officially states that he now has no criminal record.



Right, young Guatemalan artist Javier Niño with his winning artwork representing José Adrian. © Amnesty International.

There are areas of work that still need to be pushed forward for José Adrián, such as the investigation against the perpetrators of the violence, and a public apology from the state. The investigation had begun moving forward when we first started campaigning for the case, however José Adrián's file was then 'misplaced', and nothing further has been done. However, the Attorney General's office has been asking the family and their lawyer for documents, including the analysis Amnesty International made of the Istanbul Protocol, nevertheless they continue to say that they do not have enough evidence to prove torture.

José Adrián and his family have felt that being involved with Write for Rights has been hugely positive, telling us:

"I thank the people who have supported me, you have changed my life, and I thank you all." – José Adrián[5]

"Thanks to Amnesty International who has been supporting me throughout this process, which has been going on for 3 years now. Thanks to Amnesty for coming, thanks to them I am getting ahead with this, thanks to everyone who has supported my son's case" - José Adrián's mother[6]

In late 2020 we will organize a signature delivery and give José Adrián all the solidarity letters that we received. We would like to follow up with him and his family to make sure that they are safe, and their reparation agreement is seen through. We will also keep pushing for the investigation of the case so that those responsible are held accountable.

José Adrián in X-Can, Yucatán, México, 8 August 2019. © Amnesty International

5 "Agradezco a las personas que me han apoyado, han cambiado mi vida, y les agradezco a todos." - José Adrián

6 "Gracias a Amnistia Internacional que me ha estado apoyando en todo este proceso que ya son 3 años. Gracias a Amnistía por venir, gracias a ellos estoy saliendo adelante con esto, gracias a todos los que han apoyado el caso de mi hijo"- Mamá de José Adrián

MARINEL SUMOOK UBALDO – PHILIPPINES

Marinel was 16 years old when in November 2013, she survived Typhoon Yolanda – one of the deadliest typhoons on record. It destroyed her village: over 6,000 people died in the Philippines alone and millions lost their homes. Marinel knew that she had to dedicate herself to protecting her family and community from the devastating effects of climate change.

Six years later, Marinel completed her degree in social work and has become a leading youth activist dedicated to ensuring governments around the world confront climate change and tackle its effects on her community, and others like hers.

2019 was an important year for global mobilisation around the issue of climate change, with youth activists across the world consistently proving to be inspiring and effective leaders. Marinel is one of these leaders. In addition to ongoing meetings with the municipal mayor to discuss how to improve recovery efforts for victims of Typhoon Yolanda, she also co-led the School Climate Strikes in her province capital of Tacloban City, inviting several local officials to talk about this issue as well as about plastic waste reduction.

Climate change is a crisis that the entire world is facing, and Marinel's activism has not been limited to national advocacy. After being selected for Write for Rights, Marinel joined the Amnesty International delegation attending the 2019 *United Nations Climate Change Conference* (Conference of Parties – COP25) in Madrid, Spain. Marinel joined COP25 meetings, connected with other activists and spoke at an official side event organised by PLAN International.

Hosted by AI Spain, Marinel was also involved in attending climate strike demonstrations with Amnesty International activists, speaking to local media and at an event co-organised with Greenpeace on climate change and human rights. Marinel's time with Amnesty International members, Spanish media and fellow activists was felt to be very positive by AI Spain, as it helped make climate change a more visible issue, motivating online and offline supporters alike.

During COP25, the Philippines' Commission on Human Rights announced that 47 major fossil fuel and carbon-polluting companies could be held accountable for violating the rights of its citizens for the damage caused by climate change. While this does not directly respond to our campaign calls (as it regarded corporate responsibility), Marinel did testify in 2018 at the investigation and was exceptionally happy about the decision. This was an important milestone, it is the first time ever that a human rights body has said that fossil fuel corporations can be legally responsible for human rights harms linked to climate change.

Above right, Marinel talks at the September 'School Climate Strike' in Tacloban City, Philippines © Amnesty International/Nicole Millar

In addition to AI Spain, Marinel spent time with AI Japan and AI Italy during the 2019 W4R campaign. Attending the *Climate Reality Leadership Corps* training in Tokyo, Marinel also spent time with AI Japan activists and supporters at several external events in October. AI Italy also hosted Marinel for a speaking tour, from 9 to 15 December.

Above, AI Italy hosts a public event with Marinel, Trento, Italy 2019 © Amnesty International Italy

In addition to meeting many activists and students from across the country, Marinel held a public meeting with local officials of the Municipality of Latina to raise the issue of climate change at a local level.

Reflecting on her time travelling, and involvement in the W4R campaign, Marinel shared that:

> "***Write for Rights made a huge difference to the way I see my activism. It boosts me to believe more in myself, I have been assured through this campaign that what I'm doing is for the good of the humanity. I have realized that, indeed, there is power in numbers. I am proud to be the face of this campaign as I was able to send my specific message and ask to our government and the governments around the world.***
>
> ***It also broadened my perspective on the climate activism around the world, one of my greatest highlights was meeting a lot of activists who share the same passion and fire as me. I have found allies in them.***
>
> ***It made me believe in myself and in what I am fighting for. I have gained confidence and trust in myself because of people who showed me that my story and the story of my community is important in telling people how real climate change is."***

Additional opportunities for mobilisation arose around two big public events: the One Young World Summit (OYW) in London, and the 2019 U2 Joshua Tree Tour in the Asia Pacific. Invited to talk at the OYW plenary, former Amnesty International Secretary General, Kumi Naidoo, led an interactive action for Marinel's case – culminating in a chant of 'climate action, for Marinel' ringing across the audience of 2,000+ young leaders from 190+ countries.

Above, a call to action for Marinel at the One Young World Summit in London from 22-25 October © Public

Amnesty International was invited by U2 to attend their concert and campaign for Marinel's case at their 2019 Joshua Tour. With fifteen shows, spanning seven countries across the Asia Pacific, it was an exciting opportunity for Amnesty Entities to talk about the Write for Rights campaign, and share Marinel's story with members of the public. Experiences ranged according to the city, with some performances involving a specific mention for Amnesty International / Marinel during the live show. In addition to numerous positive anecdotes from AI volunteers, a notable highlight was at the final show in Mumbai, when five members of the AI India team were invited to go backstage to meet Bono and Edge to talk about Write for Rights and our campaign for Marinel.

Closer to home, Marinel believes that the campaign has led to some positive developments. The Office of the President has acknowledged the letters sent to them, and the Philippine government seems to have turned its attention towards the needs of Typhoon Yolanda survivors in Matarinao.

The *Department of the Interior and Local Government* has since asked the Municipal Mayor to send a report about the Municipality's response to the needs of the Matarinao community since Typhoon Yolanda struck. The details of that report will provide an opportunity for future advocacy and lobbying work, allowing Marinel's community to build on the Department's attention and ensure that the Municipality puts in place concrete improvements.

Climate change remains a pressing and ever-changing global issue with consequences already being felt across countries like the Philippines. As a result, Marinel plans to continue her campaign for climate justice, with an ambition of pursuing a master's degree in International Development or Environment, Development, and Policy. Amnesty International continues discuss with Marinel other opportunities for future collaboration.

When asked what Marinel would like to share with Amnesty International supporters and activists she had these words to say:

> ***Dear Amnesty supporters and activists, thank you so much for embracing me and my story. For opening your hearts to us, people in the Philippines, especially Matarinao. I am overwhelmed and flattered for the support and kind messages that I have received since the campaign started until the end. It is flattering to know that there are people, especially youth, from the first world countries who are fighting the same call as what we are fighting in the Philippines.***
>
> ***Thank you for taking your time to write and take action. It means the world to us, you give us hope to continue the fight despite all the hurdles we encounter.***
>
> ***From the bottom of my heart, and in behalf of my community Matarinao, thank you for fighting with us. No words can express my gratefulness. I promise to do more.***
>
> ***For a better planet,***
>
> ***Marinel***

YILIYASIJIANG REHEMAN – CHINA

Yiliyasijiang Reheman and his wife Mairinisha Abuduaini were expecting their second baby when Yiliyasijiang went missing. The young couple were building a new future for themselves and studying at a university in Egypt when, in July 2017, Yiliyasijiang was one of the hundreds of Uyghur people that China pressured the Egyptian government to round up and return to China. No one has seen or heard from Yiliyasjiang since.

Mairinisha, who now lives in Turkey, learned through friends that Yiliyasijiang had been sent back to Xinjiang in China. She suspects he's in one of China's secret internment camps where Uyghurs are brainwashed with Chinese government propaganda. Yiliyasjiang's story, while heart-breaking, is unfortunately not unique. As many as one million, mainly Muslim people, have been torn from their families and locked up in these camps since 2017 – a scandal that has unleashed a powerful movement for truth around the world.

Amnesty International got in contact with Mairinsha in April 2019 after learning about her family's story. A passionate activist herself, Mairinsha just wants her husband back safely with her and her children. **"My husband should be released as soon as possible,"** she says. **"Our children need their father. I will never give up until we can be reunited with my husband."**

Unfortunately, there has been no news about Yiliyasijiang, and his whereabouts remain unknown. While his family still haven't heard from him since he was returned to China, Mairinisha is very thankful for the concern and support for her husband's case. She expressed particular appreciation for Amnesty International United Kingdom's idea of a solidarity football match, Yiliyasijiang's favourite sport.

Mairinisha also expressed thanks for being included in the filming of a short campaign video produced for Yiliyasjiang, which she especially liked because it featured the wives of other Uyghurs who had been deported from Egypt to China.

In late 2019, leaked documents reported by the *New York Times* and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and 17 partner organizations exposed new details about China's campaign in Xinjiang.

AI UK hosts a solidarity football match for Yiliyasjiang © AIUK

The documents reveal how the campaign to transform the thinking of people in Xinjiang originated with Chinese President Xi Jinping's call in 2014 for a "struggle against terrorism, infiltration and separatism" in Xinjiang. The documents also show how, after taking over as Xinjiang Party Secretary in August 2016, Chen Quanguo ordered local officials to "round up everyone who should be rounded up". Secret operations manuals directed in great detail how "re-education" camps should be managed. Officials were briefed on what to tell children about their detained parents, which included warnings about repercussions if they spoke openly about the detentions.

What also clearly emerges from the leaked documents is the global scope of China's campaign against Uyghurs, Kazakhs and others originally from Xinjiang, with Chinese embassies and consulates abroad tasked with collecting information about members of these ethnic groups residing in other countries. The aggressiveness of China's effort to track down members of these diaspora communities has been deeply felt.

Amnesty International continues to work on the issue of ethnic minority rights in China, calling on the authorities to close the internment camps, release individuals detained in the camps and grant independent UN and other human rights experts unrestricted access to Xinjiang. For further details about our work. Please take a look at Nowhere Feels Safe, our latest extended story page describing the experiences of Uyghurs living abroad.

Our campaign for Yiliyasjiang will continue beyond Write for Rights. Through updates and guidance on his *Individuals at Risk* casefile, we encourage our activists from across the world to keep calling on Xi Jinping to release Yiliyasijiang Reheman and reunite him with his family.

Your continued action makes a difference in the lives of the family members who have been enduring the long wait to reunite with their loved ones. As Mairinsha told us:

"I'm very grateful for everyone who supports me. In the course of campaigning for my husband, I feel that I'm not alone. I need their support all the time. I hope that they will continue to support me."

Graphic commissioned for the Amnesty International Nowhere Feels Safe area of amnesty.org, an extended story page describing the experience of Uyghurs living abroad.

EMIL OSTROVKO – BELARUS

Emil Ostrovko was arrested in April 2018 while he and his girlfriend were waiting at a bus stop on the outskirts of Minsk, Belarus' capital. Police officers beat Emil, who was just seventeen at the time, and arrested him accused of distributing illicit drugs.

Earlier in 2018, Emil had got an after-school job as a courier for an online company to deliver parcels that according to his employer contained legal smoking mixtures. After spending months detained, Emil received a 10-year prison sentence in June 2018 for being a member of a drug trafficking group, but in fact for a minor, non-violent drug-related offence.

Notably, the investigators never identified the owner or the company or any other members of the "group", and Emil was the only one prosecuted.

His original sentence has since been reduced twice – in March and in December 2019 – and he is currently in prison serving a six-year sentence. Emil was a high school student at the time of his arrest but was not allowed to take his final high school exams in detention, crushing his plans to go to university.

Since his arrest, during his imprisonment and throughout his prosecution, Emil's rights were violated numerous times, including his rights as a child, which he was at the time of his arrest. Due to the zero-tolerance drugs policy in Belarus, many young people have been imprisoned for minor, non-violent, drug-related offences, and they often suffer discrimination and harsher treatment in prison, for instance when they are made to do long hours of hard labour, they often have to do so without the right equipment.

On 21 March 2019 Amnesty issued an Urgent Action on Emil and another young person both facing harsh conditions in the juvenile prison. Emil, who suffers from chronic bronchial asthma, was prevented from carrying his asthma medication and was not receiving adequate medical treatment. He also received multiple penalties for so called "offences", such as not being shaven, not wearing a coat with the discriminatory insignia indicating he has been imprisoned for drug-related offences, etc. As a result, two meetings with his mother were cancelled and he was not allowed to receive a food parcel. Emil's mother believes the punishments were a reprisal for her official complaints about the unfair trial and Emil's conditions in prison. Fortunately, conditions improved notably when Emil was moved to an adult prison in June 2019. He was no longer obliged to do long hours of hard labour and could read books instead, and his request to work in the prison garden was quickly granted. In late 2019 and beginning of 2020 Emil was given several rewards for good work and these cancelled out some of his penalties from the previous colony. We believe that the Urgent Action and Write for Rights have been instrumental in ensuring improvement of his prison conditions and the reduction of his prison term.

Emil's case was brought to Amnesty International's attention by human rights defender Olga Karatch, the founder and director of Belarussian human rights NGO, Nash Dom. In early 2019, Olga informed AI about the numerous cases of children and young people who were sentenced for minor, non-violent, drug-related offences under the Article 328 and suggested working on this issue jointly.

In March 2019 Amnesty International representatives met with Emil's mother, Yulia Ostrovko, and other mothers of children and young people serving sentences under Article 328. During this and subsequent meetings Amnesty International collected updated information about Emil and other children's criminal cases and prison conditions. The decision was made to nominate Emil's case for Write for Rights as emblematic of the human rights violations suffered by so many other young people in Belarus.

Throughout the campaign the team has been in constant contact with Yulia Ostrovko and other key stakeholders from Belarus and have included them in all the decision-making around Emil's case. Yulia has been tirelessly campaigning for Emil and writing complaints to various Belarusian authorities since long before the global community joined. She has been instrumental during Write for Rights.

She recently told us: '***My son Emil and I are very grateful for all your letters. This campaign has made a huge difference in Emil's life and in the lives of many other children-328 who are imprisoned together with Emil.***

***They all excitedly waited for your letters and read them all together. I don't have enough words to express my gratitude to Amnesty International and its supporters – just tears of joy. I didn't expect that so many people in the world would support us in this terrible situation and I remain strong because of all of you and your solidarity*'.**

Above, Yulia Ostrovko, Emil's mother. Taken at his family home in Minsk, Belarus, 13 November 2019. © Amnesty International

During Write for Rights 2019 more than 30 Amnesty Entities campaigned in support of Emil, leading to more than 260,000 actions being taken worldwide. From March 2019, partners from Belarus have organized a range of advocacy and campaigning activities on the issue of imprisoned children under Article 328, such as high-level meetings with UN bodies and Belarusian authorities. One of the most active participants in such meetings was Yulia. Furthermore, Amnesty International delegates met with Belarusian diplomats and raised Emil's case during their meetings.

One of the most remarkable effects of Write for Rights in relation to Emil's situation has been the incredible impact of all the international solidarity. Activists from around the world have been sending Emil books and all kinds of expressions of solidarity. As Emil explained in his own words, this has also had a positive effect on other young prisoners:

"*Over the last few months I have been receiving messages of solidarity from all over the world and they have given me enormous strength and inspiration. This campaign made me believe in the importance of fighting for my rights. It showed me that my life mattered and that I was not forgotten. Many of my fellow prisoners are young people like me and their circumstances are like mine. They ask me to share solidarity cards with them and they keep them as symbols of hope and encouragement. Thank you so much!*"

All of the visibility provided by Write for Rights combined with international and local campaigning led to a number of positive developments on the case, including the notable improvement in the prison conditions explained above, the possibility to read books again and access to timely medical treatment when needed. Since the beginning of 2020, there have been conflicting messages from Belarus as to whether Emil could be included in the Presidential Amnesty in 2020. Unfortunately, in March we learned he was not going to be released during this year's amnesty, but we remain hopeful and will continue campaigning for his release.

In September 2019 Amnesty International representatives took part in, and spoke at, an expert meeting on drug policy in Minsk which was organized by the UN office in Minsk in cooperation with the Belarusian authorities. Our presence was an indication that the Belarusian authorities have agreed to engage in a constructive dialogue with Amnesty International and recognized its important role, including in terms of shaping the ongoing international debate on drug policies.

We believe that our international campaigning on Emil's case comes at an important time for Belarus, a moment well suited to contribute to positive change in the country. Amnesty International's global campaigning on Emil's case as a part of Write for Rights has been incredibly important for his individual case and for the future of many others like him, considering the recent policy change in Belarus and the government's plans to reform juvenile justice.

Amnesty International's Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office is currently preparing a briefing on the topic of minors imprisoned under Article 328 which will be accompanied by a campaign. The overall aim of this project is to put pressure on Belarus to adopt more compassionate policies on drug control that put people's health and human rights at the centre and decriminalize all drugs for personal use in line with Amnesty International's new policy on drugs. This project has opened an unprecedented dialogue with the Minsk authorities and achieved some unexpected positive results. The global campaigning on Emil's case has been a huge factor in it. Amnesty International will continue campaigning on the imprisoned minors under Article 328, including Emil Ostrovko, until they are all released.

Emil Ostrovko © Private

SARAH MARDINI AND SEÁN BINDER – GREECE

Sarah Mardini, a young professional swimmer from Syria, arrived on Lesvos in August 2015, after she and her sister had towed the dinghy they were travelling on. After arriving in Europe, she continued her journey towards Germany, where she obtained refugee status. Throughout 2016 and 2017 Sarah returned to Lesvos to volunteer with Emergency Response Centre International (ERCI) NGO as a trained rescuer. There, she met Séan Binder, a young deep-sea diver, and a German national living in Ireland, who also started volunteering as a rescuer for ERCI in October 2017. ERCI provided search and rescue services and assisted refugees in Lesvos between 2015-2018, regularly passing information on arrivals to the Greek Coast Guard. Sarah Mardini and Seán Binder patrolled the Greek coasts spotting rubber boats in distress and assisted people at landing locations.

On 17 February 2018, on one such mission, they were stopped and identity-checked by the Greek police. They were found in possession of two unlicensed radios and the car they were using, a vehicle leased by ERCI, was found to have fake military plates concealed beneath its regular number plates. Police held Sarah Mardini and Séan Binder for interrogation for 48 hours and searched their flats. Following their first arrest and questioning, police investigations continued, leading to both being arrested again on 21 August 2018.

The Prosecution has built a complex accusation which ties the core charge of the case: facilitation of irregular entry of third country nationals, aggravated by allegedly being committed as part of a criminal organization, to other allegations of money laundering, espionage, disclosure of state secrets, unlawful use of radio frequencies, forgery and fraud. If convicted they face up to twenty-five years in prison. Sarah and Seán were released on bail on 4 December 2018, upon payment of €5,000 each. By then, they had spent more than 100 days in pre-trial detention. To date, their case remains pending as a final indictment with the charges Sarah and Seán will face in trial still to be brought.

Amnesty International's involvement in the case of Seán and Sarah started when they were in pre-trial detention. The organization started collecting information from their lawyers, friends and family members to raise awareness about the case and call for the charges to be dropped. The prosecution of Seán and Sarah was another shocking example of the trend – that Amnesty International was already documenting – across many European countries of prosecution and harassment of human rights defenders for their acts of solidarity towards refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants.

Write for Rights 2019, with its focus of youth and children, became an excellent opportunity to step up the campaign in support of Seán and Sarah, as well as to raise awareness about the broader issue that was affecting so many human rights defenders in Europe.

The fact that Seán and Sarah are themselves vocal activists for the rights of refugees and migrants and that they were available and eager to be active participants in Write for Rights, opened several excellent opportunities. They were involved in the development of the strategy form the outset, Seán in particular, as he has a personal interest in campaigning and advocacy. The two were consulted in the production of the main outputs. Both Seán and Sarah became exceptional ambassadors of the campaign by bringing it up at every opportunity, when speaking in public events organized by Amnesty but also by others – like a TEDx event in December – and on social media. They also made themselves available to join campaigning activities, student conferences, and events organised by many Amnesty International Entities, including in Belgium, France, Norway, UK, Ireland and the US. These visits to Amnesty Entities created opportunities to enlarge their networks, meet with other activists, students, and participate in advocacy meetings with EU officials and members of the US congress.

They also participated in shows like the Guilty Feminist Secret Policeman's Tour, and recorded podcasts. Talking about his collaboration with Amnesty, Seán told us: **"*Having Amnesty's support during my time in prison, not only catalysed my early release, but also helped me emotionally – if anything, I am almost happy about all this litigation, it meant I got to meet and work with wonderful people*."**

During Write for Rights 2019, at least 52 Amnesty International Entities campaigned on behalf of Seán and Sarah, and an amazing 729,072 actions were reported.

In terms of the impact on the case, it is indisputable that the campaign has increased awareness about the situation of Seán and Sarah but also the broader issues they represent. From the number of actions taken it has surely become clear to the Greek authorities that continuing with this absurd prosecution will have a political cost. The campaign occurred at a time when the new Greek Government, in power since July 2019, had started implementing more hostile policies towards NGOs and humanitarian workers across Greece, placing their activity under increased scrutiny. This made the campaign even more meaningful on a symbolic level.

At the time of writing, Seán and Sarah are still awaiting trial. Sarah is continuing her studies in Art and Humanities at Bard's College in Berlin and Seán continues with his activism and developing his personal projects, as the pending trial makes it difficult to find a stable long-term job.

Amnesty International continues campaigning and advocating against the criminalization of solidarity in Europe and on behalf of the many human rights defenders facing criminal investigations and prosecutions. The launch of the report 'Punishing compassion: solidarity on trial in Fortress Europe' in March 2020, which features Seán and Sarah alongside many other cases, was a key moment in this campaign. Amnesty International continues to monitor the case of Seán and Sarah closely and are in contact with them and their lawyers. The Prosecution's investigation on their case has yet to be completed, before judicial authorities issue the indictment with the final charges they will face in the trial. Due to COVID-19 and other delays, lawyers deem it is unlikely the trial will take place in 2020. Amnesty International has committed to monitoring the trial.

Left, great friends Sarah Mardini and Seán Binder, August 2019 © Amnesty International

Pending the indictment and trial, AI will continue its awareness-raising activities, using media, advocacy, and facilitating visits to countries or advocacy and speaker tours, where and when appropriate. We will also support the lawyers to challenge the entry ban into Greece imposed on Sarah by Greek authorities.

We are confident that whatever the challenges this absurd prosecution might bring, Amnesty International and thousands of activists around the world will remain behind Seán and Sarah and remind the Greek authorities that human rights defenders should not be punished for helping refugees.

IBRAHIM EZZ EL-DIN – EGYPT

26-year-old researcher Ibrahim had been documenting forced evictions and calling for safe and affordable housing for all Egyptians. On the night of 11 June 2019, plain clothed police took Ibrahim from the street near his home in Cairo. His family and lawyers enquired about him at the police station, but the authorities denied that he was in their custody and denied that he was detained at all. When campaigning began on Ibrahim's case his whereabouts were still unknow, his family did not know if he was even alive.

167 days later, on 26 November 2019, Ibrahim was brought before the Supreme State Security Prosecution, where he said he was tortured during his degrading time in detention.

The Write for Right Campaign publicised Ibrahim Ezz-El Din's case internationally and contributed to the global efforts to pressure the Egyptian authorities to reveal his whereabouts.

Almost 400,000 actions were taken, urging the Egyptian authorities to reveal Ibrahim's detention location and protect him from torture pending his release.

During his appearance at the Supreme State Security Prosecution in Cairo in November 2019, he was questioned regarding the false accusations of "contributing to the achievement of the objectives of a terrorist group" and "publication of false information undermining national security". Ibrahim who appeared to have lost weight and looked frail, complained to the prosecutor about the ill-treatment he was subject to in prison, but no action was taken by the judge.

Amnesty began working on Ibrahim's case almost immediately following his arrest, publishing two urgent actions that mobilized our global network of activists, asking the Egyptian authorities for his liberation. We also issued a joint statement with other partner organization denouncing Ibrahim's arrest and enforced disappearance. Additionally, the Egypt team conducted advocacy work through meetings with Americans, French, Spanish, English authorities, asking them to pressure the Egyptian authorities to release Ibrahim.

As part of the Write for Rights campaign, the global engagement on Ibrahim's case increased considerably. This included stunts, solidarity letters, appeal letters to the Egyptian authorities, petitions and much more. A lot of Amnesty International Entities have been prioritizing work on Egypt, due to the deterioration of the human rights situation there. This translated into thousands of solidarity messages sent from all over the world to Ibrahim, via the Egyptian Commission for Rights and freedoms.

Amnesty International sections in the UK, France, Spain and the USA were particularly active on Ibrahim's case. AI Entities also deployed efforts in advocacy work, such as AI UK members who reached out to their embassy in Egypt who reached out to the Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs. AI Spain activists also sent appeal letters to the Egyptian authorities, in addition to letters sent to the Egyptian Embassy in Madrid and the Spanish ministry of foreign affairs, asking for the liberation of Ibrahim. The Egyptian diaspora was also quite active on Ibrahim's case, as they constitute a big chunk of the followers on amnesty's Arabic speaking social media channels.

While we know that achieving impact in Egypt is particularly difficult, the Write for Rights campaign succeeded in providing solidarity and support to Ibrahim's family, the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms and the Egyptian human rights community at large.

In a message addressed to Ibrahim's supporters via Amnesty's team, Ibrahim's mother said:

"I would like to thank everyone who stood for Ibrahim until he reappeared, after his disappearance for [almost] 6 months. And I call on you to continue supporting him until his release… Ibrahim remains in detention for no reason. Ibrahim currently suffers from depression and used to be my sole provider, specially that I am 60 years old and I suffer from several illnesses".

The increased global visibility on Ibrahim's case also contributed to the global efforts of the human rights community asking the Egyptian authorities to reveal his whereabouts.

In addition, as expected, the Write for Rights campaign as part Amnesty International's work in Egypt at large was subject to attacks by the Egyptian regime supporters. Egyptian regime's supporters attacked and criticized Amnesty on social media, and even on TV shows.

It is worth noting that Ibrahim's detention is part of a wave of crackdown on Egypt's civil society that has led to the arrest of hundreds over their legitimate work or peaceful expression or assembly. The crackdown has affected journalists, football fans, critics, politicians and staff of civil society organizations.

Many of those arrested have been apprehended and subjected to enforced disappearances, before being charged with unfounded "terrorism" charges relating to their legitimate work, and then being held in pre-trial detention for months or years, without ever being referred to trial. Moreover, Ibrahim is the fifth person affiliated with ECRF to have been arrested since 2016. His arrest followed the detention of labour rights lawyer Haytham Mohamdeen, who also worked at ECRF and who has been in pre-trial detention since 13 May 2019 in an unfounded case on charges of "aiding a terrorist group".

In May 2018, Egyptian security forces arrested Amal Fathy, a human rights defender and wife of the Executive director of ECRF and former Amnesty International Researcher Mohamed Lotfy, over a video where she criticized the authorities' failure to address rampant sexual harassment, before releasing her in December 2018. They had also previously arrested Minorities Programme Director Mina Thabet and board head Ahmed Abdallah back in 2016, before releasing them both without charges.

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din. © Private

As Ibrahim's psychological and physical health is deteriorating in detention, Amnesty International is committed to deploy all efforts to obtain his immediate and unconditional liberation. Our movement will continue to work on Ibrahim's case until he is released.

YASAMAN ARYANI - IRAN

Iranian authorities arrested Yasaman Aryani in April 2019 alongside Monireh Arabshahi and Mojgan Keshavarz. The three women's rights defenders were detained in relation to a video that went viral on social media on International Women's Day, 8 March 2019. The women were seen peacefully campaigning against Iran's forced veiling laws by handing out flowers to other women on a train in Tehran, while unveiled.

Yasaman Aryani spoke of her hopes for a future when all women would have the freedom to choose what to wear, **"...me without the hijab and you with the hijab"**. Following their arrests, they were held in prolonged solitary confinement and pressured to appear before a camera "confessing" that foreign elements were behind their activism against forced veiling, and "repenting" their actions.

The Write for Rights Campaign on the case of Yasaman Aryani contributed to increased global visibility for her case, as well as the movement in Iran of women's rights defenders campaigning against discriminatory, degrading and abusive forced veiling laws in the country.

Since November 2019, over a million actions have been taken calling on the Iranian authorities to free Yasaman Aryani. An appeal decision in February 2020, which substantially reduced the prison sentences of both Yasaman Aryani and her mother, Monireh Arabshahi, followed the campaign.

The case of Yasaman Aryani is part of a wider crackdown on women's rights defenders campaigning against forced veiling in Iran. This movement has included women and girls performing courageous acts of defiance such as standing in public places, silently waving their headscarves on the ends of sticks or sharing videos of themselves walking down the street with their hair showing. The strength and force of this movement has terrified the Iranian authorities, who have waged a crackdown in response. The case of Yasaman Aryani, along with other women's rights defenders imprisoned for campaigning against forced veiling laws, triggered an international outcry among the human rights defenders' community as well as the broader public.

Amnesty International's engagement on Yasaman Aryani's case started shortly after her arrest with a press release and was followed up with three urgent actions that mobilized Amnesty International's global network of activists to target the Iranian authorities calling for her immediate and unconditional release. Amnesty International also issued a blog and subsequently another press release that covered the cases of women's rights defenders targeted for campaigning against Iran's forced veiling laws, including that of Yasaman Aryani. Finally, the work of Amnesty Entities around the world on Yasaman Aryani's case, including activism, solidarity actions and raising concerns about her case with their own governments, have all contributed to the impact we have seen on her case.

The Write for Rights campaign elevated the profile of Yasaman Aryani's case tremendously around the world. Amnesty International registered an historic 1,229,634 actions taken on her case, which included stunts, solidarity actions, appeal letters to Iranian authorities, petition signatures and much more. Amnesty International Entities were highly innovative in the way they paid tribute to and showed solidarity with Yasaman Aryani.

Amnesty International Switzerland activists re-enacted her gesture on a train in Tehran by handing out flowers in a metro before delivering petitions to the Iranian embassy. A similar initiative was launched by Amnesty International Netherland activists who took photos with flowers and produced a video collage. In Belgium, Amnesty International activists produced and draped a giant Write for Rights image of Yasaman Aryani over a multistorey building in Brussels, while Amnesty International Greece mobilized schoolchildren to take action and write letters to the Iranian authorities calling on them to free Yasaman Aryani, and Amnesty International Turkey filmed activists delivering over 18,000 signatures gathered as part of the campaign to Iran's embassy in the country.

While on their way to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iran to the United Nations to demand the liberation of Yasaman Aryani, AI Switzerland staff members (right, Isabel Vidal Pons) distributed flowers to passers-by. Geneva, 10 December 2019. © AI Switzerland

The campaign was welcomed by Iranian human rights activists around the world and achieved extensive reach inside Iran via Amnesty International's Persian-language social media channels. The Iranian diaspora mobilized globally and engaged with campaigning on Yasaman Aryani's case.

International mobilization on Yasaman Aryani's case had impact. One of the campaign objectives was achieved – for Yasaman Aryani and Monireh Arabshahi to be transferred to Evin prison. With respect to the primary objective, Yasaman Aryani and Monireh Arabshahi have not been achieved, but their prison sentences were reduced on appeal. On 5 February 2020, we learned that Branch 54 of the Tehran Appeals Court had reduced their prison sentences to nine years and seven months, composed of five years and six months for "inciting and facilitating corruption and prostitution" through promoting "unveiling", three years and six months for "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security" and seven months for "spreading propaganda against the system". Under Iran's sentencing guidelines, they will serve five years and six months.

During the campaign, the human rights situation in Iran further deteriorated. The Iranian authorities violently repressed nationwide popular protests that erupted in November 2019. The intentional use of lethal force by Iran's security forces resulted in the unlawful killing of hundreds of unarmed protesters and bystanders. According to credible reports compiled by Amnesty International, at least 304 people were killed, including at least 23 children, and thousands injured between 15 and 18 November as authorities crushed the protests using lethal force.

The repression also included the arrest of 7,000 people, as well as enforced disappearances, incommunicado detention and torture and other ill-treatment of detainees.

Amnesty International continues to campaign for the immediate and unconditional release of Yasaman Aryani, Monireh Arabshahi and other women's rights defenders imprisoned for campaigning against Iran's discriminatory and abusive forced veiling laws.

Illustration created for International Women's Day 2020 by German Artist Eva Maria Hamacher.
© Eva Maria Hamacher / Amnesty International

ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

ALGERIA ACTIONS 2,025

The Algerian section has always considered Write for Rights as a major event of their year and has always worked to get as many signatures and actions as possible. Unfortunately, this year because of the Hirak (the Algerian revolution), AI Algeria took the decision not to work on the campaign for fear of endangering the members of the section. Despite this they launched the petitions online and still managed to get over 2,000 actions.

AMERICAS REGIONAL OFFICES

During W4R the Americas ROs were able to support young activists in the design and implementation of creative activities using a youth seed fund. Activities were implemented in Brazil, Peru and Paraguay. In Paraguay, over 30 people participated in a three module Illustration and Human Rights course. Participants created a character, "Empi" (coming from the word Empathy), that is going to be used in AI Paraguay´s next flagship campaign. In Peru, thanks to RO support, 882 young people participated in W4Rs "microcines" in different locations of Peru: Cusco, Piura and Lima. In Brazil, young activists supported by the IS Americas implemented W4Rs activities within a school located in a peripheral neighbourhood of Belém. The methodology was based on Freire´s popular education, with the objective of a greater involvement of the participants. The initiative also fostered the partnership of local amnesty activists and the Amazon Institute of Communication and Popular Education-IACEP.

For the first time ever, the RO launched an ARTivism contest open to young artist all over the Americas. There were over 100 entries, with three art exhibits in Brazil, Paraguay, and Venezuela, with 10 winners selected. This allowed all the W4Rs cases to be promoted in creative and innovative ways. As a result, the Global Youth Team will launch an annual Global ARTivism contest.

Above, artwork entered into the ARTivism contest. © Amnesty International

ARGENTINA ACTIONS 24,310

In 2019 Argentina focused on specific cases related to the section's current work. Through Human Rights Education AI Argentina held workshops in schools with the material produced by the IS. This helped facilitate the work with young people and teachers with their letter actions. During November schools all over the country were invited to participate in a letter-writing marathon. Schools worked on human rights in the classroom using the stories of the young people featured in the campaign. About 40 schools too part. An explanatory webinar held with all the details, and a toolkit was created with all the available material. This was the first experience the section had in decentralising the campaign and reach different parts of the country through teachers. AI Argentina also focused on carrying out campaigns for the acquisition of leads via Facebook and Google. More than 18,000 leads were generated and 12% became partners via telemarketing. The section designed a website with information on each case and template letters for people to sign. AI Argentina also organised a festival “Los temas que importan”. This was a great opportunity to make the campaign visible to people who did not know it before. At the festival they created a stand with a giant mailbox so that people could leave their letters. They also created ‘plantable’ postcards (imbedded with seeds), which caught the public's attention.

AUSTRALIA ACTIONS 219,960

Left, AI Australia activist at an event in Melbourne. © Amnesty International Australia

Over 220,000 actions were taken by almost 149,000 supporters (95,000 new to Amnesty) in the Australian section for Write for Rights 2019. That is 50,000 more actions than last year. Yassaman's case was by far the most popular, followed by Sarah and Sean, Magai, and the Grassy Narrows. The themes in these cases are areas that the section consistently work on, meaning that their supporters were primed to act.

The integration of fundraising and campaigning activities enabled AI Australia to reach new people and bring in higher action numbers. Online actions were promoted via extensive Facebook and Instagram advertising. After taking action, the thank you/step up action was a donation ask - we found people are more motivated to donate after taking action. Local groups and networks look forward to the annual event - almost 13,000 actions were taken at 63 offline events such as U2 concerts, letter writing events, and petition blitzing on the streets. These events resulted in 12 media articles (print, radio, television) reaching an audience of around 270,000 Australians. AI Australia used W4R in 2019 to strengthen brand awareness and plan to continue in 2020.

AUSTRIA ACTIONS 115,938

This year AI Austria organised a total of 38 events all over the country. One of them was their first Human Rights Challenge, where more than 80 participants took part. The mission: To write more than 1,000 letters in less than 2 hours (together they managed to write 1,215 letters). They also organised a reading on #GivingTuesday, focusing on working closely together with activists and teachers. One third of all participants in W4R 2019 were school pupils. They also worked on increasing their online participation, with a third of all actions taken online.

Amnesty activists at an event held by Amnesty Austria. © Chistoph Liebentritt

BELGIUM (FR) ACTIONS 173,801

This is the section's third year taking part in W4R. The campaign asked the public to take part in three different ways, digitally, offline events and individual mobilisation. Digitally the section engaged users via websites and social networks and the general public were invited to sign petitions online. Offline the general public were invited to participate in friendly events organized by local groups. This was an opportunity to strengthen Amnesty International's roots and image at the local level, by using partnerships with other associations to reach out to new audiences. There has been a significant increase in such events this year. Individual mobilisation occurred by inviting members via the website and the quarterly magazine to organise writing sessions with their families, at their work and with their friends. This was the first year they used this approach and they plan to roll it out further in 2020. In collaboration with the Belgium Flemish speaking section, they organized a tour of relevant embassies to hand over the letters and numbers of digital signatures that had been centralized, sorted and counted beforehand.

BELGIUM (FL) ACTIONS 156,416

To kick off the campaign the section organised a twelve-hour event, filled with live music, hand massages, drinks and food. Former W4R case, Moses Akatugba, and current case Sean and Sarah joined the event as guests. They reminded everyone that letters really do change lives. The section also did media and advocacy work with Moses, Sarah and Sean and organized two 'meet and greets' with local activists. AI Belgium created action booklets which people could order for free to organise a letter-writing marathon at their home, with almost 800 people ordering a booklet.

On December 9th, the section organized a big visual event in the heart of Brussels. They projected the faces of the 10 cases on a big wall with a lot of traffic around and asking people to sign the petitions. AI Belgium also ran again an amazing prison project in which letter writing sessions were held in more than 10 prisons in the Flanders. They run an outreach project in with cultural organisations were asked to help spread the message of the W4R campaign. The section invested in research to see whether their W4R participants are new or existing activists in order to reframe/rethink (if necessary) their strategy for growth and sustainability in the years to come. The campaign was covered on local and national TV and newspapers, including interviews with Moses, Sean and Sarah.

BENIN ACTIONS 156,836

The W4R 2019 campaign in Benin began with a two-month regional training for all campaign participants about the progress and process of the campaign and the four cases AI Benin worked on (Iran, South Sudan, Greece and Nigeria). The national launch of the campaign took place on 23 November 2019 in the city of Dangbo. With materials and financial support, the participants proceeded to replicate the launch on the same day in their local areas. Online users were invited to sign petitions on AI Benin's website, with videos explaining the cases and a tutorial on how to sign the petitions. Schools, communities, villages, churches, public squares and other places of gathering were visited by our activists to explain the cases to the public and collect signatures. Pictures from the events were posted live onto social networks. A team of interns and volunteers, as well as the Youth Committee, participated in the campaign by organizing activities for the general public at sports fields, beaches and by visiting schools.

Above, activists in Benin take part in W4R 2019 © Amnesty International Benin

BRAZIL ACTIONS 106,113

In 2019 AI Brazil recorded more actions than ever in the history of the W4R campaign, beating even the record-breaking previous year, with over 106,000 actions. AI Brazil focussed on HRE, which helped attract new supporters through a strategy of offering free downloads of HRE notebooks and guidance, by registering on the website. This generated great interest and each year the Entity gain new supporters by using this strategy.

Round table with young people making a difference in Brazil, Paraguay and Canada. Representing Canada was Hazel Sneaky, from Grassy narrows. They shared activism experiences in their countries. © Amnesty International Brazil

BURKINA FASO ACTIONS 18,444

Amnesty International Burkina Faso collected 18,444 signatures and registered 5,961 new supporters and 60 new members via Write for Rights 2019. The campaign in Burkina Faso was led by Diakhoumba Gassama, Regional Youth and Activism Coordinator for Africa. With her, AI Burkina Faso organised public conferences mobilising more than 700 students at 5 Universities in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso; and 2 radio broadcasts to talk about the campaign and the role of human rights defenders. In addition, and with the support of members, the section organized human rights competitions with students in 3 other locations. These competitions mobilized 22 schools and universities in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso. Several other small human rights education and signature gathering activities were organized by the groups. To mark Human Rights Day on 10 December, the section organized a big human rights evening in Bobo Dioulasso where music artists supported the campaign. During this evening, the 300 participants lit lanterns to show their solidarity with the people featured in the campaign.

Above, Amnesty Burkina Faso celebrates the Human Rights Day in Bobo. The event featured musicians, and schools and Universities performed many activities like sketches and slam. © Amnesty Burkina

CANADA (EN) ACTIONS 78,027

Write for Rights 2019 was the most successful year of the campaign for Amnesty International Canada. The section held more than 350 events across the country, including many in schools who were interacting with Amnesty for the first time, and more than 8,500 participants. AI Canada particularly focused on promoting solidarity with Grassy Narrows, which is a well-known case in Canada. They created solidarity walleye cut-outs (the walleye is a kind of fish that lives in the rivers of Grassy Narrows) on which people could send solidarity messages and received more than 700 from across the country. These messages were also shared on social media to create awareness across the country and to ensure that the support was visible to the young people in Grassy Narrows. Inuk artist Sabrina Taqtu Montague created a solidarity walleye to demonstrate solidarity across Indigenous groups. Amnesty Canada also used 2019 as a year to set-up their systems for future success. They further developed their Write for Rights platform, *ControlShift*, and established systems to ensure a smoother supporter journey. They also experimented with and evaluated new modes of promotion and outreach, now that they have participated in the campaign for more than 15 years. AI Canada shifted to mainly digital ads rather than print ads and began exploring targeted digital promotion.

CANADA (FR) ACTIONS 97,557

In French-speaking Canada, 85,000 messages of solidarity were written, and more than 200 writing marathons were organized by individuals, organizations and the section's 10 institutional partners (unions, NGOs, groups, etc.). Three spokespersons, young artists from various backgrounds, helped raise awareness of the campaign among the general public. During the writing marathon organized by the section, more than 3,000 messages were written in a single day. A pro bono advertising campaign was organized by a marketing agency.

CHILE ACTIONS 788

As Chile was the original host of COP25 the section decided to work on the cases of environmental and climate change defenders, including Marinel (Philippines) and Grassy Narrows (Canada), and three national cases of defenders who have publicly denounced human rights violations in the so-called "zonas de sacrificio" of Chile, which are areas with concentrated large number of polluting industries that seriously affect the health and life of the communities around them, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, including children and the elderly. However, on October 18, 2019, civil unrest broke out in the country, with the people demanding social justice, an end to inequality, decent pensions and salaries, and access to free and universal education and health care, among other demands. This unrest continues. The government responded with repression and trying to silence the protests, enacting a State of Emergency and curfew. They deployed the Army and Carabineros, causing a serious human rights crisis which AI Chile had to concentrate on, leaving other issues and campaigns in the background, including Write for Rights. After COP25 was cancelled and moved to Madrid, and climate change and environmental pollution were no longer issues of public debate in Chile, meaning the campaign as designed became inappropriate.

Below, Amnesty stand at the 'Festival por el Futuro' © Amnesty International Chile

CZECH REPUBLIC ACTIONS 24,641

Write for Rights 2019 in Czech Republic was very successful. A total of 17,357 letters were written in 1,018 registered 'offline' letter writing events in 197 towns and municipalities. Another 7,314 letters were signed online. More than a quarter of the events were open to the public, others were held for closed circles of people. Most events were organized by elementary and secondary schools and individuals with their families and friends at home or in the cafes, restaurants, etc. Write for Rights was also organized by MPs in the Parliament of Czech Republic. The section gave speeches about W4R at several human rights events and festivals and were on several TV shows and radio stations where they talked about W4R. Several articles about the campaign were published in prestigious Czech media. The section established cooperation with various non-profit organizations and with university associations which motivated its members and activists to organise letter writing events. On December 7, 2019 AI Czech Republic launched the campaign at the Scout Institute in the city centre of Prague. The program of the event included interesting speakers like young HRDs who shared their stories and a Czech music band who performed an amazing charity gig.

Above, Write for Rights event in Prague © Amnesty Czech Republic

DENMARK ACTIONS 193,892

Write for Rights 2019 went well overall in Denmark. The section focused on both activism and HRE dimension. AI Denmark have traditionally focused on W4R in schools and in order to secure learning and reflection, they developed educational material for all the cases they worked on. AI Denmark adapted their HRE materials to a Danish context, including the curriculum. They selected cases based on what they believe will work in a Danish school setting, which are not always the same case as those selected for the international HRE materials. In general, the teachers are very positive about the W4R campaign and many teachers join every year.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS OFFICE

ACTIONS 340

The European Institutions Office of Amnesty International in Brussels held an event at the European Parliament on 3 December 2019. Amnesty members and supporters were joined by Moses Akatugba and Elias Kimaiyo from previous years campaigns. 340 letters were signed and 23 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and their staff were engaged with during the event.

Below, Amnesty EIO staff at an event at the European Parliament in Brussels © Amnesty International

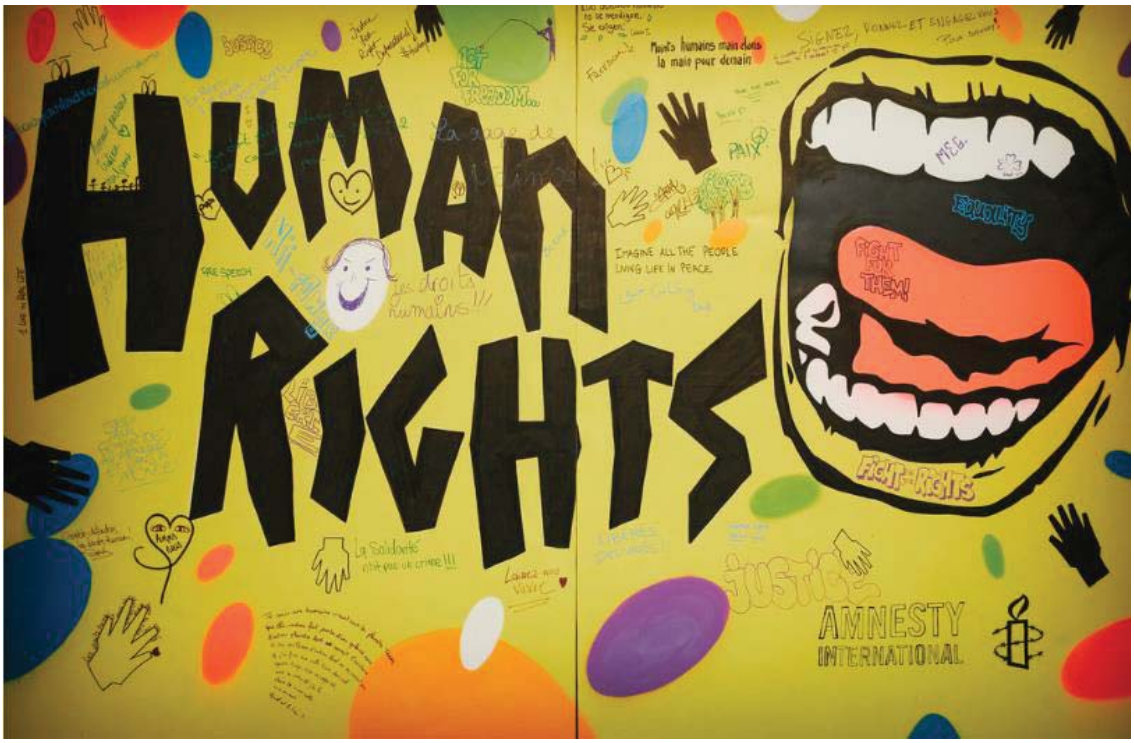
FINLAND

ACTIONS 50,137

In 2019, Amnesty Finland focused on the cases of Marinel Sumook Ubaldo, Yasaman Aryani, Youth of Grassy Narrows, Sarah Mardini & Seán Binder and Yiliyasijiang Reheman. Yet again the section was able to double its actions compared to the previous year. The section's goal - compared to previous years - was to emphasize offline activities over the online. AI Finland managed to increase such activity by quite a margin; on online activities the section followed its urgent action procedure and targeted new audiences. Amnesty Finland produced human rights education materials for schools. Action tool kits were prepared for active members and supporters, individual activists and local groups who campaigned in their own communities and organised small events and actions. Around 70 schools registered for the campaign with over 4,100 students participating. The number of actions in schools was over 1,500 (letters and solidarity cards). The teacher's manual was again produced in Finnish and Swedish. Offline action tool kit was one of the most important ways of activating our members, supporters and activists. Five petitions were published online.

FRANCE **ACTIONS** 721,177

From 6 to 16 December 2019 around 250 local structures and at least 111,000 people mobilized in France as part of the section's version of W4R "10-Days to Sign". In 2019 activists from local groups and structures held hundreds of public events in cafés, public squares, schools and universities, and collected 285,896 signatures for petitions and hundreds of solidarity messages at these offline events. 81,000 people took action online, resulting in 421,612 signatures on AI France's website. The section provided their supporters and activists with solidarity postcards that were very well received, with 3,080 sent. AI France welcomed human rights defender Sean Binder, who took part in conferences and conducted interviews with the media, giving a human face to the campaign and raising awareness among the French population on the issue of the criminalisation of solidarity. The section held a big event on 10 December with a concert, which allowed us to talk about the cases while participants were having fun and enjoying artistic activities with a young audience and Sean gave a speech to the more than 1500 people.



Above, artwork from a Human Rights Day W4R event at the Gaité Lyrique. © christophemeireis.com

GERMANY **ACTIONS** 293,071

In 2019, AI Germany worked on three main goals: 1) to better support their active groups and collect their numbers more reliably; 2) to better address individual members, supporters and external parties and thus gain new groups of participants; 3) further expand the campaign in schools. Having the theme for 2019 be about young people was particularly helpful with implementing the third objective. The campaign in schools grew immensely again in 2019 and contributed the largest share of actions. In addition, more groups returned with their results than in previous years and they were also able to gain external participants for the campaign. AI Germany also went to great lengths to run a social media campaign with an external agency, which brought new leads and increased the number of participants online. The generation of sustainable leads remains a challenge for AI Germany and it is intended to continue working on this in the coming year.

GHANA ACTIONS 30,881

The 2019 Write for Rights campaign was successfully implemented across all 10 (old) regions of Ghana. The Entity recorded the highest action taken in the history of Write for Rights campaign in Ghana. 17,023 Letters were written with 13,858 signatures collected to support AI Ghana death penalty petition submitted to the President of Ghana. The campaign was mainly conducted through our Human Rights Friendly Schools project, university groups, individual and community groups. Cases we selected and worked were on Yasaman Aryani, Nasu Abdulaziz and Magai Matiop Ngong. The cases were selected because they were closely related to issues AI Ghana are working on and this meant that members and supporters could easily identify with the issues. The 2019 Write for Rights Campaign was launched at the Sogakofe Senior High School jointly with a senior high school in Germany, Adolf Weber Gymnasium in Munich (http://www.awg.musin.de/).

GREECE ACTIONS 1,361

2019 was the first year AI Greece implemented their HRE program with secondary schools, with 70 schools all over Greece taking part. The section translated the educational materials for 4 cases (Iran, Nigeria, Mexico and Philippines) into Greek and provided them to the schools participating in the HRE program. All teachers participating taught lessons using the materials and encouraged students to write letters of support, 656 letters were written by students. Awareness was raised for the cases, and school events and activities were held. Feedback from the schools running W4R was extremely positive, with students being familiarized and engaged with the cases. They also made efforts to communicate their activities with their local communities. In order to monitor the change in awareness and behaviour, the section created an evaluation toolkit which was provided to students who had taken part. Results showed that 72% of the participants felt familiarized with W4R, while 78% chose to highlight the Iran case. Further to this, AI Greece ran online actions for 6 cases (Greece, Iran, Nigeria, Mexico, Philippines, and Belarus), and physically collected signatures at events/festivals. The case from Greece obviously gained the most attention, especially as it related to our work on refugees/criminalization of solidarity. Yasaman's case was also very popular.

GUINEA ACTIONS 4,830

In Guinea, the W4R campaign went very well. They carried out activities in 11 cities in Guinea and in the capital, Conakry. AI Guinea collected fewer signatures compared to previous years, however this was because they only recently resumed activities in Guinea (AI Guinea was going through a recognition process). This is the first time that they organized W4R as a new entity of Amnesty. The entity organized many activities and the W4R campaign allowed them to become better known in the country, especially in the school and university environment, and to recruit new members.

Left, Amnesty activists take part in Right for Rights in Guinea

© Amnesty International

HONG KONG **ACTIONS** 170

AI Hong Kong delivered 340 Christmas cards and W4R postcards to the public in the Victoria's Park – one of the largest parks in Hong Kong. Audiences were encouraged to visit the W4R website to learn about the activist's profile or choose to write to other activists. As AI Hong Kong does not offer collections of postcards, they provided information for them to post their own cards to the recipient.

HUNGARY **ACTIONS** 1,648

Amnesty International Hungary approached the 2019 Write for Rights primarily by mobilizing their student activist groups (Freedom Clubs) to organize their own local events and program series. AI Hungary also utilized the HRE pack on cases with the participation of their course holders and teachers, which worked very well. This year's campaign brought in almost three times as many actions as the year before. While they are still in the process of familiarizing people with W4R, the feedback from those who took part in the campaign clearly showed that W4R delivers on multiple levels. When participants learned about the campaign and the cases, they expressed a stronger sense of their role in making a difference or the individuals featured in the campaign. In addition, people both new to the campaign and already familiar, felt more engaged and the campaign created a more palpable sense of connection to the global movement. Therefore, W4R continues to be a force in both creating positive human rights change, and in engaging people by making them see their role in reaching common goals.

ICELAND **ACTIONS** 86,275

AI Iceland collected 86,242 signatures in total, which is a huge success given that the population of Iceland is only 360,000! The section increased the numbers of online signatures by 27% compared to the previous year and reached 98% or their set goals for the website. The section had a survey conducted for them and out of the 800 people questioned, 12.5% said they had signed for the cases which is 7.2% more than last year. 25.7% of those questioned claimed that while they had not signed, they had noticed the campaign, and this was 19.4% more than the year before. The majority of those that both signed the cases and noticed the campaign were young people between the age 18-25.

Above, an interactive light instillation created by AI Iceland, in collaboration with Gagarin, a tech company, and the advertisement agency Kontor. © Amnesty International Iceland

INDIA ACTIONS 214

Students of St. Josephs College of Commerce (SJCC), Bengaluru collaborated with Amnesty India for Write for Rights campaign on 11 December 2019. The event was run by Amnesty club members. Throughout the day, students were introduced to the 10 young people and their stories of struggle. The students wrote letters and signed petitions. Although the college has had frequent programmes and discussions on social issues in the past, the students were inspired by the idea that a small action taken by them could make such a big difference. In a short time, the discussion spread from the basketball court, where the stall was set up, to the cafeteria, classrooms and library.

INDONESIA ACTIONS 2,048

Write for Rights 2019 was held for the third time in Indonesia, with events across Jakarta, Yogyakarta and Ubud (Bali). This year's campaign was particularly exciting as AI Indonesia focused on engagement and collaboration with universities and high school institutions, many of which have an existing human rights education program, or have recently established a human rights club. It was great to see the incredible amount of enthusiasm of high school students as they learned more about each case, especially as this was the first time for many of them to participate in a writing campaign at the global level. AI Indonesia also collaborated with external partners and events, such as the Feminist Festival and Tempo Media Week which attracted thousands of visitors. The success of the participation in these events is due to the dedication and hard work of over 100 volunteers and activists who took time out of their weekends to campaign for Write for Rights. AI Indonesia saw much more active participation of their supporters in 2019 and they are excited to start planning for 2020's campaign with a more robust strategy.

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

International Members (IMs, members from countries with no Amnesty entity) had their best year ever. The team working with IM's created lots of regional and language specific online journeys and made improvements in terms of supporting IMs to host their own events. They also worked to engage new supporters and encourage them to re-engage with more diverse W4R contents (from online actions, to W4R courses). The team created an online W4R events hub in multiple languages, compiling lots of resources, including invitation templates and a "How to" video guide.

Around 100 members organised events in numerous different countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon, Niger, Somalia, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Romania and Colombia. These were held in various locations, from peoples' homes, to universities, schools and parks. Thousands of letters were written and around 300 new members joined off the back of the events.

Left, an activist in the DRC, dressed as a letter, gathers signatures.
© Moses Sawasawa

IRELAND ACTIONS 30,610

Write for Rights 2019 went really well at Amnesty International Ireland, despite the unexpected loss of one of their crucial offline events, a Christmas Flea Market which usually generates a lot of actions. The section used this opportunity to test out new forms of offline activism and they did a strong digital communications push. The section worked in a collaborative cross-team way, with campaigns and activism, fundraising and communications all working together. With this, the section achieved a far greater result than we could have done alone, with over 30,000 actions, a big increase on the previous year.

IS ACTIONS 448,518

The IS website, Amnesty.org, had the best year ever, more than doubling numbers of actions from 2018. Events took place across the regional offices and in London, where over 1000 letters and signatures were collected on Human Rights Day.

ITALY ACTIONS 188,819

AI Italy held their Write for Rights campaign between 27 November and 22 December. The section worked on the cases of Nasu Abdulaziz, Yasaman Aryani, Sarah Mardini and Seán Binder from the global 10 and added Saudi WHRD Loujain al-Hathloul. The section collected over 188,000 actions online and offline, both signatures and solidarity messages. Schools and young activists took more than 2,000 actions for Yasaman. Marinel visited AI Italy from 9-15 December and the section organized a speaking tour for her to meet people and speak about climate change and human rights. She did so in Vicenza, Trento, Rome, Brescia and Cagliari. Azadeh Pourzand, a human rights researcher from Iran and director of the Siamak Foundation, was a guest on another speaker tour from 8 - 13 December. Azadeh spoke at schools and with young activists from Salerno, Rome, Pesaro and Reggio Emilia talking about women's rights in Iran.

IVORY COAST ACTIONS 24,492

AI Ivory Coast began their Write for rights 2019 at the women's commission on 25th of November, a date chosen to coincide with international day for the elimination of violence against women. The public conference was organized by women and was followed by speeches and demonstrations regarding Yasaman Aryani from Iran. Local groups held events at schools, universities and in the streets.

At schools and universities, AI Ivory Coast organized conferences and debates about the death penalty, as related to the case of Magai from South Sudan and forced evictions in Nigeria. On International Human Rights Day, the entity held an event with a huge stand to inform and make the public aware about all the cases in Write for Rights 2019. At this stand the entity collected many signatures and did photo actions. Finally, the youth committee of Amnesty Ivory Coast held many actions in Jacqueville, a beach town about 40km from the capital city of Abidjan. Photo actions, petitions and letter writing for all the cases took place.

Above, an activist for AI Côte d'Ivoire gets excited for Write for Rights! © Amnesty International Côte d'Ivoire

JAPAN ACTIONS 14,537

Write for Rights campaigns at AI Japan gathered over 14,000 actions with approximately 8,600 participants. Nearly 2,700 letters were written by 511 members and supporters at letter writing events organized by 29 groups in their local areas, as well as at the section office. Most of the groups worked on all 10 cases and many solidarity letters were written, as well as letters to target. The participants of the groups are mostly active Amnesty members aged over 50. The section featured four cases (Canada, Philippines, Greece and Iran) for online actions and collected 4,756 digital signatures in total. AI Japan also urged the supporters to join W4R through direct mail using the Grassy Narrows case from Canada. Three cases (Canada, Greece and Iran) were featured in the section's bi-monthly magazine, which was delivered to supporters together with a printed post card.

As the climate change is the popular topic among young people, AI Japan invited Marinel Ubaldo from the Philippines and organized several speaking events, mainly at universities in Tokyo and Osaka, where many signatures were collected. It was a great privilege that the section was able to call on the audience of U2 concerts in Japan to sign the petition for the Marinel's case.

AI Japan street stall for W4R 2019 © AI Japan

LUXEMBOURG ACTIONS 10,361

Write for Rights 2019 was a great success and a record for Luxembourg. Almost 10,000 people signed online/offline petitions and wrote letters to authorities. Almost 500 solidarity post cards were sent. Many students contributed to the section's campaign this year. The section also had the pleasure to work with famous artist Raphael Gindt, who painted a wonderful portrait of Nasu and Yasaman on the side of a school building in the centre of Luxembourg City. An action was also organized in January 2020 in front of the Chinese Embassy to put pressure on the Chinese government and to support Yiliyasijiang. In addition, the section organized three offline events, such as a film screening, a march on December 10th and a conference about journalism. All these strategies helped AI Luxemburg to reach new audiences outside of their traditional public. The section's paid and organic publications on social media reached more than 100,000 people, about a sixth of the population of Luxembourg.

MALAYSIA ACTIONS 5,454

No details provided.

MALI ACTIONS 21,455

No details provided.

MEXICO ACTIONS 19,109

Write for Rights 2019 was one of the most special for AI Mexico. Having a national case in the global campaign has been a great motivation for the section as a whole and led to innovation in all aspects of the campaign. The topicalization of the campaign at the national level was done in a participatory way with the section's activists and civil society allies; this meant a greater sense of belonging and creation among the activists and therefore, a much greater participation than in previous years. In addition to the strategy, the section innovated the actions, using strong narratives and new kinds of spaces to hold events for the campaign. They developed a strong narrative of "supporting young people to fulfil their dreams" as a way of communicating and bringing the campaign to new audiences. In addition to the traditional actions for W4R, AI Mexico staged theatrical performances telling the story of the five cases they worked on; AI Mexico expanded their audience via HRE, with workshops and fairs at universities and public schools; they held a letter marathon with other organizations and allied themselves with audiences that were new to the section, including chefs and people from the Mexican gastronomic world. The section's fundraising strategy was a central part of the campaign actions and they managed to increase their donor and membership base, as well as the amounts raised.

MOLDOVA ACTIONS 35,058

Every year during W4R young people are increasingly active in the campaign. AI Moldova first took part in Write for Rights in 2011, where they collected 1,000 letters. Over the last years the entity has seen significant growth – in 2015 the entity secured 20,656 signatures and in 2019 they garnered over 35,000. For 14 days youth activists organized over 80 events in Moldova for Write for Right 2019.

MONGOLIA ACTIONS 24,642

In 2019, Amnesty International Mongolia organized the Write for rights events in the seven local areas as Arkhangai, Bayan-Ulgii, Darkhan, Erdenet, Khentii, Zavkhan and Khubsgul aimag and in the 17 places including universities, secondary schools, at the Mongolian Art galleria and at the Opera house of Mongolia in the capital Ulaanbaatar city of Mongolia. During the events we have collected totally 24,642 signatures for the cases on women and young HRDs, forced disappearance, activist for housing rights, human rights researcher, climate change, torture and death row issue of the countries of Iran, Belarus, China, Canada, Greece, Egypt, Nigeria South Sudan, Mexico and Philippines. Before to start the events in order to encouraging the young HRDs, we have conducted the HRE training to the young activists and members of AI Mongolia. It inspired our young activists to mobilize more for human rights.

MOROCCO **ACTIONS** 15,872

With the mobilisation and activism of 14 local groups and youth clubs, as well as individual members and partners, and human rights friendly schools AI Morocco held 56 events nation-wide, in 12 cities. The events included raising-awareness workshops in public booths, two theatre plays, debates, photo actions, music events, stunts in schools and universities, sit-ins and marches with other human rights organizations, letters writing evenings and online actions (social media and mass-emailing and SMS actions).

AI Morocco recorded strong youth engagement during all W4R 2019 events, as well as an increase in the level of human rights awareness in general among youth. Section activists took the lead in organising artistic, mass mobilization activities in different cities. AI Morocco youth won "W4R 2019 Best Activity Award" for their "Music for Rights" event in Rabat. They also organized a theatre show, attracting over 300 people during which they collected signatures and solidarity cards for Magai from South Soudan.

AI Morocco has also been successful in building new partnerships with youth clubs and associations as well as cultural centres and the Human Rights Education programme continues to be a major opportunity to raise awareness and increase activism around W4R campaigns, as well as support the section's growth objectives among young people.

Amnesty activists take part in Write for Rights in Morocco © Amnesty International Morocco

NEPAL **ACTIONS** 225,688

Prior to Write for Rights events Amnesty Nepal held a one-day workshop to orient members of Amnesty Nepal's groups and youth networks about this year's W4R's campaign and to discuss best strategies to ensure a successful campaign. Workshop included discussions on this year's W4R theme and case stories, campaign strategies and human rights defenders. The addition of one national case – an appeal to Nepal government to regulate the sale of acid, helped to bring extra energy and enthusiasm to the campaign. This was a very relevant action for AI Nepal, given the increase in acid-based violence in the country. The section were able to collect over 225,000 signatures, the highest number recorded so far. All letters and signatures were collected by Amnesty International members, who prioritized schools, colleges and public places. The integration of HRE and W4R helped to reach very remote areas of the country and spread the message of human rights violations and the need to stand in solidarity and support for young human rights defenders.

NETHERLANDS **ACTIONS** 332,074

Write for Rights continues to be the most important public action for Amnesty Netherlands. This year the section increased their online campaign immensely and ended up with more than 200,000 online letters. They also had an increase in physical handwritten letters, from 100,000 in 2018 to 130,000 in 2019. This strengthened the section's conviction that they made a good choice to focus more on servicing letter writing and empowering event organizers, instead of organizing national events and stunts themselves. They did also hold a large festive and inspiring event at their offices where hundreds of people came to write letters, listen to performances, get massages, dance and enjoy the light projection on the office building.

Above, Write for Rights event at the AI Netherlands offices in Amsterdam. © Amnesty International Netherlands

NEW ZEALAND ACTIONS 4,285

AI New Zealand utilised their invitation to a U2 concert as part of their W4Rs events and this boosted numbers and interest in the case of Marinel. The youth HRD focus was well received by the section's audiences. AI New Zealand prioritised 5 cases. Event timing and limited staff capacity due to other priorities limited engagement. Regionally relevant cases - Yiliyasijiang and Marinel - had the strongest appeal for their audiences.

NIGERIA ACTIONS 12,856

2019 Write for Rights was held in 16 states across Nigeria. It was inspiring to have Moses Akatugba – a former W4R case and death row survivor – as an inspiring example of Write for Rights success participate at their event. Nasu Abdulaziz- a young activist whose case featured in the 2019 Write for Rights also participated at the event. The experience sharing by Moses and Nasu was an inspiring moment for the campaign. Young people had the opportunity to interact with Moses and Nasu. 12,856 actions were taken for the cases.

School children in Nigeria take part in Write for Rights 2019. © Amnesty International Nigeria

NORWAY ACTIONS 181,071

In 2019 Amnesty Norway prioritized campaigning for six of the cases: Yasaman, Sean and Sarah, Magai, Jose Adrian, Ibrahim and Yiliyasijiang. They also had a petition for Emil. One of the highlights of the campaign was when Sean Binder visited and who took part in several events including AI Norway's youth gathering, a panel and a dinner. His visit resulted in wide media coverage – among other in the snap channel of the biggest newspaper in Norway. The section held 81 sessions at 49 schools, engaging more than 3,500 pupils all over Norway. They presented the cases and guided pupils through letter-writing sessions. All over Norway activists engaged in letter-writing sessions held privately, at universities, schools, local cafés etc. Activists wrote articles in local newspapers. In several cities AI Norway had W4R exhibitions with letters displayed and available for all the library visitors. A student group in Bergen hosted a 12-hour letter writing marathon, with concerts and speakers. Several thousands of letters were written by passers-by and activists during this event alone. Yasaman's case worked extremely well in social media in general, the section's social media posts about her reached 482,709 people and engaged 16,923 users, who were important for fundraising.

Pupils take part in a writing session at Åsane folk high school in Norway. © Amnesty International Norway

PARAGUAY ACTIONS 330

Within the framework of Write for Rights 2019, AI Paraguay organized the tour #BusdelosDDHH with four stops in different cities throughout the country. There were activities to collect signatures for the cases the section worked on, an urban art festival, an exhibition of 'Artivism' from the Regional Competition and an exhibition of the winning illustration from the Illustration Workshop (Creating new identities for the defence of human rights) carried out by activists through a seed fund.

PERU ACTIONS 18,824

Activists in Lima and regions throughout Peru mobilized in urban and rural areas in support of the Write for Rights 2019 campaign, collecting thousands of letters. People in all their diversity participated in this great mobilization, including youth from indigenous peoples and peasant communities, as well as LGBTIQ+ youth. Different networks of schools, community film networks, universities, feminist movements and civil society organizations joined, following a call entirely focused on international solidarity for youth at risk from Iran, Greece, Canada, Mexico and the Philippines. Similarly, Amnesty International Peru's online activism raised a strong voice via social networks in a coordinated effort. Particularly successful was the support for the freedom of young Yasaman Aryani, who was convicted in Iran of the absurd "crime" of refusing to wear the veil imposed on women.

PHILIPPINES ACTIONS 70,091

AI Philippines kick started its W4R activities by featuring Marinel Ubaldo as one of its speakers during their Members' General Assembly in October 2019. The section was able to gather thousands of actions using mostly off-line events headed by members from established regional formations outside Metro Manila. While many actions were taken at schools, universities and in different city centres across the country, some more “off grid” and less technologically savvy groups utilized ‘old school’ but time-tested techniques in their respective communities. These tactics included house-to-house visits encompassing various towns and municipalities similar to how local politicians canvas their areas. Instead of setting up booths in schools and city centres, these groups chose marketplaces, fish ports and vegetable and fruit harvest drop-offs. Amnesty members from indigenous peoples’ communities also took part in this year’s W4R activities. They visited other IP communities from different areas within their districts to gather support for Marinel Ubaldo and the Grassy Narrows Youth.

POLAND ACTIONS 370,669

In 2019 AI Poland gathered a record breaking over 370,000 actions (including 153,000 online actions) and 788 events across the country. Most events were organized at schools and universities, but also in libraries, cultural centres, cafes and private houses. During many of these events participants could take part in discussions about human rights, attend exhibitions, educational workshops and concerts. The section promoted cases mainly through social media channels. AI Poland produced educational materials about human rights and W4R campaign and sent packages of campaign materials to over 600 event organisers in Poland.

Write for Rights corner at the 3rd Citizen's Rights Congress organized by Polish ombudsman Adam Bodnar. © Grzegorz Żukowski

PORTUGAL

ACTIONS 113,944

Amnesty International Portugal organized for the first time an entirely online youth-led campaign. Even though they were aware that participation numbers could decrease by choosing to go "all-online", the Portuguese section decided to develop this campaign in a more sustainable way (we avoided printing the usual at least 90,000 sheets of paper) and to increase the number of participants over 18 years of age - so that they could start the section's 'supporter journey'. In order to do so, AI Portugal developed a full campaign bearing in mind 4 areas: activism, human rights education, fundraising and advocacy.

Above, a still from video of a Portuguese gospel choir singing Happy Birthday to Magai from South Sudan. Magai, a 15-year-old on death row is a keen singer and loves gospel music.
© Private

SENEGAL

ACTIONS 336,455

Senegal's Write for Rights campaign took place between November 13 and December 18 in all regions of Senegal. In addition to Senegal's Youth Commission, who are the primary group involved in the campaign, 114 activist structures were mobilized. They each received campaign materials (posters, t-shirts, pens and letters for each case) to help with their work. W4R has become the biggest gathering of activists for Amnesty International Senegal. Organized alongside a competition, each activist structure competes to collect the greatest number of signatures. No meeting place is left out. From the city to the countryside, in markets, homes, schools and universities in the streets and under palaver trees, our activists have been in contact with people to spread the message of Amnesty International and collect their signatures on the different cases.

SIERRA LEONE

ACTIONS 43,980

AI Sierra Leone's youth forum was at forefront of engagement for Write for Rights and the section provided a space where they could campaign for the W4R cases. Young people in all four regions of Sierra Leone worked on the campaign through events and showing their support and solidarity through tweets, emails, Facebook posts and other social media platforms. The young people also used the Write for Rights Campaign as an opportunity to mobilise members and explain the plights of the human rights defenders whose lives were at risks.

SLOVAKIA ACTIONS 24,142

AI Slovakia chose cases based on national relevance and tried to connect all the stories to relevant cases in Slovakia and from that build their campaign strategy. The section tried to include as many relevant partner organisations and activists, who are active in the topics this year's cases touched upon. W4R 2019 was the most successful W4R ever for AI Slovakia, especially in terms of campaigning and results. The section worked with cultural centres, which organised their own letter writing actions alongside public events, they teamed up with Slovak actresses to promote Yasaman´s case. They also organised discussions on police brutality (connecting José Adrián´s case with Slovak cases), on climate change, climate justice and environmental racism and about women and queer rights, with petition signing. They also organised two concerts with local human rights positive artists in Bratislava. The media coverage was the strongest around 10 December. More than 100 schools took part in this year's W4R, many of which organised their own events based on tips from W4R HRE Manual. AI Slovakia also gathered signatures at Christmas market.

SLOVENIA ACTIONS 17,737

Amnesty International Slovenia mostly focussed on organizing Write for Rights in schools and via online petitions, with 59 schools writing appeals and solidarity letters contributing over 6,000 actions to the 17,737 solidarity messages, appeals and signatures collected by AI Slovenia. To be locally relevant the section added one local case to Write for Rights; a current petition on human rights of elderly. For schools we prepared information packages for Yasaman, Marinel, Grassy Narrows youth, Nasu and for Slovenian case. Pupils wrote letters at their schools and organized special events and included letter writing in ordinary schoolwork. Young people were particularly enthusiastic about petition on the rights for elderly; they wrote over 1,000 letters to the prime minister and over 300 solidarity letters. All 10 global Write for Rights cases and Slovenian petition were also available to be signed on-line.

SOUTH AFRICA ACTIONS 3,516

Write for Rights 2019 proved to be both exciting and challenging for AI South Africa. The entity's growth team decided that 4 of the 10 global cases would resonate with the South African public: Egypt, Philippines, Mexico and Iran – unfortunately the African cases in the global 10 were not suitable for a South African audience this year. The diversity of the issues of the 4 chosen cases resonated with many in South Africans, but majority refused to take action and expressed that they are faced with multiple ESCR issues and would rather work on cases that helped resolve their ESCR issues instead of showing international solidarity. Another challenge experienced, was that a lot of the audiences we approached to take action enquired why there weren't many African faces on the campaign. In their opinion, the campaign had to reflect African people on African issues as a lot of people in South Africa experience human rights abuses on a daily basis.

Left, staff at the South Africa office take action for Write for Rights

© Amnesty International South Africa

SOUTH KOREA ACTIONS 77,787

AI South Korea took actions for 6 cases, both on and off-line. The section encouraged people to take action via petitions on a special micro-site created for W4R 2019. The section kept this site live for 4 months (Nov-Feb). AI South Korea also held several public events for W4R 2019: a letter writing night, joined a U2 concert campaign for Marinel and held a pop-up exhibition for a month. Through these campaigns, the section was able to gather more than 77,000 actions.

Letters collected during an Amnesty South Korea Write for Rights event held in the capital city of Seoul.
© Amnesty International/Sunmok Kwon

SPAIN ACTIONS 96,546

AI Spain worked on 3 cases, Sara and Sean, Yasaman, and Marinel. The section managed to collect many signatures, including over 76,000 just for Yasaman (online and offline). More than 65 groups participated in this action, organizing numerous events, including in Valencia and Albacete, together with other organizations working on climate change. As W4R coincided with the celebration of the COP25 in Madrid the section was lucky and had Marinel join them for activities. They organized meetings for Marinel with activists and the general public and these were successful and garnered a lot of participation. Participants found it very exciting to be able to listen to Marinel's testimony and share a few days of activism with the person whose case they were working on. As a final touch, the section and Marinel joined a demonstration for the climate held in Madrid on 6 December. AI Spain feels very positive about this year's campaign, both regarding the visibility they achieved and for being able to work on cases and issues they were already working on. This greatly facilitated the work of groups, because they could continue to deepen the relationships and alliances with other organizations working on these themes.

SWEDEN ACTIONS 75,000

AI Sweden collected 75 000 action for four of the cases in the 2019 W4R campaign. The cases were Magai Matiop Ngong, Yasaman Aryani, Ibrahim Ezz El-Din and Yiliyasijiang Reheman.

Campaigning for W4R consisted of online petitions, signatures through an SMS-network, over 100 activists' groups from all around Sweden working with collecting letters and signatures, and students from 35 high schools writing both solidarity letters and letters of appeal. AI Sweden also held advocacy meetings with decision makers and carried out protests outside the Chinese embassy and consulate.

Even though the Section made some media efforts regarding the W4R campaign, Swedish media mostly covered the situation in Xinjiang. We had one TV interview in the morning studio the day of the protests outside the Chinese embassy and several articles in national newspapers covering the protests.

SWITZERLAND ACTIONS 38,829

With more than 38,000 actions, the 2019 edition of W4R was a great success for the Swiss section. Across the country, Amnesty International activists rolled up their sleeves and organised dozens of actions, stands, events and meetings to encourage people to take action for the cases featured. As the letters calling on the Iranian government to release Yasaman were being sent to Geneva, the section organised a solidarity action by distributing flowers and signing letters in the streets of Geneva, before going to deliver them in person to the Permanent Mission of Iran.

TAIWAN ACTIONS 173,448

Over 170,000 actions were taken during Write for Rights 2019 in Taiwan, with 493 schools participating and 107,677 students taking part, alongside 767 teachers. 103 people held their own W4R parties, inviting friends and families to take action with them and 1,625 people participating in these private W4R parties in total. AI Taiwan held 6 official W4R events to introduce the cases to people and invite them to take action.

Children at Yunlin Renhe Elementary School in Taiwan take part in Write for Rights HRE lessons © Amnesty Taiwan

THAILAND **ACTIONS** 25,146

Since September 2019, Amnesty International Thailand actively worked the cases of Yasaman, Yiliyasijiang, Nazu, and Sarah and Seán. The section surpassed their previous year's record, with over 25,000 actions. AI Thailand continually engaged the W4R campaign through Human Rights Education classes, where participants could learn about human rights and take actions.

To spread W4R stories and reach new and larger number of supporters, the section promoted the campaign by hosting public events and collaborated with partner organizations. AI Thailand held W4R events in diverse communities across the country, including at public and private schools, universities, art exhibitions, a juvenile detention centre, festivals, a UDHR Fundraising Concert and urban refugee communities.

The section provided seed funds for supporters who wanted to produce their own project to support the cases and collaborated with local activist groups to spread and raise awareness about human rights and W4R campaign in the community. For online actions, AI Thailand promoted W4R campaign on many channels including via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and a Press Release for traditional media.

Members of AI Thailand's Youth Power Action Network promote W4Rs © Amnesty International Thailand

TOGO ACTIONS 163,491

In 2019 the Write for Rights campaign in Togo reached out to new audiences in addition to the students at the human rights-friendly schools they usually work with. AI Togo reached more artisans, including dressmakers, tailors and hairdressers. The objective was to recruit new members and supporters in this new area. In addition, they organized an open day on Amnesty's campaigns and this activity mobilized 150 new people to join the organization.

Pupils at a school in Togo take part in Write for Rights 2019 © Amnesty International Togo

TUNISIA ACTIONS 29

Amnesty Tunisia was going through a huge organisational change process in 2019 and did not fully participate in the campaign. However, a local managed to organise an event and they collected 29 letters for W4R.

TURKEY **ACTIONS** 44,506

2019's Write for Rights proved to be a very successful year for AI Turkey, especially as compared to previous years. They selected 4 cases, as they did not have the capacity to do all 10. W4R enables AI Turkey to engage with the youth, and on different themes.

The section ran an actual marathon to promote the rights of the cases they worked on. They explained to other runners that writing, running for and demanding rights for others can be creative and fun sometimes! With a huge help of their activists and members, AI Turkey tried to show that we all need to be original when taking action and with events.

W4R in general made the section audience understand that someone on the other side of the world can feel solidarity and power just by receiving letters. It was also very emotional for the section's activists to hand out flowers, just like Yasaman did. Some of the reactions were priceless.

Some people did not get what they were trying to do, others did not want to get involved, and others were very intrigued and wanted to know more. This year AI Turkey also received all Yiliyasijiang Reheman's solidarity letters for his wife. Even though they expected many letters, the actual numbers of letters written was magnificent and so much more than what they could have imagined.

Members of AI Turkey deliver 18,289 signatures for Yasaman Aryani to Iranian Consulate, 27th February 2019
© Amnesty International Turkey

UK ACTIONS 106,523

During Write for Rights 2019 AIUK campaigned on 9 cases out of the global 10 and worked on three additional section-led UK cases. They organised several activities around the cases that they prioritised: Marinel Ubaldo, Sarah Mardini and Sean Binder, Yiliyasijiang Reheman, Young Trans People (UK) and Migrant Women (UK).

AIUK worked with Marinel so that she could attend this year's COP25 event. They also hosted Sarah Mardini during their annual Student Conference. Sarah was also a part of the Guilty Feminist podcast and Sean a part of the Secret Policeman Tour that AIUK organised in Manchester. During his visit, he was part of a meeting with the Co-op bank staff members. The Co-op bank supported AIUK's campaign and they created action resources for them. These resources were distributed in all the UK branches of the bank.

The section organised a solidarity event for the Migrant Women case where supporters gathered to create donation boxes for a refuge in London. The section organised a football match with AIUK staff members in solidarity with Yiliyasijiang Reheman. And they also created a video for Sarah and Sean's case. AIUK's supporters also organised local letter-writing events, as they do every year.

AIUK staff hold a football match for Yiliyasijiang Reheman, a huge football fan. © AIUK

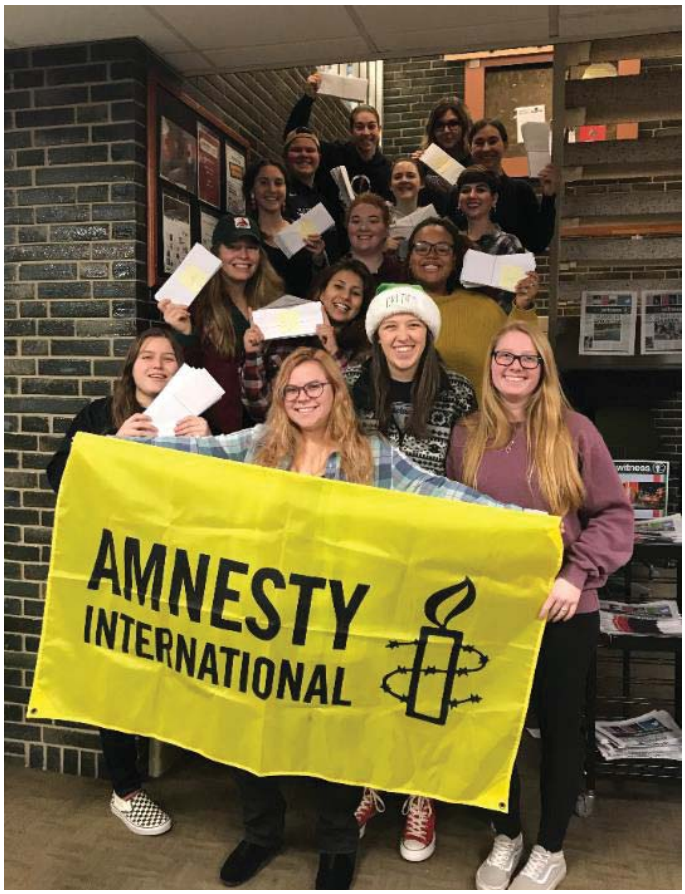
UKRAINE ACTIONS 70,420

The Write for Rights campaign was held for the thirteenth time in Ukraine. Overall, at least 318 Write for Rights events were held across the country in 2019, including public lectures, film screenings, school lessons, etc. Unprecedented participation and dedication of Write for Rights volunteers helped AI Ukraine to reach a new milestone for Ukraine – 70,420 actions. The activists were taking action on seven global cases and a local case of Oksana Mamchenko and her children – all survivors of domestic violence by Oksana's ex-husband, looking for safety and justice.

URUGUAY ACTIONS 1,695

AI Uruguay used HRE to promote the campaign in an educational centre, working with more than 70 teenagers between 14 and 16 years old. In addition, the section's work had a digital component (adapting the Write for Rights online platform) and a street mobilization component, bringing together more than 30 young artists who contributed their art in a plaza with the aim of raising awareness about the cases and collecting signatures for them.

USA ACTIONS 552,409



Write for Rights 2019 was AIUSA's second largest ever in terms of total actions, with 552,409 letters and online action petitions on all ten global cases.

They also grew from the previous year in total numbers of participants, including 25,269 people who wrote or signed physical letters (3rd most ever) and 53,302 people who signed online action petitions (2nd most ever). The section also grew from the previous year in numbers of student participation, with 9,742 students writing 19,261 letters in classroom events organized by educators (2nd most ever on both stats).

Overall, 119,220 physical letters were sent to government officials around the world (3rd most ever) from people taking part in 430 grassroots-led events (3rd most ever) and 646 individuals writing on their own (3rd most ever). In addition to grassroots activism,

AIUSA also contributed other tactics on the Write for Rights cases, including advocacy—when strategic—with US government officials and embassies in the US, media outreach, coalition outreach and social media advocacy. Write for Rights is one of AIUSA's annual priorities and the section is deeply committed to activism and advocacy on individual cases, including freeing prisoners of conscience and supporting Human Rights Defenders.

Above, one of the many Amnesty Group W4R evets held across the US. © Amnesty International USA

VENEZUELA ACTIONS 19,811

Write for Rights 2019 was a good year for AI Venezuela, they achieved greater participation, in terms of the goals they set for themselves. They also noted that the participants were very sensitive to this year's cases and related to them well. New supporters joined the movement willing to collaborate with everything related to climate change and activism in general.

ZIMBABWE ACTIONS 536

AI Zimbabwe worked on the cases of Nasu Abdulaziz and Yasaman Aryani. Write for Rights was launched in Zimbabwe with young aspiring journalists. The launch was also a training to help these young journalists to understand Write for Rights and meaningfully participate. The journalists then wrote letters of solidarity for Nasu and Yasaman. They prepared a makeshift letter box and performed a mock letter posting action. In addition, AI Zimbabwe used one of the Human Rights Friendly Schools in a province called Bulawayo, and here the girls were involved in writing post cards in solidarity, produced videos and photo actions.

A Write for Rights event held in Zimbabwe. © Amnesty International Zimbabwe