

# Amnesty International Lincoln Groups

## December 2020 Newsletter

### News from last year's Write for Rights

#### EMIL OSTROVKO - BELARUS



“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!”

**Canada.** The Grassy Narrows Youth have achieved the concession of a Care Home for survivors of the mercury poisoning in their community.

**China.** Yiliyasiliang Reheman is still missing. His wife Mairinsha has expressed her gratitude for the solidarity of thousands of messages bringing attention to the plight of her husband and the Uygur people.

**Greece.** Sarah Mardini and Sean Binder still face up to 25 years in prison for their humanitarian work on Lesbos but 729,072 messages have brought their cases to a wider audience.

**Iran.** Yasaman Aryani has been transferred to Evin prison with her mother Monireh Arabshahi and their prison sentences for resisting forced veiling have been reduced.

More news is in the booklet and we'll report on some of those people in January.

## Write for Rights 2020

### Students defending LGBTI+ rights in Turkey:



From day one, students Melike and Özgür dedicated themselves to defending lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI+) rights at their university. As prominent members of the LGBTI+ Solidarity Groups at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, they've organised numerous marches and events. They've engaged with an ever-growing number of students, against a backdrop of increasing homophobia and restrictions on freedom of expression in Turkey.

Send a card (not religious nor Amnesty) of support and solidarity (do not include your name and address)

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Turkey

### Germain Rukuki



– Germain, a loving husband and father, is serving a 32 year prison sentence in Burundi. His awful crime? Being a human rights defender. Germain's activism should be celebrated, not criminalised. And yet, because of his imprisonment, he has never even met his third child. Act now to help reunite Germain with his family.

Send a card of support and solidarity. It can be religious, can mention Amnesty and you can include your name and address if you wish.

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