

Lincoln Amnesty International Groups

October 2020 Newsletter



Write for Rights case – Gustavo (top left)

Writing this season is taking a different form.

We will put more cases in the next Newsletter. For this month use the AIUK website for Gustavo's case and any of the others highlighted.

If you prefer to write real letters appeal to your MP on behalf of Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe and Annosheh Ashoori in Iran

22-year old student Gustavo was protesting against inequality in Chile when special forces fired metal and rubber bullets into his eyes. Gustavo was blinded. To this day, the police responsible have not been held to account.

Will you email the Chilean authorities demanding a proper investigation?

Please go onto the AI Uk website to send the e mail.

Send a Postcard of Kindness to residents of care homes

In October we launched a report [As If Expendable](#), which highlights the UK Government's failure to protect older people in care homes in England during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the things we found was the isolation many residents in care homes are feeling, so we have linked up with a group called Postcards of Kindness.

We know from the individuals at risk we work with around the world how powerful it can be to receive a message of solidarity from Amnesty activists like you. If you are taking part in the Write for Rights campaign this year, why not add this activity to your list of people to write to?

Please join us in sending postcards/Christmas cards to people living in care homes. The aim is to give residents something to hold on to and treasure, and open new avenues for communication and friendship.

Write for Rights community action for Germain

Want to take bigger action for a Write for Rights case this year? Germain's case gives us an opportunity to reach out to faith groups to take high impact action and increase your group's presence and visibility in your communities.



Help get Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe and Annosheh Ashoori home



Nazanin is a British-Iranian mother who has spent nearly four years in prison in Iran. She is an innocent victim of arbitrary detention. Now an additional charge could mean yet more time in prison. Nazanin was arrested over four and a half years ago and unjustly convicted in a grossly unfair trial on a trumped-up national security charge. She was held in the notorious Evin prison until March 2020.

Nazanin is not the only UK dual national held in Iran. 66-year-old retired engineer Anoosheh Ashoori, has been arbitrarily imprisoned in Iran for over three years. He was arrested by Ministry of Intelligence agents in August 2017 while visiting his mother in Tehran.

While there **he has been subjected to torture** and other ill-treatment including prolonged solitary confinement, sleep deprivation, denial of adequate medical care, and threats against his family. He was repeatedly interrogated without a lawyer present and forced to sign "confessions" while sleep deprived, the contents of which he had no knowledge of.

After a grossly unfair trial, **Anoosheh was sentenced to 12 years in prison** on the charges of "cooperating with a hostile state against the Islamic Republic" and "obtaining illicit funds". **Anoosheh is at heightened risk of severe illness** or death if he contracts COVID-19 in prison.

Getting Nazanin and Anoosheh home by Christmas should be of the highest priority for the UK government.

Urge your MP to call on the government to reunite Nazanin and Anoosheh with their families by Christmas.



Take action: Protect human rights in the aftermath of the US elections

Join us in taking action to prevent and stop human rights violations by the US government in the lead up to and aftermath of the US election and possible government transition. Amnesty International USA has been sending [this open letter](#) to all US government officials. But international pressure is more needed than ever: you can help by sharing the letter on social media, tagging the US embassy in London (on Twitter [here](#), on Facebook [here](#)). You could also print this letter and send a physical copy to the US embassy directly. Please address the letter to His Excellency Ambassador Robert Wood Johnson. 33 Nine Elms Ln, Nine Elms, London SW11 7US. Tell him that the world is watching, and that all the US government must meet its obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights for all.

November 2020

To the US Ambassador to UK
His Excellency Ambassador Robert Wood Johnson.

33 Nine Elms Ln,
Nine Elms,
London SW11 7US

We write you today with grave concern about the future of the United States.

For nearly 60 years, Amnesty International has documented how racism, discrimination, and hate can lead to widespread violence and further disregard for human rights. We've monitored the unravelling of norms, laws, and rules around the world—and are deeply troubled by what we see happening in the United States. The widespread availability of guns in your country combined with the incitement to violence and the enabling and abetting of white supremacy—at the highest levels of government and by those elected to serve the people—has left the country dangerously vulnerable to those who prefer inequity to fairness, hate over unity, and impunity over justice.

Amnesty International and others have exposed widespread and egregious human rights violations committed by officials throughout the United States. Many of you—including the President, officials in the administration and Congress, and members of law enforcement—are directly responsible for violating human rights. Others have done too little or nothing at all to stop these abuses.

The world is watching. We demand you meet your obligations under international law to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all people, including the following:

- Freedom from racism, discrimination, and hate
- Freedom to peacefully protest and dissent
- Freedom from police violence and gun violence • Freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention
- Freedom of the press to investigate and report the truth
- Freedom from armed intimidation at the polls

Amnesty International takes no position for or against any political ideology, party, candidate, or official. As the world's largest grassroots human rights organization—more than 10 million supporters—our sole purpose is the promotion and defence of freedom, equality, justice, dignity, and human rights worldwide.

Sincerely,

Amnesty International

