



In this month of human rights, we think of the human rights activists of the **Writing Marathon 2025:**

You can participate in the following ways:

- By signing petitions: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/>
- By signing the 10 attached letters and sending the entire package to:
Amnesty International Flanders vzw
Goffartstraat 32 1050 Brussels Belgium (or Amnesty International in your country)
- The best option: you write the ten letters yourself and send them to the above address.
- You write cards to the people involved themselves for support and send the entire package to the above address.

Maybe you see an opportunity to organize a writing round yourself with family or friends: then order the package for free on the site above.

For more info: Anna and Hugo Appels hugo.appels2@gmail.com 003234480414 or 00323474585279

Sonia Dahmani (Tunisia)



Tunisian lawyer Sonia Dahmani regularly spoke on radio and TV about injustice in her country. She was arrested on May 11, 2024. The authorities accuse her of 'spreading fake news'. Sonia is stuck in a cramped, filthy cell. She could face many years in prison.

Ellinor Guttorm Utsi (Norway)

For Ellinor Guttorm Utsi and her community, reindeer herding is much more than a profession. For the Sámi, the original inhabitants of Northern Norway, it is a way of life. It is also a legally protected tradition. But the government wants to build wind turbines and roads on the reindeer's summer pastures. This will disrupt the migration routes, fragment the landscape and seriously endanger the Sámi culture. Although a wind farm sounds sustainable, part of the electricity is intended for a liquefied gas plant. As a result, it will stay open longer and can export more fossil fuels. In this way, emissions are not reduced but displaced.



Sai Zaw Thaike (Myanmar)



In 2023, Hurricane Mocha wreaked havoc in Myanmar. Photojournalist Sai Zaw Thaike joined an aid team after the hurricane so that he could do his journalistic work undercover in the disaster area. This was not only a dangerous operation because of the natural disaster, but especially because of the army that targets critical journalists such as Sai Zaw. He was arrested and sentenced to a whopping 20 years in prison and hard labor.

Damisoa (Madagascar)

Damisoa and his family left everything behind in 2021 due to persistent drought and hunger. In the hope of a better life, they moved from their home in southern Madagascar to the north of the country. But life is terribly hard there too. They ended up in a camp with poor houses, hardly any clean water and a shortage of toilets. Damisoa, his family and many others are in desperate need of help.



Makhabat Tazhibek Kyzy (Kyrgyzstan)



Makhabat Tazhibek Kyzy was editor-in-chief of a leading research platform in Kyrgyzstan. She exposed corruption and gave a voice to the people. Her work was not without risk. In January 2024, police raided Makhabat's home and arrested her. The charges were unfounded. Nevertheless, Makhabat was sentenced to 6 years in prison in October 2024.

Guerreras por la Amazonía (Ecuador)

The Guerreras por la Amazonía do not accept that the oil industry is destroying the Amazon and making its inhabitants sick. The fifteen young women and girls from Ecuador are completely fed up with the flames, toxic fumes, the chemical stench and the noise. Together with other action groups, they filed a lawsuit against the state to stop the flaring of gas. They won. But instead of applause, they now face intimidation, stigmatization and violence.



Saleh Diab (Occupied Palestinian Territory)

The family of Palestinian Saleh Diab has lived in East Jerusalem for decades. Israeli settlers are trying to evict them from their homes with violence and intimidation. The Israeli government is doing nothing to stop the settler violence. Some ministers even encourage the settlers. Saleh peacefully protested against the Israeli occupation every week for years. He continues to campaign to protect his family and his home.



Mother Nature Cambodia (Cambodia)



The activists of Mother Nature Cambodia fight against harmful projects of companies and the government. In this way, they want to protect nature in their country. But that is not without risk. They have been under fire since 2016: they have been arrested and prosecuted several times. In June 2024, six members of the group were sentenced to 6 to 8 years in prison.

Unecebo Mboteni (South Africa)

Unecebo Mboteni liked to play with his friends and toy cars. Last April, he made a fatal fall into an open toilet at his kindergarten. He died the next day, only 3 years old. A year and a half later, his family still has many unanswered questions. How could this happen? Why has no one been held accountable yet? In South Africa, your place of birth, how much money your parents have and the colour of your skin still determine how safe your school is. In many schools in poor areas in South Africa, these toilets are still the standard. That has to change.



Juan López (Honduras) Juan López worked tirelessly for the people and nature in the Bajo Aguán region, in northern Honduras. He campaigned against the polluting and devastating effects of mining. His activism turned out to be life-threatening. A masked man shot Juan dead on September 14, 2024. Juan was in his car at the time. He was 46 years old and leaves behind a wife and two daughters. The person who ordered the murder is still at large.