



**WRITE FOR**

**JUSTYNA WYDRZYŃSKA**  
**POLAND**  
HELPED A WOMAN TO SAFELY  
TERMINATE HER PREGNANCY

**PROSECUTED FOR  
ENABLING SAFE ABORTION**

Justyna Wydrzyńska from Poland knows from experience what it is to have an abortion without having reliable information. This gave her the motivation to help others make an informed decision about their pregnancy.

**TAKING ACTION FOR SAFE ABORTION**

Justyna co-founded Abortion Dream Team, a collective offering advice on safe abortion. Abortion laws in Poland are among the most restrictive in Europe. This forces many women to have illegal, unsafe abortions. In 2020, Justyna was put in contact with Ania (not her real name). Ania had an abusive partner, she was pregnant and desperate. She did not want to continue her pregnancy. Justyna, who was in an abusive relationship herself, sent Ania her own abortion pills. Ania's partner intercepted the pills and then took her to the police for questioning.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Justyna was sentenced for 'helping with an abortion' on March 2023 to 8 months of community service. Justyna's conviction may result in the punishing of others in a similar situation. Without support and reliable information, people like Ania have no

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



**WRITE  
A LETTER.  
CHANGE  
A LIFE.**



access to a safe abortion. Despite the hostile circumstances Justyna faces, she says, 'I was driven by the will to help when no one else wanted to or could help'. For me, helping Ania was an obvious, decent and honest thing to do.'

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

-  Demand the prosecutor general to take all necessary measures to ensure that Justyna's wrongful conviction is overturned.
-  Send **Justyna** your message of solidarity and hope, so she knows you support her.



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## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Prosecutor General,

I call on you to take all necessary measures to ensure that Justyna Wyrzyńska's unjust conviction is overturned and to refrain from bringing any other charges against her for carrying out her legitimate defence of human rights. Justyna and other activists provide essential support and trustworthy information to women seeking the healthcare they are entitled to. She was convicted for helping a woman in an abusive relationship access a safe abortion. Her conviction sets a dangerous precedent.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[place of residence, country]

## 1. WRITE A LETTER

and demand the prosecutor general to take all necessary measures to ensure that Justyna's wrongful conviction is overturned.

## SEND YOUR LETTER TO

Prosecutor General  
National Prosecutor's Office  
ul. Postępu 3  
02-676 Warsaw  
Poland

## 2. SEND A CARD

so she knows you support her.

## SEND YOUR CARD TO

Amnesty International  
Postbus 1968  
1000 BZ Amsterdam

(Amnesty will make sure that your card reaches Justyna)

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Justyna,

Thank you for your work.  
I am thinking of you  
and supporting you.

[your name + country]



**WRITE FOR**

**AHMED MANSOOR**  
**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**  
**LOCKED UP FOR SPEAKING THE TRUTH**

**RECEIVED A PRISON  
SENTENCE OF 10 YEARS.**

Ahmed Mansoor is a father and husband, a poet, blogger and a human rights defender. He is currently locked away in a cell in al-Sadr prison in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He spends his days in an isolation cell, with no access to books, pens or paper. He does not even have a bed.

**IMPRISONED BECAUSE HE SPOKE THE TRUTH**

His crime? Speaking the truth. Before his arrest, Ahmed was one of the few voices within the UAE providing the rest of the world with credible independent information about human rights violations in the country. He regularly raised concerns about the detention, torture and unfair trials of people who hold different views than the government. He spoke about problems with the justice system and of domestic laws that breach international ones.

**PUNISHED WITH 10 YEARS IN PRISON**

For this Ahmed is paying a high price. In March 2017, he was arrested. For over a year, no one knew where he was detained. In May 2018, Ahmed was sentenced to a decade in prison on charges including 'insulting the UAE.'

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
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**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

-  Demand the president of the United Arab Emirates to release Ahmed Mansoor immediately and unconditionally.
-  Send **Ahmed** your message of solidarity and hope, so he knows you support him.



# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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Your Highness,

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Ahmed Mansoor and to quash his sentence and conviction, as he has been imprisoned solely for his peaceful human rights activism.

Pending his release, he should be detained in conditions that comply with international standards and must not be subjected to torture or other ill-treatment. He must be granted immediate and regular access to his family and any healthcare he may require.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[place of residence, country]

## TEXT SUGGESTION

## 1. WRITE A LETTER

and demand the president of the United Arab Emirates to release Ahmed Mansoor immediately and unconditionally.

## SEND YOUR LETTER TO

President of the United Arab Emirates  
Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed  
Al Nahyan  
c/o United Arab Emirates Embassy  
Churchillplein 6C  
2517 JW Den Haag

## 2. SEND A CARD

Send Ahmed your message of solidarity and hope, so he knows you support him.

## SEND YOUR CARD TO

Amnesty International  
Postbus 1968  
1000 BZ Amsterdam

(Amnesty will make sure that your card reaches Ahmed)

Dear Ahmed,

I'm thinking of you and support you.

[your name + country]

## TEXT SUGGESTION

**CAUTION:**  
DO NOT USE  
RELIGIOUS  
SYMBOLS





**WRITE FOR**

**ANA MARIA SANTOS CRUZ**  
**BRAZIL**  
**HER SON WAS KILLED**

## A MOTHER'S FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

Ana Maria Santos Cruz from Brazil is a loving mother. Her son, Pedro Henrique, was an activist and advocate of racial justice and human rights. He paid for that with his life. Since the death of her son, Ana Maria feels like a part of her has been taken away. She has been constantly fighting for justice. However, in her relentless pursuit of justice, Ana Maria faces ongoing threats and harassment.

### TAKING ACTION AGAINST RACISM

Pedro Henrique was an activist and organized "Walks of Peace". These marches brought people together to speak out about police abuses primarily against black communities.

### TARGETED BY THE POLICE

Officers threatened and violently attacked Pedro Henrique for his activism. On 27 December 2018, his house was raided by three hooded men as he slept next to his girlfriend. He was shot eight times in the head and neck. Pedro Henrique was killed, aged 31. His girlfriend recognized the three men as police officers. The officers suspected of killing Pedro Henrique were indicted in 2019. But almost 5 years on, they are still active in the police force. The investigation into the killing has not been concluded and the trial has yet to begin.

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

**WRITE A LETTER. CHANGE A LIFE.**



### FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

Despite ongoing threats and the grief of losing her child, Ana Maria has bravely sought the truth about his death, calling on the authorities for a thorough investigation and trial.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

-  Demand the General Prosecutor of Bahia to take all necessary measures to ensure an independent, impartial and thorough investigation into Pedro Henrique's murder and bring those responsible to justice in fair trials.
-  Send **Ana Maria** Maria your message of solidarity and hope, so she knows you support her.

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## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear General Prosecutor,

I call on you to immediately take all necessary measures to ensure an independent, impartial and thorough investigation into the killing of human rights defender Pedro Henrique Santos Cruz, who was murdered on 27 December 2018 in Tucano, Bahia. All those responsible for the crime must be brought to justice in fair trials.

While seeking justice for her son, Pedro Henrique's mother, Ana Maria Santos Cruz, has faced repeated threats and harassment. I call on you to take all necessary measures to ensure an end to the continuing judicial and procedural harassment against Ana Maria.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[place of residence, country]

## 1. WRITE A LETTER

and demand the General Prosecutor of Bahia to take all the necessary measures to ensure an independent, impartial and thorough investigation into Pedro Henrique's murder and bring those responsible to justice in fair trials.

## SEND YOUR LETTER TO

General Prosecutor of Bahia  
Ministério Público do  
Estado da Bahia  
Quinta Avenida, nº 750, 1º andar  
sala 129, do CAB  
CEP 41.745-004  
Salvador, BA  
Brasília

## 2. SEND A CARD

so she knows you support her.

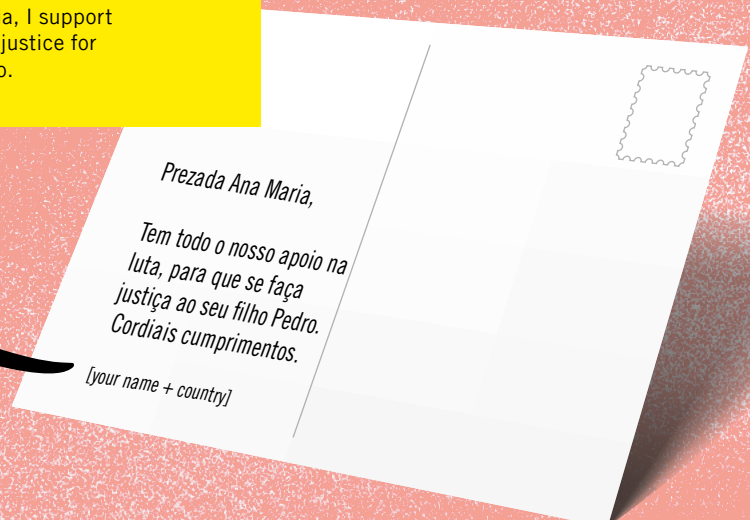
## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Ana Maria, I support your battle for justice for your son Pedro.

## SEND YOUR CARD TO

Amnesty International  
Postbus 1968  
1000 BZ Amsterdam

(Amnesty will make sure that your card reaches Ana Maria.)







**WRITE FOR**

**CHAIMA ISSA  
TUNISIA**

**'IS THIS THE TUNISIA WE DREAMED OF?'**

## FACING YEARS OF PRISONS FOR SPEAKING OUT

Speaking out for what she believes is right runs in activist Chaima Issa's blood. The daughter of a former political prisoner, Chaima speaks truth to power. Even if the cost is her freedom.

### DECREASING FREEDOMS



When Tunisian president Kais Saied suspended parliament, dismissed the prime minister and took executive control of the country in July 2021 citing emergency powers, Chaima was one of the first to publicly oppose him. Since his power grab, human rights in Tunisia are more fragile than ever. Freedom of expression is under attack. Military courts target critics of the government, and the legal system lacks independence. After meeting foreign diplomats along with other Tunisian opposition figures to discuss the political situation in Tunisia, Chaima was arrested on 22 February 2023 as part of an investigation for alleged "conspiracy". She was released on 13 July after more than four months of arbitrary detention.

### CHAIMA WON'T BE SILENCED

The legal case is ongoing and the authorities have banned her from traveling abroad and "appearing in public spaces". A military court, which lacks independence, is also investigating Chaima for criticizing the authorities on a radio show. She faces decades in prison.

Despite everything, Chaima will not give up. In the judge's office Chaima exclaimed: "Is This Tunisia? Is this the Tunisia we dreamed of?"

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

-  Demand the Tunisian authorities to immediately drop the baseless investigation and other restrictions against Chaima.
-  Send **Chaima** your message of solidarity and hope, so she knows you support her.

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# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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WRITE A LETTER.  
CHANGE A LIFE.

## 1. WRITE A LETTER

and demand the Tunisian authorities to immediately drop the baseless investigation and other restrictions against Chaima.

### TEXT SUGGESTION

#### TRANSLATION

Your Excellency,

After meeting foreign diplomats along with other Tunisian opposition figures to discuss the political situation in Tunisia, Chaima was arrested as part of an investigation for alleged "conspiracy". A military court, which lacks independence, is also investigating Chaima for criticizing the authorities on a radio show. She faces decades in prison due to her peaceful political activism. I urge you to refrain from taking further actions that jeopardize human rights and to ensure Tunisia fulfills its obligations under international law. I call upon you to immediately drop the baseless investigation and other restrictions against Chaima, who is unjustly prohibited from traveling and 'appearing in public space.'

Yours sincerely,

Monsieur le Président,

Chaima Issa fait l'objet d'une enquête pour un « complot » présumé, pour avoir rencontré des diplomates étrangers avec d'autres figures de l'opposition tunisienne. Un tribunal militaire, qui manque d'indépendance, a également ouvert une enquête sur Chaima Issa pour avoir critiqué les autorités lors d'une émission radio. Elle encourt des dizaines d'années d'emprisonnement en raison de son militantisme politique pacifique. Je vous demande d'abandonner immédiatement toutes les restrictions et charges retenues contre la militante politique Chaima Issa, qui est sous le coup d'une interdiction injuste de voyager et « d'apparaître en public ».

Je vous prie d'agréer l'expression de ma haute considération,

[name]

[place of residence, country]

### SEND YOUR LETTER TO

Amnesty International  
Postbus 1968  
1000 BZ Amsterdam

## 2. SEND A CARD

so she knows you support her.

### TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Chaima, you inspire me greatly and I support you.

### SEND YOUR CARD TO

Amnesty International  
Postbus 1968  
1000 BZ Amsterdam

(Amnesty will make sure that your cardreaches Chaima)

Chère Chaima,

Vous m'inspirez beaucoup et je vous soutiens.

[your name + country]





**WRITE FOR**

**SAWYEDDOLLAH  
MYANMAR**

**TAKING ON FACEBOOK FOR ITS ROLE IN  
MYANMAR ATROCITIES**

**FACEBOOK MUST HELP  
FLEEING ROHINGYA**

**Sawyeddollah enjoyed playing football and dreamed of becoming a doctor. However, in 2017, when he was 15, his life was upended.**

**DISCRIMINATION, ALSO BY THE STATE**

Sawyeddollah belongs to the Rohingya, an ethnic minority who have faced decades of severe state-sponsored discrimination in Myanmar. From 2012 onwards, the situation got worse and worse. The Myanmar military unleashed ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya. Thousands of Rohingya were killed, raped, tortured, and their villages burned. Fearing for their lives, Sawyeddollah and his family walked 15 days to Bangladesh. They reached Cox's Bazar refugee camp, where they still live. Sawyeddollah now wants to be a lawyer, seeking justice for the Rohingya. In addition to studying, he campaigns for Facebook's owner, Meta, to take responsibility for its contribution to the atrocities.

**FACEBOOK FUELED HATE**

People with ties to the military and nationalists posted hateful and inflammatory messages on social media. Meta's algorithms amplified anti-Rohingya incitement on the Facebook platform, fuelling the Myanmar military's violence.

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A LIFE.**



Sawyeddollah and his family have lost everything, but he still has hope. He and his community are calling on Meta to pay reparations for its role in the atrocities, including funding for educational programmes in Cox's Bazar. He believes that education will help rebuild the shattered lives of people in his community. So far, Meta is not responding to this request.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- Write to Meta Chief Executive, Mark Zuckerberg, to demand that Meta provides an effective remedy to Sawyeddollah and affected Rohingya communities, as it enabled hatred and discrimination against Rohingya people to thrive on the Facebook platform.
- Send your messages of hope and solidarity, so **Sawyeddollah** knows he has your support in his fight for reparations.

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



WRITE A LETTER.  
CHANGE A LIFE.

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

I call on you to take responsibility, through effective and meaningful remedy, for your company's contribution to the atrocities committed against the Rohingya people in Myanmar. Meta's algorithms amplified anti-Rohingya incitement, fuelling the Myanmar military's violence. Maung Sawyeddollah and his family were forced to flee Myanmar in 2017, when he was just 15 years old. Since Meta enabled hatred and discrimination against Rohingya people to thrive on the Facebook platform, Sawyeddollah and his community are calling on your company to pay reparations and fund education programmes in Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh, where they now reside.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[place of residence, country]

## TEXT SUGGESTION

## 1. WRITE A LETTER

Write to Meta Chief Executive, Mark Zuckerberg, to demand that Meta provides an effective remedy to Sawyeddollah and affected Rohingya communities, as it enabled hatred and discrimination against Rohingya people to thrive on the Facebook platform.

## SEND YOUR LETTER TO

Mark Zuckerberg  
Meta CEO  
1 Hacker Way  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
USA

## 2. SEND A CARD

so he knows he has your support in his fight for reparations.

## SEND YOUR CARD TO

Amnesty International  
Postbus 1968  
1000 BZ Amsterdam

(Amnesty zorgt ervoor dat je kaart bij Sawyeddollah terechtkomt)

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Sawyeddollah,

We are deeply inspired  
by you and we  
support you.

[your name + country]





WRITE FOR

**RITA KARASARTOVA**  
**KYRGYZSTAN**

**FACING 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR  
PEACEFULLY PROTESTING**

## NOW SHE IS UNDER HOUSE ARREST

Rita Karasartova loves spending time with her children, practising yoga, and sewing chapans, the traditional quilted jackets worn by people in Kyrgyzstan. But since October 2022 Rita's life has been turned upside down.

### UNDER HOUSE ARREST AFTER PROTEST

Alongside 26 others, Rita was arrested for peacefully protesting for the preservation of an important water source. She spent months detained in a cramped cell, denied access to healthcare and unable to see or speak to her family. Now she is under house arrest and a strict curfew.

Rita is a human rights defender and an expert in civic governance. For over a decade she dedicated her life to providing independent legal advice, helping people whose rights had been violated by a corrupt and unreliable legal system. She is a member of the United Democratic Movement of Kyrgyzstan, fighting against poverty and injustice.

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A LIFE.**





### PEACEFUL PROTEST FOR WATER SOURCE

Rita was arrested for opposing a new border agreement that gave control of a freshwater reservoir to Uzbekistan. The group called for people to peacefully demonstrate against the agreement, demanding transparency from the government. Like others, Rita feared Uzbekistan would restrict or prohibit access to water, a scarce resource in the region where loss of access could have devastating consequences.

Rita and the others were initially detained for organizing "mass disorder", and she was charged with attempting to "violently overthrow the government", which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

-  Demand the General Prosecutor of Kyrgyzstan to immediately release Rita from her house arrest and to drop all charges against her.
-  Send **Rita** your message of solidarity and hope, so she knows you support her.

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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CHANGE A LIFE.

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear General Prosecutor,

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release human rights defender Rita Karasartova from house arrest and drop all charges against her. Rita Karasartova has been persecuted for exercising her right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. It is essential that the authorities allow her to carry out her legitimate human rights activities without fear of retaliation.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[place of residence, country]

## 1. WRITE A LETTER

and demand the General Prosecutor of Kyrgyzstan to immediately release Rita from her house arrest and to drop all charges against her.

## SEND YOUR LETTER TO

General Prosecutor  
A. Toktonalieva Street, 139  
Bishkek  
720040  
Kyrgyz Republic

## 2. SEND A CARD

so Rita knows you support her.

## SEND YOUR CARD TO

Amnesty International  
Postbus 1968  
1000 BZ Amsterdam

(Amnesty will make sure that your card reaches Rita)

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Rita,

I stand with you and  
hope you can live in  
freedom soon.

[your name + country]





**WRITE FOR**

**ROCKY MYERS  
USA**

**THREE DECADES ON DEATH ROW**

**PREVENT HIS EXECUTION**

**Rocky Myers is described by those who know him as gentle and kind. He loves his siblings, children, and grandchildren, and they adore him. At age 11, Rocky was diagnosed with an intellectual disability. He finds reading hard and can't keep dates or times straight in his head. One night in 1991, in the town of Decatur, Alabama, his life changed forever.**

**NO EVIDENCE**

An elderly white woman was murdered in a predominantly Black neighbourhood. Rocky, who is Black, lived across the street. Despite no evidence linking him to the scene of the murder, except for a video cassette recorder belonging to the victim which Rocky maintains he found abandoned in the street, Rocky was convicted of the crime.

Testimonies were tainted by inconsistencies and allegations of police pressure. One key witness later stated that he had lied. An overwhelmingly white jury found him guilty but recommended a sentence of life imprisonment. The judge instead sentenced Rocky to death.

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

**WRITE A LETTER. CHANGE A LIFE.**



**THE ONLY HOPE IS CLEMENCY**

The US Supreme Court ruled that defendants with intellectual disabilities “face a special risk of wrongful execution”. This is certainly true for Rocky. Burdened with ineffective legal representation and abandoned by his post-conviction lawyer, Rocky missed deadlines for appeal. His execution could be scheduled at any time, and his only hope is for the governor of Alabama to grant him clemency.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

-  Demand the governor of Alabama to use their authority to grant clemency to Rocky Myers and commute his death sentence.
-  Send **Rocky** postcards or pictures of where you live, where you go on holiday, or places you love. Remember, Rocky has a hard time reading, so keep your messages simple.

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



WRITE A LETTER.  
CHANGE A LIFE.

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Governor,

I urge you to use your power to grant clemency to Rocky Myers and commute his death sentence. Rocky Myers's trial was flawed, with inconsistent testimonies and allegations of police pressure. One key witness against him later recanted his testimony, stating that he had lied. The overwhelmingly white jury recommended a sentence of life imprisonment, yet the judge sentenced Rocky Myers to death. Rocky Myers was burdened with ineffective legal representation and abandoned by his post-conviction lawyer, meaning he unknowingly missed deadlines for appeal. He also has an intellectual disability. Please do not let Rocky Myers be executed.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[place of residence, country]

## 1. WRITE A LETTER

and demand the governor of Alabama to use their authority to grant clemency to Rocky Myers and commute his death sentence.

## SEND YOUR LETTER TO

Governor of Alabama  
Office of the Governor  
of Alabama  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
USA

## 2. SEND A CARD

so Rocky knows you think about him.

## SEND YOUR CARD TO

Amnesty International  
Postbus 1968  
1000 BZ Amsterdam

(Amnesty will make sure that your card reaches Rocky)

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Rocky,

I support you and  
hope you get mercy.

[your name + country]





**WRITE FOR**

**THAPELO MOHAPI EN DE  
AB AHLALI BASEMJONDOLO  
SOUTH AFRICA  
PROTECT THEIR COMMUNITY**

**THREATENED FOR ACTIVISM**

Thapelo Mohapi loves listening to jazz and supporting his favorite football teams, the Mamelodi Sundowns and Manchester City. But right now he can't enjoy these things like he used to. Since 2021, he has been forced to live in hiding because of threats to his life.

**FIGHTING FOR A BETTER LIFE**

Thapelo works for Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM), a movement that fights for the rights of people across South Africa, particularly in areas suffering economic hardship. One such place is eKhenana, in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Most residents are economic migrants from rural South Africa who have moved to seek a better life. They cannot afford the high costs of living in the area and often end up making homes from waste materials, with little to no access to water or sanitation. They also face police brutality, forced evictions and poor public services, amongst many other challenges.

**GOOD INITIATIVES ARE MET WITH VIOLENCE**

Determined to improve lives in the community, AbM members in eKhenana have spoken out against cases of local government corruption and worked hard to improve life in their community by starting a school, farm, communal kitchen and shop. In return, they have been met with not just resistance but threats, harassment



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



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and intimidation from state officials who have incited violence against them. They have been victims of attempted and actual murders, violence, harassment, and damage to their homes. In 2022 alone, three AbM members were killed in eKhenana.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

-  Demand the police to thoroughly investigate the intimidation and murders of AbM members.
-  Send **Thapelo** your message of solidarity and hope, so he knows you support him.

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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WRITE A LETTER.  
CHANGE A LIFE.

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Minister,

I demand a thorough, impartial, independent, transparent and effective investigation into the killing and harassment of members of the Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM) movement, including Thapelo Mohapi. You must ensure that suspected perpetrators are brought to justice in fair trials and work to end the attacks against AbM members and their families. Twenty-five AbM members have been killed since 2009 and countless other members have been attacked and their properties destroyed. This has included attempted murders, threats of violence, targeted harassment, assault, damage to property, unlawful and forced evictions and trumped-up legal charges. This injustice must end.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[place of residence, country]

## 1. WRITE A LETTER

and demand the police to thoroughly investigate the intimidation and murders of AbM members.

## SEND YOUR LETTER TO

Minister of Police  
Private bag X463  
Pretoria  
0001  
South Africa

## 2. SEND A CARD

so Thapelo knows you support him and his movement.

## SEND YOUR CARD TO

Amnesty International  
Postbus 1968  
1000 BZ Amsterdam

(Amnesty will make sure that your card reaches Thapelo)

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Thapelo,

I am thinking of you  
and supporting you.

[your name + country]





**WRITE FOR**

**THULANI MASEKO  
ESWATINI  
HE DARED TO SPEAK THE TRUTH**

# THAT IS WHY HE WAS MURDERED

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

# WRITE A LETTER. CHANGE A LIFE.

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**Thulani Maseko was a loving father and husband. He was a committed member of the Methodist church, a devoted human rights defender, and an ally to LGBTI people. People who knew Thulani described him as humble and friendly, with an incredible sense of humor.**

## THULANI CRITICIZED THE KING

After qualifying as a lawyer, Thulani fought tirelessly for the people of Eswatini, a country ruled by a wealthy absolute monarchy, and where approximately 60% of the population live under the poverty line. Thulani was openly critical of the country’s repressive laws and excessive state violence used to silence peaceful protest.

## DESPITE DANGER, HE PERSISTED

Thulani knew the risk of speaking out was high. In 2014 he was arrested and charged with criminal contempt of court after writing two news articles denouncing the lack of judicial independence and integrity in Eswatini. He spent over a year in prison. Undeterred, Thulani continued his human rights work, stating in 2016: “We shall never surrender, for we know there is a price to pay for the truth.”

## MURDERED BECAUSE OF HIS OPINION

On 21 January 2023, Thulani paid the ultimate price. He was shot dead at close range, through the window of their home, in front of his wife, Tanele. Just hours earlier the king gave a speech stating that those calling for democratic reform would be “dealt with” and “people should not shed tears and complain about mercenaries killing them.” To date no one has been held accountable for Thulani’s killing.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ✍ Write the king of Eswatini to demand the unlawful killing of Thulani Maseko is investigated, the people suspected of responsibility are brought to justice in a fair trial and that Thulani’s family is provided access to effective remedies.
- ✍ Send **Tanele, Thulani’s wife**, messages of hope and support.

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



WRITE A LETTER.  
CHANGE A LIFE.

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Your Majesty,

Thulani Maseko was a loving father and husband who dedicated his life to the people of Eswatini. He was openly critical of the country's repressive laws and excessive state violence used to silence peaceful protest. He was killed in his home, in front of his wife, for speaking out.

I call on you to initiate a prompt, thorough, transparent and impartial investigation into the killing of Thulani Maseko and to ensure that anyone suspected to be responsible is brought to justice in a fair trial. You must also ensure that Thulani's family is provided with access to justice and effective remedies.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[place of residence, country]

## 1. WRITE A LETTER

Write the king of Eswatini to demand the unlawful killing of Thulani Maseko is investigated, the people suspected of responsibility are brought to justice in a fair trial and that Thulani's family is provided access to effective remedies.

## SEND YOUR LETTER TO

His Majesty King Mswati III  
Office of the King  
Lozitha Palace  
PO box 1  
Kwaluseni  
Eswatini

## 2. SEND A CARD

so Tanele knows you support her and her family.

## SEND YOUR CARD TO

Amnesty International  
Postbus 1968  
1000 BZ Amsterdam

(Amnesty will make sure that your card reaches Thulani)

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Tanele,

You are not alone.  
I stand with you in your  
fight for justice for  
Thulani.

[your name + country]





**WRITE FOR**

**UNCLE PABAI EN UNCLE PAUL  
AUSTRALIA**

**“IF WE LOSE OUR COUNTRY, WE LOSE  
EVERYTHING”**

**FIGHTING TO SAVE THEIR  
ANCESTRAL LANDS**

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul are community leaders from the Guda Maluyligal Nation at the northernmost part of Australia in the Torres Strait. Their Indigenous ancestors have lived on the islands for thousands of years.

**TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE IN DANGER**

Now, because of climate change, their way of life, traditional knowledge systems, cultural practices and spiritual connections that have been passed down from generation to generation could be broken forever. Rising sea levels are causing more destruction each year by eroding beaches, destroying sacred cultural sites and cemeteries where ancestors are buried, wrecking food gardens, and putting the islands’ infrastructure at risk.

**GOVERNMENT ACTION NEEDED**

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul, who are referred to as “uncle” by their communities as a sign of respect, have turned to the courts. They argue that the Australian government is taking insufficient action to prevent harm from climate change, resulting in the destruction of their lands and culture.

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**WRITE  
A LETTER.  
CHANGE  
A LIFE.**



**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**PRESERVE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

Unless urgent action is taken, many Torres Strait Islanders will be forced to leave their homelands as large parts become uninhabitable. This would be devastating to the communities. As Uncle Pabai says: “We are born to these islands, they are our mothers, our identities, who we are. For thousands of years, our warrior families fought off anyone who tried to take our homelands from us. But now, we could lose the fight against climate change.”

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

-  Demand the Prime Minister of Australia to protect the rights of the First Nations communities in the Torres Strait. Carbon emissions must be rapidly reduced to limit global warming.
-  Send **Uncle Pabai** en **Uncle Paul** a card so they know you support them and their communities.



# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



WRITE A LETTER.  
CHANGE A LIFE.

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Prime Minister,

To protect the Torres Strait Islands and the human rights of First Nations Peoples, I call on your government to take adequate and human rights-consistent climate action by rapidly reducing carbon emissions in line with the world commitment of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and in line with the best available scientific research. Your government currently states that by 2030 it will reduce emissions 43 per cent below 2005 levels. This is not enough to save the Torres Strait Islands. Leading climate scientists on the Climate Targets Panel calculate Australia's greenhouse emissions need to be reduced by 74 per cent by 2030.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[place of residence, country]

## 1. WRITE A LETTER

Demand the Prime Minister of Australia to protect the rights of the First Nations communities in the Torres Strait. Carbon emissions must be rapidly reduced to limit global warming.

## SEND YOUR LETTER TO

Prime Minister of Australia  
PO box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

## 2. SEND A CARD

to show the Peoples of the Torres Strait that you support them.

## SEND YOUR CARD TO

Amnesty International  
Postbus 1968  
1000 BZ Amsterdam

(Amnesty will make sure that your card reaches Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul.)

## TEXT SUGGESTION

Dear Uncle Pabai and  
Uncle Paul,

I support you in your fight  
to protect your land  
and people.

[your name + country]