

# BRAZIL

## Marielle Franco

### Killed for fearlessly defending the rights of the most marginalized

Women human rights defender Marielle Franco advocated fearlessly for the rights of black women, LGBTI people, and young people in Rio de Janeiro. She condemned unlawful killings by police. In March 2018 she and her driver were shot dead, part of a pattern in Brazil, where at least 70 human rights defenders were killed in 2017.



Marielle was a young, black, bisexual women human rights defender raised in the favelas in Rio de Janeiro. Despite the limited opportunities for women in Brazil, Marielle obtained a masters degree in public administration, spent a decade advocating for some of the most marginalized people in her community, and was elected to Rio de Janeiro city council in 2016. “Marielle embodied the rights she stood up for,” says her partner Monica.

On 14 March 2018, as she was leaving an event she had organized on black women’s empowerment, Marielle was shot to death in her car, along with her driver, Anderson Pedro Gomes. Evidence suggests the murder was carried out by skilled professionals, and experts said the bullets had belonged to the Federal Police.

Brazil is one of the world’s deadliest countries for human rights defenders. Women human rights defenders from marginalized communities like Marielle often face a heightened risk of violence.

**We will not rest until there is justice for Marielle. Take action on the next page.**

Everyone has the right to  
life and security of  
person.

Article 3  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

### Please write to the president of Brazil.

- ♦ Start with Dear President.
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the murder of Marielle Franco.
- ♦ Urge him to bring Marielle Franco's killers to justice, including those who ordered the crime.
- ♦ Call on his government to protect human rights defenders in Brazil from further threats and attacks.

### Send your letter to

President of Brazil  
Praça dos Três Poderes, Palácio do Planalto  
Brasília (DF), CEP 70150-900  
Brasil

Postage: \$2.50

Email: [gabinetepessoal@presidencia.gov.br](mailto:gabinetepessoal@presidencia.gov.br)

Twitter: @planalto

### Please send a copy to

His Excellency Denis Fontes de Souza Pinto  
Ambassador for Brazil  
450 Wilbrod Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6M8

Postage: \$.85

Fax: (613) 237-6144

E-mail: [brasemb.ottawa@itamaraty.gov.br](mailto:brasemb.ottawa@itamaraty.gov.br)

*Human rights defenders are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.*

#WriteforRights #womensrights #WHRD  
#W4R2018 #JusticaParaMarielle #MariellePresente  
[www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca)



Marielle Franco © Ascom/ Câmara Rio

### Support Marielle's family.

Marielle's sister Anielle, said that "as long as we have the strength we will demand justice." Send a message to Marielle's family letting them know that we are with them in their fight for justice.

You may mention Amnesty International, include your return address and use any type of card.

Family of Marielle Franco  
Amnesty International Brazil  
Rua da Glória, 344  
CEP 20241180  
Rio de Janeiro  
Brasil

*Women human rights defenders around the world often face a heightened risk of discrimination and violence because of their gender and because of the social change for which they advocate. These risks are compounded for women experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (i.e. women of colour).*



# INDIA

## Pavitri Manjhi: Harassed for protecting ancestral land



Women human rights defender Pavitri Manjhi is taking a stand. She is the elected head of her village council in the Adivasi Indigenous community of Bhengari, and has inspired other women to take up leadership roles in their community. The community risks being forced from their land to make way for two power plants. They could lose their farms and livelihoods. Pavitri is leading the fight.

Pavitri and other community members say that beginning in 2004, two companies forced residents of Bhengari and other villages — through fraud, coercion, and misinformation — to sell their homes to make way for a thermal and a biomass power plant. Pavitri says the companies did not consult the communities and failed to get their freely-given consent. The Adivasis began to understand the devastating effect of their actions when over time, they were prevented from tilling their lands.

Although some Adivasis never moved after the sales, the companies have gradually taken physical possession of the lands. Villagers making a livelihood from the land are increasingly at risk of losing everything. In January 2018, one company started digging an ash pond over disputed land without consulting or informing the villagers.

Pavitri is one of a group of people who founded an organization to help Adivasi and Dalit villages file formal complaints around their rights to the land. They have brought people together to file nearly 100 of them. For that she faces ongoing intimidation and threats of physical assault. In one incident last April, two men came to her home and pressured her to withdraw all the complaints. They told her, “Everyone who helped you file the complaints are outsiders. They will not be able to save you and we will silence them.” The men returned in the following days to make more threats. Pavitri reported the harassment to the police but the police have taken little action.

Women human rights defenders in India may be targeted because of their gender as well as what they are advocating for. Pavitri isn’t going anywhere and she refuses to be silenced. She is determined to help her community protect their ancestral lands.

Everyone has the right to  
security of person.  
Everyone has the right to  
an adequate standard of  
living including housing.

Articles 3 and 25,  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights

**Ask India to protect Pavitri from harassment. Take action on the next page.**

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

### Please write to the Director General of Police.

- ♦ Start with Dear Director General of Police.
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the constant harassment of Pavitri Manjhi.
- ♦ Ask him for effective and prompt steps to protect her from further threats, harassment and intimidation, so that she can continue to fight for the rights of Adivasis.

### Send your letter to

Director General of Police  
Police Headquarters, Naya Raipur  
Chhattisgarh  
India 492001  
Email: [ps.dgp-cg@gov.in](mailto:ps.dgp-cg@gov.in)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/chhattisgarh.police](https://www.facebook.com/chhattisgarh.police)  
Twitter: @CG\_Police  
Postage: \$2.50

### Please send a copy to

His Excellency Vikas Swarup  
High Commissioner for the Republic of India  
10 Springfield Road  
Ottawa, Ontario K1M 1C9  
Fax: 613 744 3033 or 613 744 0913  
Phone: 613 744 3751 or 613 744 3752  
E-mail: [dhc.ottawa@mea.gov.in](mailto:dhc.ottawa@mea.gov.in)  
Postage: \$.85

*Human rights defenders like Pavitri Manjhi are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.*

#WriteforRights #womensrights #WHRD  
#W4R2018



Pavitri is a quiet and thoughtful leader who understands the needs of the community. © AI

### Support Pavitri!

Send Pavitri a message of solidarity and strength. You may mention Amnesty International and add your return address but **please use no religious cards.**

Pavitri Manjhi Ji  
c/o Sri. Degree Prasad Chouhan, Convenor  
Adivasi Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh  
Near Lata Sadan, Puri Bagicha  
Madhuban Para,  
Raigarh, District Raigarh  
Chhattisgarh, India 496001

Email: [chouhandprasad@gmail.com](mailto:chouhandprasad@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/chouhan.dprasad](https://www.facebook.com/chouhan.dprasad)  
Twitter: @ChouhanDPrasad

*Women human rights defenders around the world often face a heightened risk of discrimination and violence because of their gender and because of the social change for which they advocate. These risks are compounded for women experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (i.e. Indigenous women; women defending the environment, land, and territory).*



# IRAN

## **Atena Daemi: Jailed for opposing the death penalty & advocating for women's rights**



Women human rights defender Atena Daemi dreams of an end to the death penalty in Iran. She has criticized the country's execution record on social media. She has handed out leaflets. She's taken part in a peaceful protest against the execution of a young woman. These simple actions take great courage in Iran.

Incredibly, these activities have been cited as "evidence" of her criminal activity. Her trial, which ended with a sentence of seven years in jail, was a sham. It lasted just 15 minutes and resulted in her conviction on trumped-up charges, including "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security".

The cruel treatment of Atena Daemi is one more bitter example of the intense crackdown on people who speak out for a fairer Iran. Dozens have been imprisoned, and many others face surveillance, interrogations, and drawn-out prosecutions, forcing them into silence.

Atena has suffered so much already. She's been beaten, pepper sprayed, and forced into solitary confinement. Still she continues to fight for human rights. Earlier this year, she went on hunger strike to protest her transfer to the notorious Evin prison. Her health has deteriorated alarmingly while in custody.

Women human rights defenders in Iran are at particular risk of persecution because they defy traditional gender norms by publicly advocating for human rights.

**Tell Iran: Atena Daemi must go free without more delay.**

Everyone has the right to  
life and security of  
person.

Everyone has the right to  
freedom of expression and  
opinion.

Article 3 and 19,  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

### Please write to the Head of the Judiciary.

- ♦ Start with Your Excellency.
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the unjustified detention and treatment of Atena Daemi.
- ♦ Ask him to release her without delay or conditions on her freedom.

### Send your message to

Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani  
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN  
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28  
1209 Geneva  
Switzerland

Postage: \$2.50

Email: [mission.iran@ties.itu.int](mailto:mission.iran@ties.itu.int)  
or [iranungva@mfa.gov.ir](mailto:iranungva@mfa.gov.ir)

*Women human rights defenders around the world often face a heightened risk of discrimination and violence because of their gender and because of the social change for which they advocate. These risks are compounded for women experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.*

*Human rights defenders like Atena Daemi are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.*

#WriteforRights #W4R2018 #WHRD  
[www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca)



Atena Daemi at work in 2015. © Private

### Support Atena!

It is not safe to mail greetings to either Atena or her family inside Iran. But you may mail them to Amnesty's international office. They will search for safe ways to share your messages of solidarity.

Atena loves nature and traveling. She plans to write a book after her release. In prison, she has learned how to work with leather. **Please send greetings without reference to religion or alcohol.** You may include your return address and mention Amnesty International in your message.

Amnesty International  
c/o Iran Team  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 0DW  
United Kingdom

Twitter: @AtenaDaemi

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/atenadaemi](https://www.instagram.com/atenadaemi)

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TAKE PART: [writeathon.ca](http://writeathon.ca)



# KYRGYZSTAN

## Gulzar Diushenova: Advocating for people with disabilities



Women human rights defender Gulzar Duishenova is a fighter. In 2002, she lost movement in her legs after a car accident involving a drunk driver. The next year, her husband died suddenly and she became the sole caregiver for her two young children.

Years later, she met other people living with disabilities who were organizing in the capital city of Bishkek. She recognized that they face common problems. One challenge is finding jobs because work places aren't adapted for wheelchairs. Another is having to rely on others to lift them onto buses – an embarrassing and intrusive experience.

Gulzar Duishenova has made it her life's mission to ensure that people with disabilities can live with dignity and move around freely. She's met officials, organized training for bus drivers, and pushed for action on TV and in social media.

But she continues to face barriers. She needs help to get down the stairs to her front door. Her road is pot-holed and bumpy, so she can't manage her wheelchair alone. She faces daily discrimination in a society where women aren't meant to speak out and people with disabilities are seen as "invalids".

But Gulzar presses on with determination. Her personal experience has strengthened her commitment to her human rights work.

**Ask Kyrgyzstan to support Gulzar's fight for change.**

*Everyone is entitled to the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his/her dignity.*

*Article 22,  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights*

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

### Please write to Kyrgyzstan's parliament.

- ♦ Start with Dear Speaker.
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the challenges that Gulzar Duishenova and other individuals with disabilities face.
- ♦ Ask him to support Gulzar and other activists as they fight for the rights of people with disabilities.
- ♦ Urge parliament to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to help address discrimination and improve access to health, buildings, jobs and transport.

### Send your letter to

Speaker of Parliament Jogorku Kenesh  
Chui Prospekti, 205  
Bishkek

Kyrgyzstan 720000

Email: [kenesh001@gmail.com](mailto:kenesh001@gmail.com)

or [kattar@kenesh.kg](mailto:kattar@kenesh.kg)

Postage: \$2.50

### Please send a copy to

His Excellency Kadyr Toktogulov  
Ambassador for the Kyrgyz Republic  
to the USA and Canada

2360 Massachussets Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20008, USA

Postage: \$1.20

Fax: 1 202 449 8275

Email: [info@kgembassy.org](mailto:info@kgembassy.org)

*Human rights defenders like Gulzar are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.*

#WriteforRights #WHRD #W4R2018  
[www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca)



Gulzar prepares a meal in August 2018

© Svetlana Zelenskaya

### Support Gulzar!

Send your messages of solidarity to let her know that you support her work towards a world where people with disabilities can live with dignity.

Gulzar likes music, needlework, crocheting and reading. She would enjoy receiving art supplies or crafts made for her. She works as a translator.

Gulzar Duishenova  
c/o Amnesty International Ukraine  
POB 40  
04050 Kyiv, Ukraine

Postage: \$2.50

Email: [gulzardujsenova@gmail.com](mailto:gulzardujsenova@gmail.com)

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TAKE PART: [writeathon.ca](http://writeathon.ca)



# KENYA

## Stop forced evictions of the Sengwer Indigenous People

The Sengwer say they have lived in the Embobut forest of the North Rift Valley since at least the 19th Century. They want the government to recognize their land rights and work with them to protect the forest.

But since 2012, attacks on the community have left nearly 5,000 people homeless.

The latest round of forced evictions began on December 25, 2017.

Forest Service officers burned 341 homes, killed one Sengwer man and sent another to hospital with gunshot wounds.



The government claims that the Sengwer need to vacate the Embobut forest to make way for a conservation project. Funded by the European Union, the project is intended to mitigate climate change and conserve the forest. The authorities accuse the Sengwer of damaging the forest, but the government has no evidence that they are. Besides, as Sengwer man Elias proclaims, “We have been caring, preserving and protecting the fauna and flora for centuries.” The Sengwer have maintained a traditional way of life. They are bee-keepers and cattle-herders. They say it is in their interest to conserve the forest as their livelihood, cultural identity and spirituality rely on it.

The evictions have created many negative effects on the Sengwer.

- Sengwer men and women who are now living outside the forest are living in appalling poverty.
- The evictions have dispersed the community and separated them from their spiritual and cultural practices in the forest. Many fear it would lead to the disappearance of the unique culture and identity of the Sengwer.
- The evictions have split up families. Many women are now the main providers for their family and are struggling financially. When the government distributed compensation, in most cases men received it.

The government must immediately end forced evictions and the use of excessive force. They must stop arresting the Sengwer for being present in the forest. Authorities and donors both should involve them in decisions about its management, get their consent, and ensure full protection of their human rights before any project begins.

**We must support Sengwer people in their fight for their ancestral land.**

**To take action, go to the next page.**

**Indigenous Peoples  
shall not be  
forcibly removed  
from their lands**

**Article 10  
UN Declaration on  
the Rights of Indigenous  
Peoples**

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

### Please write to the president.

- ♦ Start with Your Excellency
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the attacks on the Sengwer.
- ♦ Ask him to stop the forced evictions of the Sengwer community, and remove all restrictions to Sengwer's access to, and occupation of, their ancestral land in Embobut Forest.
- ♦ Urge him to take immediate steps to ensure that Sengwer leaders and human rights defenders are not harassed, threatened and intimidated for exercising their human rights.

### Send your message to

Uhuru Kenyatta  
Harambee House  
PO Box 62345 - 00200  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Twitter: @UKenyatta  
Postage: \$2.50

### Please send a copy to

His Excellency John Lepi Lanyasunya  
High Commissioner for Kenya  
415 Laurier Avenue East  
Ottawa, K1N 6R4  
Fax: (613) 233-6599  
E-mail: [khc@kenyahighcommission.ca](mailto:khc@kenyahighcommission.ca)  
Postage: \$.85

*Human rights defenders are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.*

#WriteforRights #W4R2018  
[www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca)



Elias Kimaiyo receives the 2017 Human Rights Defender of the Year Award. He advocates for communal land rights and documents violations in Embobut forest.

### Support the Sengwer!

Send a message using \$2.50 postage in English or Swahili. You may use any kind of greeting, you may include your return address and you may mention Amnesty International.

The Sengwer use song and dance to celebrate their culture and their struggles. Cards or drawings of singing or dancing, of bees, cattle, or trees would be appropriate.

Sengwer Indigenous Peoples  
c/o Naomi Barasa  
Amnesty International Kenya  
P.O Box 1527- 00606  
Nairobi, Kenya

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TAKE PART: [writeathon.ca](http://writeathon.ca)



# MOROCCO

## Nawal Benaissa: Hounded for demanding social justice and better health care services

Women human rights defender Nawal Benaissa speaks out for social justice and better health care services in her region of Rif where many people feel forgotten by their government.



As one of the leading voices of a popular movement called Hirak, she's participated in peaceful protests and campaigned for change on social media.

But every step of the way, she's been harassed by the Moroccan authorities in an attempt to silence her. They arrested her. They held her in custody four times in four months. They demanded that she close her popular Facebook profile which had 80,000 followers.

Finally, in February 2018, she was given a 10-month suspended sentence and a fine for "inciting to commit an offence." Still the intimidation continues. She moved to another city to avoid the constant surveillance.

Nawal's treatment is part of a major crackdown on the Hirak movement and its leaders. Moroccan security forces have arrested hundreds of peaceful protesters — some just for expressing their support on Facebook. For Nawal, the solution is simple. She wants to be completely free to advocate for a better future for her community and her children.

Women human rights defenders in Morocco may be targeted because of their gender as well as what they are advocating for.

**Ask Morocco to stop harassing Nawal.  
Take action on the next page.**

Everyone has the right to  
security of person and the  
right to freedom of  
expression.

Articles 3 and 19,  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights

**WRITE  
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RIGHTS**

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## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

### Please write to the Prime Minister.

- ♦ Start with Your Excellency.
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about continual harassment of Nawal Benaissa.
- ♦ Ask him for effective and prompt steps to halt the harassment of Nawal, as she is a peaceful protestor and human rights defender who just wants a better life for people in her region.

### Send your letter to

Prime Minister Saad Dine Al Othmani  
Department of the Head of Government  
Palais Royal Touarga  
Rabat, Morocco

Postage: \$2.50

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cg.gov.ma](https://www.facebook.com/cg.gov.ma)

Twitter: @ChefGov\_ma

### Please send a copy to

Her Excellency Souriya Otmani  
Ambassador for the Kingdom of Morocco  
38 Range Road  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8J4

Postage: \$.85

Fax: 613 236 6164

Phone: 613 236 7391 or 613 236 6064

E-mail: [sifamaot@bellnet.ca](mailto:sifamaot@bellnet.ca)

*Human rights defenders like Nawal Benaissa are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.*

#WriteforRights #Hirak #W4R18 #WHRD  
[www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca)



Nawal Benaissa of the grassroots Al-Hirak Al-Shaabi movement poses for a photo during a protest in May 2017 in Al-Hoceima city to demand the release of Nasser Zefzafi, head of the Al-Hirak.

© AFP/Getty Images

### Support Nawal!

Send your messages of solidarity and courage to her, so she can know there are people around the world who respect the work she does. Use \$2.50 postage to **send a greeting without reference to religion or alcohol**, or connect with her on Facebook.

Nawal Benaissa  
c/o Amnesty International Morocco  
20 rue Ouargha appartement 5 Agdal  
10000 Rabat - Morocco  
[www.facebook.com/nawal.ben.90281](https://www.facebook.com/nawal.ben.90281)

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# SOUTH AFRICA

## Nonhle Mbuthuma Harassed for defending Indigenous rights



Women human rights defender and farmer Nonhle Mbuthuma courageously defends Indigenous land rights as an Australian mining company seeks to mine titanium on her traditional territory. She said, “When you take my land, you take my identity. I know myself because of the land.”

Nonhle is part of the amaMpondo Indigenous people who have communal rights to land on South Africa’s Eastern Cape. Around 5,000 people from five villages may be forcibly evicted if the company is allowed to mine the land. The residents could lose their homes, livelihoods, and way of life.

To protect their rights, community members including Nonhle founded the Amadiba Crisis Committee in 2007. Since then, she has been continually intimidated and threatened. She even survived an attempt to kill her; another community leader was shot dead in 2016 and Nonhle was told she was next on the ‘hit list’.

She believes the threats are an attempt to silence her and force her to flee her land. But she’s determined to resist. As she says: “This land was my grandmother’s. She inherited it from her grandparents. What am I going to leave for my children? Mining is not an option.”

Nonhle plans to continue advocating for her people’s rights. It’s our turn to stand up for her.

**Call on South Africa to respect Indigenous rights and protect Nonhle.**

Everyone has the right to  
security of person, to  
freedom of expression and  
to an adequate standard  
of living,  
including...housing...

Articles 3, 19 and 25,  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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To take action, go to the next page.

## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

### Please write to the president of South Africa.

- ♦ Start with Your Excellency.
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the constant harassment of Nonhle Mbuthuma.
- ♦ Ask him for effective and prompt steps to protect her.
- ♦ Urge him to investigate the intimidation targeted at her.

### Send your message to

Cyril Ramaphosa  
President of the Republic of South Africa  
Union Buildings  
Private Bag X1000  
Pretoria, South Africa 0001  
Postage: \$2.50  
Fax: 011 12 323 8246  
E-mail: [presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za](mailto:presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za)  
Twitter: @PresidencyZA

### Please send a copy to

Her Excellency  
Sibongiseni Yvonne Dlamini-Mntambo  
High Commissioner for South Africa  
15 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1M 1M8  
Postage: \$.85  
Fax: (613) 741-1639  
Email: [rsafrica@southafrica-canada.ca](mailto:rsafrica@southafrica-canada.ca)

*Women human rights defenders like Nonhle Mbuthuma are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.*

[www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca)  
#WriteforRights #womensrights #WHRD



### Support Nonhle Mbuthuma!

Demonstrate your solidarity with Indigenous rights advocate Nonhle Mbuthuma by sending a message to let her know that she is not alone.

You may use any type of greeting, you may mention Amnesty in your message, and you may include your return address.

Nonhle Mbuthuma  
C/o Amnesty International South Africa  
97 Oxford Road  
Saxonwold, 2196  
Johannesburg, South Africa

Or send your message via What's App at  
011 27 60 998 3316.

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TAKE PART: [writeathon.ca](http://writeathon.ca)



# UNITED STATES

## Awad: Help her resettle in safety

The face of women human rights defender Awad is obscured for her safety. She is from Sudan and she wants to settle in the United States (US). But she is trapped in Cairo, Egypt. If she is deported to Sudan, she could face threats against her life, persecution, and other dangers.

Awad founded the Sudanese Women Human Rights Project to defend and promote human rights in Sudan, a very courageous thing to do in a country where persistent gender discrimination in law and practice limits women's ability to participate in public life, and puts women human rights defenders at great risk of experiencing threats and violence.

After authorities arrested Awad for her human rights work and then released her, she fled to Egypt in February 2012. There, she has continued her work to protect other Sudanese women human rights defenders — despite harassment from Sudanese officials in Cairo, and despite threats from Egyptian authorities to deport her for her human rights advocacy.

Awad registered as a refugee with UN High Commission for Refugees in Cairo in 2013. Her application for resettlement to the US began that same year. Five years later, US officials are still processing her case.

Awad is one of many people facing danger or persecution whose only chance at long-term safety is resettlement to a safe third country. Yet the Trump administration's policies of targeting refugees, particularly Muslim refugees, jeopardize the safety and security of refugees like Awad.

Many peaceful women's rights activists in Sudan face daily intimidation just for trying to defend human rights.

**Tell the US: Allow Awad to resettle to safety now!**



*Everyone has the right to  
security of person.*

*Everyone has the right to  
seek and enjoy in other  
countries asylum from  
persecution.*

*Articles 3 and 14,  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights*

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to the **Chargé d’Affaires** at the **American embassy**.

- ♦ Start with Dear Mr Goldberger.
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the imminent risk Awad faces to her safety.
- ♦ Ask him to protect her by facilitating her resettlement in the US as soon as possible.

### Send your letter to

Mr. Thomas H. Goldberger  
Chargé d’Affaires, U.S. Embassy  
5 Tawfik Diab Street  
Garden City, Cairo  
Egypt

Twitter: @USEmbassyCairo  
Email: [consularcairo@state.gov](mailto:consularcairo@state.gov)  
Postage: \$2.50

*Human rights defenders like Awad are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty’s efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.*

[www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca)  
#Write4Rights #womensrights #WHRD  
#W4R2018



### Support Awad!

Tell Awad you are actively calling for her to be resettled in the US. Write some words of encouragement. You may send any kind of message, you may include your return address and you may mention Amnesty International.

Using \$1.20 postage, mail your message to

Awad  
c/o Amnesty International USA  
Write for Rights  
5 Penn Plaza, 16th floor  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

*Women human rights defenders around the world often face a heightened risk of discrimination and violence because of their gender and because of the social change for which they advocate. These risks are compounded for women experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (i.e. women of colour).*



# UKRAINE

## Vitalina Koval: Violently attacked for supporting LGBTI rights

Women human rights defender Vitalina Koval has always wanted to make a positive difference. She uses her incredible energy to support local LGBTI people in her home city, Uzhgorod. But she and other activists have been violently attacked by far-right groups, just for speaking out against hate.

On 8 March 2018, Vitalina organized a peaceful demonstration in support of women's rights and LGBTI rights to mark International Women's Day. Because she and others had endured some violent attacks during the same event in 2017, she asked the police for protection. The police assured her that she and her fellow demonstrators would be safe.

On the day, six members of the Karpatska Sich far-right group shouted insults and hurled red paint at them. Vitalina received chemical burns to her eyes. Police detained her attackers briefly but released them a few hours later. Members of the group have continued to threaten Vitalina and others. In one instance, they followed two activists home and beat them up.

There has still been no effective investigation into what happened on 8 March. The attacks are part of a wider surge in violence and intimidation by far-right groups in Ukraine. The groups claim that the inclusive values supported by people like Vitalina are "unhealthy".

Women human rights defenders in Ukraine like Vitalina can be targeted because of their gender and what they are advocating for. But Vitalina and women human rights defenders like her won't give in to fear and hate.

**Ask Ukraine to protect Vitalina and other activists defending women's rights and LGBTI rights.**

To take action, go to the next page.



*Everyone has the rights  
to security of person,  
to freedom of expression  
and to peaceful assembly.*

*Articles 3, 19 and 20  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights*

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**





## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

### Please write to the Minister of Interior.

- ♦ Start with Dear Minister.
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the attacks against Vitalina Koval and other activists who defend women's rights and LGBTI rights.
- ♦ Welcome Ukraine's considerable progress in protecting LGBTI rights thus far and ask him for prompt and effective steps to protect LGBTI human rights defenders like Vitalina from attacks by far-right groups.

### Send your letter to

Arsen Avakov  
Minister of Interior  
Vul. Akademika Bohomoltsa, 10  
01601 Kyiv, Ukraine  
Email: [pgmia@mvs.gov.ua](mailto:pgmia@mvs.gov.ua)  
Twitter: @AvakovArsen  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/arsen.avakov.1](https://www.facebook.com/arsen.avakov.1)  
Postage: \$2.50

### Please send a copy to

His Excellency Andrii Shevchenko  
Ambassador for Ukraine  
310 Somerset Street West  
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0J9  
Fax: 613 230 2400  
Phone: 613 230 2961  
Email: [emb\\_ca@mfa.gov.ua](mailto:emb_ca@mfa.gov.ua)  
Postage: \$.85

*Human rights defenders like Vitalina Koval are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.*

#WriteforRights #W4R2018 #LGBTI  
[www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca)



Vitalina Koval participates in the International Women's Day event, March 2018 © Pierre Crom

**Support Vitalina!** She says she has gained so much strength from those who have supported her so far.

You may mention Amnesty International and include your return address but **please do not send religious cards**. Vitalina likes collecting artwork and handmade accessories that incorporate LGBTI rainbow symbols. Postage is \$2.50.

Vitalina Koval  
Amnesty International Ukraine Office  
POB 40  
04050 Kyiv, Ukraine

Twitter: @VitalinaKovalUA

Віталіно, ми підтримуємо тебе!  
(We support you, Vitalina!)

Бунтуй! Кохай! Права не віддавай!  
(Rebel! Love! Don't give up your rights!)



# VENEZUELA

## Geraldine Chacón: Harassed for educating youth



Women human rights defender Geraldine Chacón grew up wanting to defend other people. She dreamed of being a lawyer at age 9. At 14, she stood for her local youth government. And at university, she started a network of Amnesty International activists pushing for change. Her mother says “Any injustice she saw, she fought against.”

This passion inspired Geraldine to work for an organization which empowers young people in some of the poorest areas of Caracas, her home city. But then, in February 2018, this young, enthusiastic member of her community was arrested in her home by armed officials.

The authorities wrongly linked her with “resistance” groups they accused of organizing violent anti-government demonstrations. In fact, her persecution is part of a wider government crackdown on those who criticize the authorities and champion human rights during the current Venezuelan crisis.

After four months in jail in appalling conditions, Geraldine was conditionally released in June 2018. But she can’t leave the country and her case is still open. That means she could be arrested again at any time for no reason.

Women human rights defenders in Venezuela may be targeted because of their gender and what they are advocating for. Geraldine and many peaceful activists face daily intimidation just for trying to make their country a better place.

**Ask Venezuela to stop harassing Geraldine now.**

*Everyone has the right to  
freedom of movement, of  
expression and of  
association.*

*Articles 13, 19 and 20  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights*

**To take action, go to the next page.**

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

### Please write to the Attorney General.

- ♦ Start with Dear Attorney General.
- ♦ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the persecution Geraldine Chacón has endured.
- ♦ Ask him to close the case against her and give her unconditional freedom so that she can continue her advocacy for young people.

The Venezuela postal system is unreliable so please send letters to Amnesty for delivery in January to

Tarek William Saab, Attorney General  
c/o Amnesty International  
3-1992 Yonge Street  
Toronto ON M4S 1Z7

Twitter: @TarekWilliamSaab

And/or sign the e-petition at  
[www.amnesty.ca/venezuela](http://www.amnesty.ca/venezuela)

*Human rights defenders like Geraldine Chacón are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.*

*Women human rights defender describes women -identified people who defend human rights, or human rights defenders of all genders who peacefully defend gender rights.*

#WriteforRights #womensrights #WHRD  
[www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca)



Geraldine participates in a youth workshop, August 2018  
© Fabiola Ferrero/ VII Mentor Program /  
Panos Pictures for Amnesty

### Assure Geraldine that she is not alone.

You may send her any type of message, you may mention Amnesty International and you may include your return address.

Geraldine loves reading and has completed a law degree. As an Amnesty member who has participated in past Write for Rights events, she says "I never imagined I'd be on the other side of the campaign." Send your greeting to

Geraldine Chacón  
c/o Amnesty International  
Calle Manuel A. Fuentes 894  
San Isidro 15046  
Lima, Perú

Postage: \$2.50

Email: [nattvilla2512@gmail.com](mailto:nattvilla2512@gmail.com)

