

MARIELLE FRANCO

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

BRAZIL



Marielle Franco fought fearlessly for a fairer and safer Rio de Janeiro. She was a popular city councillor who grew up in the favelas and always stood up for the rights of black women, LGBTI people and young people. She also condemned unlawful killings by the police. “Marielle embodied the rights she stood up for,” says her partner Monica.

But then, on 14 March 2018, Marielle was killed, shot to death in her car together 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 Brazilian Federal Police.

Brazil is one of the world’s deadliest countries for human rights defenders like Marielle, with at least 70 killed in 2017. Too often, the killings are not investigated and those responsible go free. People who stand up for human rights live in constant fear.

Together, we can show the Brazilian authorities we won’t rest until justice is done. They must protect human rights defenders from further attacks. And they must identify who killed Marielle. As her sister Anielle says: “As long as we have the strength we will demand justice.”

Demand justice for Marielle today.



WRITE TO THE BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT TODAY

Urge him to bring Marielle Franco’s killers to justice, including those who ordered the crime, and to protect human rights defenders in Brazil from further threats and attacks.

Brazilian President

*Praça dos Três Poderes, Palácio do Planalto – Brasília (DF)
CEP 70150-900
Brazil*

Email: gabinetepessoal@presidencia.gov.br

Twitter: @planalto

Salutation: Dear President

STAND WITH MARIELLE’S FAMILY

Send your messages of solidarity and strength, so that they know you stand with them in their fight for justice.

Amnesty International Brazil

*Rua da Glória, 344 (3rd floor) Glória
CEP 20241180 Rio de Janeiro (RJ)
Brazil*

Report your letters at: amnestyusa.org/w4r/report

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

PAVITRI MANJHI

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

INDIA

Pavitri Manjhi is taking a stand. She's part of an Adivasi Indigenous community who are at risk of being kicked off their land to make way for two power plants. They stand to lose their farms and livelihoods. But she's leading the fight back.

Villagers say they were forced to sell their land by agents acting on behalf of two private companies. Many haven't even been adequately paid. As head of her village council, Pavitri brought people together to file nearly 100 formal complaints. And for that she faces ongoing intimidation.



Local 'strongmen' have repeatedly pressured her to withdraw all the complaints. They visited her home and 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 little has been done.

For decades, Adivasi people have been forced from their land and had their rights trampled on to make room for business developments. But Pavitri isn't going anywhere. She's determined to help her community stand up to big business and protect their ancestral lands.

Tell India to protect Pavitri from harassment now.



WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE

Tell him to give Pavitri the security she needs to protect her from further threats, harassment and intimidation, so that she can continue to fight for the rights of Adivasis.

Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh

Police Headquarters, Naya Raipur
Chhattisgarh
India – 492001

Email: ps.dgp-cg@gov.in

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chhattisgarh.police

Twitter: @CG_Police

Salutation: Dear Director General of Police

STAND WITH PAVITRI

Send her your messages of solidarity, strength and support for her bravery in the face of persistent harassment.

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chouhan.dprasad

Twitter: @ChouhanDPrasad

Report your letters at:
amnestyusa.org/w4r/report

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

ATENA DAEMI

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

IRAN



Like so many, Atena Daemi dreams of an end to the death penalty in Iran. She's written Facebook and Twitter posts criticizing the country's execution record. She's handed out leaflets. And she's taken part in a peaceful protest against the execution of a young woman. Simple actions which sadly, in Iran, take great courage.

Incredibly, these activities have been cited as "evidence" of her criminal activity and now she's been sentenced to seven years in jail. Her trial was a sham – it took just 15 minutes and she was convicted on trumped-up charges, including "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security".

Her cruel treatment 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, but she continues to fight for human rights. Earlier this year, she went on hunger strike to protest her transfer to a notorious prison. Her health has deteriorated alarmingly in prison. She must be released immediately.

Tell Iran: Atena Daemi must go free.

WRITE TO THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES TODAY

Urge them to release Atena Daemi immediately and unconditionally.

Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28
1209 Geneva
Switzerland

Salutation: Your Excellency

Report your letters at: amnestyusa.org/w4r/report

STAND WITH ATENA DAEMI

Sadly, it isn't safe to send letters to her or her family inside Iran. But please write to us and we will ensure your messages of solidarity are heard, or show your support on Twitter or Instagram.

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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/atenadaemi
Twitter: @AtenaDaemi

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

SENGWER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

KENYA

The Sengwer people in Kenya have a deep, spiritual bond with the beautiful and vast Embobut Forest. It's their ancestral land where they have lived for centuries. But this Indigenous community of beekeepers and cattle herders is being violently evicted by the Kenyan government.

In the name of "conservation", forest guards and police have burned an estimated 2,600 houses since 2012, making some 4,600 people homeless. In January 2018, one man was shot

dead and another seriously injured. The violence is in direct violation of repeated court orders that should protect this Indigenous community.

Sengwer people are losing their homes, livelihoods and cultural identity. Some are now living outside the forest and have been left in crushing poverty. Women are often hit hardest, struggling on their own to care for families as some men stay in the forest or have abandoned their families.

The government says it wants to reduce deforestation, but there is no evidence that the Sengwer have damaged the forest. These Indigenous people should be recognized as the owners and natural custodians of the Embobut Forest, as their livelihoods, identity and spirituality rely on it. They are determined to resist. Let's stand with them today.

Tell Kenya to let the Sengwer people live on their land in peace.



WRITE TO THE KENYAN PRESIDENT TODAY

Tell him to stop the house burnings and arrests, and remove all restrictions so that the Sengwer people can live in peace on their ancestral land in the Embobut Forest.

Uhuru Kenyatta
President of Kenya
Harambee House
PO Box 62345 – 00200 Nairobi
Harambee Avenue, Nairobi, Kenya

Email: uhuru@uhuru.co.ke
Twitter: @UKenyatta

Salutation: Your Excellency

STAND WITH THE SENGWER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Send your messages of solidarity and strength, so that they know they are not alone in their struggle against violence and intimidation.

c/o Naomi Barasa
Amnesty International Kenya
PO Box 1527 – 00606
Nairobi
Kenya

Report your letters at:
amnestyusa.org/w4r/report

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

GULZAR DUSHENOVA

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

KYRGYZSTAN

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 carer for her two young children. But she never let it defeat her.

Years later, she met other people living with disabilities who were organizing in the capital city of Bishkek. She realized they faced common problems, including struggling to find jobs because work places aren't adapted for



wheelchairs, or relying on others to lift them on to buses – an embarrassing and intrusive experience.

She's made it her life's mission to ensure 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 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 push her wheelchair. She faces daily discrimination in a society where women aren't meant to speak out and people with disabilities are seen as "invalids" with an incurable disease.

**But Gulzar refuses to be silenced.
Let's support her today.**



WRITE TO KYRGYZSTAN'S PARLIAMENT

Tell the speaker of parliament to support Gulzar and other activists as they fight for the rights of people with disabilities. The parliament must ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to help address discrimination and improve access to health, buildings, jobs and transport.

Speaker of Parliament

*Chui Prospekti, 205
Bishkek
Kyrgyzstan 720000*

Email: kenesh001@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Speaker

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR GULZAR

Send your messages of solidarity, so she knows we support her fight for a world where people with disabilities can live with dignity.

Gulzar Duishenova

*c/o Amnesty International Ukraine
POB 40
04050
Kyiv
Ukraine*

Email: gulzardushenova@gmail.com

Report your letters at:
amnestyusa.org/w4r/report

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

NAWAL BENAÏSSA

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

MOROCCO

Nawal Benaïssa is prepared to stand up for what she believes in. That's why she speaks out for social justice and better health care services in her region, Rif, where many people feel forgotten by their government. As one of the leading voices of a popular movement called Hirak, she's been on peaceful protests and campaigned for change on social media.

Every step of the way, she's been harassed by the Moroccan authorities in an attempt to silence her. They arrested and held her in

custody four times in just four months, and demanded 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". She's appealing the verdict, but 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 and some just for expressing their support on Facebook.

For Nawal, the solution is simple. She wants to be completely free to fight for a better future for her community and her children.

Tell Morocco to stop harassing Nawal today.



WRITE TO THE MOROCCAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

Tell him 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.

Department of the Head of Government
Palais Royal Touarga
Rabat, Morocco

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cg.gov.ma
Twitter: @ChefGov_ma

Salutation: Excellency

STAND WITH NAWAL

Send your messages of solidarity and support to her and her family, so they know there are people around the world who stand by them.

c/o Amnesty International Morocco
20 rue Ouargha appartement 5 Agdal
10000 Rabat – Morocco

Report your letters at: amnestyusa.org/w4r/report

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

NONHLE MBUTHUMA

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

SOUTH AFRICA

Nonhle Mbuthuma won't back down. She's leading the fight for her community against a mining company which wants to mine titanium on their ancestral land. "When you take my land, you take my identity," she says. But she's being harassed just for defending their rights.

Nonhle is part of the Amadiba traditional community, who have communal rights to land on South Africa's Eastern Cape. Around 5,000 people may be forcibly evicted if the

company is allowed to mine the land. They could lose their homes, livelihoods and whole way of being.

Nonhle and her community founded the Amadiba Crisis Committee to unite people across five villages to push back. Since then, she has been continually intimidated and threatened and even survived an attempt to kill her. Another community leader was shot dead in 2016 and Nonhle 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, who inherited it from her grandparents. What am I going to leave for my children? Mining is not an option."

Tell South Africa to protect Nonhle now.



WRITE TO THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Urge his government to protect Nonhle Mbuthuma and investigate the harassment and intimidation targeted at her.

President of the Republic of South Africa
Union Buildings
Private Bag X1000
Pretoria, South Africa
0001

Email: presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za
Twitter: @PresidencyZA

Salutation: Your Excellency

STAND WITH NONHLE

Send her your messages of support and solidarity, and encourage her to continue her fight against the mining company.

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

Report your letters at: amnestyusa.org/w4r/report

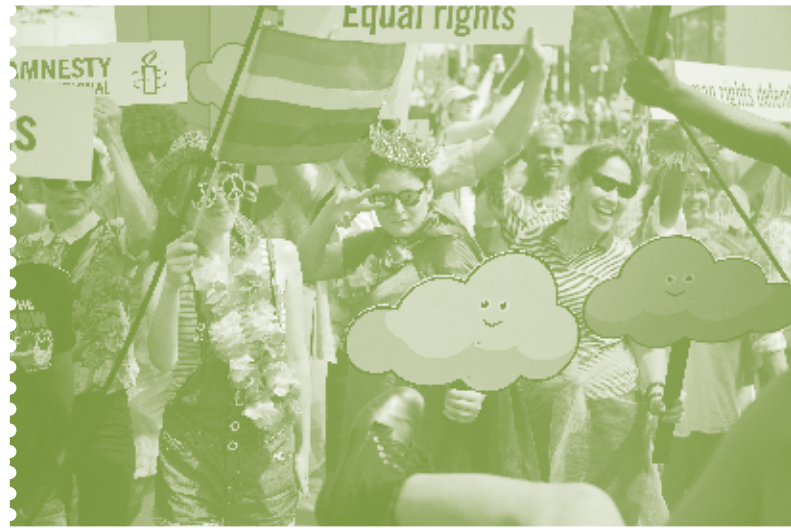
**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

VITALINA KOVAL

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER UKRAINE

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 for women's and LGBTI rights to mark International Women's Day. The police reassured her that she and her fellow demonstrators would be safe.



On the day, a group shouted insults and hurled red paint, and Vitalina received chemical burns to her eyes. Her attackers were detained briefly but released just hours later. Afterwards, Vitalina and others received further threats, and two activists reported that they were beaten 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, who claim the inclusive values supported by people like Vitalina are “unhealthy”. But Vitalina and human rights defenders like her won't give into fear and hate. Let's stand with them.

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



WRITE TO UKRAINE'S MINISTER OF INTERIOR

Tell him to publicly recognize the vital role of Vitalina and other activists who defend women's and LGBTI rights, and protect them from attacks by far-right groups.

Minister of Interior

*Vul. Akademika Bohomoltsa, 10
Kyiv, 01601
Ukraine*

Email: pgmia@mvs.gov.ua

Twitter: @AvakovArsen

Facebook: www.facebook.com/arsen.avakov.1

Salutation: Dear Minister

STAND WITH VITALINA

She told us she's gained so much strength from those who have supported her so far – let her know you stand alongside her in the face of hate.

Vitalina Koval

*Amnesty International Ukraine Office – postal box address
POB 40
04050
Kyiv
Ukraine*

Twitter: @VitalinaKovalUA

Report your letters at:
amnestyusa.org/w4r/report

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

AWAD

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Awad is a Sudanese human rights defender who fled Sudan for Egypt, where she is registered as a refugee with the UN refugee agency, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (“UNHCR”). For several years she has been in the U.S. resettlement process, and now due to the Trump administration’s policies targeting refugees (especially those from Muslim-majority countries), she is trapped in Cairo, where Sudanese authorities have harassed and threatened her due to her human rights advocacy.

Awad founded the Sudanese Women Human Rights Project, which is focused on defending and promoting human rights in Sudan. Awad was detained in Sudan due to her human rights work, and fled to Egypt in February 2012, where she has continued her work to protect other Sudanese women’s human rights defenders.

She registered as a refugee with UNHCR in Cairo in 2013. Her application for resettlement to the U.S. began that same year. However, despite



continuing to face significant risk and threats, her case remains in processing. She remains at risk even in Egypt where Sudanese authorities have threatened her.

And now Egyptian authorities have threatened to deport her to Sudan because of her ongoing human rights advocacy. There, she could face threats against her life and persecution, a serious violation of her human rights.

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 targeting refugees, particularly Muslim refugees, jeopardize the safety and security of refugees such as Awad. The only reason that Awad, and refugees like her, are stuck in limbo now is because of policies based on fear and demonization.

Tell the USA: Allow Awad to resettle to safety now!

WRITE TO THE CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES

Urge him to ensure that Awad is resettled to safety in the U.S. as soon as possible. She is a refugee and human rights defender who must be protected from threats.

Mr. Thomas H. Goldberger

Chargé d’Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo
U.S. Embassy Cairo
5 Tawfik Diab Street
Garden City, Cairo
Egypt

Twitter: @USEmbassyCairo

Email: consularcairo@state.gov

Salutation: Mr. Goldberger

STAND WITH AWAD

Tell her she’s not alone – send her your messages of support and solidarity.

Awad

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

Report your letters at:
amnestyusa.org/w4r/report

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

GERALDINE CHACÓN

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER
VENEZUELA

Geraldine Chacón always wanted to defend other people. Aged nine, she dreamed of being a lawyer. At 14, she stood for her local youth government. And at university, she started a network of Amnesty International activists pushing for change. As her mum says, “Any injustice she saw, she fought against.”

This passion inspired her to work for an organisation 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 stand up for human rights during the current Venezuelan crisis.

After four months jailed in appalling conditions, Geraldine was conditionally released in June 2018. But she can’t leave the country and her case is still open – so she could be arrested again at any time for no reason. She and many peaceful activists here face daily intimidation, just for trying to make their country a better place.

Tell Venezuela to stop harassing Geraldine now.



WRITE TO VENEZUELA’S ATTORNEY GENERAL

Tell him to close the case against Geraldine and give her unconditional freedom, so she can keep on standing up for young people in Venezuela.

Address:

Fiscal General de la República
C/O Embassy of Venezuela
1099 30th Street, NW
Washington DC 20007
USA

Twitter: @TarekWilliamSaab

Email: ministeriopublico@mp.gob.ve

Salutation: Señor Fiscal Attorney General

STAND WITH GERALDINE

Tell her she’s not alone – send her your messages of support and solidarity

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

Email: nattvilla2512@gmail.com

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Report your letters at: amnestyusa.org/w4r/report