



**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL 

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2021

A GUIDE FOR EVENT ORGANISERS (ONLINE)

Suggested Campaign period: November to December 2021

You can use this template as your presentation slides.

Presentation Outline

- Brief introduction to Amnesty International
- What is Write for Rights and how it works?
- Guide for planning your self-organised online event
- Successes and impact stories
- Resource links
- HRE

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and public donations.


**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Introduction

- Write for Rights is Amnesty's global letter-writing campaign and the world's biggest grassroots human rights event!
- Each year, Amnesty supporters in more than 140 countries write letters to demand justice and human rights for all. And it works! People are freed, justice is served, and the world becomes a better place.
- Your words have power! In 2019, Amnesty Malaysia contributed over 6000 actions to help save people from violence, death sentence, intimidation and imprisonment. Join us to do the *WRITE* thing!

A woman wearing a white cowboy hat and a black t-shirt is smiling broadly. She is holding a white sign with a photograph of a group of people. In the background, another person is partially visible, holding a yellow sign. The scene appears to be outdoors.

BECAUSE **YOUR**
WORDS MAKE
A DIFFERENCE

HOW DOES WRITE FOR RIGHTS WORK?

1 People in more than 170 countries and territories take part in all kinds of events

2 Writing millions of letters, emails, tweets and petitions

3 Supporting people who've been harassed, threatened and unjustly jailed

4 Putting pressure on governments, leaders and decision-makers

5 Showing love and support for the people and their families

6 And making change happen – releasing activists, securing justice for those whose rights have been wronged and protecting people who stand up for change

WHY DO WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION?

In country after country, people's freedom to speak out against injustice, to live on their ancestral lands, to not be discriminated against – is under threat.

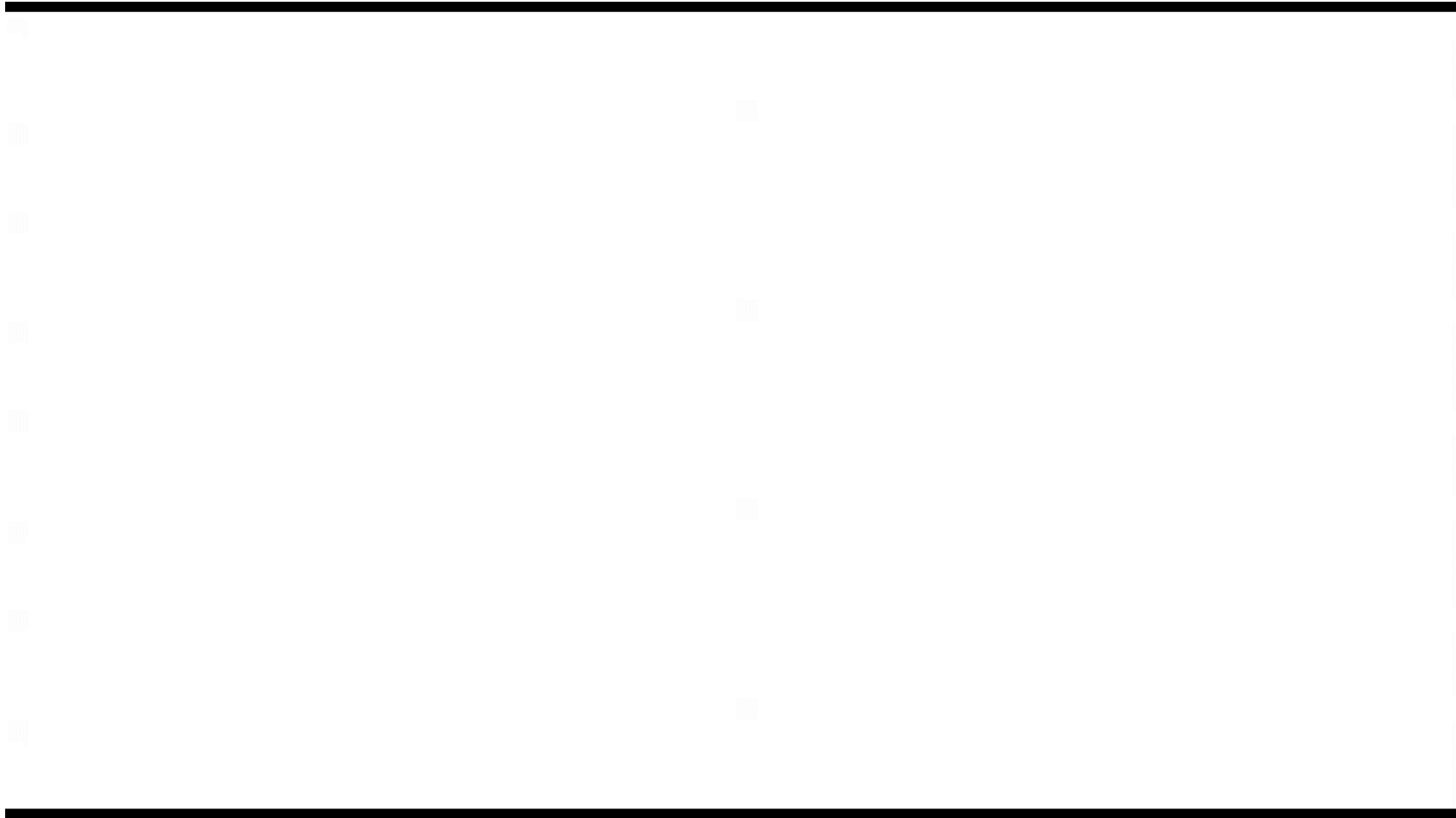
Our letters, words and actions will put pressure on authorities to take immediate action, so that those who abuse will be brought to justice. And those unjustly imprisoned will taste freedom once again.

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



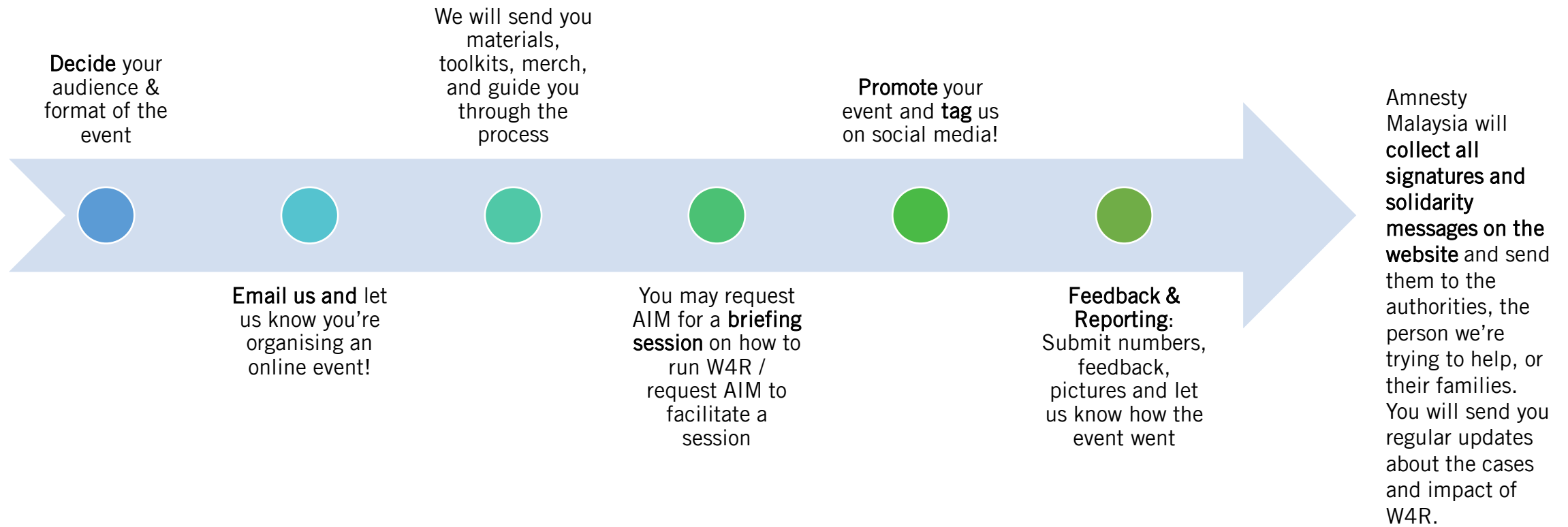
Video – How it works?



Who am I writing letters for? 🤔

- Each year, Amnesty International identifies individuals and communities at risk of human rights abuses worldwide who urgently seek solidarity and justice.
- We ask our supporters to write 2 types of letters:
 - 1) Petition letter to **authorities, governments, leaders and decision makers**
 - 2) Solidarity letter/message to **individuals or communities we are fighting for**

Steps to organising Write for Rights event



Self-organise your Write for Rights virtual event!

- 1) Read the W4R stories on Amnesty Malaysia's website. (You could also give a presentation using our template)
- 2) **Direct participants to sign online actions for each of the cases** OR
- 3) Ask participants to write on **a piece of paper** and take group screenshot
- 4) Encourage participants to take a picture/part of it and share it on their social media channels and tag us @amnesty_my

You can also send your solidarity message to specific social media accounts/tag them

(refer case sheets)

Make your writing session engaging and fun!

You can complement Write for Rights by organising:

- Group discussion and linking it back to the local context
- Human Rights Education session (using our HRE toolkits)
- Music/Art/Poetry session
- Forum/Webinar
- Making videos

Visit our Website

- <https://www.amnesty.my/2021/10/04/write-for-rights-2021/>





UKRAINE

Tell Ukraine to bring Sphere's attackers to justice.

TAKE ACTION



OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Tell Israel to protect Janna from discrimination and violence.

TAKE ACTION



THAILAND

Tell Thailand to drop all charges against Rung

TAKE ACTION



CHINA

Tell China to free Zhang Zhan immediately.

TAKE ACTION



NIGERIA

Tell Nigeria to drop all charges against Imoley.

TAKE ACTION

Explain the case with case sheets and videos



1) Sending solidarity letter; 2) Sending the petition

SEND A LETTER TO RUNG



Click on the + icon to upload your hand-written photo/postcard

TELL THAILAND TO DROP CHARGES

Tell Thailand to drop all charges against Rung

0 signatures

Asked to describe herself, Panusaya "Rung" Sithijirawattanakul, says she's "humble and quiet". The student and amateur violinist was once shy, but today she's a leading voice in Thailand's youth democracy movement.

Rung became politically active while studying sociology and anthropology at university in the capital, Bangkok. She bravely took part in protests for social and political change throughout 2020. By August, she had become a protest leader ...

Dear Prime Minister,

Panusaya "Rung" Sithijirawattanakul is a promising university student who, like many other young people, has been peacefully protesting as part of Thailand's democracy movement. She and her peers are campaigning for a society where public concerns are heard and acted upon – not silenced. Because Panusaya dared to publicly and peacefully call for change, she faces multiple criminal charges against her and the possibility of life in prison. The Thai authorities need to encourage and enable all people in Thailand to enjoy and exercise their human rights, including peaceful protest. I urge you to drop all criminal charges against Panusaya.

Yours sincerely

Agreed, I want to sign now!

Powered by **do gooder**

movement. She and her peers are campaigning for a society where public concerns are heard and acted upon – not silenced. Because Panusaya dared to publicly and peacefully call for change, she faces multiple criminal charges against her and the possibility of life in prison. The Thai authorities need to encourage and enable all people in Thailand to enjoy and exercise their human rights, including peaceful protest. I urge you to drop all criminal charges against Panusaya.

Yours sincerely

Name

Email

Did you mean liyang@amnesty.com?

Add personalised message (optional)

☒ Yes, send me updates from Amnesty Malaysia

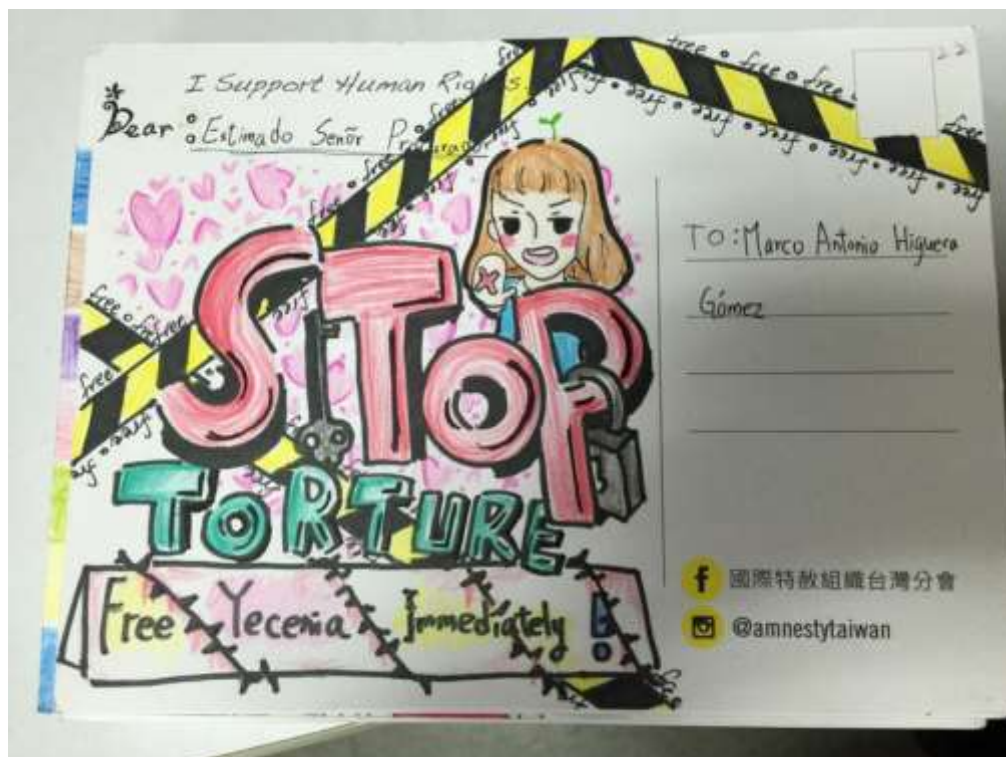
☐ No, do not send me updates from Amnesty Malaysia

Sign

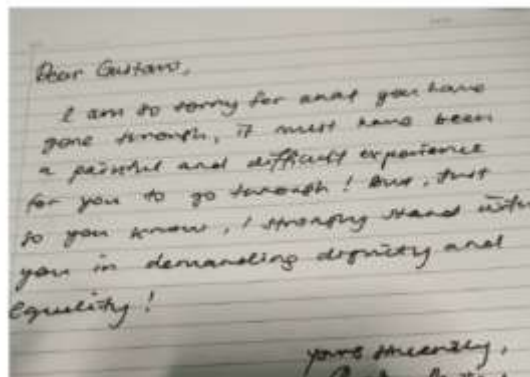
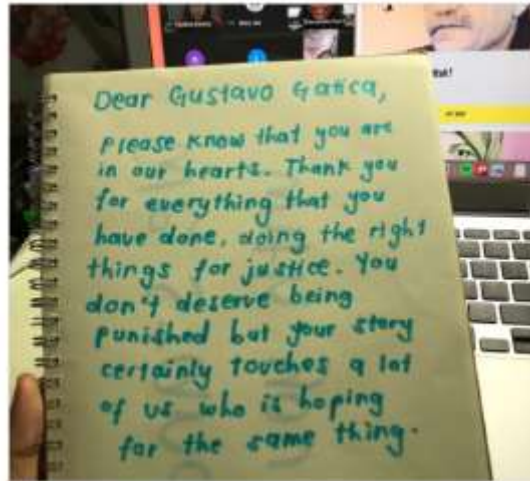
Fill in the details and click sign

Click on "Agree, I want to sign now!"

Sample of solidarity postcards



Sample of solidarity postcards



FAQs

What language should I use to write my letters?

Write in any language in which you are fluent to avoid unintentional mistakes in grammar or vocabulary.

How many letters or solidarity message should I write?

You may set your own letter-writing goal, but we recommend you write for all cases!

Can I keep writing letters for Amnesty after Write for Rights?

Yes! Become a member of Amnesty International Malaysia and you will receive petitions regularly from us directly to your email

Success Stories

- Letters that we wrote help convince government officials to release people imprisoned for expressing their opinion, stop the use of torture, and end other human rights abuses.
- Letter writing has always been at the heart of Amnesty International's work, and 55 years of activism shows us that words have power.
- As part of Amnesty's 2019 Write for Rights, a total **6,609,837** actions collected were collected! Read our successes [here](#).

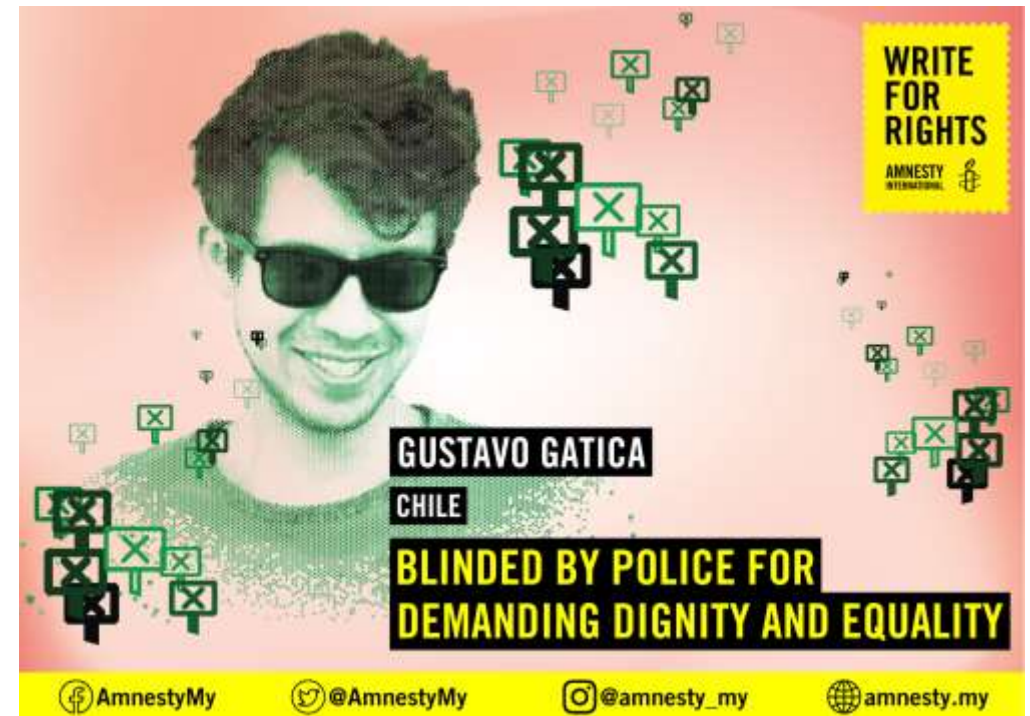
WHY DOES SOLIDARITY MATTER?

Dear members of Amnesty International

We would like to convey our gratitude for all the support and affection that you have shared with us. In addition to the international pressure to achieve justice, which is fundamental to us, through this campaign we feel the fraternal embrace of thousands and thousands of people throughout the world, reminding us that we are not alone and that there are many people who dream of a better world, where the fundamental rights of all people are promoted and respected. They make us feel that this future is possible.

In times of difficulty, Amnesty International became a great support and ally in our struggle. We will be eternally grateful and please do not stop doing this vital work in the future. Many thanks to all the people who took the time to write and send their affection and good wishes."

A message from Gustavo and the Gatica Villarroel family, in response to the messages they received.





Yasaman Aryani, Iran

1.2 million actions amassed for her freedom

In 2019, Yasaman Aryani was sentenced to 16 years in prison for handing out flowers to train passengers while unveiled.

In February, a partial victory — an Iranian Appeals Court substantially reduced Yasaman's sentence, from 16 to 5.5 years.

We won't stop until she's free.

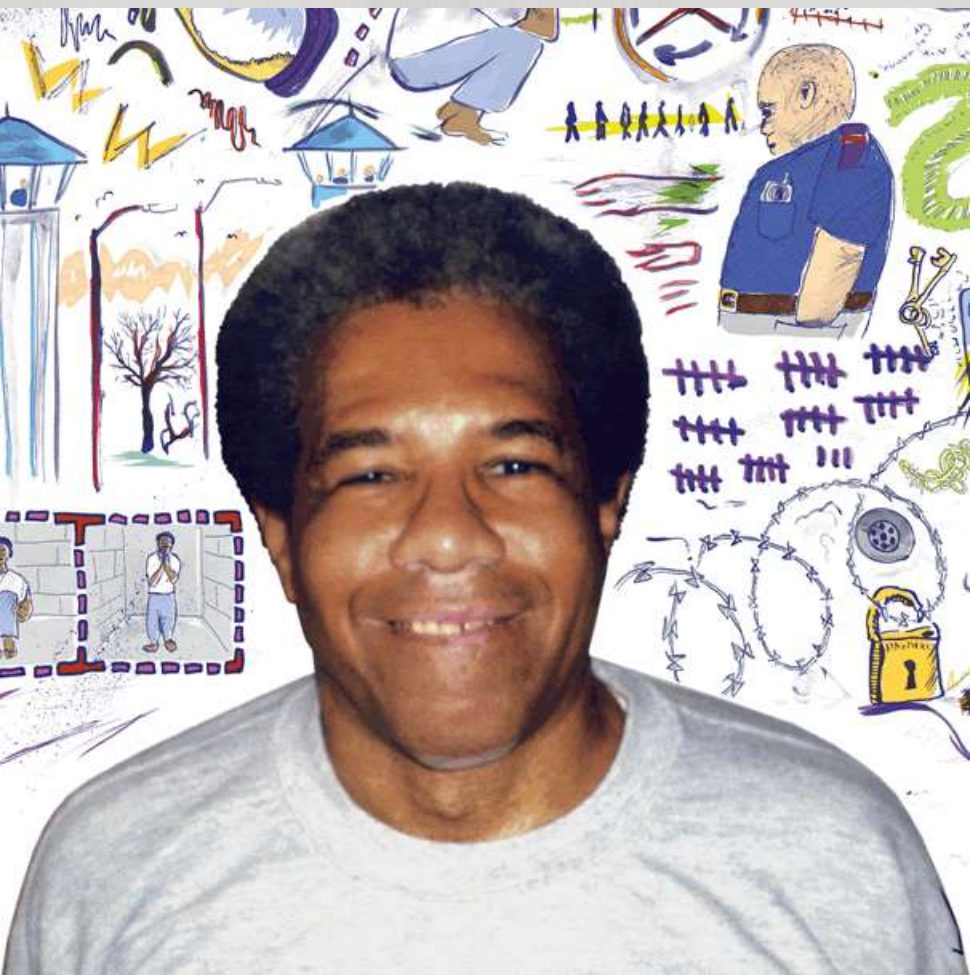
Magai Matiop Ngong

Death Sentence Quashed, 765,000 actions



Magai Matiop Ngong was only 15 when he was sentenced to death. But thanks to all the support and petitions during Write for Rights 2019, his death sentence was cancelled in July 2020 and he was taken off death row.

“Thank you so much. I have no words. You have no idea how my heart is filled with happiness...I'm so blissful and blessed to have them as a support for my life and freedom.”



Albert Woodfox, USA 650,000 actions taken

Albert Woodfox finally walked free in February 2017 after nearly 44 years in solitary confinement in a US prison.

“I can’t emphasise enough how important getting letters from people around the world is. “It gave me a sense of worth...[and] strength.”

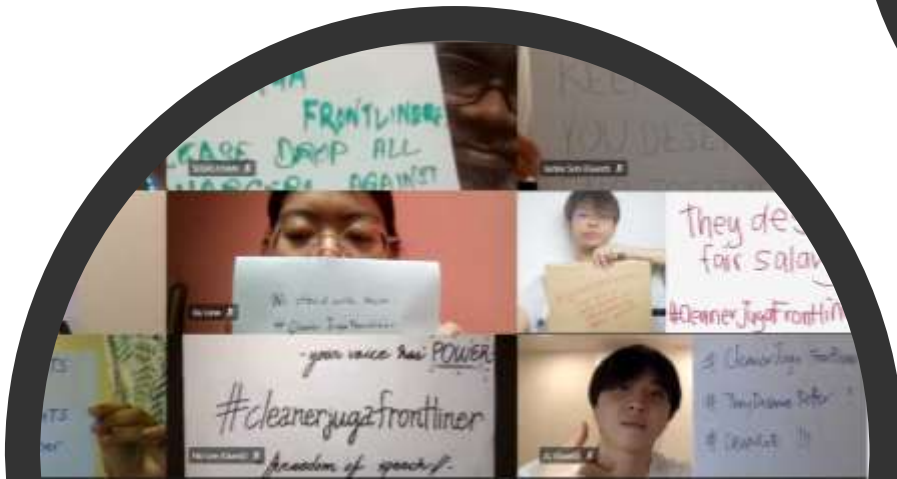
In July 2018 he was finally acquitted of all charges, thanks to all the letters that were written during the Write for Rights in 2015!

Toolkits for hosting Human Rights Education Event

- Amnesty International has developed few human rights education toolkits and additional materials to support the delivery of these activities online.
- We hope that educators, teachers and supporters could expand the writing event with a HRE component.
- The HRE activities aim to help participants to develop a deeper understanding of the human rights issues presented and to reflect similar issues faced by human rights defenders and communities locally

JOIN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST HUMAN RIGHTS EVENT!

- Visit www.amnesty.my for more information
- Schedule a briefing session if you're interested in hosting an online event/HRE activity. Contact liyang@amnesty.my



Write a letter, Change a Life

**“WE WILL BE ABLE
TO MAKE AN IMPACT
IF WE ALL WORK
TOGETHER - EVEN IF
IT'S JUST
SIGNATURES”**

Anicole Tan Wan Yin,
Vice President of Sunway
Amnesty International Club,
2019/2020

