

Attorney General of Louisiana
James Caldwell
Office of the Attorney General
1885 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
USA

Dear Attorney General,

I am writing on behalf of Louisiana prisoner Albert Woodfox, who has spent more than 40 years in solitary confinement for a crime he has always maintained he did not commit.

No other prisoner in the U.S. has been held in solitary confinement longer than Albert Woodfox. This is cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and according to the UN, possibly torture.

You have the power to end this injustice. I kindly urge to you release Mr. Woodfox from prison immediately.

Sincerely,

Minister of Justice and Human Rights
Joséphine Ouédraogo
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
Avenue de l'Indépendance
Ouagadougou 01 BP 526
Burkina Faso

Dear Minister,

I am deeply concerned about the widespread practice of early and forced marriage in Burkina Faso.

Thus, I urge your government to:

- enforce and ensure the application of national laws and international obligations banning forced and early marriage;
- guarantee protection as well as shelter and support services for victims of early and forced marriages; and
- raise awareness in the population about the ban on forced and early marriage, and also about where girls can find assistance if they are at risk.

Sincerely,

Minister of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights
Nikos Paraskevopoulos
Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights
96 Mesogeion Avenue
115 27 Athens
Greece

Dear Minister,

In August 2014, Costas and his refugee partner were badly beaten up in a homophobic and racist attack in central Athens. No suspects have ever been identified or punished.

In 2015, the number of reported attacks against gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) people have more than doubled compared to 2014.

I urge you to:

- Personally ensure this hate crime is promptly, independently and impartially investigated and that Costas and his partner get compensation for the injuries and trauma they have suffered.
- Find and punish those responsible with a sentence that fully recognizes the hate motive behind their crime.
- Take all necessary measures to ensure all LGBTI people, refugees and migrants and other targets for hate crimes in Greece can live free from harassment and violence.
- Ensure the legal recognition of relationships of all gender combinations and of gender identity.

Sincerely,

Président Joseph Kabila
Cabinet du Président de la République
Palais de la Nation
Av. De Lemera
Kinshasa-Gombe
Demokratische Republik Kongo

Your Excellency,

I call on you to drop all charges against Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala and to immediately and unconditionally release them.

I urge you to uphold the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in DRC especially ahead of the 2016 general elections.

Yours sincerely,

President Islam Karimov
Rezidentsia prezidenta
ul. Uzbekistanskaia 43
Tashkent 700163
Uzbekistan

Dear President Karimov,

Muhammad Bekzhanov, a respected journalist, has spent the last 16 years in prison following an unfair trial in which he was sentenced on the basis of a confession he gave after brutal torture.

I urge you to immediately release Muhammad Bekzhanov and to ensure a prompt, impartial and effective investigation into allegations that he was tortured in custody.

Sincerely,

President Thein Sein
President Office
Office No. 18
Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Your Excellency,

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Phyo Phyo Aung, detained peaceful student protesters and all other prisoners of conscience in Myanmar.

Please ensure that pending their release, Phyo Phyo Aung and all other detained student protesters are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated; that they have regular access to family members and lawyers of their choosing; and are provided with any medical treatment which they may require.

Yours sincerely,

President Bashar al-Assad
c/o His Excellency Bashar Ja'afari
Syria UN Permanent Representative
820 Second Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10017
USA

Dear President Assad,

Rania Alabbasi, her husband Abdulrahman Yasin and her six young children were taken from their home by government agents in March 2013 and have not been seen or heard of since.

I urge you to reveal the fate and whereabouts of Rania Alabbasi and her children and grant them access to their family and lawyer.

I call on you to release Rania Alabbasi's six children unconditionally, and to release Rania Alabbasi and Abdulrahman Yasin or charge them of an internationally recognizable offense and try them in line with international fair trial standards.

Sincerely,

Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
c/o Public Relations Office
Number 4, Deadend of 1 Azizi
Above Pasteur Intersection, Vali Asr Street
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency,

Saman Naseem, a member of Iran's ethnic Kurdish minority, was sentenced to death in 2013 for alleged crimes committed when he was 17 years old. His trial used as evidence 'confessions' which he says were obtained through torture and other ill-treatment.

I welcome the news that Saman Naseem has now been granted a judicial review.

I call on you to ensure that the retrial is conducted fairly and in line with Iran's international obligations which absolutely prohibit the use of death penalty against people convicted of crimes committed when under the age of 18.

I call on you that 'confessions' obtained under torture and other ill-treatment are not used as evidence in court to determine guilt. I urge you that Saman Naseem is granted access to his lawyer, his family and any medical attention he may require.

Sincerely,

Benito Antonio Lara Fernández
Ministro de Justicia y Seguridad Pública
17 Avenida Norte, Complejo Plan Maestro
Edificio B1, nivel 1, Alameda Juan Pablo II
San Salvador
El Salvador

Dear Minister of Justice,

Teodora del Carmen Vásquez is currently serving a 30 year prison sentence for aggravated homicide, after suffering a still-birth at work. She was presumed guilty of having an 'abortion' rather than being the victim of pregnancy complications.

I urge to take action to ensure Teodora del Carmen Vásquez is immediately released.

I also call on you to take action to release all other women incarcerated for pregnancy-related complications who have exhausted other legal remedies.

Moreover, I urge you to revise legislation that considers abortions as a crime in any case and that is likely to lead to criminalizing pregnancy-related problems.

Sincerely,

King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
Office of His Majesty the King, Royal Court
Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Your Majesty,

I call on you to release Waleed Abu al-Khair immediately and unconditionally as he is being held solely for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Furthermore, I urge you to quash his conviction and prison sentence and drop all charges against him.

I also call on you to ensure that Waleed Abu al-Khair is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and provided with any medical attention he may require.

Finally, I urge your Majesty to stop the crackdown on activists and their use of social media.

Yours sincerely,

Marco Antonio Higuera Gómez
Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Sinaloa
Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado de Sinaloa
Blvd. Enrique Sánchez Alonso No. 1833
Desarrollo Plan Tres Ríos, C.P. 80030
Culiacán, Sinaloa
México

Dear Attorney General,

In July 2012, Yecenia Armenta Graciano was brutally beaten, suffocated and raped by plain-clothed state police in Culiacán until she 'confessed' to the murder of her husband.

I call on you to drop the charges against Yecenia Armenta and release her immediately. I urge you to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the torture suffered by Yecenia Armenta and bring all those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Prime Minister Najib Razak
Main Block, Perdana Putra Building
Federal Government Administrative Centre, 62502
Putrajaya
Malaysia

Dear Prime Minister,

Political cartoonist Zulkiflee Anwar 'Zunar' Ulhaque faces a lengthy prison sentence under the Sedition Act, after posting tweets condemning the jailing of opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim.

I call on you to drop the charges against Zunar immediately.

Please ensure that Zunar and those working with him are not subjected to any form of restrictions or harassment in connection to their peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression.

I urge you to repeal the Sedition Act and other laws which restrict the right to freedom of expression.

Sincerely,