

Amnesty International URGENT ACTIONS 2023

April 14th, 2023

Country: Tajikistan

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-tajik-dissenter-deported-and-convicted-tajikistan-ua-25-23/>

TAJIK DISSENTER DEPORTED AND CONVICTED

On January 18th, 2023, Germany deported Abdullohi Shamsiddin to Tajikistan, where he was subject to enforced disappearance and then reportedly held in solitary confinement by the State Committee for National Security. He is targeted because of his relationship with one of the leaders of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan (IRPT). On March 29th, 2023, a court in Dushanbe reportedly convicted Mr. Shamsiddin on charges of *“public calls for the violent change of the constitutional order of the Republic of Tajikistan”* under Article 307 of the Penal Code and sentenced him to seven years in prison. *The authorities have not officially confirmed the whereabouts of Mr. Shamsiddin or the court verdict. He remains at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.*

NAME AND PRONOUN: Abdullohi Shamsiddin (he/him)

April 13, 2023

Country: Afghanistan

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-education-activist-arbitrarily-arrested-afghanistan-ua-35-23/>

EDUCATION ACTIVIST ARBITRARILY ARRESTED

Matiullah Wesa was arbitrarily arrested by the Taliban's General Directorate of Intelligence (GDI) on 27 March 2023, while returning from evening prayer at the mosque. Following the arrest, the GDI raided his house the next day and confiscated his personal mobile and laptop. On 29 March, the Taliban spokesperson confirmed his arrest, accusing him of illegal activities. His family have not been allowed to visit him and there has been no avenue to challenge the legality of his detention.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Matiullah Wesa (he/him)

April 12, 2023

Country: Algeria

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-free-journalist-sentenced-to-five-years-algeria-ua-37-23/>

FREE JOURNALIST SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS

On 2 April, the tribunal of Sidi M'hamed in Algiers convicted prominent Algerian journalist Ihsane El Kadi to five years in prison, of which two suspended, a fine of 700,000 Algerian dinars (around USD 5,150), and ordered the dissolution of his media company, one of the last media outlets in the country, and a fine of 10 million Algerian dinars (around USD 73,862). He was convicted on charges of "receiving

funds for political propaganda” and "harming the national security of the state", solely for investing money sent to him by his daughter into his media company and exercising his work of journalist. His conviction is a clear violation of his right to freedom of expression and the latest example of the Algerian authorities tightening their grip on critical voices and the independent media. He must be released immediately and unconditionally, and his conviction must be quashed.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Ihsane El Kadi (He/Him)

April , 2023

Country: Democratic Republic of Congo

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-human-rights-activists-must-be-released-democratic-republic-of-congo-ua-31-23/>

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS MUST BE RELEASED

King Mwamisyzo and Elias Bizimungu are two activists with the citizens’ movement, LUCHA in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They were arrested in April and September 2022, respectively, on trumped-up charges solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly after criticising the military and police authorities in the eastern province of Nord-Kivu for failing to protect the people under their jurisdiction and for being complicit in human rights violations under the “state of siege” since May 2021. They are prisoners of conscience that must be released immediately and unconditionally.

NAME AND PRONOUN: King Mwamisyzo, Elias Bizimungu (both he/him/his)

April 3, 2023

Country: Iran

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-tortured-belgian-aid-worker-forcibly-disappeared-iran-ua-22-23/>

TORTURED BELGIAN AID WORKER FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED

Iranian authorities are subjecting Belgian aid worker Olivier Vandecasteele to enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment. He is held in solitary confinement in a windowless basement cell and is denied access to adequate healthcare and fresh air. On 10 January 2023, Iranian state media announced that he was sentenced to 40 years in prison and 74 lashes, amidst indications that the Iranian authorities are holding him hostage to compel Belgian authorities to swap him for a former Iranian official imprisoned in Belgium. NAME AND PRONOUN: Olivier Vandecasteele (his/him)

March 30, 2023

Country: Egypt

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-tortured-son-of-opposition-figure-held-incommunicado-egypt-ua-29-23/>

TORTURED SON OF OPPOSITION FIGURE HELD INCOMMUNICADO

Anas al-Beltagy, who has been arbitrarily detained for over nine years solely due to his family links, is being held in incommunicado in the Badr Prison Complex, some 70 km east of Cairo, and is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. He has been denied any visits and other contact with his family for over six

years. Since his arrest in December 2013, Egyptian authorities have subjected Anas al-Beltagy to a litany of violations including enforced disappearance and torture. Concerns for his wellbeing and physical and mental health have mounted in recent weeks amid alarming reports emerging from the Badr Prison Complex about prisoner suicides and hunger strikes in protest at their conditions. NAME AND PRONOUN: Anas al-Beltagy (he, his)

March 8, 2023

Country: Cameroon

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-activist-held-without-charge-for-200-days-cameroon-ua-1-23/>

ACTIVIST HELD WITHOUT CHARGE FOR 200 DAYS

Peace activist Abdul Karim Ali has been arbitrarily detained without charge since 11 August 2022. While the authorities have provided no formal reason for his detention, he was interrogated repeatedly about a video he made on 9 July 2022 denouncing a Cameroonian military chief for allegedly torturing civilians. If this is the basis for his detention, it is a violation of his right to freedom of expression. Two of Abdul Karim's friends have also been taken into detention alongside him since then. Amnesty International is calling on the Cameroonian authorities to either charge the three men with a recognisable criminal offence or immediately release them.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Abdul Karim Ali (he/him)

March 7, 2023

Country: USA

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-execution-would-breach-international-law-usa-ua-23-23/>

EXECUTION WOULD BREACH INTERNATIONAL LAW

Texas intends to execute Andre Thomas, a Black man, on 5 April 2023. He was sentenced to death in 2005 by an all-white jury after his lawyers failed to challenge dubious prosecutorial jury selection tactics, the impartiality of certain jurors, or their client's competence to stand trial. Andre Thomas has a long history of serious mental disability, including schizophrenia, and was experiencing a prolonged and severe psychosis at the time of the crime. Soon after his arrest, he gouged out his right eye, and has since extracted the other. He is held in a prison psychiatric facility. His current lawyers are challenging his competence for execution.

NAME: Andre Lee Thomas

March 6, 2023

Country: Eswatini

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-update-detained-mps-must-be-released-immediately-eswatini-ua-113-21/>

DETAINED MPS MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY

Members of Eswatini Parliament Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mthandeni Dube have been arbitrarily detained since 25 July 2021 on trumped-up charges, including those under the Suppression of Terrorism

Act. While in detention, they have been beaten and denied access to their lawyer and medical care. Their prosecution stems from the peaceful exercise of their right to free speech. Their trial concluded on 31 January with judgment reserved indefinitely. They face 10 years in prison should they be found guilty. The politically motivated charges against them must be dropped and they be immediately released. NAME AND PRONOUN: Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza, Mthandeni Dube (both he/him)

February 28, 2022

Country: Morocco/Western Sahara

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-update-human-rights-defenders-conviction-upheld-morocco-western-sahara-ua-91-22/>

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' CONVICTION UPHELD

On 20 February, the Rabat Court of Appeal upheld the conviction against human rights defender Rida Benotmane, imposed by a lower court on 7 November 2022, on charges relating to his social media posts and YouTube videos dating from 2021, in which he criticised the Moroccan government. On appeal, his sentence was reduced from three years to 18 months in prison. He remains held in solitary confinement in Arjate 1 prison in the city of Salé. He must be immediately and unconditionally released as his imprisonment stems solely from the exercise of his right to freedom of expression. NAME AND PRONOUN: Rida Benotmane (He/him)

February 16, 2023

Country: Burundi

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-journalists-conviction-must-be-overturned-burundi-ua-13-23/>

JOURNALIST'S CONVICTION MUST BE OVERTURNED

On 2 January, the High Court of Mukaza in Bujumbura, Burundi, sentenced journalist Floriane Irangabiye to 10 years in prison and a fine of one million Burundian francs (USD 482). She was convicted on trumped-up charges of “undermining the integrity of the national territory”. Her lawyers have appealed this decision. Floriane Irangabiye was arrested on 30 August 2022 while on a family visit in Bujumbura. She is currently being held at the Muyinga Prison. Amnesty International believes that Floriane Irangabiye is being prosecuted solely for peacefully exercising her human rights and for her work as a journalist and calls for her immediate and unconditional release. NAME AND PRONOUN: Floriane Irangabiye (She/Her)

February 15, 2023

Country: South Sudan

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-forcefully-returned-critic-held-incommunicado-south-sudan-ua-17-23/>

FORCEFULLY RETURNED CRITIC HELD INCOMMUNICADO

On 4 February, Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak, a South Sudanese critic, was reportedly arbitrarily arrested, allegedly by armed Kenyan security forces and a South Sudanese man in civilian dress in Nairobi, Kenya where he resides. It is believed he was forcefully returned to Juba, South Sudan and is being held in incommunicado detention at a National Security Service detention facility. The South Sudanese authorities must clarify and reveal Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak's fate and whereabouts, ensure he has

regular access to his family, a lawyer and a doctor, and unless he is charged with an internationally recognisable offence, immediately release him. **NAME AND PRONOUN: Morris Mabior Awikjok Bak** (he/his)

February 8, 2023

Country: USA

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-execution-set-after-32-years-on-death-row-usa-ua-16-23/>

EXECUTION SET AFTER 32 YEARS ON DEATH ROW

The State of Florida is scheduled to execute Donald Dillbeck on 23 February 2023. Now aged 60, he was sentenced to death in 1991 after only eight jurors voted for the death penalty under a law since found unconstitutional. His lawyers are seeking recognition that his neurobehavioral disorder is akin to intellectual disability and should exempt him from execution under constitutional law. They also maintain that the prosecution's use of his prior conviction for murder to support the death penalty is undermined by new evidence that reveals more mitigating than aggravating factors than the original jury heard in this regard.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Donald David Dillbeck (He/Him)

February 7, 2023

Country: Iran

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-update-14-people-sentenced-to-death-in-relation-to-protests-iran-ua-103-22/>

14 PEOPLE SENTENCED TO DEATH IN RELATION TO PROTESTS

At least 14 individuals are at grave risk of execution in Iran in connection with the nationwide protests, including for acts not involving "intentional killing", in violation of Iran's obligations under international law. The authorities have violated their fair trial rights and subjected several to torture and other ill-treatment, including floggings, electric shocks, death threats, rape, and other forms of sexual violence. Since December 2022, they have arbitrarily executed at least four young men in connection with protests following similarly grossly unfair trials.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Arshia Takdastan, Javad Rouhi, Ebrahim Narouie, Kambiz Kharout, Majid Kazemi, Manouchehr Mehman Navaz, Mansour Dahmardeh, Mohammad Boroughani, Mehdi Bahman, Mehdi Mohammadifard, Mohammad Ghobadlou, Saleh Mirhashemi, Saeed Yaghoubi, Shoeib Mir Baluchzahi Rigi, Sahand Nourmohammad-Zadeh, Hamid Ghare-Hasanlou, Hossein Mohammadi, Reza Arya (Aria), Mahan Sadrat (Sedarat) Madani, Saeed Shirazi, Abolfazl Mehri Hossein Hajilou, Mohsen Rezazadeh Gharegholou (he/him)

February 6, 2023

Country: USA

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-update-urge-clemency-for-native-american-activist-usa-ua-16-19-2/>

URGE CLEMENCY FOR NATIVE AMERICAN ACTIVIST

Native American activist Leonard Peltier has been imprisoned in the USA for over 46 years, some of which was spent in solitary confinement, serving two life sentences for murder despite concerns over the fairness of his trial. He has always maintained his innocence. Now 78 years old, he contracted COVID-19 in 2022 and suffers from several chronic health ailments, including one that is potentially fatal. Not eligible for parole again until 2024, his lawyers submitted a new petition for clemency in 2021. President Biden must grant Leonard Peltier clemency on humanitarian grounds and as a matter of justice. **NAME AND PRONOUN:** Leonard Peltier - He/Him

February 3, 2023

Country: Chile

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-justice-for-victim-of-torture-at-risk-in-chile-chile-ua-4-23/>

JUSTICE FOR VICTIM OF TORTURE AT RISK IN CHILE

In October 2019, Moisés Órdenes was attacked by Chilean police officers, Carabineros, while peacefully demonstrating. Over three years since then, on 5 December 2022, the public prosecutor at Santiago's Eastern Metropolitan Office in charge of investigating the case decided to close its investigation into seven out of the 13 officers charged with the attack. Moises' family and lawyers claim there are inquiries left to be performed and that the investigation is far from exhaustive. We call on the Regional Prosecutor at Santiago's Eastern Metropolitan Office to reopen the investigation into those seven officers and guarantee Moisés Órdenes' right to justice. **NAME AND PRONOUN:** Moisés Órdenes (he/him/his)

February 2, 2023

Country: Venezuela

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-ngos-in-venezuela-at-risk-venezuela-ua-8-23/>

NGOS IN VENEZUELA AT RISK

On 24 January 2023, the Venezuelan National Assembly took its first step to approve a bill seeking to control, restrict, and potentially criminalize and close NGOs operating in Venezuela. If this bill passes, all Venezuelan NGOs will have to comply with abusive measures or face criminal prosecution. Measures include disclosing information on their funding, staff, and governance, and would violate the rights to association, privacy, and others, putting NGOs and their beneficiaries at grave risk of criminalization and reprisals. We call on the National Assembly to immediately put a stop to this bill and cease all attacks on civil society. **NAME AND PRONOUN:** Venezuelan NGOs (They, them, theirs)

February 1, 2023

Country: Morocco

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-human-rights-lawyer-sentenced-in-absentia-morocco-ua-10-23/>

HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER SENTENCED IN ABSENTIA

On 21 November 2022, security agents arrested and imprisoned prominent human rights lawyer Mohamed Ziane, around one hour after the Rabat court of appeal confirmed his sentencing of three years

in prison in absentia. The 11 charges against him are unrelated and include bogus charges of insulting public officials and institutions, defamation and marital infidelity. The only recognizable charge against him, that of sexual assault, should be dealt with through proceedings that meet international fair trial standards.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Mohamed Ziane (He/him)

January 31, 2023

Country: Morocco

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-man-at-risk-of-forcible-return-and-torture-morocco-ua-12-23/>

MAN AT RISK OF FORCIBLE RETURN AND TORTURE

On 14 January 2023, Moroccan security officers detained Saudi citizen Hassan Al Rabea at Marrakesh airport at the request of Saudi Arabia who has charged him with terrorism- related crimes. He remains in detention in Rabat, the capital, and is at risk of forcible return to Saudi Arabia where he could face serious human rights violations, including torture and other ill-treatment. The Moroccan authorities must release him and under no means carry out his extradition request. **NAME AND PRONOUN: Hassan Al Rabea** (he/ him)

January 30, 2023

Country: State of Palestine

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-protect-two-gaza-women-in-grave-danger-state-of-palestine-ua-7-22/>

PROTECT TWO GAZA WOMEN IN GRAVE DANGER

Two Palestinian women have not been heard from since 6 January after the Palestinian security services in the Gaza Strip forced them back into the custody of their abusive father. Wissam al-Tawil, 24, and her sister Fatimah al-Tawil, 20, have faced multiple forms of violence at the hands of their father, including beatings, death threats and “interrogations” at gunpoint. Amnesty International is asking for proof that Wissam and Fatimah al-Tawil are alive and safe and for the authorities in Gaza to grant them immediate protection from all forms of gender-based violence. The authorities in the Gaza Strip are obligated under Palestinian and international law to act with due diligence to prevent violence by private individuals against women and girls and to protect women and girls from it.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Wissam al-Tawil and Fatimah al-Tawil (she/her)

January 13, 2023

Country: Peru

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-update-18-killed-during-protests-peru-ua-105-22/>

18 KILLED DURING PROTESTS

On 9 January, 18 people were killed during protests in the city of Juliaca, in the Puno region, in Peru. The country continues to experience protests and violence in different regions, following the announcement of then-president Castillo to dissolve Congress and his consequent arrest on 7 December. Both the National Police and the Armed Forces have used excessive force against protesters. At least 40 individuals have died since 7 December. Amnesty International urges President Boluarte to put an immediate end to all forms of unlawful force by the security forces. **NAME AND PRONOUN: Protesters in Peru**
(They/them)