

Amnesty International URGENT ACTIONS - March 25 to April 1, 2016

25 March

GOOD NEWS

Country Name: China

Further information on UA: 190/15 Index: ASA 17/3715/2016 Issue Date: 25 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/good-news-china-zhang-kai-released-ua-19015>

LAWYER DEFENDING CHURCHES IN CHINA RELEASED

A prominent human rights lawyer supporting churches resisting the removal of crosses was released on 23 March after being detained for seven months.

Name: Zhang Kai, Liu Peng, Fang Xiangui

Gender m/f: Male

28 March

Country: USA

UA: 70/16 Index: AMR 51/3720/2016 Issue Date: 24 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/usa-commute-the-death-sentence-of-ivan-teleguz-ua-7016>

UKRAINIAN MAINTAINS INNOCENCE, EXECUTION SET

Ivan Teleguz, a Ukrainian national, is scheduled to be executed in Virginia on 13 April. He maintains his innocence of the 2001 murder for which he was sent to death row in 2006.

Name: Ivan Teleguz

Gender m/f: m

29 March

Country: Bahrain

Further information on UA: 306/14 Index: MDE 11/3701/2016 Issue Date: 29 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/bahrain-release-prisoner-of-conscience-zainab-al-khawaja-and-her-child-ua-30614>

ZAINAB AL-KHAWAJA IMPRISONED WITH HER CHILD

Zainab Al-Khawaja has been arrested and taken into custody, with her 15-month-old son. She is a prisoner of conscience.

Name: Zainab Al-Khawaja

Gender m/f: f

Country: China

UA: 73/16 Index: ASA 17/3726/2016 Issue Date: 29 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/china-release-elderly-couple-ua-7316>

FALUN GONG PRACTITIONERS RISK TORTURE IN CHINA

An elderly couple in China's Henan province have been arrested as a result of their beliefs. They are facing criminal charges and are at risk of torture and other forms of ill-treatment while in detention.

Name: Yao Guofu (m) and Liang Xin (f)

Gender: Both

Country: Iran

UA: 75/16 Index: MDE 13/3732/2016 Issue Date: 29 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/iran-quash-the-conviction-of-yousef-kak-ehmani-ua-7516>

IRANIAN KURD SENTENCED AFTER LETTER TO UN

Iranian Kurdish farmer Yousef Kakehmami, already serving nine years in prison after two unfair trials, has been sentenced to a further five years in prison after writing a letter to the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Iran.

Name: Yousef Kakehmami

Gender m/f: m

GOOD NEWS

Country: Kuwait

Further information on UA: 4/15 Index: MDE 17/3705/2016 Issue Date: 29 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/good-news-kuwait-former-mp-saleh-al-mulla-acquitted-ua-415>

FORMER MP SALEH AL-MULLA ACQUITTED

Former Kuwaiti opposition MP Saleh al-Mulla was acquitted by the Appeal Court on 9 March of “insulting the Amir of Kuwait and the President of Egypt” on his Twitter account.

Name: Saleh al-Mulla

Gender m/f: m

GOOD NEWS

Country: Kuwait

Further information on UA: 70/15 Index: MDE 20/3706/2016 Issue Date: 23 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/good-news-kuwait-nawaf-al-hendal-aquitted-ua-7015>

NAWAF AL-HENDAL ACQUITTED

Kuwaiti human rights activist Nawaf al-Hendal was acquitted on 1 March, along with 10 other men, of charges including “illegal gathering”.

Name: Nawaf al-Hendal

Gender m/f: m

GOOD NEWS

Country: Qatar

Further information on UA: 319/12 Index: MDE 22/3704/2016 Issue Date: 29 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/good-news-qatar-prisoner-of-conscience-released-ua-31912>

POET MOHAMMED AL-AJAMI PARDONED, RELEASED

Qatari poet Mohammed al-Ajami, a prisoner of conscience, was released on 15 March when the Emir of Qatar pardoned him unconditionally.

Name: Mohammed al-Ajami

Gender m/f: m

Country: Somalia

UA: 65/16 Index: AFR 52/3680/2016 Issue Date: 29 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/somalia-transfer-saado-jaamac-aadan-s-case-to-a-civilian-court-ua-6516>

CIVILIAN ARRESTED AND CHARGED IN A MILITARY COURT

Mrs Saado Jaamac Aadan, a civilian, was arrested by police in Somaliland and has been

charged in a closed military court. She has not been allowed access to a lawyer nor granted bail. She is currently detained in Hargeisa.

Name: Saado Jaamac Aadan

Gender m/f: f

Country: South Sudan

UA: 64/16 Index: AFR 65/3675/2016 Issue Date: 29 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/south-sudan-release-professor-leonzio-angole-onek-ua-6416>

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR ARBITRARILY DETAINED

Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek was arrested on 7 December 2015 in Juba, South Sudan and taken to the National Security Service (NSS) headquarters in the Jebel neighbourhood. He has had no access to his family while in detention and has not been allowed legal representation.

Name: Prof. Leonzio Angole Onek

Gender m/f: m

GOOD NEWS

Country: UAE

Further information on UA: 64/15 Index: MDE 25/3697/2016 Issue Date: 29 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/good-news-united-arab-emirates-muawiya-al-ruwahi-aquitted-ua-6415>

BLOGGER RELEASED AND RETURNED TO OMAN

Omani blogger Muawiya al-Ruwahi was acquitted by the Federal Supreme court in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 14 March. He has been deported to Oman.

Name: Muawiya al-Ruwahi

Gender m/f: m

Country: USA

UA: 74/16 Index: AMR 51/3727/2016 Issue Date: 29 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/usa-halt-execution-of-kenneth-fults-due-to-racial-motivation-ua-7416>

GEORGIA SETS EXECUTION DESPITE RACISM CLAIM

Kenneth Fults, a 47-year-old African American man sentenced to death in 1997, is due to be executed on 12 April in Georgia. In 2005, one of the jurors signed a sworn statement that he had voted for the death penalty because "that's what the nigger deserved".

Name: Kenneth Fults

Gender m/f: m

30 March

Country: Bahrain

Further information on UA: 215/15 Index: MDE 11/3579/2016 Issue Date: 30 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/bahrain-drop-all-charges-against-ibrahim-karimi-ua-21515>

IBRAHIM KARIMI'S VERDICT ON 31 MARCH

Ibrahim Karimi's trial started on 31 January on charges including "insulting the King" on his Twitter account. The verdict will be issued on 31 March. He is at risk of expulsion, as the Appeal Court separately upheld his deportation order on 8 March.

Name: Ibrahim Karimi

Gender m/f: m

Country: Chad

Further information on UA: 68/16 Index: AFR 20/3737/2016 Issue Date: 30 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/chad-release-four-activists-ua-6816>

ACTIVISTS RISK SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON

Four activists will be standing trial for planning to organise peaceful demonstrations to protest against President Idriss Deby's re-election bid. They are currently detained at the Amsinene Prison in N'Djamena and risk jail terms of between six months to one year.

Name: Mahamat Nour Ibedou (m), Younous Mahadjir (m), Nadjo Kaina Palmer (m) and Celine Narmadji (f)

Gender m/f: both

Good News!

Country: China

Further information on UA: 62/16 Index: ASA 17/3736/2016 Issue Date: 30 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/good-news-china-prominent-journalist-jia-jia-released-ua-6216>

CHINESE JOURNALIST RELEASED

Prominent journalist and columnist Jia Jia went missing on 15 March while he was due to board a flight to Hong Kong. His disappearance may be connected with an online letter critical of President Xi Jinping. He was released on 27 March.

Name: Jia Jia, Ou Yang Hongliang, Wen Yunchao

Gender m/f: Male

Country: Iran

UA: 76/16 MDE 13/3733/2016 Issue Date: 30 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/iran-provide-urgent-medical-treatment-to-afshin-sohrabzadeh-ua-7616>

PRISONER IN NEED OF URGENT MEDICAL CARE

Afshin Sohrabzadeh, a member of Iran's Kurdish minority serving a 25-year prison term in "internal exile" at a remote prison in southern Hormozgan province, is in urgent need of specialized medical treatment outside prison. He suffers from a life-threatening gastrointestinal condition, exacerbated by prolonged lack of adequate treatment.

Name: Afshin Sohrabzadeh

Gender m/f: m

Country: South Sudan

Further information on UA: 30/16 Index: AFR 65/3712/2016 Issue Date: 30 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/south-sudan-release-joseph-bangasi-bakosoro-ua-3016>

FORMER GOVERNOR ARBITRARILY DETAINED

Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro, former governor of Western Equatoria state has been in arbitrary detention without charge or trial since 22 December 2015, at the National Security Service (NSS) headquarters in Juba. He has also been denied access to a lawyer, though his family now has access to him.

Name: Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro

Gender m/f: m

Good News!

Country: Turkey

Further information on UA: 45/16 Index: EUR 44/3738/2016 Issue Date: 30 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/good-news-turkey-mk-released-ua-4516>

SYRIAN REFUGEE RELEASED FROM AIRPORT DETENTION

Syrian refugee M.K., who had been arbitrarily detained at Istanbul's Sabiha Gökçen airport since 9 November 2015, was released on 29 March. He is required to go to the central Anatolian province of Aksaray to await a decision on his international protection application. He will not be detained while awaiting the decision.

Name: M.K. (name withheld for security reasons)

Gender m/f: male

31 March

Country: Mongolia

UA: 77/16 Index: ASA 30/3743/2016 Issue Date: 31 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/mongolia-200-people-in-risk-of-homelessness-ua-7716>

200 PEOPLE FACE IMMINENT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

An estimated 200 people in Ulaanbaatar, are facing homelessness due to stalled redevelopment plans. The apartments have become uninhabitable as heating pipes, windows and doors have been removed, and rubbish has been dumped inside the building. These people, including people with disabilities, elderly and families with young children need emergency, alternative and adequate accommodation.

Name: 200 residents

Gender m/f: all

Country: Morocco

UA: 71/16 Index: MDE 29/3721/2016 Issue Date: 31 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/morocco-release-prisoners-many-of-who-m-are-on-hunger-strike-ua-7116>

SAHRAWI PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

Thirteen Sahrawi prisoners have been on hunger strike since the beginning of March, to urge the Moroccan authorities to release them. They were arrested more than five years ago and were sentenced to jail after a grossly unfair trial by a military court in 2013.

Names: Ahmed Sbaïi, Mohamed Bachir Boutanguiza, Sidi Abdallah Abhah, Mohamed Bani, Brahim Ismaïili, Sidahmed Lemjayed, Abdallah Lekhfawni, Abdeljalil Laâroussi, Naâma Asfari, Hassan Dah, Cheikh Banga, Mohamed Bourial, Mohamed Tahlil, Mohamed Lamine Haddi, Abdallah Toubali, Hocine Zaoui, Daich Daf, Mohamed Embarek Lefkir, Mohamed Khouna Babeit, Larbi Elbakai, and Bachir Khadda.

Gender m/f: m

Country: Russian Federation

UA: 57/16 Index: EUR 46/3643/2016 Issue Date: 31 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/russian-federation-investigate-attacks-against-human-rights-defenders-ua-5716>

RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT RISK OF FURTHER ATTACKS

Members of the Joint Mobile Group (JMG) have been repeatedly threatened by the Chechen authorities and targeted with increasing violence. They continue their human rights work in the North Caucasus, Russia, but impunity for the perpetrators exposes them to further attacks and puts their lives in imminent danger.

Names: Igor Kalyapin and nine victims of 9 March attack: Ivan Zhiltsov (JMG member), Ekaterina Vanslova (JMG member), Oistan Vindstad (journalist), Lena Maria Persson Löfgren (journalist), Aleksandrina Elagina (journalist), Anton Prusakov (journalist), Mikhail Solunin (journalist), Yegor Skovoroda (journalist), Bashir Pliev (driver).

Gender m/f: 7 men and 3 women

Country: Saudi Arabia

UA: 63/16 Index: MDE 23/3744/2016 Issue Date: 31 March 2016

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/saudi-arabia-release-prisoner-of-consciencejournalist-alaa-brinji-ua-6316>

FIVE YEARS IN PRISON FOR TWITTER POSTS

Saudi Arabian journalist Alaa Brinji has been sentenced to five years in prison by the Specialized Criminal Court in Riyadh after being convicted for posts on Twitter. He has had no access to a lawyer. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Name: Alaa Brinji

Gender m/f: m