

Urgent Actions Dec 2 to Dec 9, 2016

December 9

Country: Algeria

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-prisoner-of-conscience-sentenced-to-one-year-for-denouncing-corruption-algeria-ua-280>

ONE YEAR IN PRISON FOR DENOUNCING CORRUPTION

An Algerian court sentenced journalist Hassan Bouras to a year in prison and fines for a video denouncing corruption of local officials in the city of El Bayadh. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Name: Hassan Bouras

Gender m/f: m

Country: Egypt

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-update-worrying-escalation-in-the-crackdown-on-ngos-egypt-ua-8116>

WORRYING ESCALATION IN THE CRACKDOWN ON NGOS

A spurious investigation into Egyptian human rights organizations has escalated. On 7 December, prominent women's rights defender and lawyer Azza Soliman was arrested and charged. On 12 December, a court hearing is expected to decide on the freezing of her assets. Separately, a new draconian NGO bill is awaiting the President's signature.

Name: Azza Soliman (f), Hossam Bahgat (m), Gamal Eid (m), Bahey el-Din Hassan (m), Mostafa al-Hassan (m), Abdel Hafez Tayel (m), Mozn Hassan (f), Hoda Abd el-Wahab (f), Mohamed Zaree (m), Ahmed Samih (m), Malek Adly (m), Ahmed Ragheb (m), Aida Seif El Dawla (f), Mozn Hassan (f), Mohamed Zaree (m), Nasser Amin (m), Hoda Abd el-Wahab (f), Mohamed Lotfy (m), and many other human rights defenders.

Gender m/f: both

Country: Israel/OPT

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-two-palestinian-human-rights-defenders-on-trial-israelopt-ua-27816>

TWO PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ON TRIAL

Palestinian human rights defenders Farid al-Atrash and Issa Amro face charges in an Israeli military court relating to their rights to freedom of expression and assembly. Both face time in prison if found guilty. At a hearing on 23 November their lawyer asked for a number of the charges to be dropped and the hearing was adjourned until 21 December.

Name: Farid al-Atrash and Issa Amro

Gender m/f: m

Country: Myanmar

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-health-concern-for-prisoner-of-conscience-myanmar-ua-28116>

HEALTH CONCERN FOR PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

Aung Win Hlaing, a member of the National Democratic Force party in Myanmar, has been sentenced to nine months in prison for a Facebook post critical of the President. He is a prisoner of conscience who must be immediately and unconditionally released.

Name: Aung Win Hlaing

Gender m/f: m

December 8

Country: Azerbaijan

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-update-activist-sentenced-to-10-years-for-graffiti-protest-azerbaijan-ua-11416>

SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR GRAFFITI PROTEST

Azerbaijani youth activist Bayram Mammadov was sentenced to 10 years in prison on 8 December for a graffiti protest. Fellow activist Giyas Ibrahimov was also sentenced to 10 years in prison on 25 October. They are prisoners of conscience and should be released immediately.

Name: Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov

Gender m/f: Both male

Country: Turkmenistan

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-tortured-journalist-faces-seven-years-in-prison-turkmenistan-ua-27916>

INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST TORTURED, FACING JAIL

Journalist Khudayberdy Allashov was detained on 3 December, together with his wife and mother, in Turkmenistan. He is accused of possessing chewing tobacco, which is a criminal offence, and faces up to seven years in prison if convicted. His mother also remains in detention.

Name: Khudayberdy Allashov (m), Khudayberdy Allashov's mother (name unknown, f)

Gender m/f: both

Country: USA

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-demand-commutation-for-chelsea-manning-usa-ua-27716>

DEMAND COMMUTATION FOR CHELSEA MANNING

Chelsea Manning was sentenced to 35 years in prison after disclosing classified information – some of which pointed to potential human rights violations – after a trial marred by due process shortcomings. President Obama must commute her sentence before he leaves office.

Name: Chelsea Manning

Gender: f

December 7

Stop Action!

Country: France

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-update-man-returned-to-sudan-other-no-longer-at-risk-france-ua-26216>

MAN RETURNED TO SUDAN, OTHER NO LONGER AT RISK

One of the two Sudanese nationals at risk of being illegally returned to Sudan from France was released on 22 November and is not at immediate risk. The other man was sent back to Sudan on 2 December after his asylum application was rejected.

Name: B.A. and I.C. (identity withheld for security reasons)

Gender m/f: Both male

Country: Israel/OPT

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-update-circus-performer-held-in-administrative-detention-israelopt-ua-1216>

CIRCUS PERFORMER HELD IN ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

The High Court of Israel accepted to review the case of Mohammad Faisal Abu Sakha but, in a 5 December hearing, his lawyer decided to withdraw the petition after the judges indicated that they believed there was enough “evidence” in a secret file to justify his detention. His current period of administrative detention will end on 12 December.

Name: Mohammad Faisal Abu Sakha

Gender m/f: m

December 6

Country: Bahrain

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-update-ten-men-sentenced-to-death-and-life-imprisonment-bahrain-ua-4715>

TEN MEN SENTENCED TO DEATH AND LIFE IMPRISONMENT

A Bahraini court of appeal upheld the death sentences against three Bahraini men, the life sentences against seven others and the revocation of the nationality of eight of them on 4 December after an unfair retrial in relation to the killing of three policemen in March 2014. On 17 October the Court of Cassation had overturned the three death sentences and ordered the retrial.

Name: Ali Abdulshaheed al-Sankis, Sami Mirza Mshaima’, Abbas Jamil Taher Mhammad al-Samea, Ahmad Jaafar Mhamad ‘Ali, ‘Ali Jamil Taher Mhamad al-Samea, Taher Youssif Ahmed Mhamad al-Samie, Hussein Ahmad Rashed Khalil, Redha Mirza Mshaima’, Hussein Sabah Abdulhussein and Ahmad M’touq Ibrahim

Gender m/f: m

Country: Egypt

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-update-boy-tortured-to-confess-faces-15-years-in-jail-egypt-ua-19716>

TORTURED TO CONFESS CHILD FACES 15 YEARS IN JAIL

The trial of 15-year-old Aser Mohamed has been adjourned to 27 December. He faces a string of charges, including belonging to the banned Muslim Brotherhood group and attacking a hotel, based on “confessions” that he says were obtained under torture after 34 days of enforced disappearance. If convicted, he faces up to 15 years imprisonment.

Name: Aser Mohamed

Gender m/f: m

Country: Iran

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-update-gravely-ill-musician-returned-to-prison-iran-ua-4116>

GRAVELY ILL IRANIAN MUSICIAN RETURNED TO PRISON

Iranian musician Mehdi Rajabian was forced to return to Tehran’s Evin Prison on 4 December. He had been on medical leave following his month-long hunger strike. He was hospitalized during his leave and Amnesty International fears for his health. His brother Hossein Rabajian, a filmmaker, is on hunger strike. They are prisoners of conscience.

Name: Mehdi Rajabian and Hossein Rajabian

Gender m/f: m

Country: Nicaragua

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-human-rights-defender-harassed-by-police-nicaragua-ua-27616>

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER HARASSED

Francisca Ramírez, coordinator of the Council for the Defence of Our Land, Lake and Sovereignty, reported that the Nicaraguan police damaged and took possession of a pickup truck and another truck which she uses for her work, without notice. The retention of her vehicles could constitute an act of reprisal for her work as a human rights defender, and any further harassment could put her physical integrity at risk.

Name: Francisca Ramírez

Gender m/f: Female

December 5

Country: Belarus

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-update-last-prisoner-on-death-at-risk-belarus-ua-13416>

LAST PRISONER ON DEATH ROW AT RISK

Siarhei Vostrykau is the last known prisoner on death row in Belarus after the authorities executed the other remaining three prisoners on death row on 5 November. Siarhei Vostrykau is at imminent risk of execution.

Name: Siarhei Vostrykau

Gender: m

Good News!

Country: Israel/OPT

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/latest-victories/urgent-action-victory-child-released-from-administrative-detention-israelopt-ua-10116>

CHILD RELEASED FROM ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

Abed al-Rahman Awad Kmail was released by the Israeli authorities from administrative detention on 2 October after nearly eight months in detention in Megiddo prison inside Israel. He had spent his 17th birthday in detention.

Name: Abed al-Rahman Awad Kmail

Gender m/f: m

Good News!

Country: USA

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/latest-victories/urgent-action-victory-texas-court-blocks-execution-usa-ua-26416>

TEXAS COURT BLOCKS EXECUTION

On 2 December, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals issued a stay of execution to John Battaglia, a 61-year-old man who was scheduled to be executed in Texas on 7 December. The stay is for the Court to be able to review the question of his mental competence.

Name: John Battaglia

Gender m/f: m

December 2

Good News!

Country: India

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/latest-victories/urgent-action-victory-detained-kashmiri-human-rights-defender-released-india-ua-21516>

DETAINED KASHMIRI HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER RELEASED

Khurram Parvez, a prominent Kashmiri human rights defender, was released from administrative detention on 30 November, five days after a court ruled his detention under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act arbitrary and illegal.

Name: Khurram Parvez

Gender m/f: m

Country: Venezuela

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/urgent-action-update-young-men-to-be-prosecuted-by-military-tribunal-venezuela-ua-24216>

PROSECUTED BY MILITARY TRIBUNAL

Andrés Moreno Febres-Cordero, Marco Trejo, James Mathison and César Cuellar were granted conditional release in late November after having been arrested for producing a video for the opposition party Primero Justicia. They are worryingly being tried for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Name: Andrés Moreno Febres-Cordero, Marco Trejo, James Mathison and César Cuellar

Gender m/f: m