

Daily Urgent Actions for the Week of November 7, 11, 12, and 13, 20, 2014

7 November 2014

3 URGENT ACTIONS

2 UPDATES

1 CORRECTION

UA: 280/14

Issue Date: 7 November 2014

Country: Bahrain

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa28014.docx>

ACTIVIST FACES JAIL FOR 'DEFAMATION ON TWITTER'

Bahraini women's rights activist Ghada Jamsheer was arrested on 15 September on 10 charges of "defamation via her Twitter account". Her detention order has been extended several times and her next hearing, which relates to one of the charges, is scheduled for 24 November. She is a prisoner of conscience.

Name: Ghada Jamsheer (f)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Human rights defender, Freedom of expression

Further information on UA: 227/14 (10 September 2014) and update (8 October 2014)

Issue Date: 7 November 2014

Country: Iran

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/f2u22714.docx>

BRITISH-IRANIAN ACTIVIST ON HUNGER STRIKE

British-Iranian woman Ghoncheh Ghavami has gone on her second hunger strike after learning she had been sentenced to one year's imprisonment in Iran and banned from foreign travel for two years for protesting for the right of women to attend sport events in Iran. Her verdict has not been formally communicated to her lawyer, which prevents her from filing an appeal. Ghoncheh Ghavami is a prisoner of conscience who must be released immediately and unconditionally.

Name: Ghoncheh Ghavami (f)

Issues: Human rights defender, Prisoner of conscience, Hunger strike

Further information on UA: 215/14 (5 September 2014)

Issue Date: 7 November 2014

Country: Ukraine

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/f1u21514.docx>

MISSING EDITOR REPORTED IN ILL-HEALTH

According to an anonymous source newspaper editor Sergei Dolgov, who has been missing since his abduction by armed men in June, in Mariupol, eastern Ukraine, is held in a military base and suffering from serious health issues. His wife fears for his life.

Name: Sergei Dolgov (m)

Issues: Abduction, Incommunicado detention, Health concerns

****Update- The magistrate was set to issue a verdict on the two journalists' case on 3 November, however the date has been postponed again twice, including because the trial magistrate was ill. We are now expecting the verdict to be on 12 November, so please, continue sending appeals.****
Further information on UA: 10/14 (15 January 2014) and updates (17 January 2014, 14 February 2014)

Issue Date: 30 October 2014

Country: The Gambia

http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa01014_3.pdf

JOURNALISTS' CASE TO BE DECIDED ON 3 NOVEMBER

Gambian journalists Musa Sheriff and Sainey M.K. Marenah will have their case decided by a magistrate on 3 November. They could be jailed for up to two years for the legitimate exercise of their right to freedom of expression. They would be prisoners of conscience.

Names: Musa Sheriff (m), Sainey M.K. Marenah (m)

Issues: Freedom of expression, Prisoners of conscience, Legal concern

****Update- The trial of Sonia Garro Alfonso, Ramón Alejandro Muñoz González and Eugenio Hernández Hernández which was due to take place today, 7 November, was postponed once again. No new trial date has been set. As their situation remains the same, please continue sending appeals.****

Further information on UA: 215/12 (18 July 2012) and update (11 October 2012)

Issue Date: 6 November 2014

Country: Cuba

FAIR TRIAL MUST GO AHEAD WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY

http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa21512_1.pdf

Following three postponements, the trial of two government critics and their neighbor is set to take place on 7 November. Amnesty International is concerned for the lack of full guarantees of a fair trial, including the right to call witnesses and challenge the evidence.

Name: Sonia Garro Alfonso (f), Ramón Alejandro Muñoz González (m) and Eugenio Hernández Hernández (m)

Issues: Unfair trial, Legal concern

****Correction – Deadline is 15 December 2014****

Further information on UA: 270/14 (29 October 2014)

Issue Date: 6 November 2014

Country: Serbia

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/f1u27014.docx>

RESETTLEMENT OF ROMA FAMILIES POSTPONED AGAIN

The resettlement of twenty-four Roma households at the Belvil settlement in Belgrade has been postponed again. Roma families have not been meaningfully consulted and lack crucial information.

Name: Belvil settlement inhabitants (m/f)

Issues: Forced eviction, Economic social and cultural rights

11 November 2014

Further information on UA: 6/14 (8 January 2014)

Issue Date: 11 November 2014

Country: Belarus

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/f1u0614.docx>

BELARUS MUST STOP IMMINENT EXECUTION

Amnesty International is deeply concerned that death row prisoner Eduard Lykau is at imminent risk of execution in Belarus.

Name: Eduard Lykau (m)

Issues: Imminent execution, Death penalty, Fear for safety

Further information on UA: 182/14 (18 July 2014) and updates (31 July 2014, 12 August 2014 and 26 September 2014)

Issue Date: 11 November 2014

Country: Azerbaijan

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/f4u18214.docx>

LEYLA YUNUS DENIED LAWYERS OF HER CHOICE

Two main lawyers representing Azerbaijani human rights defender and prisoner of conscience Leyla Yunus have been removed from her case, while the third lawyer is facing criminal charges of libel apparently in retaliation for representing her.

Name: Leyla Yunus (f), Arif Yunus (m), Javad Javadov (m), Khalid Bagirov (m), Alayif Huseynov (m)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Human rights defender, Unfair trial

UA: 285/14

Issue Date: 11 November 2014

Country: Saudi Arabia

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa28514.docx>

LAWYERS SENTENCED OVER 'OFFENSIVE' TWEETS

A special court sentenced three Saudi Arabian lawyers to between five and eight years in prison over tweets deemed offensive to the Ministry of Justice. If imprisoned Amnesty International will consider them prisoners of conscience.

Name: Dr Abdulrahman al-Subaihi (m), Bander al-Nogaithan (m) and Abdulrahman al-Rumaih (m)

Issues: Freedom of expression, Legal concern, Prisoners of conscience

12 & 13 November 2014

****Stop Action****

Further information on UA: 10/14 (15 January 2014) and updates (17 January 2014, 14 February 2014 and 30 October 2014)

Issue Date: 12 November 2014

Country: The Gambia

JOURNALISTS ACQUITTED AND DISCHARGED

On 10 November, Gambian journalists Musa Sheriff and Sainey M.K. Marenah were acquitted and discharged on the two counts of “publication of false news with intent to cause fear and alarm to the public” and “conspiracy to commit felony”. They had been on trial for more than 10 months. The magistrate of the Banjul Magistrate Court of The Gambia ruled that “the prosecution have failed to prove the essential ingredients of the offense on both counts” and decided to acquit and discharge journalists Musa Sheriff and Sainey M.K. Marenah. This ruling ends a 10-month long trial which caused distress to the two men and their families.

Following the ruling, both men announced they will continue their journalistic work and expressed gratitude to their supporters.

Sainey M.K. Marenah said "Words can't express how I feel, but I am happy. I am walking home a free man. I must commend Amnesty International and other international partners for their support. Their campaigns calling for our release and for charges against us to be dropped really bear fruits."

No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals. This is the fourth update of UA 10/14. Further information:

www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR27/013/2014/en.

Names: Musa Sheriff (m) and Sainey M.K. Marenah (m)

Issues: Freedom of expression, Prisoners of conscience, Legal concern

Further information on UA: 66/14 (20 March 2014) and update (11 July 2014)

Issue Date: 13 November 2014

Country: Russian Federation

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/f2u06614.docx>

IMPRISONED ACTIVIST MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY

On 31 October, the Supreme Court of the Chechen Republic ruled that the term of Ruslan Kutaev's imprisonment must be reduced by two months but did not quash his conviction. Ruslan Kutaev is a prisoner of conscience and must be released immediately and unconditionally.

Name: Ruslan Kutaev (m)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Unfair trial, Torture/ill-treatment

Further information on UA: 261/14 (20 October 2014) and update (22 October 2014)

Issue Date: 13 November 2014

Country: France

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/f2u26114.docx>

NO HOUSES YET FOR ALL EVICTED FAMILIES

The forced eviction of an informal settlement near Bobigny, on the outskirts of Paris, has left about 180 people homeless. Sixty are temporarily living in two social care centers in Paris after having slept several days in a gymnasium. The others were not given any temporary shelter.

Name: More than 300 Roma inhabitants (m/f)

Issues: Forced eviction, Economic social and cultural rights

20 November 2014

****Stop Action****

Further information on UA: 259/14 (15 October 2014)

Issue Date: 20 November 2014

Country: Bahrain

ZAINAB AL-KHAWAJA RELEASED, AWAITS VERDICTS

Bahraini activist Zainab Al-Khawaja was released on 19 November after more than a month in detention for ripping up a picture of the King in court. The verdict in this case is expected on 4 December. The verdicts in a further three cases against her will be issued on 9 December.

Zainab Al-Khawaja was released on 19 November 2014 following a court order. Zainab Al-Khawaja, who is due to give birth by caesarean section on 3 December, was leaving a doctor appointment she was taken to when she received the news. Zainab Al-Khawaja had been arrested on 14 October for tearing up a picture of the King while appearing before the High Criminal Court of Appeal in the capital, Manama, in relation to two separate cases. A Lower Criminal Court will issue its verdict on this on 4 December.

The High Criminal Court is scheduled to issue its verdicts on 9 December in three cases against Zainab Al-Khawaja. Two of these cases relate to “destroying government property” after she ripped up a picture of Bahrain’s King while she was detained in ‘Issa Town Detention Centre for Women on 4 and 6 May 2012 and the third case is on the charge of “insulting a police officer”. If her convictions are upheld and she is returned to prison, Amnesty International will consider her a prisoner of conscience. Although she has been released, the authorities still need to drop the outstanding charges against her.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Amnesty International will keep monitoring the situation and will take further campaigning action when necessary. Many thanks to all who sent appeals. This is the first update of UA 259/14. Further information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/039/2014/en>.

Name: Zainab Al-Khawaja (f)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Freedom of expression, Health concerns

Further information on UA: 281/14 (6 November 2014)

Issue Date: 20 November 2014

Country: Sierra Leone

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/f1u28114.docx>

DAVID TAM BARYOH FREED ON BAIL

Sierra Leonean journalist David Tam Baryoh, was released on bail on 14 November, after 11 days detained without charge in a maximum security prison. He now has to report to the police every Monday. He is a prisoner of conscience, arrested solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

Name: David Tam Baryoh (m)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Freedom of expression, Unjust imprisonment

Further information on UA: 226/14 (12 September 2014)

Issue Date: 20 November 2014

Country: The Gambia

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/f1u22614.docx>

FIRST ARRESTS SINCE NEW HOMOPHOBIC LAW

A law introducing possible life sentences for the offense of “aggravated homosexuality” was enacted on 9 October in Gambia. In the last two weeks, the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Presidential Guards have arrested at least four men, a 17-year-old boy and three women on suspicion of “homosexuality”. Another six women have reportedly been arrested since 18 November. They could face a life sentence. Amnesty International considers people detained solely on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity to be prisoners of conscience.

Names: Withheld for security reasons (m/f)

Issues: Prisoners of conscience, Torture/ill-treatment, LGBT rights

UA: 294/14

Issue Date: 20 November 2014

Country: Cambodia

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa29414.docx>

‘MULTIMEDIA MONK’ FACES BASELESS CHARGES

The Venerable Loun Sovath, a Cambodian Buddhist monk and human rights defender known as the “multimedia monk” faces trial on baseless charges of incitement. If convicted he could be sentenced to up to two years’ imprisonment and a heavy fine. If imprisoned, he would be considered a prisoner of conscience.

Name: Venerable Loun Sovath (m)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Human rights defender, Economic social and cultural rights

Further information on UA: 91/11 (25 March 2011) and updates (13 April 2012, 17 April 2012, 11 July 2013 and 13 September 2013)

Issue Date: 20 November 2014

Country: Saudi Arabia

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/f5u09111.docx>

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST FACES FRESH TRIAL

Prisoner of conscience Mohammed al-Bajadi is being retried on the same charges for which he was sentenced to a four-year prison term in 2012. This retrial, months before his expected release, may well result in a harsher sentence.

Name: Mohammed Saleh al-Bajadi (m)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Human rights defender, Unfair trial

Further information on UA: 15/14 (23 January 2014)

Issue Date: 20 November 2014

Country: Saudi Arabia

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/f1u01514.docx>

JAIL SENTENCE OF ACTIVIST INCREASED ON APPEAL

Prominent Saudi Arabian human rights activist Fowzan al-Harbi has been detained again, immediately after being told that his sentence had been increased upon appeal. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Name: Fowzan al-Harbi (m)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Freedom of expression, Human rights defenders

UA: 295/14

Issue Date: 20 November 2014

Country: Democratic Republic of Congo

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa29514.docx>

UGANDAN POLITICAL ACTIVIST AT RISK OF TORTURE

Ugandan political activist Sam Mugumya is detained incommunicado by the army in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Ugandan government have accused him of planning a rebellion against them. He is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Name: Sam Mugumya (m)

Issues: Incommunicado detention, Risk of torture/ill-treatment, Legal concern