

Amnesty International URGENT ACTIONS for the Week of July 31 to August 7, 2015

30 July (from last week, just added)

Further information on UA 138/15 (22 June 2015) and Updates (2 July 2015, 9 July 2015)

Issue Date: 30 July 2015

Country: Chad

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/good-news-chad-djerlar-miankeol-released-ua-13815>

CHADIAN PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE RELEASED

Djerlar Miankeol, Chadian land rights activist and Amnesty International prisoner of conscience, was released on 28 July. The Moundou Court of Appeal overturned an earlier High Court verdict that had found him guilty of insulting the judiciary and dropped all charges against him.

Name: Djerlar Miankeol (m)

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

31 July

UA: 168/15

Issue Date: 31 July 2015

Country: Bahrain

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/bahrain-release-ebrahim-sharif-ua-16815>

POLITICAL ACTIVIST DETAINED OVER SPEECH

Political activist Ebrahim Sharif has been detained and charged for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression in a speech he gave at a public gathering. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Name: Ebrahim Sharif (m)

Issues: Freedom of expression, Arbitrary detention, Prisoner of conscience

UA: 166/15

Issue Date: 31 July 2015

Country: Libya

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/lybia-quash-death-sentences-of-nine-former-officials-ua-16615>

DEATH SENTENCES FOR AL-GADDAFI OFFICIALS

A Libyan court has sentenced to death nine men, all former members of Colonel Muammar al-Gaddafi's regime, including his son Saif al-Islam and head of Military Intelligence Abdallah al-Senussi. The men's trial was seriously flawed.

Names: Saif al-Islam al-Gaddafi (m), Abdallah al-Senussi (m), al-Baghdadi al-Mahmoudi (m), Mansour Daw Ibrahim Mansour (m), Abu Zeid Omar Dorda (m), Milad Salman Daman (m), Mondher Mukhtar al-Gheneimi (m), Abdel Hamid Ammar Awheida Amer (m), Awaidat Ghandur Abu Sufa (m)

Issues: Death penalty, Unfair trial, Torture/ill-treatment

UA: 169/15

Issue Date: 31 July 2015

Country: Bulgaria

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/bulgaria-halt-eviction-of-126-roma-families-ua-16915>

HUNDREDS OF ROMA AT RISK OF FORCED EVICTION

126 Romani families are at risk of forced eviction in Gurmen municipality, Bulgaria. Eight families have already been rendered homeless. Bulgarian authorities must put in place key international human rights safeguards and ensure that no one is forcibly evicted.

Name: Romani community in Gurmen village (m and f)

Issues: Forced eviction, Legal concern, Economic social and cultural rights

UA: 170/15

Issue Date: 31 July 2015

Country: Russian Federation

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/russian-federation-drop-charges-against-oleg-sentsov-and-aleksandr-kolchenko-ua-17015>

DROP TERROR CHARGES AGAINST UKRAINIAN ACTIVISTS

Film director Oleg Sentsov and ecologist Aleksandr Kolchenko are on trial in a military court in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. They are Ukrainian citizens and residents of Crimea who opposed its Russian annexation. The excessive charges of terrorism on allegations of property destruction and recurring torture allegations give rise to fair trial concerns.

Name: Oleg Sentsov, Aleksandr Kolchenko (m)

Issues: Unfair trial, Torture/ill-treatment, Legal concern

3 August

UA: 167/15

Issue Date: 3 August 2015

Country: Oman

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/oman-release-mahmoud-al-fazari-ua-16715>

BROTHER HELD AFTER ACTIVIST FLEES COUNTRY

Omani national, Mahmoud al-Fazari, has been held without charge since 22 July after his brother fled the country while under a travel ban. He is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Name: Mahmoud bin Khalfan bin Salem al-Fazari (m)

Issues: Risk of torture/ill-treatment, Legal concern, Unjust imprisonment

Further information on UA: 165/15 (27 July 2015)

Issue Date: 3 August 2015

Country: Iran

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/iran-halt-the-execution-of-salar-shadizadi-ua-16515>

JUVENILE OFFENDER'S EXECUTION DATE CHANGED

Juvenile offender Salar Shadizadi's execution has been postponed to 10 August. He remains at imminent risk of execution after a conviction for murder. He was 15 years old at the time of the crime.

Name: Salar Shadizadi (m)

Issues: Death penalty, Unjust imprisonment, Imminent execution

4 August

UA: 171/15

Issue Date: 4 August 2015

Country: Iran

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/iran-release-ismail-abdi-ua-17115>

PROMINENT TRADE UNIONIST UNLAWFULLY DETAINED

Ismail Abdi, Secretary General of Iran's Teachers' Trade Association (ITTA), has been detained in Tehran's Evin Prison since 27 June for "organizing and participating in illegal gatherings" for his legitimate trade unionist activities. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Name: Ismail Abdi (m)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Unlawful detention, Economic social and cultural rights

UA: 172/15

Issue Date: 4 August 2015

Country: United Arab Emirates

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/united-arab-emirates-reveal-the-whereabouts-of-sameh-bassiouni-abdullah-alam-ua-17215>

EGYPTIAN MAN KEPT IN PRISON AFTER SENTENCE

Egyptian national Sameh Bassiouni Abdullah Alam was arrested on 11 February in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). He was sentenced to one month in prison in April for "falsely reporting a crime" but has not yet been released. His whereabouts are unknown and he is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Name: Sameh Bassiouni Abdullah Alam (m)

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

Further information on UA: 59/15 (13 March 2015) and updates (1 May 2015, 1 June 2015, 27 July 2015)

Issue Date: 4 August 2015

Country: Pakistan

SHAFQAT HUSSAIN HAS BEEN EXECUTED

Shafqat Hussain was executed in the early hours of 4 August. His lawyers had maintained he was under 18 years of age when the crime was committed and that he was forced to "confess" under torture.

Name: Shafqat Hussain (m)

Issues: Death penalty, Legal concern, Torture

5 August

Further information on UA: 93/15 (24 April 2015)

Issue Date: 5 August 2015

Country: Mexico

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/mexico-drop-charges-against-adrian-vasquez-lagunes-ua-9315>

TORTURE VICTIM MUST BE RELEASED FROM PRISON

Adrián Vasquez Lagunes has been in jail near Tijuana, northern Mexico, since September 2012 when police arbitrarily arrested and tortured him in order to accuse him of drug-related crimes. All the evidence against him has been obtained through undue process. Following a legal challenge,

the prosecutors have a matter of days to respond and potentially drop the charges against Adrián, allowing for his release.

Name: Adrián Vasquez Lagunes (m)

Issues: Torture, Arbitrary arrest, Legal concern

6 August

Further information on UA: 105/15 (7 May 2015)

Issue Date: 6 August 2015

Country: Iran

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/iran-release-narges-mohammadi-ua-10515>

RIGHTS DEFENDER DENIED URGENT MEDICAL CARE

Iranian human rights defender Narges Mohammadi, imprisoned since 5 May, was taken to hospital on 1 August suffering from partial paralysis. She is being denied the specialized treatment she needs, and is facing charges based on her human rights activities. She is a prisoner of conscience.

Name: Narges Mohammadi (f)

Issues: Prisoner of conscience, Health concern, Human rights defender

Further information on UA: 182/14 (18 July 2014) and Updates (31 July 2014, 12 August 2014, 26 September 2014, 11 November 2014)

Issue Date: 6 August 2014

Country: Azerbaijan

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/azerbaijan-release-arif-yunus-and-leyla-yunus-ua-18214>

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN NEED OF URGENT CARE

Azerbaijani prisoner of conscience Arif Yunus had to receive emergency medical treatment during the court hearing on his case, on 3 August. He and his wife Leyla Yunus, also a prisoner of conscience, are facing trumped-up criminal charges stemming from their legitimate human rights work. Azerbaijani authorities restricted access to the courtroom for international observers and journalists.

Names: Arif Yunus (m), Leyla Yunus (f)

Issues: Prisoners of conscience, Health concern, Human rights defenders

Further information on UA: 218/14 (4 September 2014) and Update (18 September 2014)

Issue Date: 6 August 2015

Country: Myanmar

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/good-news-myanmar-u-sein-than-released-ua-21814>

COMMUNITY LEADER RELEASED

Community leader U Sein Than, who had been sentenced to two years in prison in Myanmar for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, has been released under a presidential amnesty.

Name: U Sein Than (m)

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

Further information on UA: 73/15

Issue Date: 6 August 2015

Country: Myanmar

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/good-news-myanmar-ba-thar-kyaw-myint-hla-myint-and-kyaw-khin-released-ua-7315>

ROHINGYA LEADERS RELEASED

Four Rohingya leaders in Myanmar have been released under a presidential amnesty. They had been imprisoned in connection with community protests in 2013.

Names: Ba Thar (m), Kyaw Myint (m), Hla Myint (m), Kyaw Khin (m)

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

UA: 176/15

Issue Date: 6 August 2015

Country: USA

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/usa-stop-the-execution-of-bernardo-aban-tercero-ua-17615>

NICARAGUAN NATIONAL FACING EXECUTION IN TEXAS

Bernardo Aban Tercero, a Nicaraguan national, is scheduled to be executed in Texas on 26 August for a murder committed in 1997. The poor quality of the legal representation he received at trial and during state-level appeals is at the center of his clemency bid.

Name: Bernardo Aban Tercero (m)

Issues: Death penalty, Unfair trial, Legal concern

Further information on UA: 174/15

Issue Date: 6 August 2015

Country: Turkmenistan

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action-now/turkmenistan-reveal-the-whereabouts-of-saparmamed-nepeskuliev-ua-17415>

FREELANCE JOURNALIST'S WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

Freelance journalist Saparmamed Nepeskuliev, whose current whereabouts are unknown, is believed to have been held incommunicado by Turkmenistani authorities for a month. His likely arrest and detention may be linked to his work as a freelance journalist. He is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment and an unfair trial.

Name: Saparmamed Nepeskuliev (m)

Issues: Incommunicado detention, Risk of torture/ill-treatment, Unfair trial