

January–March 2018

# WIRED

TOGETHER AGAINST INJUSTICE



## So far from home

Rohingya refugees struggle in Bangladesh camps

## Freedom for now

Istanbul activists get conditional release

## Love, hope and family

An interview with Noura Ghazi Safadi

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



# WIRE

is Amnesty's global magazine – published four times a year – to inform, empower and inspire people worldwide to take injustice personally

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Published by the Amnesty Publishing Team, Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. All rights reserved.  
Index: NWS 21/7629/2018 ISSN: 1472-443X.  
Printed by Warners Midlands PLC, Lincolnshire, UK. Printed on 100% recycled paper.



**Cover illustration:** Newly built shelters in Kutupalong Refugee Camp, Bangladesh, 27 September 2017  
© Andrew Stanbridge/Amnesty International

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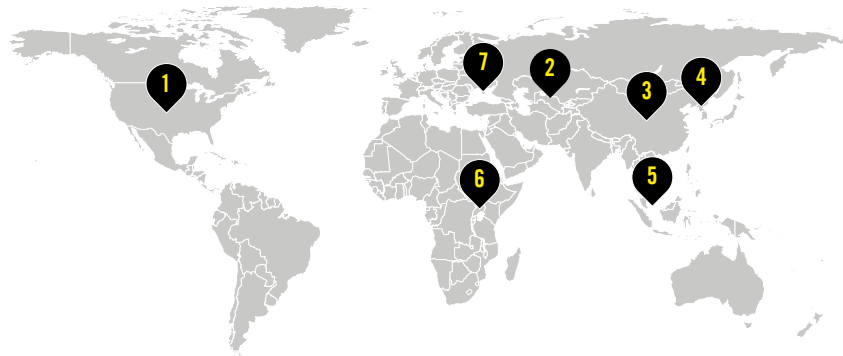


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# AMNESTY AROUND THE WORLD



## 1 STAY OF EXECUTION

An appeal court in Texas, USA, has granted a stay of execution to Clinton Young, who was due to be executed on 26 October. He was convicted in 2003 of the fatal shootings of Doyle Douglas and Samuel Petrey when he was aged 18. However, new statements and evidence in relation to the second shooting have created grounds for a claim that false or misleading testimony was used at Clinton Young's trial. The case has now been remanded to the trial court. Clinton Young maintains his innocence over both shootings.

<http://bit.ly/2A2fuNQ>



## 2 PERMISSION TO TRAVEL AT LAST

In October, former parliamentarian Murad Dzhuraev was granted permission to leave Uzbekistan for medical treatment abroad. During 21 years' imprisonment for "anti-state crimes", his original 12-year sentence was arbitrarily extended

four times. After his release in November 2015 he needed urgent spinal surgery but the authorities refused to let him travel – until now. Thanking Amnesty and other campaigners for their support, Murad Dzhuraev said: "...when I lost the will to fight... solidarity proved to be stronger."

<http://bit.ly/2zoNp4c>

## 3 POET AND PUBLISHER RELEASED

Chinese poet Wu Mingliang and his associate, Peng Heping, were released on 22 September, each having been detained on suspicion of "illegal business operations" in August. The detentions may have been connected with Wu Mingliang's involvement in producing an anthology of poems commemorating the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, who died in custody in July. Both men thanked Amnesty members for their support and expressed the hope that nobody else would be put behind bars in China for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

<http://bit.ly/2hNHkCM>



## FREE ONLINE COURSE

### Find your voice as a human rights defender!

Register now for Amnesty's third massive open online course (MOOC) on human rights defenders. You can take the course at your own pace and in your own time, engaging online with learners all over the world. After just 15 to 20 hours of study time, you will have the knowledge and confidence to join the fight to defend human rights.

The course is delivered in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/2AfFYss>

## 4 PASTOR RELEASED FROM HARD LABOUR



Lim Hyeon-soo, a 62-year-old Canadian pastor, was released on 9 August from a North Korean labour camp. He was sentenced two and a half years ago to life imprisonment with hard labour for “plotting to overthrow the government”. Lim Hyeon-soo, who had made over 100 trips to North Korea on humanitarian missions, was released “on sick bail” to be reunited with his family in Canada. Thank you to Amnesty activists around the world who wrote to demand his freedom.

<http://bit.ly/2zuWkRr>

## 5 MARIA CHIN ABDULLAH IS FREE

Maria Chin Abdullah was released from detention on 28 November, and her case closed, after she spent 10 days in solitary confinement for organizing a rally on free and fair elections in Malaysia.

<http://bit.ly/2ndgidE>

*“I would like to thank Amnesty very much for all the letters you have written to the Malaysian government, for taking action and for highlighting my case. We are thinking of our next steps.”*

## 6 FREE ON BAIL BUT CHARGES REMAIN

Stella Nyanzi, a Ugandan human rights activist detained on 7 April 2017 and accused of criticizing President Yoweri Museveni, was released on bail after Amnesty and others campaigned for her release. While we welcome this good news, we demand that all charges against her be dropped. Addressing Amnesty supporters, Stella said: “I thank you all for your solidarity and support that was expressed variously to me during that intensely trying time.”

<http://bit.ly/2zGDN00>



## 7 RELEASED WITHOUT WARNING

Just weeks after receiving two-and-eight-year prison sentences respectively, Crimean Tatar leaders Ilmi Umerov and Akhtem Chiygoz were flown to Turkey on 25 October and set free. Akhtem Chiygoz had spent two years in detention on trumped-up charges while Ilmi Umerov was briefly detained in a psychiatric institution last year. Both men, who are critics of the Russian occupation of Crimea, are now in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. While welcoming news of their release, Amnesty wants to see them return home to Crimea without fear of prosecution.

<http://bit.ly/2AZqf0D>



## ONLINE ABUSE OF WOMEN IN NUMBERS

# 1 in 4

of 4,000 women surveyed\* in eight countries, 23% say they have experienced online abuse

# 41%

of those experiencing abuse fear for their physical safety

# 26%

of those affected said that personal or identifying details of themselves were posted without their consent

# 55%

experience stress, anxiety or panic attacks following online abuse

# 59%

of the abuse comes from complete strangers

\*Survey by Ipsos MORI for Amnesty International

## BEHIND THE SCENES

# RUBBLE AND RESCUE



Carlos Mendoza, Content Manager in Amnesty's regional Mexico City office, was working in Peru in September 2017 when Mexico was struck by two earthquakes. Rushing home to join the relief effort, he was caught up in a whirlwind of action and solidarity.

I had just begun a mission with Amnesty in the Peruvian capital, Lima, when on 7 September I got news of the first earthquake back in Mexico. Twelve days later, 32 years to the day after the deadly quake of 1985, a WhatsApp message reported the second.

Just two hours before chaos hit Mexico City, my boyfriend had been taking part in an earthquake anniversary safety drill. Now I was looking at a picture of the front of my apartment building – it had collapsed.

Fortunately, the airport was operating and colleagues got me a flight next day. I headed straight to my apartment building to join 300 volunteers removing rubble and serving refreshments to other helpers. After four days we recovered a body we had hoped not to find.

In the Amnesty office, some of my colleagues were collecting food, clothes, medicines and basic supplies for the worst-affected areas. Others began helping to verify information and document complaints about misleading official information and a lack of response from the authorities.

Thanks to the support of many, my boyfriend and I recovered quickly from the shock of the earthquake and secured a new apartment. In my first year with Amnesty, I have learned the true value of loving the other without knowing them, and feeling empathy for the one in need.



Relief effort  
in Mexico City

## DIARY DATES AND ANNIVERSARIES 2018

27

JANUARY

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

6

FEBRUARY

International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

11

FEBRUARY

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

20

FEBRUARY

World Day of Social Justice

21

FEBRUARY

International Mother Language Day

1

MARCH

Zero Discrimination Day [UNAIDS]

8

MARCH

International Women's Day

20

MARCH

International Day of Happiness

21

MARCH

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

24

MARCH

International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims

25

MARCH

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

25

MARCH

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

## EDITORIAL

# INJUSTICE IS PERSONAL

To a Rohingya refugee – unwanted, attacked and abused in your home country, struggling to survive in a reluctant neighbouring state, feeling invisible to the rest of the world – Amnesty's message that we "take injustice personally" must seem like a pretty abstract notion.

Yet, while we cannot reach out to every person suffering as a result of repression or conflict, Amnesty supporters never forget that human rights abuses, even on a massive scale, are experienced by individuals. A single story can motivate each of us to act against the suffering of many. This is happening in the case of Taibeh Abbasi, a high school student in Norway whose classmates have galvanized a campaign of mass action, not only to stop her being deported to Afghanistan but to stand up for thousands of other Afghan asylum-seekers in Europe who face being sent "home" to repression, violence or even death.

That same motivation to challenge injustice sent Amnesty researchers on a recent mission to Bangladesh, where they encountered overwhelming numbers of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar battling just to keep going. They saw not only crowds but, amid them, the grieving eyes, drawn faces and bruised feet of individuals. They documented the sufferings of Rohingya refugees so that more pressure can be brought to bear on the Myanmar government, neighbouring governments, UN agencies and other actors to stop the appalling injustice each refugee continues to suffer.

Injustice is always personal. In 2018, let's continue together, doing all we can, to defend people's human rights.

## THE WIRE TEAM

**Guest editor:** Kay Parris

**Contributors:** Beryl Aidi, Kristin Hulaas Sunde, Deborah Odumuyiwa-Baker, Leen Hashem, Carlos Mendoza, Bina Patel, Loubna Taleb Pedersen, Shiromi Pinto, Omar Waraich, Lisa Van Wyk, Astrid Chitou

**Designer:** Dina Silanteva

**Photo editor:** Richard Burton

**Managing editor:** Caroline Stomberg



FOCUS: MYANMAR

# 'UNTIL PEACE RETURNS'

Traumatized, exhausted, Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are living out another chapter in their painful history as an unwanted people. Amnesty's Deputy South Asia Director, Omar Waraich, joined a research mission to document their experiences in Cox's Bazar, a district shaped by the sufferings of Rohingya people over centuries.



*A rainbow rises over newly built shelters in Thaing Khali Refugee Camp, Bangladesh, 27 September 2017*









It seems fitting that Cox's Bazar, site of the world's longest beach front, was named after a refugee crisis. In 1784, King Bodaw U Waing, the sixth monarch of Burma's Konbaung dynasty, laid siege to the last vestiges of the Arakanese kingdom. Under the leadership of the Burmese king's son and heir apparent, the Burmese forces slayed Arakan's King Thamada and seized control of the territory. The Arakanese were forced to flee, taking refuge in what is now the south-easterly tail of Bangladesh. The East India Company dispatched Captain Hiram Cox to the area to supervise relief efforts for the refugees.

Today, the Cox's Bazar district is home to the largest humanitarian crisis of our time. Not since the Rwandan genocide have so many people been displaced so fast. Since 25 August, more than 620,000 Rohingya refugees have made the arduous days-long, sometimes weeks-long, journey from their villages in Rakhine State. Bearing much pain and few possessions, they travelled by foot to the Naf River, the slender strip of water that divides Myanmar and Bangladesh, to find themselves at the mercy of boatmen who sensed opportunity in their misery.

*Their greatest fear is that they will become victims, yet again, of a renewed wave of violence*





*Rohingya refugees sit by the road near Teknaf, Bangladesh, after arriving by boat the night before from Myanmar, 28 September 2017*



*Rohingya refugees arrive by boat from Myanmar, with what few possessions they could carry during the days- or even weeks-long journey from their villages in Rakhine State to Bangladesh, 28 September 2017*

The boatmen forced the refugees to part with whatever cash and jewellery they carried with them. The Rohingya had no choice. They could not return to their villages, which had been reduced to ashes. The horrors they endured there – the killings, rape and torture – impelled them to seek sanctuary across the border. Even now, three months later, they continue to stream through the thick, lime-green paddy fields, wearing signs of exhaustion. Their faces are drawn, their bare feet badly bruised and their eyes offer a glimpse of their grief.

The crisis has put a great deal of strain on the humanitarian community, which is doing its best in the circumstances. At the border's edge, the refugees are offered a bottle of water to quench their thirst, a high-energy biscuit to restore their strength, and a place in the shade for some much-needed rest. Those with medical needs are separated and led to the nearest camp hospital. There are refugees with wounds that need to be treated. Many have acquired diseases along the journey. According to the Bangladeshi health authorities, there are 30,000 pregnant women among the refugees, a large number of whom need the attention of a gynaecologist.







## OVER 620,000

Rohingya refugees fled Rakhine State, Myanmar, for Bangladesh between late August and December 2017

## 30,000

pregnant women were among them

## 1970s–2017

Rohingya Muslims also fled Myanmar military attacks in the late 1970s, early 1990s and throughout the past decade

## 1 MILLION

Bangladesh is now hosting nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees

These people may be safe, for now, but their ordeal continues. Set up in the 1990s to accommodate tens of thousands of Rohingya who were driven out by an earlier wave of violence, the Kutupalong camp grew overcrowded and has been extended in every direction. Three thousand acres of previously forested area have been cleared to make way for an endless sprawl of flimsy bamboo and tarpaulin tents. The weather is barely endurable. The searing heat is interrupted only by monsoon rains and severe gusts of wind that cause the shelters to tremble. There are fears for what will happen when the looming cyclone season arrives.

In the camps, the refugees are easy prey to those who seek to exploit them. Criminal gangs and human traffickers are a constant menace. There are fears that women are being exploited sexually, that children – with no schools to go to – are being forced into labour, and that young men are being sought out by armed groups.

The Bangladesh government has been noted for its generosity, but patience appears to be wearing thin. Members of the government and the opposition publicly complain that Bangladesh does not have the resources to bear this burden. The country is now hosting nearly a million Rohingya refugees,



*Rohingya refugees transport aid distributed in Kutupalong Refugee Camp, Bangladesh, 27 September 2017*



*A food and aid distribution point in Thaing Kali Refugee Camp, Bangladesh, 28 September 2017*

if one counts those who still languish in the Cox's Bazar district, driven out by the Myanmar military's violent attacks in the late 1970s, the early 1990s and throughout the past decade.

In November, Bangladesh signed a repatriation agreement with the Myanmar government, the vague terms of which have raised fears about a hasty return that may deny the refugees the safety and dignity that is their due.

The refugees we spoke to said they would like to go home one day, but not before "peace" returns. Their greatest fear is that they will become victims, yet again, of a renewed wave of violence. They don't want to be condemned to the fate of a perpetually unwanted people, consigned like so many refugees who came before them to Cox's Bazar.

Photographs: © Andrew Stanbridge/Amnesty International

**FIND OUT MORE**

<http://bit.ly/2DiVfx8>



IMPACT

# IDIL ESER:

# STEPS TO FREEDOM

Idil Eser, Director of Amnesty Turkey, was arrested along with nine other participants when police stormed a routine workshop in Istanbul on 5 July 2017. Charged with “aiding a terrorist organization”, two were bailed while the other eight, including Idil, were held in pre-trial detention. Their arrest followed that of Amnesty’s Turkey chairman, Taner Kiliç, who had been imprisoned separately in June. After a global outpouring of action, Idil and her seven co-detainees were granted conditional release on 25 October, while Taner remained in jail.



Idil Eser greeting Markus Beeko, Director of Amnesty Germany, and others on the morning of her release, 25 October 2017



Amnesty Germany celebrate Idil's birthday in front of a light installation entitled "Freedom" in Berlin, 14 October 2017



Global day of action, celebrating Idil Eser's birthday, London, UK October 2017

© Amnesty International





## JULY–SEPTEMBER

Thousands of signatures, letters and messages mounted around the world calling for the release of Idil and her colleagues.

### 10 JULY

Amnesty Belgium Director Philippe Hensmans posed in a cage in front of the Turkish embassy in Brussels, Belgium, to protest against the continued detention of his Turkish colleague.

### 25 JULY

Scores of activists came together to protest outside the European Commission in Brussels carrying giant effigies of the 10 human rights defenders. They demanded that the case of the Istanbul 10 be raised at talks due between Turkish and EU ministers.

### 9 SEPTEMBER

Amnesty's Director Salil Shetty was allowed to visit Idil in jail. Idil released a letter of heartfelt thanks, hope and courage, to be shared with her supporters.

## 14 OCTOBER

Thousands of people gathered at more than 200 parties in 25 countries to mark Idil's 54th birthday which she had to spend behind bars. The cards read: Happy Birthday Idil. The world is standing in solidarity with you.

## 25 OCTOBER


Idil and her seven fellow human rights defenders were released while their trial continued.

## 22 NOVEMBER

The trial resumed of Idil and the other members of the Istanbul 10, as well as that of Taner Kılıç. The court ruled Taner should remain in prison. The next hearing was set for 31 January 2018.

### FIND OUT MORE

<http://bit.ly/2icqMVy>



*“There are people in prison  
who have done nothing wrong.  
I want to help raise awareness  
among the children.”*

*Agossa, pictured centre in yellow vest*

Agossa, an Amnesty supporter in Lomé, Togo, inspires schoolchildren to join Write for Rights, our global letter-writing campaign and one of the world's biggest human rights events. "Everyone has rights," she says. "There are people in prison who have done nothing wrong. You can sign a petition to help. I want to help raise awareness among the children." The campaign kicks off in late November and peaks on 10 December – Human Rights Day. In Togo, over 93,000 actions were taken in schools, markets, on beaches and more. Now in its 15th year, Write for Rights prompted people to pick up their pens and write for someone's freedom in every region of the world.

**FIND OUT MORE**

[www.amnesty.org/writeforrights](http://www.amnesty.org/writeforrights)







FOCUS: NORWAY

# LET TAIBEH STAY!



This group of high schoolers in Norway will do anything to stop their classmate Taibeh Abbasi being forced to go to Afghanistan.

More than 1,000 teenagers flocked into the main square in Norway's third city, Trondheim, during one lunchtime in October. Together, they sang songs and listened to speeches as part of a protest to stop their government deporting their 18-year-old friend, Taibeh Abbasi.

Taibeh has never even been to Afghanistan. She was born in Iran to Afghan parents and fled to Norway with her family in 2012.

The Norwegian government showed few immediate signs of listening to the demonstrators. But their #AbbasiStays campaign did reach the hearts of many young people in Norway and beyond, and is fully backed by Amnesty.

"This case has touched many people," said Mona Elfareh, Student Council leader at Taibeh's high school, Thora Storm. "Young people want to be heard."

One of those young people is Emma Marshall, 18, who leads Trondheim's Amnesty youth group. "It was important to me to show support for Taibeh and her family," she said.

"Not only is Norway treating Taibeh's family in a completely inhumane way by allowing them to integrate and create a whole new life for themselves before ripping it all away, Norway is also breaking the law. Afghanistan is absolutely not a safe country to send people back to. This is not the Norway I know and love."



© Tom Arne Brandvold

torture and even death. We called for a complete stop to all deportations because the country is simply too dangerous right now.

Meanwhile, support for the Abbasi family continues to grow. Headlines appeared after high-profile campaigner Malala Yousafzai shared Amnesty’s video of Taibeh speaking about her situation.

By December, more than 100,000 people worldwide had signed Amnesty’s petition asking the Norwegian government to stop forcing people back to danger.

Amnesty youth activists from countries including Ireland, Canada, Kenya and Germany organized #TellNorway solidarity protests and produced a video (<http://bit.ly/2AW3oql>) challenging the policies that could force Taibeh and many others to abandon their dreams of a safe future.

Taibeh and her high school friends signed up to speak to MPs alongside Amnesty Norway and other NGOs at a parliamentary hearing on 1 December. The next step is a crucial decision to temporarily stop forcing people to Afghanistan, scheduled for 19 January 2018.

Meanwhile, Taibeh and her family continue to live in fear of being deported.

As the campaign continues, one thing is for sure: they can count on the support of thousands of people worldwide, who are backing Taibeh and others in her situation and telling Norway loud and clear: #AbbasiStays.



*The demonstration organized by students from Taibeh’s high school in Trondheim’s main city square, 3 October 2017*



*Taibeh Abbasi, 18, (left) with her best friend Ingjerd Jepsen Vegge, 19 October 2017*

Parnian Amirahmadi, 17, who leads the Amnesty group at Trondheim Cathedral school and who, like Taibeh, was born in Iran, organized a letter from Amnesty supporting the students’ right to protest. Recalling the event she said:

“Taibeh and her brothers walked in front of the procession. Everyone cheered and shouted ‘Let Abbasi stay!’” Then we all sang ‘We Are the World’ in solidarity with the family.”

Not surprisingly, Taibeh herself was deeply moved by the outpouring of support she experienced at the demonstration. She said: “I felt like I’m part of Norwegian society too and not just a refugee. It’s difficult to hold back the tears. I’m not alone and I’m not giving up.”

A day after the protest, Amnesty published new research showing how European governments forced almost 10,000 Afghan asylum-seekers to go back last year, risking



© Amnesty International



A photograph showing three men in a lush, green forest setting, wading through a shallow, rocky river. They are pulling a large, dark log raft down the river. The men are wearing casual clothing, including tank tops and shorts. The water is splashing around their legs as they navigate the rocky terrain. The background is filled with dense tropical vegetation.

**HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

# WE WILL NOT BE SILENT

Two stories of courage  
in southern Africa.





*Illegal loggers transport a rare rosewood tree in Madagascar's Masoala National Park, August 2016*

## CHALLENGING THE POACHERS

Environmental activist Clovis Razafimalala is determined to stop illegal logging in Madagascar

Clovis Razafimalala is an environmental campaigner on the beautiful island of Madagascar off south east Africa, where precious natural resources are being poached by traffickers. Clovis has witnessed the rosewood forest, famous for its ruby coloured bark, illegally chopped down, shipped abroad and used to make luxury products for the rich.

He has endured harassment and attacks, and faced criminal charges over alleged actions at a protest witnesses say he did not even attend. Imprisoned for 10 months, he was released in July, but a five-year suspended sentence still hangs over his head.

The state is pursuing him, and traffickers want to silence him. Clovis could hide, but he wants to fight. He wants his story to be told worldwide.

“I am the co-ordinator of an organization called Lampogno, an environmental civil society organization. I started this struggle in 2007.

Rosewood is a rare species that should be protected. Everything that is precious in nature is being exploited illegally... I am the one who passes on the information to the authorities. I've been threatened by illegal loggers and some members of the local authority. [But] instead of going after the smugglers, those in charge of the country go after the defenders of the environment.

I spent 10 months in prison although I didn't do anything wrong. The hardest thing [was] to be deprived of my freedom and not to see my daughters. I am still on a five-year suspended sentence [and they could] easily find a reason to jail me again. But to stop my struggle means that I am still in prison.

So we shouldn't wait for those in charge to wake up. People have to wake up first and put pressure on the government to apply the laws that already exist in Madagascar. So let's wake up. It is the future of our children.”



© Chris Jackson/Getty Images

## DRIVEN FROM MASERU

But Lesotho journalist Keiso Moholoboli continues her campaign for press freedom.

Keiso Moholoboli is an investigative journalist from Lesotho, a tiny country located completely within South Africa's borders.

Following the publication in the Lesotho Times of an article that raised the ire of the Lesotho Defence Force, Keiso and her editor, Lloyd Mutungamiri, were arrested and interrogated. They were released but, shortly afterwards, Lloyd was shot and seriously injured by as yet unidentified gunmen. In fear of her life, Keiso fled to South Africa in July 2016, leaving her family behind.

Amnesty worked with Keiso to provide her with safe accommodation, as well as other support, to counter the trauma of her experiences. However, a year and a half later, Keiso still could not return home to her son. She continued to be subject to threats and intimidation, including a death threat that appeared linked to Lesotho's National Security Services.

"When I got to South Africa I didn't know what to do. I had left my family and left my friends. With the help of civil society organizations... I was put in touch with Amnesty.

For over a year I have been alone in a foreign country... I have a son who is 12 years old. People might think that being his age makes it easy to understand what is happening around him, but he has autism, and needs special care and education. So it hurts me and makes me angry that I can't be around him. My parents are old and need to take it easy and enjoy their old age, but they are now looking after him.

I could never say there is freedom of expression in Lesotho. Even though it is provided in our constitution, there are still so many restrictions. Media is operating in that environment and ends up being a victim of a repressive government because we don't have any laws protecting us."





Maseru, Lesotho, became unsafe for journalist Keiso Mohloboli after she was interrogated by authorities and her editor attacked by gunmen



Keiso and Clovis met in Banjul, Gambia, when both travelled there to present their cases to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights



© Private

## TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY

Keiso Moholoboli recalls how she learned of Clovis Razafimalala's case through her work with Amnesty.

"I learned about my dear colleague Clovis when I joined the Amnesty human rights defenders campaign. At the launch, we were able to take action in solidarity for his release. I was one of the many people who signed the petition.

Although [Clovis has now] been released, I think it is too early to say that he is free. We don't know if they will call up the charges against him again and call him back. I know how that feels. When I was released, I had not been charged, but I was told to make myself available whenever the police wanted me.

[Solidarity] is so helpful... You are able to see it in whatever you are doing, in the struggle of human rights. There are

people around the world who recognize what you do. That helps us not to give up. It encourages us to keep doing our jobs and to stand up and speak for the voiceless.

I am happy to see Clovis out of prison. He must know that all across southern Africa we know about his ordeal. And we take it personally. If you don't take it personally, you would not be as passionate. We must take it personally, and then, together, at the end, we will see the light."

### FIND OUT MORE

Watch Clovis' message to his daughters:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ekd7nneH DU>

### TAKE ACTION

Call on the Malagasy authorities to dismiss Clovis' conviction and respect the right to freedom of expression: <http://bit.ly/2nm1ycv>

Urge the Lesotho authorities to take immediate measures to end continuing death threats against Keiso and ensure her safety and protection: <http://bit.ly/2BrNE11>



# WHEN CYBERHATE TARGETS WOMEN

A recent poll commissioned by Amnesty and carried out in eight countries by research group Ipsos MORI showed nearly one in four women (23%) have experienced abuse or harassment online, much of it disturbingly aggressive. The poll shows women are often left traumatized and anxious after encountering this abuse, which may be of various types:

## THREATS OF VIOLENCE

Taking many different forms, online violence and abuse against women is an extension of offline violence and abuse against women. It can include direct and indirect threats of violence, such as physical or sexual threats. Of the women surveyed who said they'd experienced online abuse or harassment, 26% said they had been threatened (directly or indirectly) with physical or sexual violence. In some instances, such threats can quickly spill over into the offline world. Pamela Merritt, US activist and blogger at AngryBlackBitch.com, has received hundreds of threats online:

*"I have basically reconciled myself with the fact that I'm prepared to die for the work that I do. That might happen. If you get 200 death threats, it only takes one person who really wants to kill you."*

## DISCRIMINATION

Content that is sexist, racist, homophobic or otherwise targets someone's identity, as well as material that aims to belittle, humiliate or undermine an individual. UK Member of Parliament Diane Abbott explains how the abuse she receives not only targets her gender but also her race:

*"People sent us hundreds of emails using the word nigg\*r – that's the sort of response we get. It's highly racialized and it's also gendered... they talk about my physical appearance in a way they wouldn't talk about a man. I'm abused as a female politician and I'm abused as a black politician."*

## DOXXING

Revealing personal or identifying documents (or docs=dox) or details online about someone without her consent. This can include personal information such as a person's home address, real name, children's names, phone numbers and email address. A violation of a person's privacy, the aim of doxxing is to distress, panic and otherwise cause alarm. Of the women surveyed who had experienced online abuse or harassment, 17% said their personal details had been revealed online in this way. Pamela Merritt's experience shows how dangerous publicly posting private information can be:

*"I had one incident when I got an email from the FBI; they needed to talk to me about some activity related to my blog. There was a white supremacist who was actively trying to find out where I live. That took it to another level."*

## SHARING SEXUAL AND PRIVATE IMAGES WITHOUT CONSENT

Frequently carried out by an ex-partner with the aim of distressing, humiliating or blackmailing an individual, this act is sometimes referred to as "revenge porn". However, this is a charged and unsatisfactory term that fails to convey that sharing such content violates an individual's right to privacy. While a woman may have initially consented to taking images and voluntarily shared them with an individual, she may not have given that person permission to share them more widely. It's the non-consensual aspect of "revenge porn" that, in part, makes it distinct from sexually explicit content online more broadly. 10% of women polled in the USA who had experienced online abuse or harassment said they had been victims of this type of abuse.

### FIND OUT MORE

<http://bit.ly/2i0w3TH>

## ONLINE HARASSMENT

Involves one or more people working together to repeatedly target a woman using abusive comments or images over a short or co-ordinated period of time, with the aim of humiliating or otherwise distressing her. Seyi Akiwowo, UK politician and Founder of Glitch!UK, a campaign against online abuse, describes how she was attacked online after a video of her speech at the European Parliament went viral:

*"There were floods and floods of... hateful, racist and sexist comments and slurs. I was on a neo-Nazi website, and their followers were being encouraged to mob attack me on YouTube and Twitter."*

## TROLLS CAN BE ANYONE

**Of the women surveyed who said they'd experienced online abuse or harassment, 59% said the perpetrators were complete strangers while 15% said the abuse was carried out by a current or former partner. Internet trolls are not fantastical beings living under bridges, but ordinary people who deliberately post abusive comments. Whoever they are, governments and social media companies must do more to stop them.**

CAMPAIGN: I WELCOME

# GIVE A HOME

Nearly 300 families opened their homes for a day of music and solidarity in support of refugees.

Hundreds of musicians abandoned stages and studios on 20 September to perform in the living rooms of complete strangers. Connecting with the many people sitting on carpets and squeezed into doorways to watch them, they joined a special celebration of two things that unite us all: a love of music and the joy of home.

In total, 20,000 people gathered in 270 homes and other small spaces, in 173 cities, in 44 countries to enjoy the music and show solidarity with refugees around the world who need a home.



© Ashlee Espinal



© Natasha Louw



*OSHUN at Mercy Home for Children in Brooklyn, New York, USA*



*Paige Mac performing in Cape Town, South Africa*



*Mashrou' Leila play to an intimate crowd in Beirut, Lebanon*





© Jose Cotto



Preservation Hall Jazz Band raise the roof in New Orleans, USA



Wall of Trophies entertain in Washington DC, USA



© Myriam Boulos

The result of a ground-breaking partnership between Amnesty and Sofar Sounds as part of Amnesty's I Welcome campaign, the Give a Home event offered a profound global affirmation of the power of welcome.

Headline acts like Ed Sheeran, Emeli Sandé, Hozier, Lianne La Havas, Mashrou' Leila, The National, Gregory Porter and Local Natives performed alongside artists with personal experience of having to flee their homes, like Moe Black and Somali sisters Iman and Siham Hashi, who form the pop-duo FAARROW.



© Mark Gorman



After their gig in Los Angeles, USA, Iman and Siham (pictured above) shared some reflections with Wire:

***What are your earliest memories of enjoying music?***

We remember when we first came to Canada, our mom had the VHS tape of Michael Jackson's 'The making of Thriller'. We watched it everyday for months... lol.

***When/how did you first get into playing music?***

School was the only place we had a creative outlet. Music wasn't encouraged in our home so school gave us a place to perform vocally in plays and in choir or learn how to play instruments.

***Who are your musical influences?***

Siham: Michael Jackson

Iman: Tina Turner

***Is your music influenced by the different places you've lived or by your experiences of having to move?***

Absolutely! Because we've moved around and lived in many countries in our formative years it absolutely shaped the women we are today and we put all of that into our music.

***Thanks for contributing to Give a Home! What was your take out from being a part of this event?***

We loved the intimate setting of the space and just being able to connect with the audience one on one. We did the show along with MAGIC! who are also from Toronto so that was dope too. Just like Amnesty and many others, we believe our purpose is to lend our voice and hand to anything that lifts humanity up.





© Angaea Cuna



FAARROW performing  
in Los Angeles, USA

## LOST AND FOUND: TEAM FAARROW

FAARROW comprises two sister singer/songwriters, Iman and Siham Hashi (Iman translates as 'Faith' and Siham as 'Arrow', hence FAARROW), who were born in Mogadishu, Somalia. As children, they fled their home with their family to escape civil war, relocating to Toronto, Canada, as refugees. They were aware of cultural taboos when in their teens they both realized they had musical ability and ambitions but, as young adults, they followed their dreams to Atlanta, Georgia and then to Los Angeles. Their own fusion of world, hip-hop and pop has recently secured them a deal with Warner Bros Records and a debut EP, *Lost!*

At the same time, Iman and Siham continue to serve as spokespeople for the UN Refugee Agency and are actively involved in humanitarian work with a number of organizations.



© Angaea Cuna

### ***Do you believe something like *Give a Home* can impact on how people view refugees?***

Yes! People are disconnected from the plight of refugees in general but we believe music can break through those barriers and become that point of connection. Once you're connected to someone, it's a lot harder to not have compassion for them and to ignore their struggles. Music has always been the universal language of the world and what brings people from all walks of life together.

### ***What special message do you have for Amnesty supporters around the world?***

With everything that is happening in the world, it's becoming more clear that we are all [only] a natural disaster or a war away from being a refugee. Do what you can with lending your voice and/or time, have compassion, and realize that we are all each other's mirrors.



Noura Ghazi Safadi  
with her husband  
Bassel Khartabil  
Safadi



60-SECOND INTERVIEW

# DEFENDING PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

© Private

For prominent Syrian human rights lawyer and human rights defender Noura Ghazi Safadi, campaigning for the rights of prisoners of conscience is about love, hope and family. Born in Damascus in 1981, Noura is the daughter of a former political prisoner and the wife of Bassel Khartabil Safadi, a digital activist who was arrested by the Syrian government in early 2012 and executed in late 2015.

## ***What motivated you to become a human rights defender?***

My father was a political prisoner several times. I used to visit him in Adra prison and attend his trial hearings. Once, I had a run-in with the commanding officer of the patrol that was transporting [him] to court. I swore to him and my father that I would become a lawyer and defend prisoners of conscience. I was 12 years old at the time. The fondness I had for my father's friends, and friends of mine who had been arrested, made me all the more determined. And when Bassel was arrested, defending my own prisoner of conscience became my obsession.

## ***What is your primary aim?***

[It] isn't just to defend prisoners and help them secure their freedom, or have their sentences commuted. I'm concerned about every detail of their daily lives [and] the deep-seated issues affecting them and their families. I [want] their cases [to] feature not only in negotiations, human rights reports or the press, but in the history of Syria, and the consciousness of Syrians and the whole world. I want prisons [to] become institutions that reform people, rather than punish them. I also want to end the tragedy of political imprisonment and create a fair justice system.

## ***Tell us more about your work with Families for Freedom?***

Families for Freedom has kept me going since my husband was executed. [I feel] every prisoner's case is my business and it's my responsibility to fight for them. I feel women are best placed to deal with this issue, not just because they are the ones most affected by such violation, but because of the leading role they play in building Syria's future. They have demonstrated that they are capable of handling every obstacle before them, whether it's to do with security, the community, or life generally.

## ***What gives you the hope and the motivation to go on with your work?***

Love is what gives me hope, and belief in what I do is the main thing that gets me going, day after day, renewing my determination to pursue my career by dealing with all the appalling conditions around me. Being honest and truthful in my work, which is now my whole life, is what convinces me that I can achieve what I want.

**FIND OUT MORE**

<http://bit.ly/2AMV4ZC>



**“MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN  
UNFAIRLY IMPRISONED  
FOR FIVE MONTHS.  
THIS HAS BEEN  
DEVASTATING FOR  
OUR ENTIRE FAMILY”**

*Hatice Kılıç*

**DEMAND JUSTICE FOR TANER KILIÇ  
AND THE RIGHTS DEFENDERS  
IN TURKEY**

Taner Kılıç was simply performing his role exposing human rights abuses as Chair of Amnesty in Turkey. But on 9 June 2017, he was thrown into prison on the baseless accusation of being a member of an “armed terrorist organization”.

One month later, 10 other human rights defenders, including Amnesty Turkey’s Director, were detained while attending a routine workshop for human rights activists in Istanbul. All are on trial for “terrorism”-related crimes – an absurd attempt to choke their human rights activism.

Taner is still in prison – and even though the Istanbul 10 have been released thanks to our campaigning, they are still at risk.

**TAKE ACTION**

**Please sign our petition at #FreeTaner  
and help bring Taner home to his family.**

**Watch a message from Taner’s daughters:  
<http://bit.ly/2ibRmhs>**



**'IT'S THE LITTLE  
THINGS CITIZENS  
DO. THAT'S WHAT  
WILL MAKE THE  
DIFFERENCE'**

*Wangari Maathai (1940–2011)*

*Kenyan activist, Nobel Peace Prize winner 2004*