

Ana da Silva Miguel, AKA Neth Nahara – Angola

President of Angola
Palácio Presidencial
Cidade Alta
Rua 17 de Setembro
Luanda
Angola

Your Excellency:

I am writing on behalf of Ana da Silva Miguel, known as “Neth Nahara”. In August 2023 Neth took to TikTok criticizing your conduct as president. The next day she was arrested and subsequently tried, convicted, and sentenced to six months in prison, which was later increased to two years. Your authorities are using Article 333 of the Penal Code to make legitimate criticism of you a criminal offence.

I demand that Ana da Silva Miguel is immediately and unconditionally released, since her conviction and ongoing arbitrary detention stem solely from the peaceful exercise of her human rights, including the right to freedom of expression.

Yours sincerely,

Joel Paredes – Argentina

Attorney General of the Public Prosecutor's Office
Sarmiento 427
4600 San Salvador de Jujuy
Argentina

Dear Sir:

I am writing to demand justice for Joel Paredes. On June 30, 2023, Joel attended a peaceful protest against local constitutional changes, including restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly – changes that may cause damage to the environment and risk violating the land rights of Indigenous Peoples. Police recklessly fired rubber bullets at protesters. Joel was hit, permanently blinding him in the right eye, and leaving him with debilitating nerve pain. No one has been held accountable.

Those responsible for Joel Paredes's injuries and all other violations against protesters must be identified and brought to justice in accordance with international law and standards.

Yours sincerely,

Maryia Kalesnikava – Belarus

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus
vul. Lenina 19
220030, Minsk
Republic of Belarus

Dear Minister:

I am calling on you to take all necessary steps to immediately release Maryia Kalesnikava, who has been arbitrarily arrested and prosecuted on trumped-up charges. Maryia has been sentenced to 11 years in prison simply for exercising her right to freedom of expression and association. She spoke out against arbitrary arrests and abuses of the electoral process during the widely disputed presidential election in Belarus in 2020.

I also call for all necessary measures to be taken to protect Maryia from torture and other ill-treatment, provide her with access to adequate healthcare, allow her contact with her lawyers and family, overturn her unjust conviction, and delete her name from the government's list of individuals involved in "terrorist activities".

Yours sincerely,

Wet'suwet'en Nation Land Defenders – Canada

Premier of British Columbia
PO box 9041
STN Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1
Canada

Dear Premier:

I am writing to you regarding the ongoing criminalization of Wet'suwet'en land defenders.

For years, British Columbia has criminalized Wet'suwet'en land defenders for opposing construction of a fossil fuel pipeline on their ancestral territory. They face time in prison and a criminal record if found guilty.

The Wet'suwet'en are deeply connected to their ancestral lands and waters, which are threatened by the pipeline. Their Hereditary Chiefs (on behalf of their clans) did not consent to its construction.

I demand the Government of British Columbia stop the criminalization and harassment of Wet'suwet'en land defenders and their allies.

Yours sincerely,

Oqba Hashad – Egypt

President of Egypt
Office of the President
Al-Ittihadiya Palace
Al Nadi, El-Montaza, Heliopolis
Cairo Governorate
4460210
Egypt

Your Excellency:

I am writing to demand the release of Oqba Hashad. A 27-year-old student, Oqba has been held in pretrial detention since May 2019, solely in retaliation for his brother's human rights activism.

Egyptian authorities forcibly disappeared and tortured Oqba and continue to deny him the prosthetic leg he has used since a childhood accident – leaving him physically reliant on others. Held in terrible conditions without adequate healthcare, a new bogus case against him has been opened to justify his continued detention.

Oqba Hashad must be immediately and unconditionally released, as his detention is related solely to his brother's human rights activism.

Yours sincerely,

Manahel al-Otaibi – Saudi Arabia

Minister of Justice for Saudi Arabia
PO box 7775
11472
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia

Your Excellency:

I am writing to you regarding the case of Manahel al-Otaibi. In November 2022, Manahel was arrested for campaigning for women's rights online and posting photos to Snapchat of herself at a shopping mall without wearing a traditional abaya. Manahel has been sentenced to 11 years in prison.

In recent years, Saudi Arabia's authorities have claimed they are advancing women's rights in the Kingdom. Manahel believed these promises and felt freer to express her views and wear what she liked. Now she is serving over a decade behind bars.

I demand that Manahel al-Otaibi is immediately and unconditionally released, and all charges against her are dropped.

Yours sincerely,

Kyung Seok Park – South Korea

Mayor of Seoul
6F, Seoul Metropolitan Government
110 Sejong-daero
Jung-gu
Seoul 04524
Republic of Korea

Dear Mayor of Seoul:

I am writing to you regarding Kyung Seok Park, a dedicated activist for the rights of people with disabilities, who represents Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination (SADD). By organizing peaceful protests, Kyung Seok Park has drawn attention to the difficulties people with disabilities face in accessing public transport safely. In response, Kyung Seok Park has faced the use of unlawful force by police, public smear campaigns, and punitive litigation by the authorities.

I urge you to ensure people's right to peaceful assembly by ending the use of unlawful force, retaliatory litigation, and smear campaigns against Kyung Seok Park and SADD activists, so they can keep campaigning for a world where people with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of life.

Yours sincerely,

Şebnem Korur Fincancı – Türkiye

Minister of Justice
Kızılay
Milli Müdafı Cd. No:5
06420 Çankaya
Ankara
Türkiye

Dear Minister:

I call on you to ensure the criminal justice system is not misused to harass forensic medicine expert Şebnem Korur Fincancı and no other charges are brought against her for defending human rights.

Şebnem has been subjected to baseless criminal investigations, detention and prosecutions for years, in a bid to silence her and stop her important work. In January 2023, she was convicted for allegedly “making propaganda for a terrorist organization” after she had called for an investigation into allegations that the Turkish military was using chemical weapons in Iraq.

Calling for the eradication of torture should never be criminalized.

Yours sincerely,

Dang Dinh Bach – Viet Nam

President of Viet Nam
President's Office
No. 2, Hung Vuong Street
Ba Dinh District
Hanoi 11100
Viet Nam

Your Excellency:

I am calling on you to immediately and unconditionally release environmental lawyer Dang Dinh Bach.

Bach has dedicated his life to improving the health and livelihoods of people in Viet Nam and protecting them from the threats of pollution and climate change.

On June 24, 2021, Bach was arrested and jailed for alleged tax evasion, a crime he did not commit. He was later sentenced to five years in prison following a trial which United Nations experts considered unfair.

Pending his release, Bach must be protected from all forms of torture and other ill-treatment and be provided access to adequate healthcare.

Yours sincerely,