

# CHINA: RELEASE CHEN PINLIN IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY



## FILM DIRECTOR ARRESTED FOR PROTEST FILM



Chen Pinlin is the director of the documentary 'Urumqi Middle Road' (乌鲁木齐中路), which captures scenes from the nationwide "White Paper Movement", a series of peaceful protests against three years of rolling lockdowns under China's zero-COVID policy and the harsh environment of censorship and surveillance in China.

In November 2023, Chen uploaded the documentary to the Internet around the one-year anniversary of the White Paper Movement and he was later detained by Chinese authorities for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble".

On January 5, 2024, Chen was formally arrested on the same charge; he is currently being held at the Baoshan Detention Center. Chen may face five years in prison if convicted.

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# CHINA: RELEASE KAMILE WAYIT IMMEDIATELY



**UYGHUR STUDENT DETAINED SINCE DECEMBER 2022 FOR POSTING PROTEST VIDEO**



Kamile Wayit is a former student at the Henan Shangqiu Institute of Technology (河南省商丘工学院), majoring in preschool education.

On December 12, 2022, Kamile was taken away by the police after returning home to Atush Xinjiang for a holiday. It is believed that her detention may be related to a video she posted on WeChat in November 2022 about the protests that took place across China to commemorate the victims of an apartment fire in Urumqi.

Kamile should be released immediately as she was only peacefully exercising her rights to freedom of expression.

Kamile is in need of access to medical care and her family and a lawyer of her choice.

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# **RUSSIA FEDERATION: RELEASE ALEKSANDRA SKOCHILENKO IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY**



**ARTIST AND ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON**



Troubled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Aleksandra "Sasha" Skochilenko, a songwriter and artist in St. Petersburg, decided to protest.

On 31 March 2022, she replaced price tags in a local supermarket in Saint Petersburg with paper labels containing anti-war messages.

On November 16, 2023 Aleksandra was sentenced to seven years in prison for "disseminating knowingly false information about the Russian Armed Forces".

Aleksandra Skochilenko suffers from celiac disease and heart disease and her health has deteriorated greatly during this time.

Aleksandra is a prisoner of conscience.

On August 1, 2024, Aleksandra was released from prison as part of a prisoner swap between the U.S.-Russia.

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Send Aleksandra a Greeting Card  
Her Birthday is September 13th!

Mail Cards to: AIUSA, 89 South Street, Boston, MA 02111

# ARGENTINA: DROP THE CHARGES AGAINST PIERINA NOCHETTI



**LGBT+ ACTIVIST FACING FOUR YEARS IN PRISON FOR GRAFFITI PROTEST**



Pierina is an LGBT+ activist, artist, educator and mom of three kids who is facing criminal charges of “aggravated damage” for painting graffiti in protest of

the disappearance of a young trans man in the city of Necochea, Argentina.

The charges are an unnecessary and disproportionate restriction of the right to freedom of expression.

Pierina Nochetti’s trial was scheduled for March 6, 2024, but suddenly suspended just a few days before.

The trial was rescheduled for October 30, 2024.

Pierina is at risk of being sentenced to imprisonment from 3 months to 4 years.

In the meantime, she and her family suffer emotional distress and the sustained uncertainty on when this legal harassment will end.

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# MEXICO: PROTECT JOURNALISTS AND ENSURE ALBERTO AMARO'S SECURITY



## JOURNALIST UNDER ONGOING THREAT AND INTIMIDATION



threatened, and arrested by police officers and intimidated by members of organized crime groups.

Alberto Amaro has reported numerous failures in some of the protective measures granted to him by the federal Protection Mechanism.

People have photographed him, his wife and children, hacked his website and smeared his reputation in Facebook posts accusing him of being a criminal.

Mexico is the Western Hemisphere's most dangerous country for journalists, according to extensive documentation by Center to Protect Journalist.

Since 2019, Alberto Amaro Jordan, a 35-year-old Mexican journalist, who in 2018 founded the digital outlet La Prensa de Tlaxcala, has been attacked,

While out driving, aggressors have tried to block his passage and force him off the road, and a gunman aboard a motorbike has taken shots at him. Intruders have tried to break into his home, fired shots at his property, and fatally poisoned one of his pet dogs.

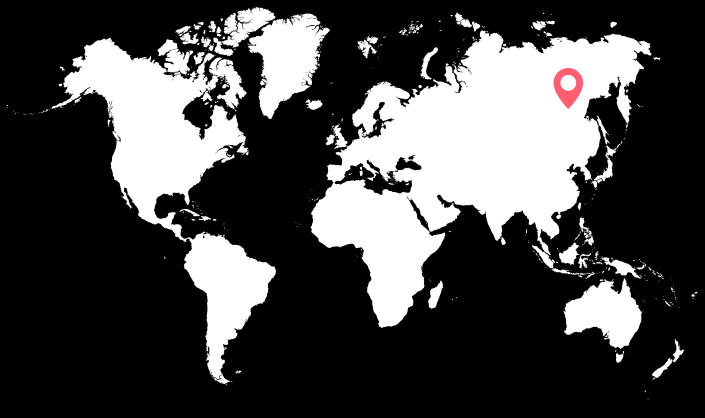
Alberto Amaro's security situation must be immediately reassessed, in consultation with him, and guarantees made that his existing protective measures are not withdrawn.

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# RUSSIAN FEDERATION: RELEASE JOURNALIST MARIA PONOMARENKO IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY



**JOURNALIST & BLOGGER SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS IN PRISON FOLLOWING TELEGRAM POST**



Maria Ponomarenko is an activist, blogger and a journalist from Barnaul, Altai Krai, who worked for the online media outlet RusNews. On April 23, 2022, she was arrested by the police under Article 207.3 (2) (d)

(“Public dissemination of knowingly false information about the Russian Armed Forces committed with motives of hatred or enmity”).

The “false information” she was accused of disseminating was a March 17, 2022 post (which has since been deleted) about the bombing of the Donetsk Regional Academic Drama Theatre in Mariupol, Ukraine by Russian forces, which killed hundreds of civilians.

In detention, Maria has experienced poor treatment, including being held in solitary confinement and not receiving adequate healthcare.

Maria was sentenced to six years imprisonment in February 2023.

Maria is a prisoner of conscience.

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# ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: DISCLOSE THE WHEREABOUTS OF NIDEL AND HAITHAM



**PALESTINIAN JOURNALIST AND PHOTOJOURNALIST FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED**



Nidal Al-Wahidi, a cameraman and photographer in Gaza for the Re Nablus-based Palestinian broadcaster An-Najah Nbc Channel; Haitham Abdelwahid, a cameraman and video editor for Ain Media, a Gaza production company, (CPJ).

Both were detained by Israeli forces on October 7, 2023, while

they were reporting on the Hamas-led attack and are held in conditions constituting enforced disappearance.

Since then, Israeli authorities have refused to disclose their whereabouts or the legal grounds and reasons for their arrest.

As of December 2023, no information has been shared about their whereabouts, not even confirmation that they are still alive.

Israeli authorities must immediately disclose their whereabouts and the legal grounds for their arrest, grant them access to legal representation and ensure their humane treatment. Unless charged with an internationally recognized criminal offense, they must be immediately released.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Israel-Gaza war has taken an unprecedented toll on Gazan journalists. As of July 18, 2024, CPJ's preliminary investigations show at least 108 journalists and media workers killed.

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# MALI: IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASE PROFESSOR ÉTIENNE FAKABA SISSOKO



**SCHOLAR GIVEN TWO-YEAR SENTENCE FOLLOWING BOOK PUBLICATION**



defamation, damaging the state's reputation, and distributing fake news.

He was sentenced to two years in jail, with one year suspended, and a fine of XOF 3 million (approximately 4,500 Euros).

A notable government critic, Etienne Fakaba Sissoko was arrested after the publication of a book titled "Propaganda, Agitation and Harassment – government communication during the transition in Mali" in which he denounced alleged propaganda in the Malian government's public information campaign.

Étienne Fakaba Sissoko, an economist and professor at the University of Bamako, was convicted on charges of

His arbitrary detention is in violation of his right to freedom of expression. He must be immediately and unconditionally released.

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# ANGOLA: RELEASE NETH NAHARA IMMEDIATELY



## TIKTOKER SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON FOR CRITICIZING PRESIDENT



Ana da Silva Miguel, (AKA Neth Nahara), is a 31-year-old digital influencer who uses her social media to comment on current issues in Angola, mainly involving famous artists and politicians.

Neth is a singer and a single mother of two.

On social media she has thousands of followers. On August 13, 2023, she was arrested by the Criminal Investigation Services in Luanda, capital city of Angola.

On August 14, she was tried and convicted to 6 months in prison for the crime of 'outrage against the state, its symbols and bodies' for recording a live video on TikTok on August 12 that criticized the president. Following an appeal by the public prosecutor, her 6 months sentence was increased to 2 years in prison.

Since her arrest, she has been denied access to her daily medication and was hospitalized in December due to her deteriorating health.

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# INDIA: RELEASE ALL IMPRISONED ACTIVISTS IN THE BK16 CASE



## ARTISTS, ACADEMICS, AND WRITERS DETAINED FOR YEARS FOR ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

During Banned Books Week Amnesty International is calling attention to writers, artists, and academics who comprise the BK16, three of whom are members of the Kabir Kala Manch cultural group. It is likely that the body of published work created by these men and women contributed to their arrest, aggravated the charges against them, and affected their judicial pleas for bail and/or dismissal.



Human Rights defenders collectively known as the BK16 have used their professional and creative voices to advocate for human and civil rights, against the caste system, and for cultural, religious, and linguistic pluralism and, according to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, have been detained for their human rights and civil rights work for marginalized religious communities.

Artists swept up in the BK16 arrests include: Varavara Roa, poet; Arun Ferreira, Cartoonist; Sudhir Dhawale, publisher and actor; and members of the Kabir Kala Manch cultural group: Ramesh Gaichor, Sagar Gorkhe, and Jyoti Jagtap. Academics and researchers swept up in the BK16 arrests include: Anand Teltumbde whose books address the caste system and Dalits; Shoma Sen, a professor and women's rights activist, has published articles that address Dalit feminism and the role of women in class struggles, Hany Babu, linguist and language activist published work that examines India's language policies that "pull towards unilingual identity", and Vernon Gonsalves wrote extensively on Dalit, Adivasi, and prisoner's rights. and Maybe Rona Wilson PhD student.

Amnesty International calls for the release of all BK16 activists, dropping related charges, and the repeal or substantial amendment of the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

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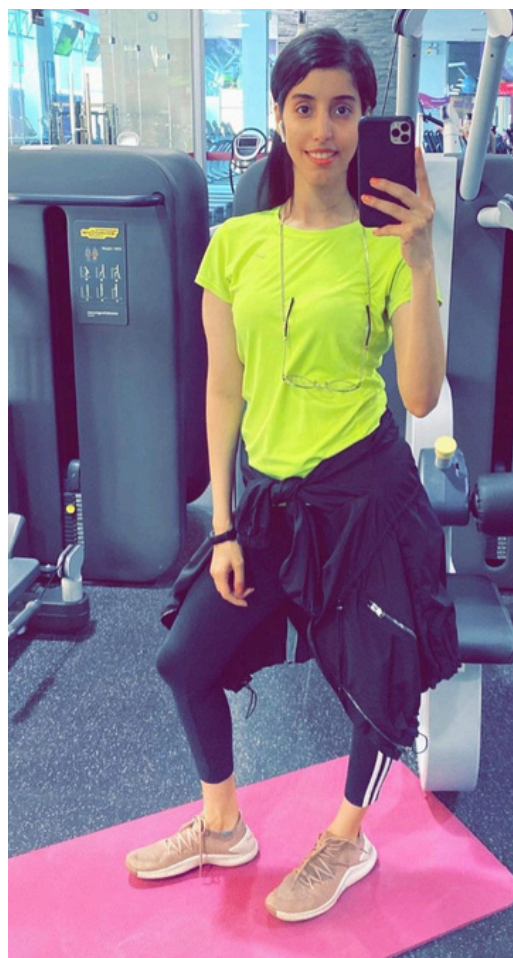


SCAN ME

# SAUDI ARABIA: RELEASE MANAHEL AL-OTAIBI IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY



**FITNESS INSTRUCTOR RECEIVES ELEVEN YEARS SENTENCE FOR TWEETING ABOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS**



Manahel al-Otaibi, a 30-year-old fitness instructor and women's rights activist was sentenced to 11 years in prison for "terrorist offenses" in a secret trial.

She was arrested on November 16, 2022, and charged with violating the Anti-Cyber Crime Law due to her tweets in support of women's rights as well as posting photos of herself at the mall without an abaya (a traditional loose-fitting long-sleeved robe) on Snapchat.

On April 14, 2024, after being forcibly disappeared since November 5, 2023, Manahel al-Otaibi contacted her family and told them she was being held in solitary confinement in al-Malaz Prison with a broken leg after being brutally beaten in detention, and without access to medical care.

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# IRAN: RELEASE TOOMAJ SALEHI IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY



## HIP HOP ARTIST AND RAPPER ARRESTED FOR SOCIAL MEDIA POST



Rapper and hip hop artist Toomaj Salehi was arrested in October 2022 solely in relation to his participation in protests during the “Women Life Freedom” uprising and his criticism of the Iranian authorities’ human rights violations and executions and calling for human rights and freedom for the people of Iran.

He was sentenced to death after being convicted of “corruption on earth”. His trial was grossly unfair, and authorities dismissed his complaints of torture, including electric shocks, death threats and repeated beatings resulting in bone fractures and vision impairment in one eye.

In June 2024, Iran’s Supreme Court overturned the conviction and death sentence however Toomaj remains in Esfahan Central Prison and is facing a suite of spurious new charges including “spreading propaganda against the system,” “insulting religious sanctities,” and “spreading lies with the intention of disturbing public opinion” which could result in the imposition of a long prison sentence.

Amnesty International continues to call for his immediate and unconditional release.

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# U.S.A: UNITE AGAINST BOOK BANS



PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS OF EDUCATORS AND LIBRARIANS & PROTECT ACCESS TO INFORMATION

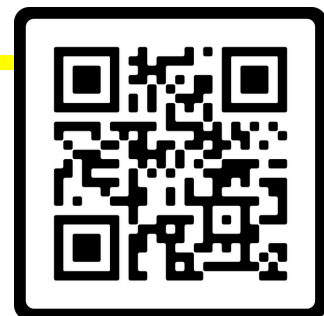


Amnesty International joins with the American Library Association and other organizations who comprise the Banned Books Week Coalition to urge that States respect, protect and fulfill the right to free expression by not interfering with it while taking active steps to ensure people can enjoy this right and ensuring that the human rights of educators and librarians are not infringed upon in light of the work that they do.

In the US, the American Library Association documented 1,247 challenges against libraries, schools, and universities in 2023 addressing 4,240 unique titles.

Further, in 2022 they documented 34 cases in which threats and harassment to library staff occurred and 25 cases in which police reports were filed against librarians over books on the shelves.

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