

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Banned Books Week

Each year during *Banned Books Week*, Amnesty International draws attention to people around the world who have been imprisoned, threatened, or murdered because of what they wrote or published or because of their work in the publishing or media industries. In solidarity with the American Library Association (ALA) and organizations across the U.S. and around the world, Amnesty activists work to fight challenges to freedom of expression.

BUYING BOOKS, AMPLIFYING VOICES (2024)

The following books are written by or about authors identified by Amnesty International as individuals arrested, murdered, harassed, exiled, or executed for their published creative works (writing, photography, etc.). These texts are available in English from domestic and international book sellers.

Libraries and bookstores are encouraged to buy and make available books by or about authors and publishers who have been imprisoned, murdered, or harassed in light of their writing or publications. The act of purchasing and making available the words of such authors is a counterweight to the censorship of authoritarian regimes. Inclusion of such texts in a college or university library is likely to broaden the discussion of relevant global issues and help students and faculty understand the nature and effects of censorship.

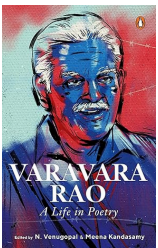
Note: Titles listed below, are not necessarily the *cause* of the author's persecution; rather, they represent the work of the author and the possible silencing of a voice. Book descriptions and cover art are drawn from Amazon.com or the publisher website unless otherwise noted. Information regarding cases is drawn from Amnesty International. Other writing by Banned Books Week authors and creators is available online; non-English print publications are not listed below.

EIGHT NEW TITLES IN 2024



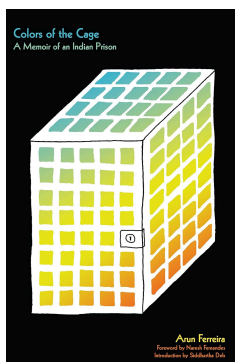
BK16 - (India) - Artists, Poets, Academics & Writers - India - Detained for Human Rights Work

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 have been detained for their human rights and civil rights work for marginalized religious communities.



INDIA - *Varavara Rao: A Life in Poetry* by Varavara Rao; Vintage Books (2023), 978-0143463160


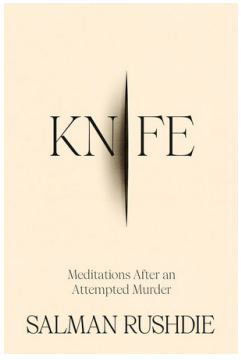
Collection in English of poems by the Telugu poet selected and translated from sixteen books that he has published. He was a consistent comrade-in-letters to all the social movements from the 1960s to the 2010s, and this volume is a capsule of momentous social history captured in his poetic imagination. The poems in the collection offer an artistic blend of tender response and thoughtful reaction to social realities, as well as an explosion of powerful emotions from a voice sought to be subdued. Varavara Rao's poetry, more than anything else, is an offering of solidarity to the voiceless, the underdog and the oppressed. [Description from Amazon.]





INDIA - *Colors of the Cage: A Memoir of an Indian Prison* by Arun Ferreira; Common Notions Press (2021), 978-1942173137

In May 2007, Arun Ferreira, a democratic rights activist, was picked up at a railway station in western India, detained by the court, and condemned to prison for an expanding list of crimes: criminal conspiracy, murder, possession of arms, and rioting, among others added during his detention. In one of the most notorious prisons in India, Arun Ferreira was constantly abused and tortured. Over the next several years, each of the ten cases slapped against him fell apart. At long last, Ferreira was acquitted of all charges. As he exited the prison, moments away from freedom, he was rearrested by plainclothes police. He never got to glimpse his family waiting for him just outside the prison gates. In stark and riveting detail, Ferreira recounts the horrors he faced in prison—torture, beatings, the general air of hopelessness—and the small consolations that kept hope alive—strikes and solidarity among inmates. His memoir is a timely reminder that across the globe policing and incarceration are institutions in desperate need of being dismantled. [Description from publisher website.]

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|  | <p>INDIA - <i>Dalits: Past, Present and Future</i> by Anand Teltumbde; Routledge (2020), 978-0367466701</p> <p>This book is a comprehensive introduction to Dalits in India from their origin to the present day. Despite a plethora of provisions for affirmative action in the Indian Constitution, Dalits still suffer exclusion on various counts. The book traces the multifarious changes that befell them through history, germination of Dalit consciousness during the colonial period and its flowering under the legendary leadership of Babasaheb Ambedkar. It provides critical insights to their degeneration during the post-Ambedkar period, taking stock of all significant developments therein such as the rise of the Bahujan Samaj Party, Dalit capitalism, NGOization of the Dalit discourse and the various implicit or explicit emancipation schemas thrown up by them. This new edition includes a new chapter providing the causal analysis of the rise of Hindutva under Narendra Modi, its fascist march obliterating the idea of India sketched out by the Constitution, and forecasts its future as the Hindu Rashtra – the Brahmanic-fascist state – which has been the goal of its progenitors. [Description from publisher website.]</p> |
|  | <p>INDIA - <i>MAHAD: The Making of the First Dalit Revolt</i> by Anand Teltumbde; Routledge (2024), 978-1032364926</p> <p>MAHAD has an iconic place in Dalit universe. Associated with legendary personality of Dr Ambedkar, the struggle of Dalits at Mahad for asserting their rights to access the public tank, the Chavadar tank, arguably ranks among the first civil rights struggles in history. Unfortunately, it remained largely confined to folklore; its detailed account still remaining fragmented and in mostly Marathi. This book provides a comprehensive account, using many sources including the archival materials, of the two conferences in Mahad in 1927 that marks the beginning of the Dalit movement under Babasaheb Ambedkar to a wider readership in English. It tries to frame it within its historical context which will help people comprehend its historical significance. It also seeks to draw certain lessons for the future course of the Dalit movement. [Description from publisher website.]</p> |
|  | <p>INDIA - <i>The Incarcerations: BK16 and the Search for Democracy in India</i> ; OR Books (2024), 978-1682195185</p> <p>The Incarcerations tells the remarkable and chilling story of the Bhima Koregaon case, in which 16 human rights defenders (the BK-16) — professors, lawyers, journalists, poets — have been imprisoned, without credible evidence and without trial, as Maoist terrorists. Shah exposes some of the world's most shocking revelations of cyber warfare research, which show not only hacking of emails and mobile phones of the BK-16, but also implantation of the electronic evidence that was used to incarcerate them. Through the life histories of the BK-16, Shah dives deep into the issues they fought for and tells the story of India's three main minorities — Adivasi, Dalits and Muslims — and what the search for democracy entails for them. Essential and urgent, <i>The Incarcerations</i> reveals how this case is a bellwether for the collapse of democracy in India, as for the first time in the nation's history there is a multi-pronged, coordinated attack on key defenders of various pillars of democracy. [Description from publisher website.]</p> |
|  | <p>Etienne Fakaba Sissoko (Mali) - Scholar and Author - Sentenced to 2 Years following Book Publication</p> <p>Convicted on charges of 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. A notable government critic, Etienne Fakaba Sissoko was arrested after the publication of a book in which he denounced alleged propaganda in the Malian government's public information campaign. His arbitrary detention is in violation of his right to freedom of expression.</p> |
|  | <p>Mali - <i>Propagande, Agitation, Harcèlement : La communication gouvernementale pendant la transition au Mali</i> : Editions L'Harmattan (2023), 978-2336411347</p> <p>Depuis le coup d'État du 18 août 2020 au Mali, la forte collaboration du gouvernement avec les activistes et « vidéomans » dans la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie de communication des gouvernements successifs de transition, a eu comme conséquence de décrédibiliser les spécialistes de la communication gouvernementale, mais aussi de la parole publique. En effet, cette communication gouvernementale hyper agressive s'est caractérisée par la diffusion de contenus aux caractères douteux. Aussi paradoxale que cela puisse paraître, la communication gouvernementale, malgré l'inexistence d'une stratégie formelle, a rencontré des succès intéressants. Elle permet, une forte adhésion de la population aux discours des gouvernants à travers les fronts ouverts avec la Communauté internationale notamment la France, la CEDEAO, etc. Cependant, malgré ce succès relatif, notre étude montre que de telles méthodes de communication, basées sur la propagande, l'agitation, la manipulation et même le mensonge souvent, ne peuvent tenir sur le long terme. La communication gouvernementale connaît déjà ses premiers revers, signes de son essoufflement. [Description from Amazon.]</p> |

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|  | <p>Salman Rushdie (Global) - Novelist - Assaulted at Speaking Event in 2022, Fatwa threatening Death.</p> <p>On 14 February 1989 Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the then leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, issued a fatwa (religious decree) declaring that the British author, Salman Rushdie, should be executed for having insulted Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses". ... Some of those associated with his work have been the victims of arbitrary attacks.</p> |
|  | <p><i>Knife: Meditations after an Attempted Murder</i> by Salman Rushdie ; Random House (2023); 978-0593730249</p> <p>On the morning of August 12, 2022, Salman Rushdie was standing onstage at the Chautauqua Institution, preparing to give a lecture on the importance of keeping writers safe from harm, when a man in black—black clothes, black mask—rushed down the aisle toward him, wielding a knife. His first thought: So it's you. Here you are. What followed was a horrific act of violence that shook the literary world and beyond. Now, for the first time, and in unforgettable detail, Rushdie relives the traumatic events of that day and its aftermath, as well as his journey toward physical recovery and the healing that was made possible by the love and support of his wife, Eliza, his family, his army of doctors and physical therapists, and his community of readers worldwide. <i>Knife</i> is Rushdie at the peak of his powers, writing with urgency, with gravity, with unflinching honesty. It is also a deeply moving reminder of literature's capacity to make sense of the unthinkable, an intimate and life-affirming meditation on life, loss, love, art—and finding the strength to stand up again. [Description from publisher website.]</p> |

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|  | <p>Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara (Cuba) - Artist - Sentenced to Five Years in Prison</p> <p>Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara is an artist and member of the San Isidro Movement. The San Isidro Movement was formed by artists, journalists, and academics in response to Decree 349, a law seeking to silence critical artists. On July 11, 2021, Luis was detained by state agents shortly after posting a video declaring his intention to join the protests. On August 19, 2021, Amnesty International named Luis a prisoner of conscience, along with other Cubans detained in the context of the protests of July 11, 2021 and called for all charges to be dropped and that they be immediately and unconditionally released.</p> |
|  | <p>CUBA - <i>Imágenes de Rebeldía / Images of Rebellion</i> : Amnistía Internacional [2024]</p> <p>Amnesty International has published the book <i>Images of Rebellion</i>, an extraordinary visual compilation that chronicles and celebrates the defiant spirit of civil resistance in Cuba. The book contains a poignant selection of the more than 21,000 letters and drawings sent to Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara, Cuban artist and prisoner of conscience, in a global outpouring of support. Available as free online download at: https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr25/7904/2024/es/</p> |

NEED MORE BOOKS RELATED TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CASES?

Buying Books, Amplifying Voices - a multiyear list (2022)

<https://tinyurl.com/2n2j6ndf>

2023 Persecuted Authors Poster

<https://tinyurl.com/6n5rypyz>



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BANNED BOOKS WEEK PERSECUTED AUTHORS

Each title listed below represents the work of authors who have been persecuted — jailed, exiled, harassed, or killed — in light of their writing.

The titles listed are not necessarily the cause of the author's persecution; rather, they represent the work of the author, the possible silencing of that author's voice, and the silence of others who choose not to publish in a climate of oppression.

Each year during Banned Books Week, Amnesty International designates...

Other published works created by this year's focus cases are available on the internet.

2024 Banned Books Week Bookmarks Available Now!

Order your 2024 Amnesty International bookmarks at: <https://forms.office.com/r/ukkDkhemf3>. Printer friendly sheets are available via the website.

BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2024

ARTICLE 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion & expression.

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR)

**AMNESTYUSA.ORG/
BANNED-BOOKS**

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 

Chen Pinlin
Documentary Filmmaker

Pierina Nochetti's
Graffiti Artist

Etienne Fakaba Sissoko
Professor

Ana da Silva Miguel
Social Media Influencer

Maria Ponomarenko
Journalist

Kamile Wayit
Student

Nidal Al-Wahidi & Haitham Abdelwashed
Photojournalists

Manahel al-Otaibi
Fitness Instructor

Alberto Amaro
Journalist

Toomaj Salehi
Hip Hop Artist

BK-16
*Poets, Journalists, Lawyers
Professors, Artists*

Aleksandra Skochilenko
Protest Artist

Unite Against Book Bans
Librarians & Educators



SCAN ME