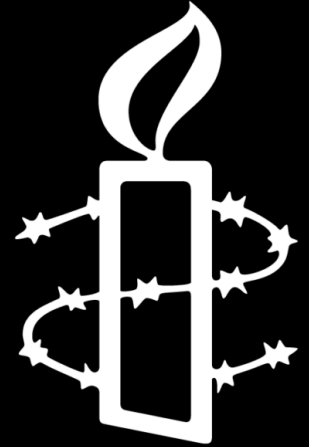


AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Urgent Action Network Guide

The Urgent Action Network (UAN) is Amnesty International's Global Rapid Response System responding to individuals and communities who are under immediate threat of human rights violations. When Amnesty International (AI) issues an Urgent Action on behalf of an individual or community, we mobilize activists across the world to take action in a short amount of time to bring about change for individuals and groups whose human rights are at immediate risk.

Important Terms to Know:

INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

Refers to an individual, a group, or a community who have been subjected to, or are at risk of, a human rights violation(s).

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

Refers to an individual or group of people, who act to promote and protect human rights through peaceful means.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

A person who is wrongfully detained solely because of who they are or their political, religious, or other conscientiously held beliefs, and who has not advocated hatred or violence, or used violence in the circumstances leading to their imprisonment.

ETHICAL CAMPAIGNING

Working *with* and *for* Individuals at Risk (IAR) is the foundation stone of Amnesty International (AI) and our single most important ethical principle and policy is based on mutual respect and dignity when conducting work with individuals affected by human rights violations and abuses. AI prioritizes *Informed Consent* to ensure that nothing that Amnesty does or says is against the wishes of the Individual at Risk involved and does not put them at greater risk of harm (“Do No Harm” principle).

How The Urgent Action Network Works

1



HUMAN RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED

Human rights violation(s) occurs against an individual or community somewhere in the world.

2



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATES

Amnesty International is alerted by the individual(s), family members, or lawyers. Research and investigation immediately begins on the case.

3



AMNESTY ISSUES AN URGENT ACTION

Background on the case is shared and guided messaging calling on government authorities to uphold and protect human rights, and to stop and remedy the human rights violation(s) that have occurred.

4



URGENT ACTION NETWORK MEMBERS MOBILIZE ACTION

By writing emails, letters, signing petitions, hosting events, and engaging through social media to bring attention to the injustice(s).

5



RESULTS

The collective actions often lead to justice for individual(s) at risk because authorities become aware that the world is watching them.



Case Study: Munther Amira

Urgent Action Network

Palestinian Human Rights Defender

Munther Amira, Palestinian human rights defender and social worker, was arbitrarily detained by Israeli forces on December 18, 2023. On January 11, 2024, an Israeli military court confirmed a four-month administrative detention order against him.

RESEARCH

Amnesty International (AI) was alerted of Munther Amira's case and gathered the details of his situation, including consent to campaign for his release.

AI researched the appropriate targets for Munther Amira's case which was Major General Yehuda Fox, Central Command of the West Bank for the Israeli Defense Forces.

ADVOCACY

MOBILIZATION

An appeal for his release was issued through the Urgent Action Network and tens of thousands of members from across the globe took action through letter writing, email, petitions, social media, and hosting public awareness events, which eventually led to Munther Amira's release!

RESULTS



ANATOMY OF AN URGENT ACTION

Below are some tips to help navigate an Urgent Action

Tip: Each Urgent Action (UA) has a unique numeric code. The first number denotes the sequence by which Amnesty launched the UA for the given calendar year, and the second number denotes the calendar year.

Tip: Reporting helps us to measure impact and we share the total numbers of actions taken with the officials we are trying to persuade and the individuals we are trying to help!

Tip: International mailing addresses are verified by Amnesty USA to ensure USPS delivery to each country is possible.

Tip: When available, social media handles of targets will be provided.

Tip: Please exercise politeness in all your appeals!

First UA: 150/24 Country Date: January 1, 2024

URGENT ACTION

[Title of Urgent Action]
This section will include a brief summary of the case. This might include important dates, locations, and actors who are involved. The purpose of this section is to introduce the case, and briefly describe how human rights are threatened.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 150.24**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Country Official or Other Target Salutation of Target Postal Mail Address of Target E-mail of Target Social Media of Target	Embassy in the United States or Permanent Mission Ambassador's Name and Salutation Address for Embassy Email for Embassy
--	--

Dear [Domestic and/or International Target],

[This section includes the sample letter that action takers can copy directly from and paste into an email, handwritten letter, or printed letter.]

*[When taking action, you are free to personalize your letter by adding or removing information. However, we ask that you stay on message and **always** be respectful and polite.]*

Yours sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
[This section includes additional information for the case that may not be included in the introductory summary or the sample letter. This section is for the benefit of the action taker to gain more insight into the case. Feel free to use some of the information from this section to personalize your letters or emails.]

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Target's language or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: Month Day, Year

NAME AND PRONOUN: Name of individual(s) or community at risk.

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: This section will provide the link to previous UAs on the case if applicable. If UA is extended or updated, the updated versions will be denoted as First UA, Second UA...

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 

Tip: When possible we will also provide a domestic address to send your appeal!

Tip: This date reflects the timeframe for requested action. UA's are often extended depending on the current status or outcome.

FIVE WAYS TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON AN URGENT ACTION



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Building awareness and mobilizing action on the individuals and communities we work *with* and *for* is an important part to Amnesty's advocacy work. Hosting public actions in your community will help raise the profile of the individual or community at risk, and will help spotlight perpetrators of human rights violations so we can hold them accountable to their actions.

- 1** Submit an article to your local or school paper that tells the story of the individual or community at risk and the human rights violations they are facing. Guide people on how to take action.
- 2** Create a short information video (90 seconds or less) on the Urgent Action and share via social media, inviting people to take action.
- 3** Create a visual such as a mural or flyer that provides information on the individual or community at risk and post in visible spots. Include ways for people to take action.
- 4** Organize a public event such as a demonstration, vigil, teach-in, letter-writing, or phone banking event (targeting the local Embassy in the U.S.) for the individual or community at risk.
- 5** Bring in a speaker!
Contact UAN@AIUSA.ORG for support with this.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

50 Ways to Take Action:

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/50-Ways-to-Take-Action.pdf>

How to write an effective letter: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/take-action/urgent-action-network/writing-an-appeal/>

Tips for writing and placing op-eds:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15onzWirvYtOxpBAw854wkaohnZH7JXMk/view?usp=sharing>

Support for hosting speakers and planning public events is available. We encourage groups to fundraise to cover expenses. AIUSA does provide some financial subsidies to support grassroots organizing.

For more information please contact [**UAN@aiusa.org**](mailto:UAN@aiusa.org).

Thank you!

P.S. Sign up for the monthly **UAN Insider** to receive updates on UAs, invitations to special UAN events, and other important information from around the globe!