

# 2021

## WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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### MIKITA ZALATAROU BELARUS

Mikita Zalatarou was waiting for a friend when he was swept up in a crowd of protesters and straight into a nightmare. Within 24 hours, officers arrested the 16-year-old at his home, accusing him of throwing a Molotov cocktail at riot police. They locked him up and allegedly tortured him. Despite a lack of evidence, Mikita – who also has epilepsy – was convicted and jailed for five years.



### ZHANG ZHAN CHINA

When Wuhan went into lockdown, Zhang Zhan was one of the few citizen journalists to report on the unfolding Covid-19 crisis. Determined to get the truth out, the former lawyer travelled there in February 2020. She took to social media to report how government officials had detained independent reporters and harassed families of Covid-19 patients. She was later detained and sentenced to four years in prison to silence her.



### MOHAMED BAKER EGYPT

Human rights lawyer Mohamed Baker must do without his wife, cats, and everyone else he loves. Falsely accused of terrorism, he's in prison for defending the rights of some of the most marginalised people in Egypt. The prison authorities have treated him especially cruelly, refusing him a bed, mattress, outdoor exercise, even family photos. Defending people's freedoms should not cost him his own.



### CIHAM ALI ERITREA

Born in L.A. and raised in Eritrea, Ciham wanted to be a fashion designer. But at 15, her ambitions were cut short when she was arrested trying to flee Eritrea – and never seen again. The authorities appear to have taken her in retaliation against her father's suspected involvement in a coup attempt on the government. Nine years on and no one knows where Ciham is being held. Meanwhile, the US government has been silent on their citizen's plight.

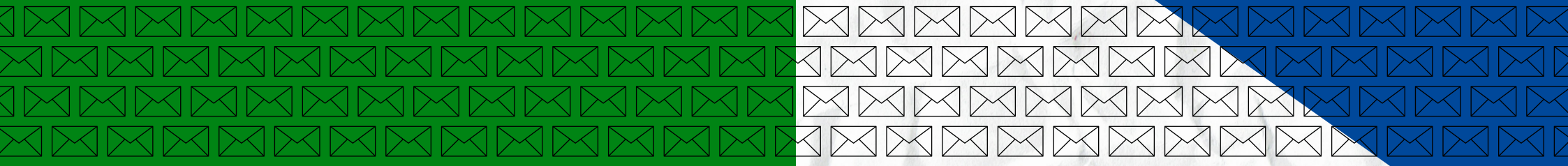


### BERNARDO CAAL XOL GUATEMALA

Bernardo has done everything he can to peacefully protect his people's land and natural resources from plunder and biodiversity loss. When the river they rely on for survival was threatened by the construction of two hydroelectric power plants, Bernardo and his people protested. He was publicly smeared with baseless accusations. In 2018, a judge sentenced Bernardo to more than seven years in prison, convicting him without any evidence.



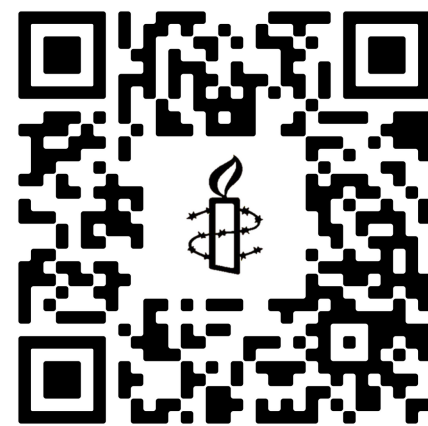




## JANNA JIHAD ISRAEL/OPT



Janna just wants a normal childhood for herself and all other Palestinian children. But the 15-year-old Palestinian teen lives in the Israeli-occupied West Bank – and life under systematic discrimination is anything but normal. Having begun documenting military violations at the age of seven, Janna’s principled journalism has attracted unwanted attention. She’s been harassed and threatened with death, but she won’t give up.



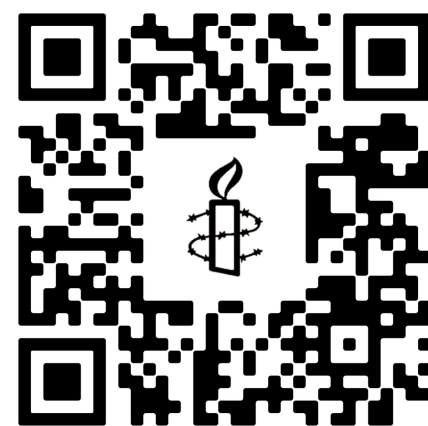
## WENDY GALARZA MEXICO

For Wendy Galarza, helping to raise young children is the best way to create a fairer world. It’s a goal she works hard for in Mexico, where women are often abused and killed for being women. In November 2020, she joined a march protesting the murder of a woman known as Alexis. During it, police fired shots and Wendy was wounded. She launched a case against the police, but those responsible for the violence have not been brought to justice.



## IMOLEAYO MICHAEL NIGERIA

When young people took to Nigeria’s streets in October 2020, Imoleayo joined them. They were protesting against the Special Anti-Robbery Squad – or SARS – a police unit notorious for violence. The young computer programmer promoted the protests on social media, using #EndSARS. Two weeks later, armed men took him from his home and locked him in an underground cell for 41 days. He’s facing trumped-up charges and years in prison.



## RUNG PANUSAYA THAILAND

Once a shy teenager, Panusaya – known as Rung, which means “rainbow” – has become a leading voice in Thailand’s democracy movement. The university student opposes the use of the lèse-majesté law to silence government critics. In March, the authorities jailed her for 60 days under this law. She went on hunger strike for 38 days and was eventually released. Today, she faces dozens of charges against her and life imprisonment.



## SPHERE NGO UKRAINE

Sphere NGO have been championing LGBTQIA+ and women’s rights since 2006, and are among the oldest organisations of their kind in the country. Founded by activists Anna Sharyhina and Vira Chernygina, they provide a safe space for women and LGBTQIA+ people in Kharkiv. In recent years, however, they have suffered dozens of attacks by violent anti-LGBTQIA+ groups. They report these incidents, but the police have failed to hold anyone accountable.



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INJUSTICE.