

RECENT CAMPAIGNS

USA: Capital Punishment: An execution date of April 24th has been set for Jack Jones. Jurors who sentenced him to death were not aware of his diagnosis with bipolar disorder. This is one of 8 executions set by Arkansas Governor Hutchinson that will take place throughout the end of April.

USA: Detention: Josue and his mother fled their home in Honduras to escape horrific violence and kidnapping threats. They've been held in US detention for over 500 days. Josue (age 3), Antonio (age 7), Carlos (age 4), Michael (age 16) and their mothers are waiting to rebuild their lives in safety. Their countries failed to protect them and so did the US.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Prisoner of Conscience: Dr Nasser bin Ghaith, on whose behalf we have written several times, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for charges including "insulting the UAE".

SYRIA: Chemical Weapons: Amnesty International is calling on the UN Security Council to take decisive action after the poison gas chemical attack. AI states that crimes like this go unnoticed, and calls for caring people to speak up and demand that leaders fulfill their obligations and protect the most vulnerable.

CHECHNYA: State execution of Gay Men: More than 100 men suspected of being gay have been abducted, tortured and even killed in the southern Russian republic of Chechnya according to credible sources inside the country. The Chechen authorities deny that gay men even exist in Chechnya, let alone that they ordered what the police call 'preventive mopping up' of people they deem undesirable.

GOOD NEWS STORIES

WRITE FOR RIGHTS CAMPAIGN 2016: Activists around the world sent more than 4.4 million messages to 10 governments, up from 3.2 million last year. 83,751 came from Canada.

RUSSIA: Sentence quashed: Ildar Dadin expected to serve three years in prison for participating in a peaceful demonstration. Russian authorities were asked to free him, and some writers sent him personal messages when his spirits were low. The Supreme Court quashed his sentence and he rejoined his wife on February 26.

IRAN: Execution stopped: The execution of Iranian Hamid Ahmadi was scheduled not once, not twice, but five times. In addition to opposing the death penalty as the ultimate cruel punishment, UA writers highlighted Amnesty's concern that international standards considered the 17-year-old to be a child when he killed a boy during a fight. International law forbids the execution of children. On February 14, the authorities delivered the astounding news to Hamid's family that they have stopped all plans to execute him.

MONGOLIA: Housing: Following a campaign by AI, officials provided alternative housing for ten households of Building #3 in Ulaanbaatar whose inadequate shelter had exposed them to extreme weather.

USA: Release from Detention: Sara Beltran Hernandez sought safety in the US from violence in El Salvador. Immigration officials in Texas detained her for 15 months. Appeals from UA writers insisted on urgent medical attention for her brain tumour. Seven days later, she was released to seek treatment. One of the first things she did was to share this message: "I want to thank Amnesty International activists like you for taking action on my behalf. Because of you, I can now get the medical care I need and be reunited with my family who I have not seen in over fifteen months. Thank you."