

President Hu Jintao  
President of the People's Republic of China  
The State Council General Office  
2 Fuyoujie  
Xichengqu  
Beijingshi 100017  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Your Excellency:

I am writing to express my grave concern for **Shi Tao**, a journalist who is serving a 10-year prison term for sending an email. Amnesty International considers Shi Tao to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

The right to freedom of expression is protected under China's constitution and under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which China has signed. Shi Tao's imprisonment appears to be a violation of both of these legal instruments. The pervasive system of Internet censorship in China contradicts the guarantees of freedom of expression that are embodied in both national and international law. I am alarmed that authorities continue to use vaguely-worded laws to detain journalists, dissidents and others engaged in the peaceful exercise of their right to free expression.

I respectfully call upon you to bring about Shi Tao's immediate and unconditional release from prison. I urge you to amend or repeal vaguely-worded laws or regulations that can be used to persecute individuals who exercise their right to freedom of expression.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

*copy to:*  
Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong  
Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
2300 Connecticut Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
Fax: 1 202 265 5284

His Excellency Habib Ibrahim El Adly  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
25 Al-Sheikh Rihan Street  
Bab al-Louk  
Cairo  
EGYPT

Fax: 011 20 22 796 0682  
Email: moi@idsc.gov.eg

Dear Minister:

I am writing to express my concern for **Musaad Abu Fagr**, who has been in administrative detention since 15 February 2008, despite obtaining several court orders for his release. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

Musaad Abu Fagr was arrested on 26 December 2007 following demonstrations in Sinai against plans by the authorities to demolish thousands of homes near the border with the Gaza Strip. He was accused of “inciting others to protest,” “resisting the authorities,” and “assaulting public officers during the exercise of their duties.”

Musaad Abu Fagr continues to be held more than 18 months after the courts first ordered his release. I urge you to comply with this order, and secure the immediate and unconditional release of Musaad Abu Fagr, as he has been detained solely for the peaceful expression of his views.

Yours sincerely,

*copy to:*

Ambassador Sameh Shoukry  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
3521 International Ct NW  
Washington DC 20008-2023  
Fax: 1 202 244 4319 or 1 202 244 5131  
Email: embassy@egyptembassy.net

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the life sentence imposed on **Birtukan Mideksa** following her re-arrest in December 2008. Amnesty International considers her to be a prisoner of conscience.

Birtukan Mideksa was originally charged with treason and sentenced to life imprisonment in one of several trials which started in 2006, after the Coalition for Unity and Democracy party, of which she was a leader, contested disputed local and parliamentary elections and took part in demonstrations which turned violent.

Birtukan Mideksa and others were released in June 2007 after local elders negotiated a pardon with the Ethiopian authorities. In November 2008 she spoke at a public event in Sweden about the process which led to her pardon. On her return to Ethiopia, the authorities asked her to retract her statement; she refused and was re-arrested, her pardon was revoked and her life sentence was re-imposed.

I urge you to use all diplomatic means to strongly encourage the government of Ethiopia to immediately and unconditionally release Birtukan Mideksa.

Yours sincerely,

*copy to:*

His Excellency Dr. Samuel Assefa  
Embassy of Ethiopia  
3506 International Drive, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008  
Email: [ethiopia@ethiopianembassy.org](mailto:ethiopia@ethiopianembassy.org)

His Excellency Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani  
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh  
(Office of the Head of the Judiciary)  
Pasteur St.  
Vali Asr Ave.  
south of Serah-e Jomhuri,  
Tehran 1316814737  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Email: [info@dadiran.ir](mailto:info@dadiran.ir) (Subject line: FAO Ayatollah Larijani)

Your Excellency:

I am very concerned about **Mansour Ossanlu**, leader of the Union of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, who has peacefully sought better conditions for workers and an end to discrimination in employment. For his trade union activities, he was sentenced to five years in prison for “acts against national security” and “propaganda against the system”.

Despite numerous health problems, including a heart condition and damage to his retinas from beatings by security agents, Mansour Ossanlu has not received adequate medical care. In August 2008 he was transferred to Raja’i Shahr prison in the city of Karaj which houses those convicted of violent crimes. He has reportedly been abused and intimidated there by guards and inmates.

I urge you to remember Iran’s obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees all people the right to form and join trade unions. Likewise, Iran’s membership in the International Labor Organization compels it to uphold the right to organize and the right to freedom of association.

Mansour Ossanlu is a prisoner of conscience whose only “crime” has been his desire to improve the lives of workers in Iran. I respectfully request that he be immediately and unconditionally released from prison, and I urge you to ensure that he be given all necessary medical treatment. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

*copy to:*  
His Excellency Mohammad Khazaei  
Permanent Mission of Iran at the United Nations  
622 Third Ave.  
New York, NY 10017  
Fax: 1-212-867-7086  
E-mail: [mkhazaei@un.it](mailto:mkhazaei@un.it)

Lic. Enrique Peña Nieto  
Gobernador Constitucional del Estado de México  
Lerdo Poniente No. 300, 1er piso, puerta 216  
Palacio del Poder Ejecutivo  
Col. Centro, C.P. 50000  
Toluca, Estado de México  
MÉXICO

Fax: 011-52-722-276-0046  
E-mail: gob@gem.gob.mx

Dear Governor:

I must express my deep concern about the torture and sexual assault of **Bárbara Italia Méndez** and other women during their detention on 3 and 4 May 2006 in San Salvador Atenco. More than three years have passed, yet no one has been held accountable for these horrendous crimes.

I know that the Special Prosecutor for Crimes of Violence Against Women and Human Trafficking (FEVIMTRA) recently decided it does not have jurisdiction in the case of the women assaulted by police officers in San Salvador Atenco in 2006, despite having identified 34 members of the state security forces as suspects in the crimes.

The investigation is once again in the hands of authorities under your responsibility, and I urge you to ensure that justice is done in this case. Please take advantage of the documentation on sexual torture collected by FEVIMTRA. In light of the Mexican Supreme Court's resolution declaring that human rights violations occurred at San Salvador Atenco in May 2006, I call on you to ensure that full reparations are made to Bárbara Italia Méndez and all the victims.

Sincerely,

*copy to:*

Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana  
Embassy of Mexico  
1911 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
fax: 202-728-1698  
email: mexembusa@sre.gob.mx

Senior General Than Shwe  
Chairman  
State Peace and Development Council  
c/o Ministry of Defense  
Naypyitaw  
UNION OF MYANMAR (Burma)

Dear Senior General:

I am deeply concerned that Nobel Peace Prize winner **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi** was sentenced in August 2009 to 18 months of house arrest after already spending 14 of the past 20 years under detention or restriction because of her work to protect human rights in Myanmar.

She is one of more than 2,100 political prisoners detained in Myanmar, including student leaders Htay Kywe, Mie Mie, and Zaw Htet Ko Ko, Buddhist monk U Gambira, and political activist U Win Htein.

The sentencing of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to 18 months of detention is an affront to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which your government is obliged to uphold as a member of the United Nations. I urge you to demonstrate Myanmar's commitment to human rights by ordering the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all other prisoners of conscience in Myanmar.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

*copy to:*  
U Myint Lwin  
Minister-Counselor, Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim  
Embassy of the Union of Myanmar  
2300 S Street NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
Fax: 1 202 332 4351  
Email: [info@mewashingtondc.com](mailto:info@mewashingtondc.com)

Inspector General of Police  
Ramesh Chand Thakuri  
Police Headquarters  
GPO Box 407  
Naxal, Kathmandu  
NEPAL

Fax: 011 977 14 415 593  
Email: [info@nepalpolice.gov.np](mailto:info@nepalpolice.gov.np)

Dear Inspector General:

I write out of concern for **Rita Mahato**, a health adviser at the Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), which has been attacked by men from Bastipur Village Development Committee in Siraha district who object to WOREC's work.

Rita Mahato documents cases of violence against women, registers the cases with the police, including providing information about the perpetrators to assist police, and she provides legal and medical support to the victims. As a result of this work, she has received threats of death, rape and kidnapping. In June 2007, some 20 people threw bricks at the WOREC office and staff for about two hours. Police did not take action on any of the attacks the WOREC workers have experienced.

I urge you to take all possible measures to ensure the protection and safety of Rita Mahato. I call on you to develop a national plan of action to implement the **United Nations Human Rights Declaration** so that human rights activists in Nepal may carry out their legitimate work without fear of reprisals.

I thank you for your attention to these concerns, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

*copy to:*  
Embassy of Nepal  
2131 Leroy Place NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
Fax: 1 202 667 5534  
Email: [info@nepalembassyusa.org](mailto:info@nepalembassyusa.org)

Rear Admiral Tom Copeman  
Commander, Joint Task Force Guantánamo  
Department of Defense  
Joint Task Force Guantánamo  
Guantánamo Bay  
Cuba  
APO AE 09360

Fax: 1-305-437-1241

Dear Admiral:

I am deeply troubled by the continued detention of **Mohammed Mohammed Hassan Odaini** (known to U.S. officials as Mohammed Mohammed Hassan, ISN-681), a Yemeni national whom U.S. authorities reportedly cleared for release from Guantánamo more than four years ago. It is my understanding that many other Yemeni nationals have also been cleared for release from Guantánamo, and yet they remain detained.

U.S. authorities declared Mohammed Mohammed Hassan Odaini suitable for release in June 2005. Yemeni authorities have stated that they are prepared to take him back, and he was cleared to be transferred in June 2006. Why has he not yet been returned to Yemen?

All detainees at Guantánamo must either be charged and fairly tried in U.S. federal court, or be released to countries where their human rights will be respected. I oppose President Obama's proposal for revised military commissions and indefinite preventative detention. I urge you to release Mohammed Mohammed Hassan Odaini.

I welcome President Obama's decision to close the detention facilities at Guantánamo, and I believe it is in the best interest of the United States to do so.

Sincerely,

*copy to:*

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520  
fax: 202-261-8577  
email: secretary@state.gov

Abdulkarim Shodiev  
Head of the Directorate of Execution of Sentences  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
GUIN MVD Respubliki Uzbekistan  
Ferganskoye shosse, 25  
Tashkent 700005  
UZBEKISTAN

via fax: 011-998-71-191-6835

Dear Mr. Shodiev:

I wish to bring to your attention the situation of **Azam Farmonov** and **Alisher Karamatov**, human rights defenders and members of the independent *Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan*, who have been in prison since April 2006. According to Amnesty International, the men were jailed after they had been defending the rights of farmers who had accused district officials of extortion and corruption. After Mr. Farmonov and Mr. Karamatov investigated and confronted officials with their findings, some farmers were allegedly pressured to withdraw their claims against the local officials and instead accuse Mr. Farmonov and Mr. Karamatov of pressuring them to make the claims.

Authorities charged Azam Farmonov and Alisher Karamatov with extortion. Both men say they were tortured while in pre-trial detention in an effort to get them to sign confessions. The two were sentenced in June 2006 in the absence of a defense lawyer or a legal representative to nine years in prison. Amnesty International considers the men to be prisoners of conscience.

Alisher Karamatov has reportedly been treated for tuberculosis in Sangorodok, a prison hospital facility. While earlier held at Karshi prison camp, he had lost nearly half his body weight. Azam Farmonov continues to be held at Yaslik prison camp.

I respectfully urge you to bring about the immediate and unconditional release of Azam Farmonov and Alisher Karamatov, and I ask you to ensure that they are not subjected to any further torture or other ill-treatment. I further ask you to ensure that Alisher Karamatov receives appropriate medical treatment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*copy to:*

Ambassador Abdulaziz Kamilov  
Embassy of Uzbekistan  
1746 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Fax: 202-293-6804

Nguyen Tan Dung  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Hoang Hoa Tham  
Ha Noi  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Fax: 011 844 3823 1872

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing to express my grave concern for **Nguyen Van Dai** and **Le Thi Cong Nhan**, human rights lawyers who were jailed in May 2007 on charges of “conducting propaganda against the State.” Amnesty International considers them prisoners of conscience, imprisoned solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

The detention of two lawyers who called for human rights to be respected in Vietnam is an affront to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which your government is obliged to uphold as a member of the United Nations.

I respectfully call upon you to ensure that Le Thi Cong Nhan and Nguyen Van Dai are allowed regular family visits and receive appropriate medical care while in detention. I urge you to demonstrate Vietnam’s commitment to human rights by ordering the immediate and unconditional release of Le Thi Cong Nhan and Nguyen Van Dai.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

*copy to:*

Ambassador Le Cong Phung  
Embassy of Vietnam  
1233 20th Street NW #400  
Washington, DC 20036  
Fax: 1 202 861 0917  
Email: [info@vietnamembassy.us](mailto:info@vietnamembassy.us)  
[consular@vietnamembassy.us](mailto:consular@vietnamembassy.us)