

H.E. Nejmeddine Lakhali
Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia
1515 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ambassador Lakhali,

I write to you to draw your attention to the case of human rights defender and LGBTI activist **Badr Baabou**, who was insulted and violently assaulted, apparently in connection with his work as an activist.

According to testimony that Badr Baabou provided to Amnesty International, around 9:00pm on October 21, 2021, Badr Baabou left a cafe in downtown Tunis and was looking for a taxi when two men whom he believes were members of the security forces, and who identified themselves as 'cops' when asked by the activist, insulted him, accosted him, and beat him severely. As Badr Baabou lay on the ground, his head bleeding, the men stole his laptop and mobile phone, and told him the beating was retaliation against him for filing complaints against the police and "defending whores and [a derogatory term in Tunisian Arabic for homosexuals]." The remarks appear to be a clear indication that Badr Baabou is being targeted for his LGBTI rights activism.

Badr Baabou suffered numerous injuries during the assault, including to his head, face, chest, spine, and upper limb, as described in a medical report he provided to Amnesty International. He also has multiple bruises and oedemas on his face, neck and shoulder, and suffers from pain in his neck, back and right shoulder that limits his movements.

Badr Baabou is the chairman of 'DAMJ, the Tunisian association for justice and equality', one of the Tunisia's most prominent LGBTI rights groups. In past years he has been frequently assaulted and harassed by the security forces. On October 25, 2021, the activist filed a complaint with Tunisia's Court of First Instance directed against Tunisia's General Director of National Security, General Director of Public Security, Regional Head of Public Security, and the two men who assaulted and robbed him and whom he alleges to be members of security forces. The complaint has yet to be responded to.

In light of the above, **I call on you to ask the public prosecutor to open an effective and impartial investigation into Badr Baabou's violent assault and the ones that preceded it, bringing all those found to be responsible to account in fair trial proceedings. These repeated attacks must end immediately. I also call on you to end the impunity enjoyed by police officers. Il-treatment and violence against citizens remain rampant in Tunisia today.** The overwhelming majority of investigations into members of the security forces hardly ever make it past the investigative phase and none have led to successful sentencing of perpetrators.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical human rights concern.

Sincerely,

Mr. Augusto Aras
Attorney General
SAF Sul Quadra 4 Conjunto C
Brasília/DF- Brazil

Mr. Attorney General,

I have been closely following the unfolding of investigations being carried out at the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission and believes to be essential to hold those involved in the mishandling of the pandemic of Covid-19 into account. **It is imperative to ensure accountability for the human rights violations committed in the context of the Brazilian government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has produced an unprecedented crisis in the country.**

In October 2021, Brazil reached the record of 600,000 COVID-19 deaths, the second highest in the world. Many of these deaths could have been avoided if authorities had put people's lives at the center of its decisions. But instead, arguing economic and political concerns, they deliberately minimized the impact of the pandemic on specific groups, promoted treatments without scientific evidence, and failed to secure enough vaccines for its population and to ensure essential supplies such as oxygen, as well as to protect groups who faced greater threats due to historic discrimination and inequality.

Due to the potential human rights impact of the actions and omissions identified by the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission, **I urge you to instruct the Federal Public Ministry to investigate these allegations.**

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critically important human rights concern.

Sincerely,

cc: Ambassador Nestor Forster Jr., Embassy of Brazil, 3006 Massachusetts Ave. NW,
Washington DC 20008

Ambassador Gaudence Sindayigaya
Embassy of the Republic of Burundi
2233 Wisconsin Ave NW #408
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Ambassador,

I call on you to request the immediate and unconditional release of Germain Rukuki. Germain has dedicated his life and work to truth and justice. He is also a dedicated father, yet because of his commitment to what's fair, he has never seen his own three-year-old son.

Germain is serving a 32-year prison sentence for defending human rights, after a court found him guilty on three charges, including "rebellion", in an unfair trial.

Germain's little boy wants his father back home. Please, help free Germain today.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Francisco Santos
Embassy of the Republic of Colombia
1724 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ambassador,

Jani Silva has been standing alongside the *campesino* farmers in the Putumayo region for decades. She has dedicated her life to defending the environment and natural resources.

However, Jani's work has put her in danger. She has been followed, intimidated by unknown people with guns and threatened with death.

As protectors of resources that the world depends on for its survival, Jani and the *campesino* farmers she stands with should be defended.

I call on you to protect Jani and all members of ADISPA, an organization she founded along with her colleagues to preserve the peasant Amazon Pearl Reserve Zone. In doing so, you will be safeguarding not just them, but a whole ecosystem powering the planet.

Yours sincerely,

Minister of Interior Mahmoud Tawfiq
Ministry of the Interior
25, El Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt

Dear Minister,

I am writing to express concern about plans to forcibly return **Alem Tesfay Abraham** and **Kibrom Adhanom Okbazghi**, two Eritrean nationals arbitrarily detained at al-Qanater Prison for men, north of Cairo, to Eritrea where they would be at risk of arbitrary detention and torture.

On September 9, 2021 prison officials forced them to undergo Covid-19 PCR tests at a hospital outside the prison and to sign documents in Arabic that they were unable to read, before informing them about plans to deport them without specifying a date. Security forces arrested 42-year-old Alem Tesfay Abraham at the Salloum border crossing with Libya on March 10, 2012, while 37-year-old Kibrom Adhanom Okbazghi was arrested on December 30, 2013 in North Sinai Governorate. According to their lawyer, they have not been charged with any criminal offence since and have been repeatedly pressured to “voluntarily” return to Eritrea by officials at the migration department of the interior ministry. The two men have refused and have repeatedly requested to register for protection with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

On July 23, 2020, three UN independent experts wrote to the Egyptian government raising concerns about the two men’s prolonged arbitrary detention and denial of the right to seek asylum. According to a refugee rights activist, shortly after this communication, prison officials verbally and physically assaulted the two men, and threatened to deport them. Going ahead with plans to deport them would violate the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits returning anyone to a place where they would be at real risk of torture and other serious human rights violations.

I therefore ask you to immediately halt any plans to forcibly return Alem Tesfay Abraham and Kibrom Adhanom Okbazghi to Eritrea, release them as they are detained arbitrarily without any legal basis and grant them access to asylum procedures. Pending their release, I urge you to protect them from torture and

other ill-treatment and ensure that they are held in conditions in line with international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critically important human rights concern.

Sincerely,

CC:

Ambassador Motaz Zahran
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
3521 International Ct NW
Washington DC 20008

Colonel General Abdulrazek al-Nadoori
Supreme Commander of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces
Ar-Rajma, Benghazi, Libya

Dear Colonel General Abdulrazek al-Nadoori,

I am writing to seek your intervention to ensure the immediate release of 34-year-old **Mansour Atti**, journalist, blogger, and head of the Red Crescent Committee and of the Civil Society Commission in Ajdabiya, whose fate and whereabouts are unknown since his abduction on June 3, 2021 from Ajdabiya. Given the well-documented pattern of armed groups in eastern Libya subjecting individuals in their custody to torture and other ill-treatment with impunity, I fear that he is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. According to eyewitnesses, around 7:00pm, armed men alighted from three vehicles and seized Mansour Atti from a street near his workplace. Since then, his family received no information about his fate and whereabouts, despite sending written appeals to the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF) and affiliated armed groups, as well as the head of the Ajdabiya Security Directorate, which is nominally under the Ministry of Interior. Until August, armed groups active in Ajdabiya and security forces nominally under the control of the Ministry of Interior denied having him in custody. According to informed sources, in August, a commander in the 302nd Battalion, an armed group affiliated with the LAAF, confirmed in a private gathering between local tribal leaders and armed groups that Mansour Atti was in their custody but refused to indicate his exact location or allow his relatives to visit or otherwise communicate with him.

According to an informed source and written appeals by Mansour Atti's family addressed to commanders of armed groups in control of territory in eastern Libya as well as the Ministry of Interior, examined by Amnesty International, the Internal Security Agency-Ajdabiya, an armed group affiliated with the LAAF, had summoned Mansour Atti for questioning several times prior to his abduction and questioned him about his activism. Mansour Atti was involved in efforts to ensure that the parliamentary and presidential elections scheduled for December 24, 2021 take place in an environment free of repression and coercion.

In light of the above, **I am calling upon you to provide information on Mansour Atti's whereabouts and to instruct armed groups operating under the command of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces to immediately release him.** Pending his

release, **he must be allowed access to his family and adequate medical care and protected from torture and other ill-treatment.**

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critically important human rights concern.

Sincerely,

CC:

Charge d'Affaires Khaled Daief
Embassy of Libya
1460 Dahlia Street NW Washington, DC 20012

Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
3517 International Ct NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador,

I urge you to request the release of Idris Khattak, Pakistan's expert on enforced disappearances, who has himself been subjected to enforced disappearance.

If there is credible and admissible evidence that he has committed an internationally recognized crime, then please try him promptly and fairly in a civilian ordinary court, without recourse to the death penalty. If not, release him immediately and unconditionally.

His daughters have not seen Idris since he was abducted in November 2019. They don't know where he is or whether he can take his medication. They just want their father back home safe with them.

Yours sincerely,

President Abdelfattah al-Sisi
Office of the President, Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Your Excellency,

On September 28, 2021, human rights defender and master's student **Patrick George Zaki** was referred to trial in front of the Emergency State Security Court (ESSC) on the charge of "spreading false news at home and abroad" in connection to an article published in 2019, containing excerpts from his personal diary about the discrimination faced by Coptic Christians in Egypt. He already spent 20 months in unjust pretrial detention pending investigations into charges of "disseminating false news", "incitement to protest" and "incitement to violence and terrorist crimes" in a separate case. Proceedings by the ESSCs, which are special courts activated when there is a state of emergency, are inherently unfair, and their verdicts are not subject to appeal. His trial was adjourned to December 7, 2021, following requests by his lawyer to obtain a copy of his casefile.

Patrick George Zaki's friends and supporters were able to see him during the September 28, 2021, court hearing and reported that he appeared angry and distraught by his unjust detention. Even though he suffers from asthma, he has not been vaccinated against Covid-19. His lawyers' complaint to the administrative court against the failure of the authorities to vaccinate him was pending at the time of writing. He is also suffering from back pain due to his detention conditions and is forced to sleep on rough blankets on the floor as prison authorities deny him a bed or mattress. He has been detained in Tora Investigation Prison since his arbitrary arrest at Cairo airport in February 2020 upon his return from Italy where he was studying. According to his lawyers, following his arrest, National Security Agency (NSA) officers subjected him to torture and other ill-treatment, including though the administration of electric shocks and beatings during interrogations which revolved around his human rights work. Amnesty International considers Patrick George Zaki to be a prisoner of conscience held solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights.

I therefore ask you to ensure that Patrick George Zaki is released immediately and unconditionally and that all charges against him are dropped, as they stem solely from his exercise of his human rights. I also urge you to open an independent investigation into his torture allegations, with a view to bringing those responsible to justice. Pending his release, I urge you to ensure that he is provided with adequate access to healthcare, including to Covid-19 vaccines, and held in conditions meeting international standards on the treatment of prisoners. Thank you for your immediate attention to this critically important human rights concern.

Sincerely,

CC: Ambassador Motaz Zahran, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 3521 International Ct NW, Washington DC 20008

Princess Reema Bandar Al-Saud
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Ave NW
Washington, DC 20037

Your Royal Highness,

Nassima al-Sada is a woman whom Saudi Arabia should take great pride in. Her lifelong journey has been one dedicated to the improvement of women's freedoms and her vision of them being active members of an open, vibrant society.

But instead of embracing Ms. al-Sada, the authorities arrested her in July 2018 and placed her in solitary confinement for one year. Today, she is still behind bars. I respectfully call on you to request the release of Ms. al-Sada and all other detained women human rights defenders, immediately and without conditions.

Yours sincerely,

Attorney General Merrick Garland
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

Steven Donziger is a US lawyer and environmental rights defender who has represented victims of oil dumping in an emblematic case against Chevron Corporation in Ecuador, following accusations that the corporation was responsible for what is widely considered one of the worst oil-related environmental disasters in recent history. He has been under pre-trial house arrest since August 2019 after he refused to comply with a court order to hand over his electronic devices, arguing that such a disclosure could compromise the confidentiality of the communications with his clients and put them at risk. The detention follows a long-running smear campaign of intimidation and harassment against Steven Donziger and other human rights defenders by Chevron.

In September 2021, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found that Steven Donziger's deprivation of liberty is arbitrary because it lacks any legal basis and is in violation of several norms relating to the right to a fair trial, including the apparent lack of impartiality of the courts. Moreover, the Working Group concluded that his detention appears to be in retaliation for his work as a legal representative of Indigenous communities in Ecuador.

Despite serious concerns over the lack of independence, objectivity and impartiality of the judge who ordered the pre-trial house arrest and who has overseen the trial over criminal contempt charges, Steven Donziger was sentenced on October 1, 2021 to the maximum penalty of 6 months in prison and denied the possibility to be released pending an appeal.

I urge the Department of Justice to assume jurisdiction over the case instead of the private prosecutor, and promptly implement the UN Working Group's decision by ensuring that Steven Donziger is released immediately and unconditionally.

I also call on you to launch a full and independent investigation of the circumstances surrounding Steven Donziger's arbitrary deprivation of liberty and take the necessary measures to ensure that corporations do not abuse the justice system to target and harass human rights defenders.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critically important human rights concern.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Nibizi
Minister of Justice
PO Box: 1880
Bujumbura, Burundi

Dear Minister,

I am shocked by the decision of the Court of Appeal of Ngozi on September 29, 2021 to uphold the conviction and five-year prison sentence against lawyer **Tony Germain Nkina**. He had appealed against the Court of Kayanza's verdict of June 15, 2021 in which he was wrongfully sentenced to five years in prison and a fine of one million Burundian francs (\$USD 500). The appeal hearing, initially set for August 12, 2021 was postponed twice before it was finally held on September 20, 2021.

Tony Germain Nkina was arrested on October 13, 2020 in Kayanza province, northern Burundi, and accused of collaborating with the armed opposition group, RED-Tabara (Resistance for the Rule of Law). Since the Burundi 2015 crisis, following the late President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to seek a third term in office, the government has accused RED-Tabara of being responsible for a series of armed attacks across the country, including attacks that had occurred in Kayanza province in early October 2020.

The arrest happened when Tony Germain Nkina was visiting a client in Kabarore commune – a locality that was attacked in October 2020. Tony Germain Nkina was advising the client on a land dispute case. The client has also been convicted on the same offence and handed a two- and half-year sentence. Before being transferred to the Ngozi prison on October 16, 2020, where he remains in detention, Tony Germain Nkina was interrogated and held at the office of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Kayanza, then transferred to police custody in the same province.

During the appeal hearing, the prosecution failed again to substantiate allegations that Tony Germain Nkina was linked in any way to RED-Tabara or produce any witness to support their case against the lawyer.

In a [joint statement](#) issued on October 8, 2021 Amnesty International denounced the decision of the Court of Appeal and pointed to the fact that Burundi continues

on a sad path of shrinking civic space despite multiple promises of a positive change in upholding its human rights obligations.

I call upon you to instruct the Prosecutor General of the Republic to ensure that Tony Germain Nkina is immediately and unconditionally released and that all the charges against him are immediately dropped. Pending his release, I urge you to ensure that he has full access to his lawyers and family and is protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critically important human rights concern.

Sincerely,

CC:
Ambassador Jean de Dieu Ndikumana
Embassy of the Republic of Burundi
2233 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Washington DC 20007

Ambassador Serdar Kiliç
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
2525 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador,

Biology students Melike Balkan and Özgür Gür are among a group of 19 people facing up to three years in prison for exercising their right to peaceful assembly.

On 10 May 2019, a Pride sit-in at Middle East Technical University was violently broken up by police. Melike, Özgür and 21 others were detained and then released. Now Melike, Özgür and 17 others are on trial.

Participating in a peaceful gathering is not a crime. I call on you to monitor the case to ensure they are acquitted of all charges.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Pham
Interim ICE Director
US Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Director Pham,

I am deeply concerned about the safety and wellbeing of all families detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

With confirmed cases of COVID-19 in family detention facilities, families face grave complications and even death if they contract the virus. There are credible, consistent, and disturbing accounts by families of dangerous conditions that put all families, facility staff, and surrounding communities at risk.

These families came to the United States seeking protection from violence and persecution. They must be able to pursue the right to seek asylum in safety.

As the acting head of ICE, you are responsible for their health and safety and must take all appropriate steps to protect them from COVID-19.

I call on you to release all the families together.

Yours sincerely,

State Attorney General Kwame Raoul
Office of the Illinois Attorney General
Attn: Crime Victim Services Division
100 West Randolph Street, 13th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Attorney General Raoul,

Teyonna Lofton graduated from high school the morning of May 31, 2020. She spent much of the day watching celebratory car parades and taking pictures with family. Excited to start college at Louisiana State University (LSU) in the fall, Teyonna is a proud graduate and Vice President of the Honor Society of Chicago's Perspectives Leadership Academy.

On the evening of May 31st, Teyonna decided to go out to get something to drink from a local gas station around the corner from her home. Due to COVID-19, the gas station had locked its doors and were allowing only one customer at a time. A line of patrons stood socially-distanced outside the store. Security footage from the gas station shows a vehicle driving onto the scene and an individual opening fire on the customers who were waiting in line. As people hit the ground, you can see Teyonna has been shot.

She has received no follow-up information from the police about the shooter and was not well-informed about victim's compensation benefits to which she is entitled. As celebration turned to tragedy, Teyonna is one of many individuals who experiences everyday gun violence in her South side of Chicago community.

I demand accountability for the crime to which Teyonna was subjected, and I request that your office provide Teyonna with victim's compensation as outlined in the Illinois Crime Victim Compensation Act.

Yours sincerely,