

Chair of the
Special Committee on Rights of the
Child
The Knesset
Kiryat Ben Gurion
Jerusalem, Israel 9195016

Date :

Janna Jihad - Occupied Palestinian Territories

Dear Member of Knesset

Janna Jihad just wants a normal childhood. But the 15-year-old lives in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where systematic discrimination and oppression are the norm. Having seen her own uncle killed by the Israeli military, Janna has been thrust into the world of citizen journalism, documenting and exposing the Israeli army's oppressive and often deadly treatment of Palestinians, including children. Israel has signed up to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, yet doesn't extend those protections to Palestinian children in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Today, Janna's principled journalism has marked her out for harassment and death threats. I call on you to end discrimination against Janna, and to meet your obligations under the Convention by protecting her and other Palestinian children from harm.

Yours sincerely

María Consuelo Porrás Argueta
Attorney General of Guatemala
c/o Embassy of Guatemala in
Switzerland
Jubiläumsstrasse 41
3005 Bern
Switzerland

Date :

Bernardo Caal Xol – Guatemala

Dear Attorney General,

Bernardo Caal Xol holds a whole people in his heart. He and the Maya Q'eqchi are a vital part of Guatemala's heritage. They are peacefully protecting the land and water that make the country a unique place. Yet the hydro-electric power plants licensed to operate without their permission are disrupting their sacred Cahabón river, scarring the landscape, and destroying their way of life.

Bernardo only wants to ensure that the land and water are preserved for the future, yet he has been smeared with baseless accusations and imprisoned for more than seven years on sham charges. I urge you to drop all charges against Bernardo and free him immediately.

Yours sincerely

President of the People's Republic of
China
Xi Jinping
Zhongnanhai
Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017
People's Republic of China

Date :

Zhang Zhan – China

Dear President Xi

Zhang Zhan typifies the courage of investigative journalists who speak truth to power. Citizen journalists like her were the only source of uncensored, independent, and first-hand information about the coronavirus outbreak, publishing reports on social media and the internet despite constant harassment and repression. Yet, instead of being praised, Zhang Zhan received four years' imprisonment for daring to report what she saw. If the Chinese authorities are serious about combating Covid-19 and preventing similar outbreaks from happening again, they must stop censorship and respect freedom of expression – free Zhang Zhan immediately and unconditionally.

Yours sincerely

Attorney General of the Federation and
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
New Federal Secretariat Complex
5th Floor, Shehu Shagari Way,
Maitama, P.M.B 192 Garki
Abuja, Nigeria

Date :

Imoleayo Michael – Nigeria

Honourable Attorney General of the Federation,

Imoleayo Michael is a young computer programmer who only wants a fairer, more just Nigeria. In October 2020, he joined other young people who were protesting against the Special Anti-Robbery Squad – or SARS – a police unit notorious for violence, extortion and killings. 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, all because he believes that Nigeria's police can do better for the people they are meant to protect. I urge you to drop all charges against Imoleayo immediately.

Yours sincerely

Andrei Shved
Prosecutor General of the Republic of
Belarus
ul. Internatsionalnaya 22
220030 Minsk
Belarus

Date :

Mikita Zalatarou – Belarus

Dear Prosecutor General

Mikita Zalatarou was waiting for a friend on the street in Homel when he was swept into a crowd of protesters on 10 August 2020. Within 24 hours, the 16-year-old – who also has epilepsy – was in police custody, accused of throwing a Molotov cocktail. Officers beat him, electrocuted him, interrogated him without a lawyer or responsible adult present, and locked him up for six months before putting him on trial. Despite no evidence showing Mikita had been involved in any violence, he was convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Please do all in your power to ensure that he is released pending a fair trial that meets international child justice standards.

Yours sincerely