

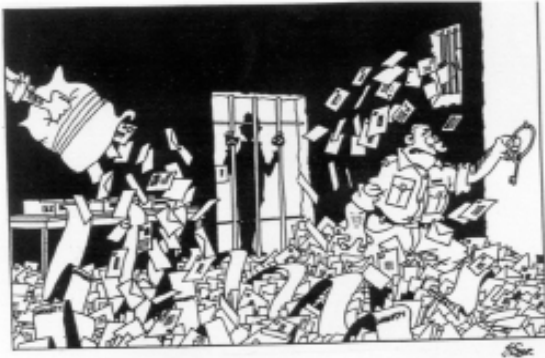


Letter Writing Campaign Guide

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Why write letters?



Since its beginnings as a movement in 1961, Amnesty International has always included personal letter writing as one of its main campaign methods.

Many have already spoken out in defense of human rights by simply taking a few minutes to write a letter.

One might say that this is a trademark of the organization.

Letters don't have to be long or detailed. In each appeal case, we will include the exact request to make and details of who to write to. If you have specific knowledge about a country or a case you may wish to write a more detailed letter, but all types of letters are valuable.

Remember, your letter, combined with others from all over the world, can lead to a dramatic improvement in the situation of a victim of human rights abuse.

Putting pressure on officials through letter writing can result in torture being stopped, access granted to doctors or lawyers, death sentences being commuted, 'disappearances' investigated, and prisoners released.

Thank you

for joining our letter writing campaign!

Every year, around March, Amnesty International Philippines chooses an individuals-at-risk case to be adopted for the letter writing campaign which runs from April through September.

Members and supporters are encouraged to send messages of hope and support to individuals who are at risk of imminent execution and imprisonment due to unfair trial, harassment, curtailment of freedom of expression and association, under threat of eviction or arbitrary arrests and imprisonment and in need of immediate medical attention, seeking legal assistance, remedy and redress.



Members and supporters can also write to the authorities to call them to action. A government might brush aside a single message. But thousands of voices calling for change are much harder to ignore.

It's a classic Amnesty International technique: more than half a century of human rights work show that words really do have the power to change lives.

Letter writing events are varied, creative and inspired. During letter writing sessions, people take time out to express their solidarity with individuals and communities.

Members and supporters get together to hold letter writing sessions and education discussion on adopted cases while sharing creative ideas on better ways of sending their messages of courage to individuals-at-risk or outrage to government inaction.

This is also a good time to reactivate local group or individual membership or a venue to ask more people to join Amnesty International.

Letter Writing Tips



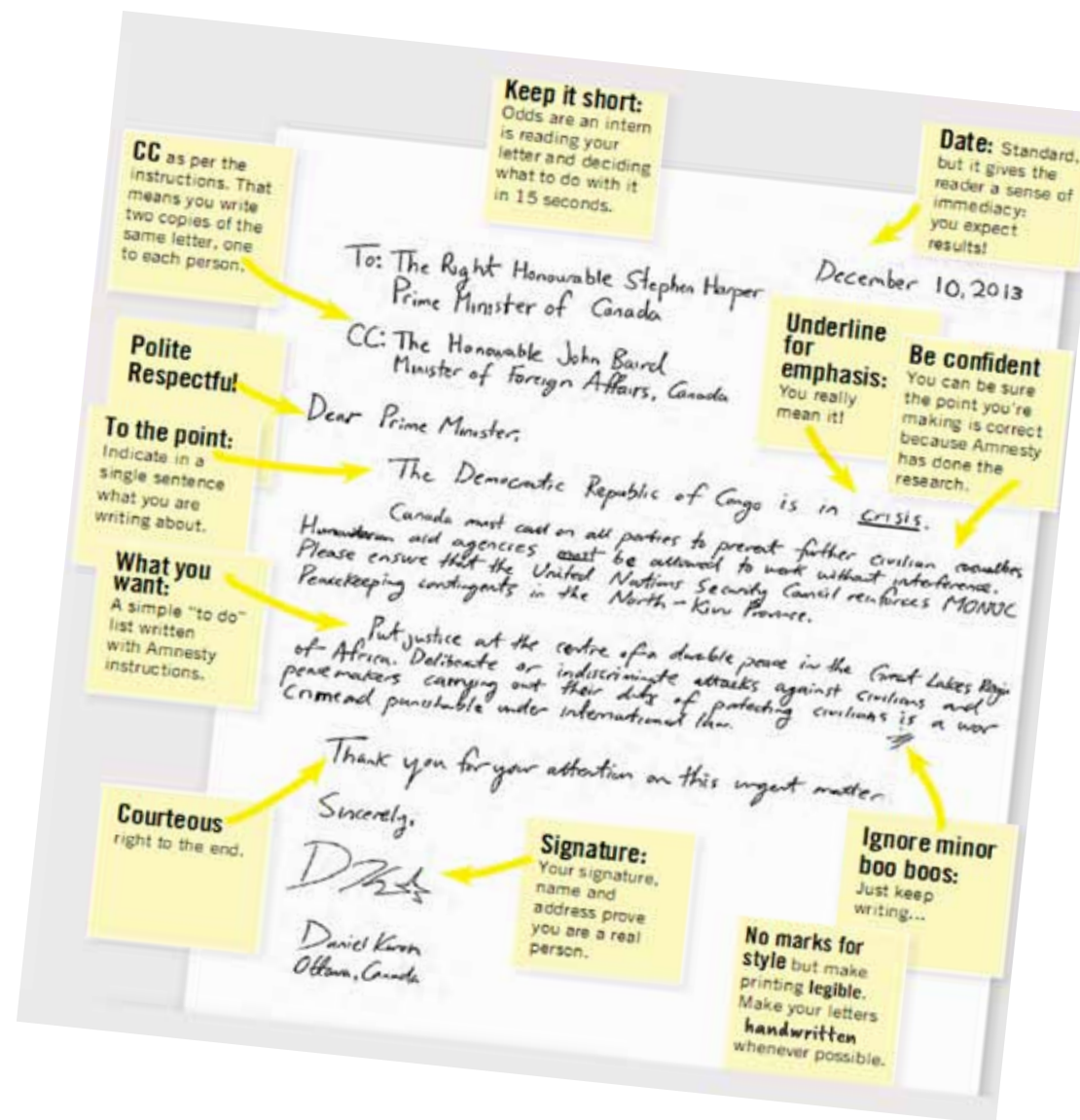
1. Each appeal case includes instructions on what to say in your letter which is alright to be copied word per word. Be sure to follow this exactly. Don't ask for things that are not included in the fact sheet especially for letters that are addressed to governments.
2. Be brief, a short letter is better than no letter at all. And be polite when writing a letter addressed to governments.
3. When writing a solidarity letter directly to individuals-at-risk, you can use your own voice. Write in your own words as it will be more sincere, but be impartial and refrain from making religious references. You can introduce yourself, how old you are and that you are writing from the Philippines.

These details will make your letter more personal and will reflect that Amnesty International's letter writing action is truly global and diverse.

4. The language we will use is English even for non-English speaking cases but if you feel you can express yourself better in your local language or through artwork, you are welcome to do so but only for letters to individuals-at-risk not for governments.
5. End with a request either for the government to take action or for the individuals-at-risk to feel free to write you back.

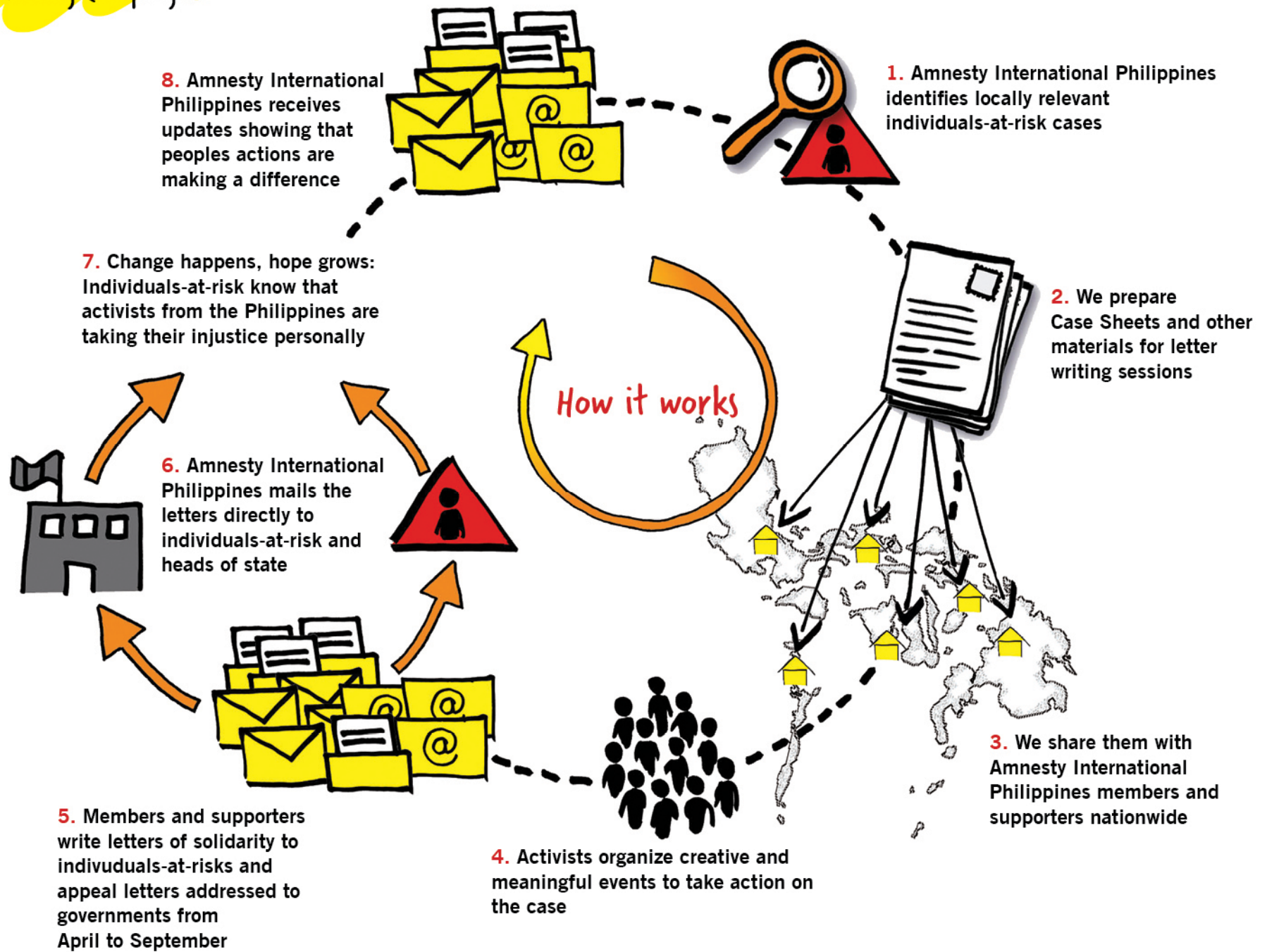
LASTLY, have fun!

Anatomy of a Letter



SAMPLE LETTER ADDRESSED TO GOVERNMENT

Amnesty International Philippines' Letter Writing Campaign



Amnesty International is a global movement of 3 million supporters, members and activists in more than 150 countries and territories.

We campaign for internationally recognized human rights to be respected and protected for everyone. Amnesty International received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 and the United Nations Human Rights Award in 1978. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion. We are financed largely by contributions from our membership and donations. Countless individuals have worked with Amnesty International for change since 1961. 50 years of human rights campaigning with people like you uniting with million others in common action, we have changed minds, changed laws and changed lives.

**AMNESTY
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