



ENGELSKA 5 OCH 6

WRITE A SOLIDARITY LETTER!

We live in troubled times. Many communities are characterized by social, economic and political inequality and conflict. Meanwhile, the struggle for human rights continues, everywhere and all the time. We call those at the forefront of this struggle human rights defenders.

Human rights defenders document, expose and protest against discrimination, human rights violations, corruption, abuse of power and other violations. They demand respect and protection for their rights and the rights of others, and they hold authorities accountable for what they do – and for what they fail to do. The work done by human rights defenders is an absolute necessity for ensuring respect for and protection of all our rights.

During the period 2017-2019 Amnesty Sweden will take part in the global campaign BRAVE. The aim of this campaign is to change the situation for human rights defenders and contribute to strengthening their position so that they can work in a safe environment.

METHOD

Letter writing has always been at the heart of Amnesty International's human rights campaigning and 55 years of human rights activism shows us that words really do have the power to change lives. The more people who get involved and write letters, the more powerful will be the impact on governments and authorities.

In this exercise, you will write what is known as a solidarity letter to Shackelia Jackson, who is a human rights defender.

SHACKELIA JACKSON

Shackelia Jackson will not give up. When her brother was gunned down by police in 2014, she made sure that Jamaica's independent investigators secured the crime scene. The police had been pursuing a "Rastafarian-looking" suspect in a robbery, and Nakiea fit that description. They found him in his small restaurant and shot him dead. Police killings of mainly young and mostly poor men is all too common in Jamaica, with some 2 000 killed in the past decade.

Shackelia was determined not to let Nakiea's story end there. She has battled a badly underfunded, sluggish court system to lead a bold fight for justice. In doing so, she has rallied dozens of families whose loved ones have been summarily killed, amplifying their cries for justice. The police have responded by raiding her community, timing the raids to coincide with court dates. They have also intimidated Shackelia and her family, but she refuses to be silenced. She says their attempts only reinforce her belief in what's right. "I fight because I have no other choice," she says. "To stop would mean I am giving another police officer permission to kill another of my brothers."

Amnesty International demands:

- Call on the Jamaican authorities to protect Shackelia and other families from harassment by the police.
- Call on the Prime Minister to urgently reform the justice system to ensure justice for Shackelia and other relatives of people allegedly killed by the police.

PREPARATIONS

- Read this [article](#) concerning the case.
- Watch [this](#) and [this](#) video.

WRITING YOUR LETTER

1. Write a first draft of your letter. Make it no longer than one typed page. The letter should contain the following three things.

- A greeting and a brief presentation of who you are. The recipient should have some idea of who is sending letters to her.
- An expression of solidarity and appreciation for her actions and struggle for justice in Jamaica. Give her hope and power to endure. You can express this in many different ways and styles.
- A signature with your name, home town and country.

2. Switch drafts with someone else and read it. Imagine yourself receiving this letter. Would you appreciate it? Exchange advice on how to make the letter as effective as possible. Improve and finish the letter, using the advice you were just given. Keep in mind! This is a real letter, being sent to a real person, under real stress. Write it in a respectful manner.

Address:

Shackelia Jackson
184 Orange Street, BLK J apt. 10
Kingston, Jamaica
Email: brokenbutnotdestroyedinfo@gmail.com
Website: www.time4justice.org

Extra instructions

Share a message of support with Shackelia telling her you are with her in her struggle for justice. Activists are encouraged to take solidarity photos or videos using the hashtag #Time4JusticeJA, which can be sent to Shackelia via email or posted on the Time4Justice website (both listed above).