



# Amnesty International

## Group 524

## November 2025



### December Write For Rights Event US Murder on the High Seas Student Deportation

#### Welcome

The focus this month is to counter US government actions which deny basic human rights and our continuing work for Yu Wensheng. We hope to see you at the Commons on **November 18** at 6pm.

#### December Write For Rights Event

Group 39 will sponsor the **40th** annual Write For Rights event on December 10. **Please note the new location; Rodef Shalom on Fifth Avenue.** As usual this event will take the place of our regular December meeting. The cases for this event will be the focus of our December newsletter which will be sent at the beginning of the month. Please see the flyer on page 2.

#### US Extrajudicial Killings

The U.S. military's repeated air strikes targeting unidentified boats at sea have killed at least 76 people. These strikes are illegal under international human rights law, unconscionable, and dangerous. See page 3 and a sample letter on page 4.

#### Student Deportation

Leqaa Kordia, a Palestinian student from New Jersey is being detained for her peaceful protest of the genocide in Gaza. See pages 5- 6.

#### China Case

We will continue our group's Individual At Risk case, **Yu Wensheng** in China. We will sign cards of solidarity and send an **updated** version of our letters this month. See pages 7-8.

Amnesty International Group 524

Meeting Schedule: Third Tuesday of the month, at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: The Commons Residence Providence Heights  
9000 Babcock Blvd.



Contact John Belch ([joheb@aol.com](mailto:joheb@aol.com) or 412-766-1894) for more information on material in this mailing, or visit the Amnesty USA web site ([www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org))



# Write for Human Rights



*Shine some light  
in their lives  
with your pen!*

Join Amnesty International Group 39 and other human rights groups and community leaders for our **40<sup>th</sup> Write for Human Rights event.**

**December 10, 2025  
6:00-8:30pm**

**Rodef Shalom  
4905 Fifth Ave,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

Write a letter. Change a life.  
Come for five minutes or the whole event.  
Case information, letter writing materials and light refreshments will be provided.



Contact: [amnesty39@gmail.com](mailto:amnesty39@gmail.com)



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## URGE CONGRESS: INTERVENE TO STOP U.S. MURDER ON HIGH SEAS



The U.S. military’s repeated air strikes targeting unidentified boats at sea have **killed at least 76 people**. These strikes are illegal under international human rights law, unconscionable, and dangerous. The use of lethal force in this context has **no justification**.

If the U.S. government can unilaterally decide to bomb anyone it labels a “terrorist” — anywhere, anytime — it sets a **chilling global precedent**. No government should have the power to kill without accountability.

Urge Congress to act immediately to halt these illegal airstrikes and hold those responsible to account.



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[Senator]

[Representative]

I am writing on behalf of Amnesty International to express my great concern about the air strikes conducted by the U.S. military against unidentified boats in the Caribbean Sea. The strikes constitute a clear violation of the right to life under international human rights law and set a dangerous precedent. The use of lethal force in this context has absolutely no justification.

The intentional use of lethal force is governed by law enforcement standards under international human rights law. It can only be used when strictly necessary to protect life from an imminent threat, and when no less harmful means, such as capture, are available. Moreover, any use of lethal force must be proportionate to the threat faced in the prevailing circumstances, particularly with a view to minimizing risks posed to human life and personal integrity.

The lethal strikes against what the U.S. government alleges to be drug smuggling vessels in the Caribbean amount to extrajudicial killings. President Trump, Secretary Rubio and other Trump administration's public comments about these strikes, as well as the continuation of these strikes over the course of several weeks, suggest this is a new policy of extrajudicial killings that violates both the rights to life and to due process.

If the U.S. Congress has stated this type of action should not be tolerated elsewhere, it should condemn this behavior by the U.S. government and call for accountability. Permitting extrajudicial killings violates international law and undermines principles long stated as cherished by this country. Practically, Congress should be addressing underfunding in direct services and healthcare if they want to play a meaningful role in helping eradicate the U.S.'s opioid crisis domestically, not supporting extrajudicial killings.

We call on you to begin a prompt, thorough, independent, impartial and transparent investigation into these strikes. The U.S. government must ensure that intentional lethal force is only used in response to imminent threat to life, and when no less harmful means, such as capture or non-lethal incapacitation, is possible, and the use of force must be proportionate in the prevailing circumstances. Further, Congress should thoroughly reject the administration's increasing use of the military to execute law enforcement activities. Conducting aerial strikes to stop alleged criminal activity must not be normalized.

Congress must not rubber stamp further unlawful strikes. It should use all available means to stop the administration from continuing these strikes and hold the administration accountable for its illegal actions. Whether abuses are domestic or foreign, we need you to stand up against them.

Sincerely,



## HELP FREE LEQAA, DETAINED FOR PROTESTING GENOCIDE

Leqaa is a 32-year-old Muslim Palestinian woman and New Jersey resident. After coming to the U.S. on a visitor visa to visit her mother, she obtained a student visa and enrolled in English classes. But because of incorrect legal advice, she unknowingly lost her student visa before receiving her green card — leaving her vulnerable without legal immigration status.

Like so many others horrified by the devastation in Gaza, she joined peaceful protests near her home. **This was deeply personal to her: Leqaa lost 175 family members in Gaza and wanted to speak out against the genocide of her people.**



Leqaa was arrested at a peaceful protest outside Columbia University. The charges were dropped. **But this March, Leqaa was detained without warning and sent to a detention center in Texas, more than 1,500 miles from her family and attorney.**

Since her detention, she has been repeatedly denied her right to practice her religion. She's been given almost no halal food, forced to break her fast during Ramadan or risk starvation, and denied the conditions to properly pray or wear proper clothing for prayer.

**Leqaa is the only known remaining student campus protester still detained by ICE for her peaceful activism to stop Israel's genocide in Gaza.**

Join us in demanding action: [Tell Secretary Kristi Noem to immediately release Leqaa Kordia.](#)



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**The Honorable Kristi Noem**  
**Secretary of Homeland Security**  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20528

Secretary Noem:

I am writing to you as a supporter of human rights on behalf of Amnesty International about Leqaa Kordia. On March 13, 2025, Ms. Kordia, a 32-year-old Muslim Palestinian woman, voluntarily met with Department of Homeland Security agents after she learned she was being investigated by immigration authorities. She was immediately detained and transferred from New Jersey to Prairieland Detention Facility in Texas, far from her family and immigration attorney.

Ms. Kordia was in the process of obtaining legal permanent residency in the USA. She came to the attention of immigration authorities after her arrest at a protest in 2024 outside of Columbia University against Israel's ongoing genocide against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip. The charges were later dismissed in the interests of justice.

Ms. Kordia's arrest and ongoing arbitrary detention are a part of the continued attacks on human rights by the Trump administration. Targeting peaceful protesters and threatening their immigration status for the content of their protest, such as advocating for the human rights of Palestinians, is a violation of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly. This targeting sends a chilling message to people across the country that anyone exercising their human rights will be subject to repression, detention, and possible deportation. For immigrant communities already living in fear throughout the U.S., they are now only further pushed into the shadows with fear that they could be deported for speaking out.

Leqaa Kordia has suffered violations of her rights to practice her religion while detained in Texas. She poses no threat to the public or flight risk and is a caregiver for family members in New Jersey. She should be released immediately to her family.

Sincerely,



### Individual At Risk Case

We have not received any response to our efforts as of this writing and I have reached out to our case coordinator to see if there is more we can do.

Our group has been selected to work on the case of **Yu Wensheng** of China.

The last update:

*Xu Yan visited Yu Wensheng with their son on early March, and they found that his conditions in prison are quite poor. The treatment he is receiving in prison is substandard. Despite the fact that his family has deposited money for him, he is unable to use it within the prison, which often leaves him hungry due to the insufficient prison meals. Additionally, the prison does not allow his family to send him clothing, and he is forced to wear old, worn-out prison-issued garments. Xu Yan and their son are deeply concerned about his well-being given these conditions. Yu and Xu have expressed a strong desire for him to be transferred to another prison, ideally one in Beijing. Beijing is Yu's registered domicile. Currently, Xu and their son must travel over 1,000 kilometres to visit him, which is physically, emotionally and financially exhausting for them, especially as both Xu and the son are in poor health. She also hopes the Chinese authorities will remove the individuals who are stationed 24/7 to monitor her and her son, allowing them to move freely without surveillance.*

I have updated our regular letters to reflect these concerns and a sample letter is on the next page.



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Chief Procurator Zhu Yapin  
People's Procuratorate of Beijing Municipality  
No. 9 Jianguomen North Street  
Dongjeng District, Beijing, 100010  
People's Republic of China

Dear Chief Procurator Zhu:

On April 13, 2023, prominent human rights lawyer **Yu Wengsheng** and his wife Xu Yan were taken into police custody while en route to meet the delegation of the European Union to China in Beijing, where they were to attend a meeting with the EU's Ambassador to China, Jorge Toledo Albinana, and another senior EU official. On October 29, 2024, Suzhou Intermediate Court sentenced Yu Wengsheng to three years in prison and Xu Yan, to one year and nine months in prison for "inciting subversion of state power." Vague and overly broad charges such as these are often used in China to prosecute persons who were merely exercising their guaranteed human rights.

On January 6, 2025, the Suzhou Intermediate People's Court rejected Yu Wengsheng's appeal against his three-year prison sentence for "inciting subversion of state power", passed down in a trial in October 2024. His wife, activist Xu Yan, was sentenced to one year and nine months in prison for the same offense and was released on January 13, 2025.

Yu is being held at a detention center in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. His lawyers have been denied access to him and his case files. Without regular access to lawyers of his choice and verified information about his condition and wellbeing, Yu is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

We urge you to take the following actions in this case:

- Immediately and unconditionally release **Yu Wengsheng**, unless there is sufficient, credible and admissible evidence that they have committed an internationally recognized criminal offense:
- pending his release, allow him regular access to his family and lawyers of his choice and allow use of monies deposited for needed food and clothing items.
- pending his release, we urge that **Yu Wengsheng** is transferred to a prison in Beijing where he is domiciled.
- pending his release, ensure that he has access to adequate medical care, and is are not subject to torture and other ill-treatment.
- Ensure the full freedom of **Xu Yan** and her family, protecting them from any form of harassment or intimidation.

Respectfully yours,