

Write for Rights – Winter 2019-20

A few of the cases we will write about this year.....



Yiliyasijiang Reheman and his wife Mairinisha Abuduaini were expecting their second baby when Yiliyasijiang went missing. The young couple were building a new future for themselves, studying at a university in Egypt. But their lives were shattered in July 2017 when China pressured Egypt to round up hundreds of Uyghur people in the country. Yiliyasijiang was among them. Mairinisha learned through friends that Yiliyasijiang had been sent back to Xinjiang in China in one of China's secret internment camps.



In March 2019, Yasaman Aryani walked through a women-only train carriage in Iran, hair boldly uncovered as she handed out flowers. She spoke of her hopes for a future when all women would have the freedom to choose what to wear so that one day they could walk together “me without the hijab and you with the hijab”. Iran's authorities arrested Yasaman for this act. On 31 July, Yasaman learned to her shock that she has been sentenced to 16 years in prison.



In the Indigenous Anishinaabe community of Grassy Narrows in Ontario, Canada, the community's youth are fighting for a better future. The people of Grassy Narrows have been hard-hit by mercury poisoning, after the government allowed a pulp mill to dump 10 tons of waste into a river in the 1960s, with the damaging effects still seen today. Fishing is an essential part of their way of life. But for over 50 years mercury has contaminated the fish, making them dangerous to eat. This has robbed the Grassy Narrows people of their health and eroded their culture and traditions. The

government has done very little to improve what is currently the country's worst health crisis. The youth of Grassy Narrows are demanding justice for their people.



In Greece, you can go to jail for saving lives. It happened to rescue workers Sarah Mardini, 24, and Seán Binder, 25, because they volunteered for a sea search and rescue organization in Lesvos. They helped people in danger at sea, many of whom were fleeing abuses in their countries. But they ended up in prison charged with spying, people smuggling and belonging to a criminal organization.