

Human Rights & Banned Books Week: Engaging with Amnesty International

Internationalizing Banned Books Week & Emphasizing Human Rights in Public, Academic, and School Libraries

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OFFICE FOR
Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

**Banned Books Week Programming
Derives from Related Organizations**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**Amnesty International USA
Banned Books Week Working Group**

Amnesty International USA

Award:

[John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award](#)

Year this Award was Won:

2013

“Of special recognition is **Amnesty International’s approach to Banned Books Week**, said Immroth Award Chair Charles Kratz. Rather than focusing on book censorship, per se, **Amnesty International’s approach focused on the logical consequences that would follow when governments are allowed to censor**. Beyond the removal or burning of books comes **the removal and physical harm to authors, journalists and others**.

To some degree it could be said that American Library Association Banned Books Week programming focuses on the *book* and Amnesty International focuses on the *people*.



Banned Books Week 2023

From September 15 through October 15, 2023, Amnesty International USA will spotlight six cases highlighting individuals or communities whose human rights are under attack because of their work as authors, journalists, bloggers, filmmakers, poets, novelists, photojournalists, publishers, academics, musicians, and librarians.



DONATE 

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/campaigns/banned-books/bbw2023/>

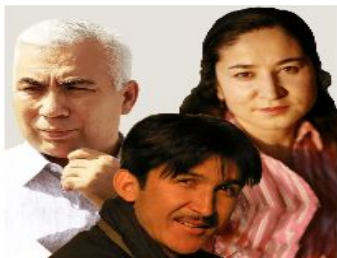


FLORIANE IRANGABIYE

Journalist sentenced to 10 years for expressing critical views on a radio program

Burundi

TAKE ACTION



AHMETJAN JUMA, ABDUKADIR JALALIDIN, RAHILE DAWUT

Teacher, professor, ethnographer sent to internment camps or prisons in light of professional work and publications

China

TAKE ACTION



UNITE AGAINST BOOK BANS

Stop government censorship and erosion of freedom of expression

USA

TAKE ACTION



YAHAYA SHARIF-AMINU

Nigerian singer on death row for song circulated on Whatsapp

Nigeria



MICHELLE RECINOS

Author, her book was removed from an international book fair

El Salvador



TOOMAJ SALEHI

Hip-hop musician sentenced to 6 years in prison and ban on his artistic activities in light of his music and posts on social media

Iran

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 

FREEDOM OF OPINION

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

"WORDS CAN SAVE LIVES"
-Anna Politkovskaya



EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION

ARTICLE 19, UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

BANNED BOOKS ACTION 2023

TAKE ACTION ON ...

TOOMAJ SALEHI
Iran Hip-Hop Musician Sentenced to 6 Years in Prison

FLORIANE IRANGABIYE
Burundi Journalist Jailed for Expressing Critical Views

YAHAYA SHARIF-AMINU
Nigerian singer on death row

AHMETJAN JUMA, ABDUKADIR JALALIDIN, RAHILE DAWUT
Sent to internment camps or prisons for exercising freedom of expression in China

MICHELLE RECINOS
El Salvador Author whose book was removed from an international book fair

UNITE AGAINST BOOK BANS
Stop government censorship and erosion of freedom of expression



[HTTPS://WWW.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/BANNED-BOOKS-2023/](https://www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2023/)



AHMETJAN JUMA, ABDUKADIR JALALIDIN & RAHILE DAWUT

Teacher, Professor, Ethnographer | China
*Sent to internment camps or prisons in light of
professional work and publications*



Perhaps 1 million or more predominantly Muslim men and women have been detained in Xinjiang, China since 2017. Some have disappeared, their whereabouts unknown; others are known to have been sentenced to or detained in internment camps. Many are being held because of their academic publications, reporting, or literary writings.

As Amnesty International documented in its report "Like We Were Enemies in a War", huge numbers of men and women from predominantly Muslim ethnic groups have been arbitrarily detained and sent to internment camps or prison in Xinjiang, China.

This is part of a larger campaign of subjugation and forced assimilation of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. Lawful activities many of us take for granted can be considered a reason for detention: traveling or living or studying abroad; number of children; religion; having WhatsApp on their phone; and making calls to friends and relatives abroad. Possessing books or articles about Islam or Uyghur culture may be classified as "extremist" activity, and intellectuals, academics and other writers have been detained for exercising their right to freedom of expression. Ahmetjan Juma, Abdukadir Jalalidin, and Rahile Dawut were all active in writing about Uyghur culture, translation or publication, which were likely factors in their detentions.



SCAN ME

Scan QR Code to take action and demand the
immediate release of Ahmetjan Juma, Abdukadir
Jalalidin & Rahile Dawut

Learn More: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2023

Amnesty International creates case sheets and related materials suitable for display in libraries.



Toolkits are also created and available on the website with sections on how libraries and bookstores can get involved.

The Music of Central Asia

About

Audio & Video Tracks

Poetic Texts & Song Lyrics

Further Reading, Listening, Viewing

Contact

Search

Enter keyword

OR

Select a track

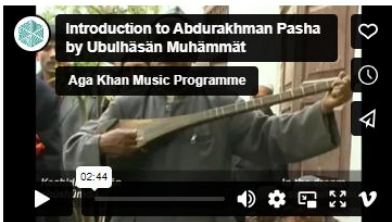
OR

Select a chapter



Audio & Video Tracks | CHAPTER 24

Dastan Performance among the Uyghurs



Ref. 24.1

Introduction to *Abdurakhman Pasha*

Performed by Ubulhäsän Muhämmät. Filmed by Rahile Dawut, Aynur Kadir, Nijat Niyaz, and Aysajan Yusup, Khotan, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China. (2009)



CONTENTS

Foreword	ix
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xix
ABBREVIATIONS	xxv
A NOTE ON MUSICAL TRANSCRIPTION	xxvii
GUIDE TO TRANSCRIPTIONS	xxviii
THE CASE OF CENTRAL ASIAN MUSIC	xxix
PART I: MUSIC AND CULTURE IN CENTRAL ASIA	
CHAPTER 1: MUSIC IN CENTRAL ASIA: AN OVERVIEW	1
CHAPTER 2: MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN CENTRAL ASIA	16
PART II: THE ISLAMIC WORLD	
CHAPTER 3: MUSIC IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD	41
CHAPTER 4: INTRODUCTION TO CENTRAL ASIAN MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS	83
CHAPTER 5: THE GREAT EAST ASIAN MUSICAL TRADITIONS	117

Download The Music of Central Asia Table of Contents

Filmed by scholar and ethnographer, Rahile Dawut.

[Introduction to Abdurakhman Pasha by Ubulhäsän Muhämmät on Vimeo](#)

Performer Profiles: Ubulhäsän Muhämmät

Ubulhäsän Muhämmät was born in 1955 in Kuya Village, Qaraqash county, Khotan, and is a sixth-generation *dastanchi* who learned the tradition from family members. By the age of eighteen, he was able to perform *dastan* independently, accompanying himself on the *rawap* and *tämbur*. His repertory includes more than ten *dastans*, including *Abdurakhman Pasha*, *Iptarnamä*, *Siyit Nochi*, *Imami*

Hüsäyin, *Kiyiknamä*, *Toynamä*, and others. In March 2008, Ubulhäsän was recognized as a representative heir of the *dastan* tradition in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Intangible Culture Protection list and in 2013 on the national list.

Ubulhäsän Muhämmät accompanying himself on *tämbur*, 2011.



1. Epic texts show the reciprocal relationships between oral and written literature.

Live, extemporized performance of *dastan* has had an enormous influence on written *dastans*, as well as on other literary forms. Many writers and poets in Uyghur literary history have been inspired by themes and imagery from popular epics. At the same time, written literature has affected—and continues to affect—oral literature. The relationship between the oral and the written is complex and reciprocal. For example, field research in southern Xinjiang, particularly in Khotan, shows that numerous *dastanchis* have learned epics such as *Abdurakhman*

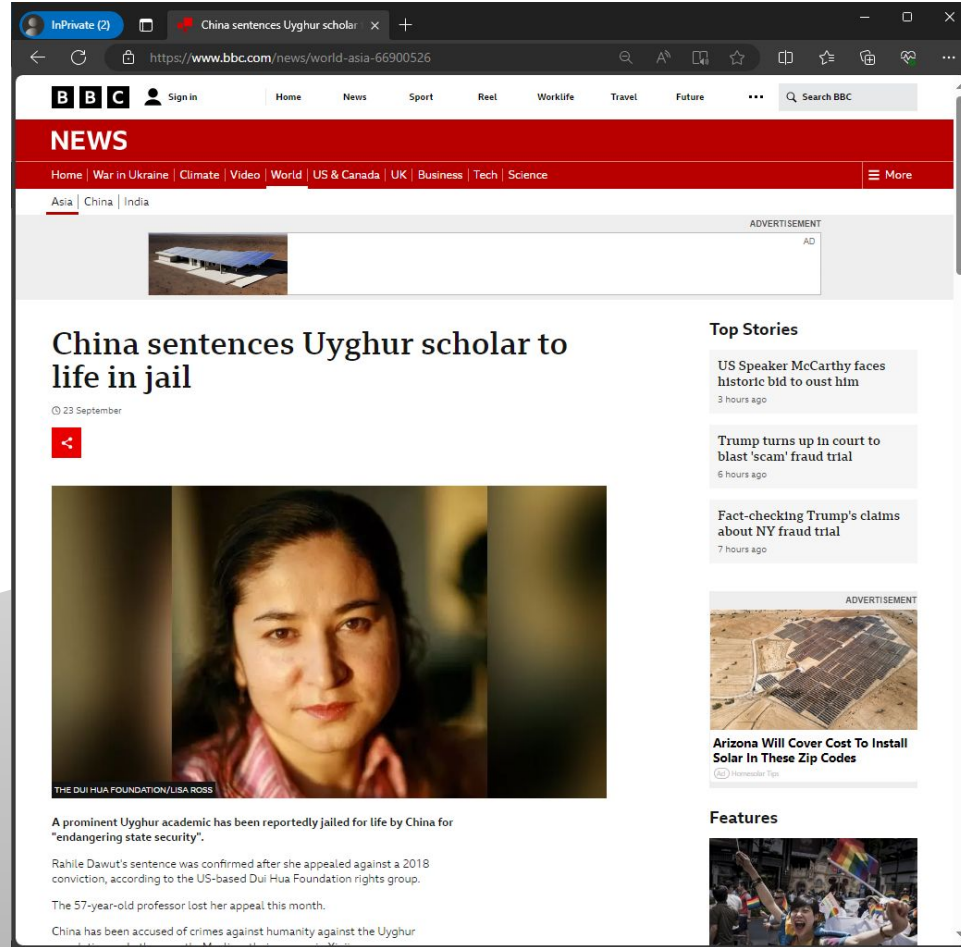
STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The time log notes two rhythmic changes in the excerpt. Can you write out the different rhythmic patterns, and identify what time signature(s) is (are) being used?
2. This excerpt is dominated by relatively consistent, repetitive melodic patterns; as with rhythm, the time log notes points in the *dastan* where melodic changes occur. First, trace out the contours of these different melodic patterns. Second, devise a form of transcription for drawing these patterns in relation to each other.

US Department of State Sept 29, 2023:

"We condemn the reported life sentence handed down by the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) following secret court proceedings of Professor Rahile Dawut, an anthropologist and expert on Uyghur folklore and traditions."

"Professor Dawut and other Uyghur intellectuals, including Ilham Tohti, have been unjustly imprisoned for their work to protect and preserve Uyghur culture and traditions. Professor Dawut's life sentence is part of an apparent broader effort by the PRC to eradicate Uyghur identity and culture and undermine academic freedom, including through the use of detentions and disappearances."




The image is a screenshot of a web browser displaying a BBC News article. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-66900526>. The page features the BBC logo and navigation menus for Home, News, Sport, Reel, Worklife, Travel, and Future. The main headline reads "China sentences Uyghur scholar to life in jail", dated 23 September. Below the headline is a portrait of Professor Rahile Dawut, with a credit line "THE DUI HUA FOUNDATION/LISA ROSS". The article text states: "A prominent Uyghur academic has been reportedly jailed for life by China for 'endangering state security'." It further reports that her sentence was confirmed after an appeal against a 2018 conviction, and that she is 57 years old and lost her appeal this month. The article also mentions that China has been accused of crimes against humanity against the Uyghur. To the right of the article, there is a "Top Stories" section with three items: "US Speaker McCarthy faces historic bid to oust him" (3 hours ago), "Trump turns up in court to blast 'scam' fraud trial" (6 hours ago), and "Fact-checking Trump's claims about NY fraud trial" (7 hours ago). Below this is an advertisement for solar panels in Arizona, and a "Features" section with a small image of a crowd.

InPrivate (3) Amnesty International USA | Am x +

https://act.amnestyusa.org/page/133668/action/17ea.tracking.id=spgcowst&_gl=1*vbip62*_gcl_au*MTA0NTc1MzExMy4xNjk2MzA1OTgx

TAKE ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HELP RELEASE DETAINED WRITERS AND PUBLISHERS!



At least one million predominantly Muslim men and women have been detained in Xinjiang, China since 2017. Some have disappeared, others have been sentenced to or detained in internment camps. Many people are imprisoned because of their academic publications, reporting, or literary

YOUR INFORMATION

FIRST NAME LAST NAME

First Name Last Name

EMAIL ADDRESS

Email Address

ADDRESS APT., STE., BLDG.

Street Address #000

CITY STATE

City Select State

POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

00000 United States

PHONE NUMBER (OPTIONAL)

Phone Number

By providing your mobile number, you are signing up to receive calls, recurring messages from Amnesty International USA at 213-33. Reply STOP to quit. Msg and data rates may apply. Privacy & Terms.

POSTAL ADDRESS SHARING

Do not exchange my postal address with other organizations. (Note, we NEVER exchange email addresses.)

CUSTOMIZE YOUR MESSAGE

Please - release detained writers and publisher

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Banned Books Week

Each year during *Banned Books Week*, Amnesty International draws attention to people around the world who have been imprisoned, threatened, or murdered because of what they wrote or published or because of their work in the publishing or media industries. In solidarity with the American Library Association (ALA) and organizations across the U.S. and around the world, Amnesty activists work to fight challenges to freedom of expression.

BUYING BOOKS, AMPLIFYING VOICES:

The following books are written by or about authors identified by Amnesty International as individuals arrested, murdered, harassed, exiled, or executed for their published creative works (writing, photography, etc.). These texts are available in English from domestic and international book sellers.

Libraries and bookstores are encouraged to buy and make available books by or | about authors and publishers who have been imprisoned, murdered, or harassed in light of their writing or publications. The act of purchasing and making available the words of such authors is a counterweight to the censorship of authoritarian regimes. Inclusion of such texts in a college or university library is likely to broaden the discussion of relevant global issues and help students and faculty understand the nature and effects of censorship.

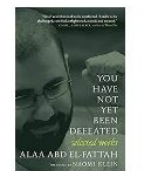
Note: Titles listed below, are not necessarily the *cause* of the author's persecution; rather, they represent the work of the author and the possible silencing of a voice. Book descriptions and cover art are drawn from Amazon.com or the publisher website unless otherwise noted. Information regarding cases is drawn from Amnesty International. Other writing by Banned Books Week authors and creators is available online; non-English print publications are not listed below.

NEW TITLES IN 2022



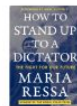
Alaa Abd el-Fattah (Egypt) - Imprisoned; sentenced to 5 years

Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel Fattah is serving a five year sentence after being convicted of spurious charges of spreading "false news" over his social media posts.

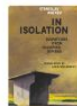


EGYPT - *You Have Not Yet Been Defeated: Selected Works 2011-2021* by Alaa Abd el-Fattah; Fitzcarraldo Editions and Seven Stories Press (2022): 978-1913097745 and 978-1644212455

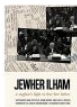
"Powerful ideas of protest and freedom of expression from the world-renowned Egyptian political prisoner and activist collected in English for the first time. With a foreword by Naomi Klein." "Alaa's written voice came to symbolize much of what was fresh, inspiring and revolutionary about the uprisings that have defined the last decade. Collected here for the first time in English are a selection of his essays, social media posts and interviews from 2011 until the present. He has spent the majority of those years in prison."



Anna Politkovskaya: No to Fear
Russia
Arrested with impunity for her work as journalist



White Tornado
By Nazajiq Muhammad
Former prisoners of conscience and activists speak out against torture in human prisons



No Oranges, No Peaches:
Selected Essays and Poems
By Liu Xiaobo
China
Multiple Amnesty, 33 Year Sentence for political writings



Ai Weiwei's Blog
By Ai Weiwei
China
Censored Multiple Times without Change
Lives in Exile as the spouse of an activist and photographer



Sentencia de Nigardo
By Michael Rasmussen
El Salvador
Her Book was removed from an international book fair

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BANNED BOOKS WEEK PERSECUTED AUTHORS

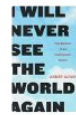
Each title listed below represents the work of authors who have been persecuted -- jailed, exiled, harassed, or killed -- in light of their writing.

The titles listed are not necessarily the cause of the author's persecution; rather, they represent the work of the author, the possible silencing of that author's voice, and the silence of others who choose not to publish in a climate of oppression.

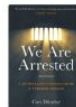
Each year during Banned Books Week, Amnesty International draws attention to people around the world who have been imprisoned, threatened, or murdered because of their writing, art, or other published work. As a member of the Banned Books Week Coalition and in solidarity with the American Library Association (ALA) and organizations around the world, Amnesty activists work to fight challenges to freedom of expression.



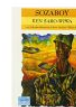
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



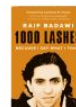
I Will Never See the World Again: The Memoir of an Imprisoned Writer
By Ahmet Altan
Turkey
Sentenced to 5+ Years
Lives in Exile for his journalistic work



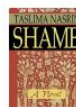
We Are Arrested: A Journalist's Memoir from a Turkish Prison
By Can Dundar
Turkey
Sentenced to 5+ Years
Lives in Exile for his journalistic work



Sabbah: A Novel in Roman English
By Kim Sero
Exiled for writing critical articles and leading indigenous and environmental rights



Loujan: A Novel in Roman English
By Hani Basha
Exiled for writing critical articles and leading indigenous and environmental rights



Shame
By Tashina Nazim
Bangladesh
Death Threats, Forced into Hiding, Roman Take, Attack for her writing and opinions

[Video with English subtitles:](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSUIwbRI0Jo>

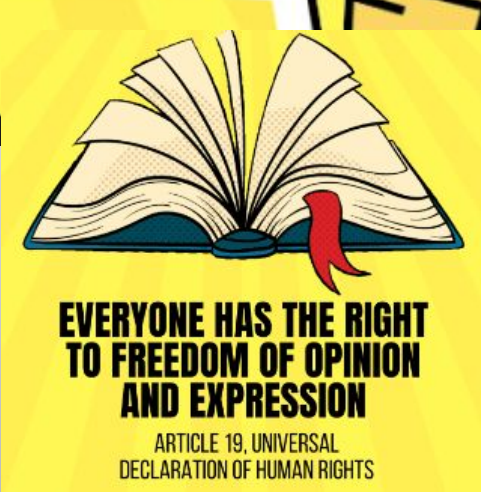


Toomaj Salehi - Hip-hop musician sentenced to 6 years in prison and ban on his artistic activities in light of his music, videos, and posts on social media.

– Amnesty International



**DEFEND
FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION**



<https://www.amnestyusa.org/campaigns/banned-books/bbw2023/>



KID-FRIENDLY RESOURCES

[ABC'S ACTIVITY BOOK](#)

[BBW CLASSROOM POSTERS \(JANNA AND LOUJAIN\)](#)

[BBW BOOKMARK \(TO COLOR\)](#)

[BBW BOOKMARK \(JANNA+LOUJAIN\)](#)

[BBW CLASSROOM POSTERS \(B&W\)](#)

[JANNA AND LOUJAIN STORY AND COLORING PAGES](#)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Aa is for Amnesty International

What would you put on your sign?

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

2022
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Meet Janna Jihad

Janna is a 15 year old journalist. She just wants a normal childhood for herself and all other Palestinian children, but Janna lives in the Israeli-occupied West Bank – and life under systematic discrimination is anything but normal.

Learn more about Janna and others at <https://www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022/>

2022
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

BOOKS

UNITE

US

Freedom of Expression is a Human Right

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

CENSORSHIP

DIVIDES

US

Freedom of Expression is a Human Right

CHILDREN'S MATERIALS

DOWNLOAD

Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers
By Uma Mishra-Newbery and Lina Al-Hathloul
Illustrated by Rebecca Green

Based on the experiences of co-author Lina Al-Hathloul's sister, Nobel Peace Prize nominee Loujain Al-Hathloul, who led the successful campaign to lift Saudi Arabia's ban on women driving, this moving and gorgeously illustrated story reminds us to strive for the changes we want to see—and to never take for granted women's and girls' freedoms.

Learn more about human rights <https://www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022/>

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Supporting Youth Programming

International human rights documents & law that promote freedom of expression?



ARTICLE 19

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

- Article 19; *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

... and, especially, Article 19 the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a legally binding treaty.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Signed 1966; Came into Effect 1976; Signed by US 1977; Ratified (with reservations) by US 1992

Article 19 of the ICCPR provides that:

- 1. Everyone shall have the right to **hold opinions without interference.***
- 2. Everyone shall have the **right to freedom of expression**; this right shall include freedom to **seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.***



UNITE AGAINST BOOK BANS

United States of America

Stop government censorship and erosion of freedom of expression



Widespread efforts throughout the U.S. that permit state and municipal-sponsored censorship through book bans on content related to race, gender, sexuality, and LGBTQIA+ subject matter restrict the right to freedom of expression. They also deny equal access to all, jeopardizing community members' right to education and right to health, among other rights.

Removing and banning books from public libraries is a slippery slope to government censorship and erodes the U.S. government's obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to freedom of expression.

States must respect, protect and fulfill the right to free expression by not interfering with it as well as take active steps to ensure people can enjoy this right. The right to freedom of expression is violated whenever a government limits the freedom of individuals to hold opinions or to seek, receive, or impart information.

Under human rights law, governments have obligations to set a framework for conduct that enables people's enjoyment of their rights. All persons who have been vested with state authority for certain tasks such as public administration are responsible for supporting the realization of these rights for all people.

Amnesty International is concerned about the targeting of librarians and teachers in light of the publications they use to support their professional responsibilities, including elevated incidents of threats & harassment as well as police reports filed against library staff regarding books available for circulation. These reports mirror serious challenges to freedom of expression found in authoritarian regimes elsewhere in the world.

According to data from the Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked in 2022, there were 41 reported incidents of threats and or harassment, and 25 police reports filed against library staff regarding books available for circulation.



SCAN ME

Scan QR Code to take action and demand unity
against book bans

Learn More: www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2023



Amnesty International (AI) applies the human rights framework in their work.

During Banned Books Week, AI language includes reference to human rights principles, international laws, and standards. For example:

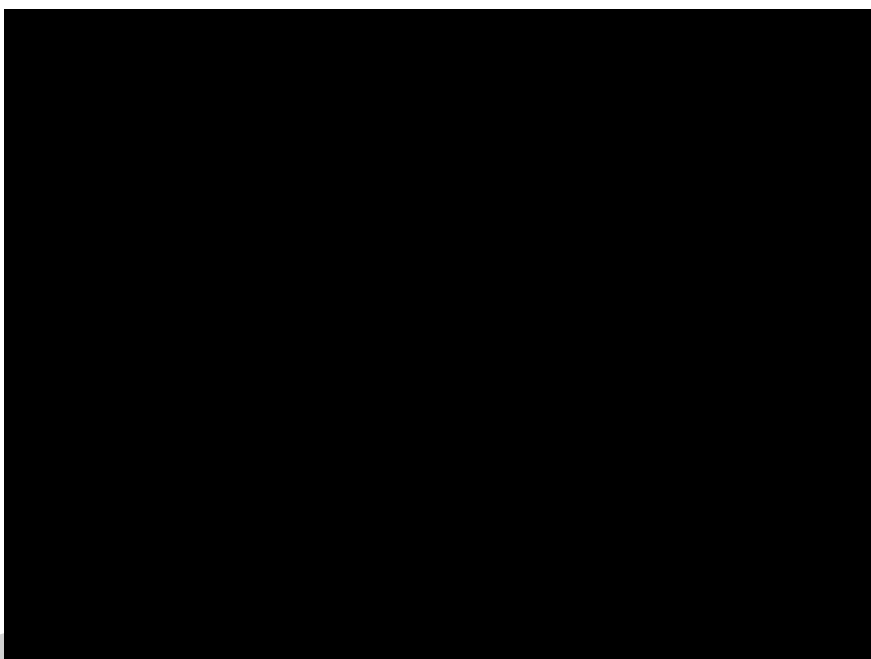
- Government's obligation to protect and fulfill the right to freedom of expression;
- All persons who have been vested with state authority ... are responsible for supporting the realization of these rights for all people;
- Under human rights law, governments have obligations to set a framework for conduct that enables people's enjoyment of their rights;
- ... deny equal access to all, jeopardizing community members' right to education and right to health ...
- Reports mirror serious challenges to freedom of expression found in authoritarian regimes elsewhere in the world;
- States must respect, protect and fulfill the right to free expression by not interfering with it as well as take active steps to ensure people can enjoy this right.



Encourage libraries across Arizona to participate with Amnesty International Banned Books Week Programming.

Encourage partnership between Arizona Libraries and local Amnesty International or other community groups.

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/campaigns/banned-books/bbw2023/>



Amnesty International Animation - 6 Focus Cases 2023 (2 min)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fawb0MwrtwhqMfeDm_eSQSyb0LOUVZoj2/view?resourcekey

No Road Back Home

by Abdukadir Jalalidin

In this forgotten place I have no lover's touch
Each night brings darker dreams, I have no amulet
My life is all I ask, I have no other thirst
These silent thoughts torment, I have no way to hope

Who I once was, what I've become, I cannot know
Who could I tell my heart's desires, I cannot say
My love, the temper of the fates I cannot guess
I long to go to you, I have no strength to move

Through cracks and crevices I've watched the seasons change
For news of you I've looked in vain to buds and flowers
To the marrow of my bones I've ached to be with you
What road led here, why do I have no road back home

Translation by Joshua L. Freeman

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/23/opinion/uighur-poetry-xinjiang-china.html>

Amplifying Voices

Abdukadir Jalalidin

Amnesty International USA
Banned Books Focus Case 2023

Duration: ca. 3

for Rachel Schurt
commissioned by Po-Music

No Road Back Home

for soprano and piano

ABDUQADIR JALALIDIN
trans. Joshua L. Freeman

THOMAS OSBORNE
(2021)

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

Music Copyright ©2021 by Thomas Osborne (BME)

Composition by Thomas Osborne

<https://thomas-osborne.com/music/works/no-road-back-home/>

Contact / Get Involved:

Amnesty International USA Banned Books Week

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/campaigns/banned-books/>

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Banned Books Week Working Group

Youth Services Librarian

Prescott Valley Public Library

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