

To: Mr Rene Bagoro, Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Burkina Faso

I am deeply concerned about the widespread practice of early and forced marriage in Burkina Faso, and particularly the Sahel region. As you will know, early and forced marriage is banned under your country's laws, as well as under international and regional human rights treaties to which Burkina Faso is party.

But in practice, studies have shown that at least one third of girls in Burkina Faso are married before the age of 18, with far-reaching consequences for their health, safety and human rights. Minister, I urge your government to:

- Enforce and ensure the application of national laws and international obligations banning forced and early marriage.
- Guarantee protection as well as shelter and support services for victims of early and forced marriages.
- Raise awareness in the population about the ban on forced and early marriage, and also about where girls can find assistance if they are at risk.

Stop Forced Marriages in Burkina Faso

Maria* was just 13 when her father forced her to marry a 70-year-old man who had five other wives. When she resisted, he told her: "If you don't go to join your husband, I will kill you."

Across Burkina Faso, thousands of girls and young women like Maria are being forced into early marriage. This has to stop. Join Amnesty International's global campaign to end this practice for good.

Urge Burkina Faso's Justice and Human Rights Minister to stop turning a blind eye and protect girls and young women from forced marriages.

*name changed to protect privacy.

NAME	POSTCODE	SIGNATURE	EMAIL	MOBILE	DATE OF BIRTH