

YOUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL



REUNITED WITH HIS FAMILY

On 30 June 2021, Burundian human rights defender Germain Rukuki was released after serving more than four years in prison. Germain was arrested, prosecuted and convicted simply for his human rights work.

During Write for Rights, supporters from around the world took more than 436,000 actions calling for Germain's freedom. Unable to leave the country following his release, Germain was finally reunited with his family in Belgium in February 2022. "Write for Rights really does have a positive impact. Their support has made me, Germain Rukuki, come out of prison even more committed to defending human rights."



FREED FROM DEATH ROW

Magai Matiop Ngong was a schoolboy in South Sudan when he was sentenced to death on 14 November 2017 for murder. Magai recounted how he told the judge the death was an accident and that he was only 15 years old; despite this, Magai faced trial for capital murder without any access to a lawyer. Over 700,000 actions were taken for Magai during Write for Rights 2019, and in March 2022 the High Court agreed that as a child at the time, he should be released. Magai is now safely out of the country and determined more than ever to help people like him.



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER FREE

Bernardo Caal Xol, a Guatemalan teacher and father, worked tirelessly to defend communities affected by hydroelectric projects on the Cahabón river, in northern Guatemala. In November 2018 he was sentenced to over seven years in prison on bogus charges aimed at preventing his human rights work. During Write for Rights 2021 over half a million actions were taken for Bernardo and in March 2022 he was released.

