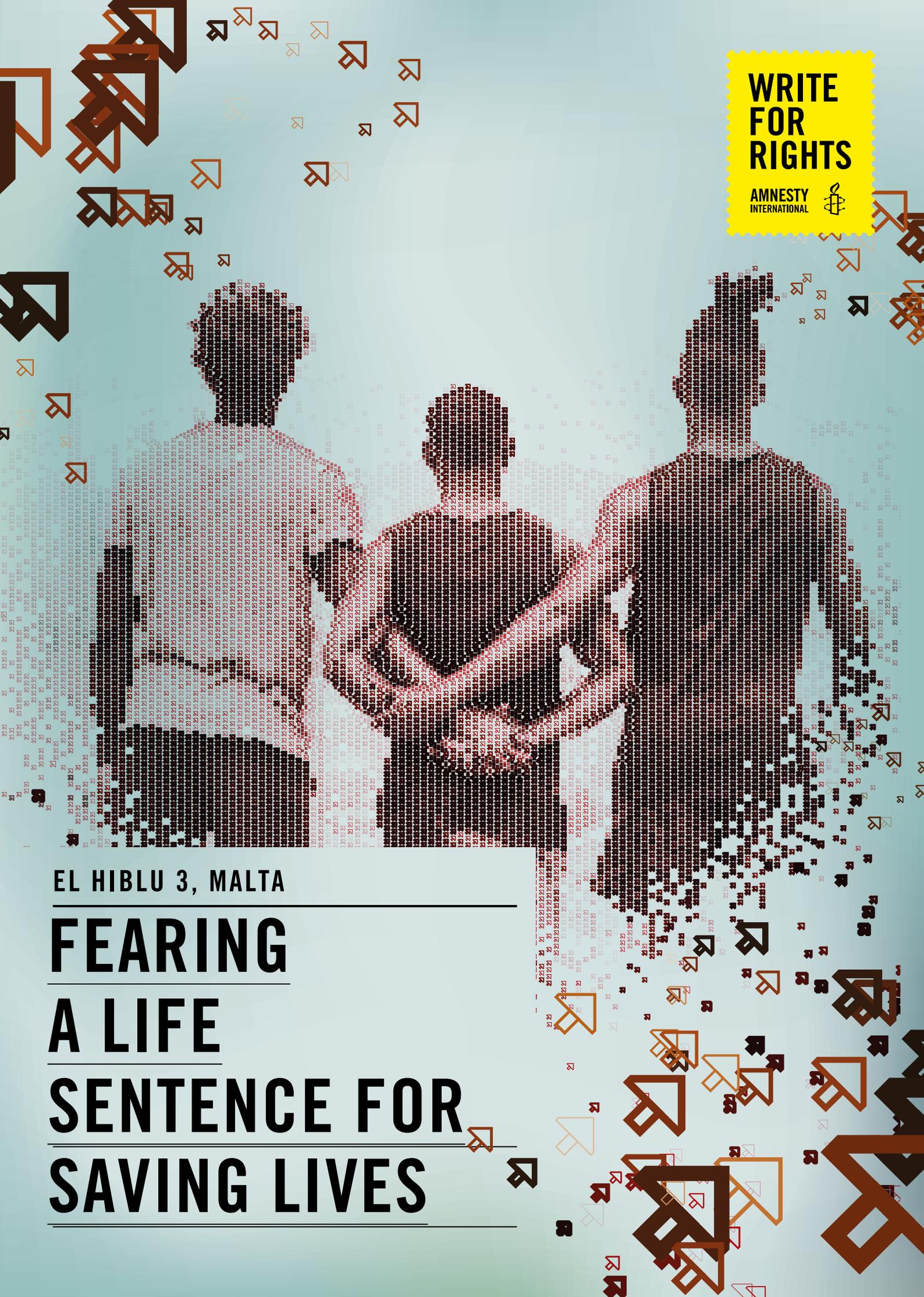


**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



EL HIBLU 3, MALTA

**FEARING
A LIFE
SENTENCE FOR
SAVING LIVES**

EL HIBLU 3, MALTA

Before they were known as the El Hiblu 3, they were three teenagers aged 15, 16 and 19 with a passion for soccer and basketball. Because they were minors at the time, their names have not been revealed. They wanted what we all do: a safer, better life.

That common goal forced them to leave their homes in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire to seek better futures. They met each other in Libya, but they were desperate to escape the violence and torture cells reserved for refugees and migrants there. In March of 2019, they boarded a dinghy with 111 others bound for Europe.



The rubber boat soon ran into trouble and was rescued by the El Hiblu, an oil tanker. The El Hiblu's crew then tried to return the dinghy's passengers to Libya – which was unlawful – despite promising that they wouldn't.

When the rescued passengers realized they were headed back to Libya, a protest broke out. The three youths were asked to use their language skills to calm the situation. Acting as interpreters, they defended the right of those rescued not to face torture again in Libya. The crew turned the ship towards Europe. However, as it entered Malta's waters, the Maltese authorities stormed the ship, claiming the three had taken it by force. They charged them with offences so serious that they could be jailed for life despite little evidence.

The three youths had simply tried to defend their safety and to protect those rescued with them. Now they're on trial.

Demand justice for the El Hiblu 3.

WRITE TO MALTA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL

Insist that he drop all charges against the El Hiblu 3 and close the case.

Attorney General

The Palace
VLT 1115 – Valletta
Malta
Email: ag@gov.mt
Salutation: Your Excellency

Please send a copy to:

His Excellency Keith Azzopardi
High Commissioner for Malta
2017 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20008, USA
Email: maltaembassy.washington@gov.mt

SUPPORT THE EL HIBLU 3

Send them your messages of solidarity and hope. Be sure to take a photograph of your message and post it on your social media channels, tagging it #ElHiblu3.

El Hiblu 3
P.O. Box 39,
Hamrun,
Malta

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