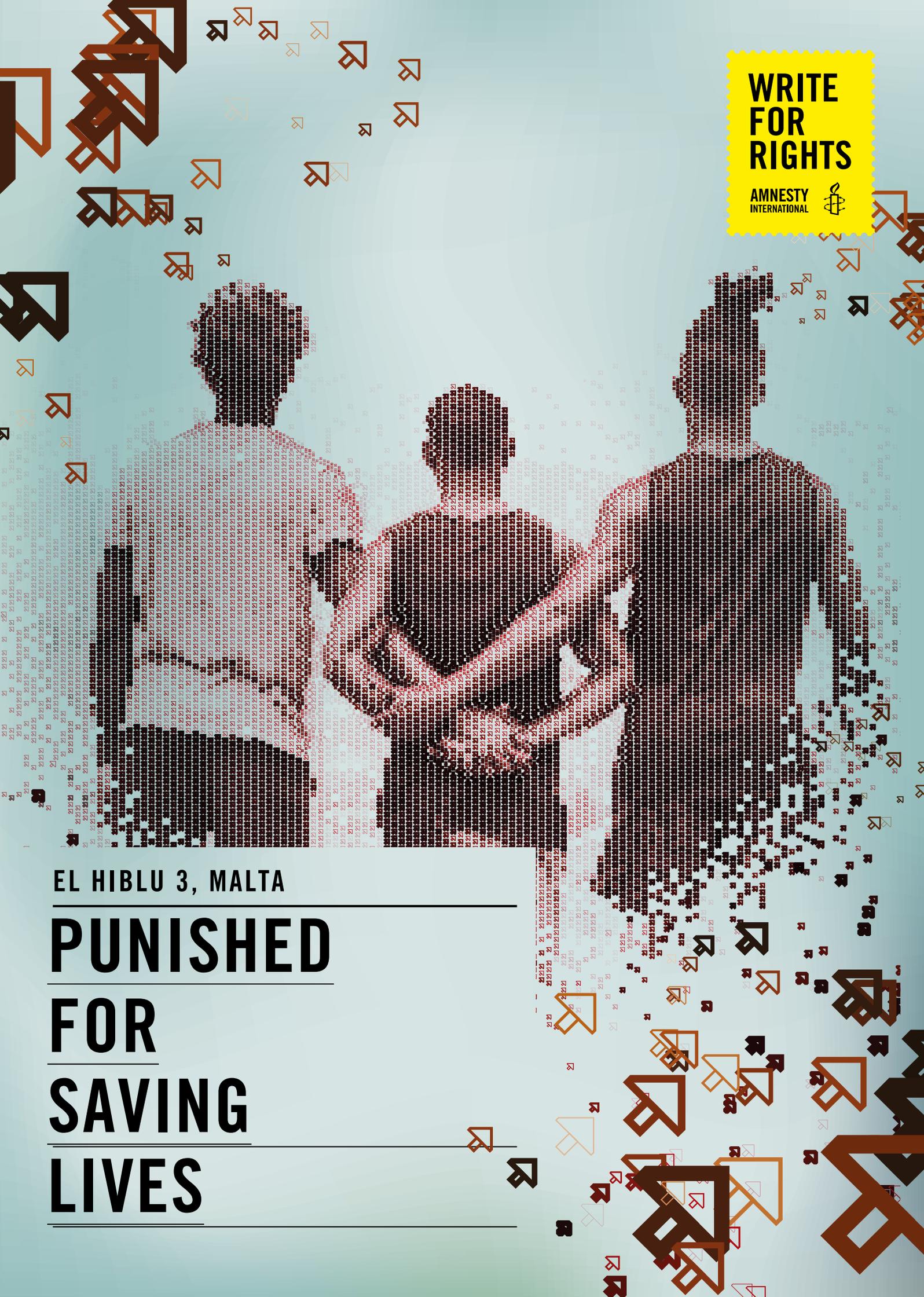


**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**EL HIBLU 3, MALTA**

**PUNISHED  
FOR  
SAVING  
LIVES**

# EL HIBLU 3, MALTA

Three young African men need our help. The teenagers -- 15, 16 and 19 years old -- were all passionate about soccer and basketball. They wanted what we all do: a safe life. That's why they left their homes in Africa and travelled north to seek better futures.

They met in Libya. But soon they didn't feel safe there either. They couldn't stand the violence and harsh living conditions. Desperate to escape, they boarded a boat with 111 others bound for Europe.

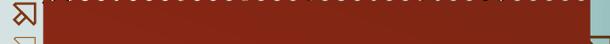
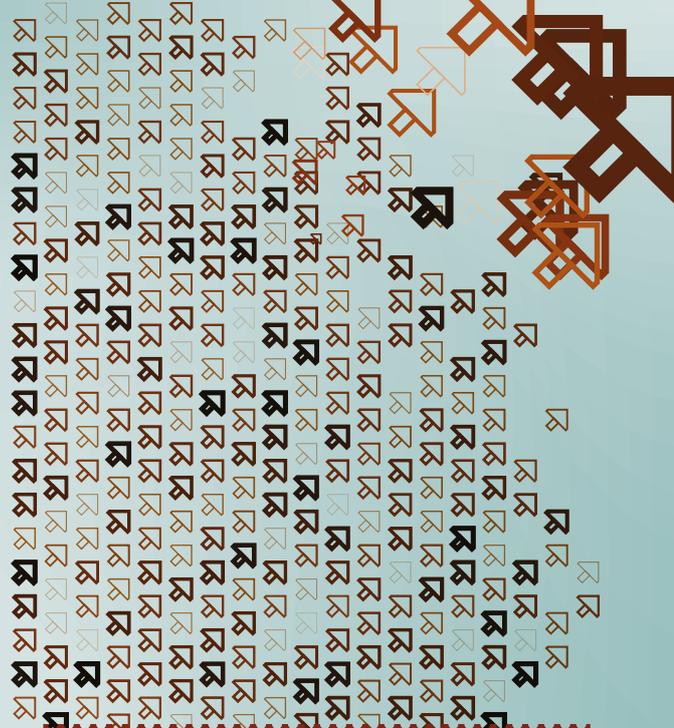


The rubber boat soon ran into trouble and was rescued by the crew of an oil tanker named El Hiblu. El Hiblu's crew promised they would not return the passengers to Libya but that's exactly what they tried to do.

When the rescued passengers realized they were headed back to Libya, a protest broke out. The three teenagers were asked to use their language skills to help calm everyone down. Acting as translators, they defended the right of the passengers not to face terrible treatment again in Libya. The crew turned the ship towards Europe. Whew! But as it entered Malta's waters, authorities stormed the ship and made a ridiculous claim. They said the three had taken control of the ship. They charged the youths with crimes so serious that they could be jailed for life.

The three youths had simply tried to protect themselves and the people rescued with them. We call them the El Hiblu 3 to protect the two who are under 18.

**Demand justice for the El Hiblu 3.**



## WRITE A LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

*Your Excellency,*

*Please drop all the charges against the El Hiblu 3 and close the case against them. The three young men were just trying to protect all the passengers in their boat.*

**Sign your name and add your town and country.**

**Attorney General**  
The Palace  
VLT 1115 – Valletta  
Malta  
Email: [ag@gov.mt](mailto:ag@gov.mt)

## YOU CAN SEND A GREETING TO THE EL HIBLU 3

It would cheer them to know that you have asked the Attorney General to drop the charges against them. Or you could lift their spirits by telling them how brave they were. If you play soccer or basketball, tell them about it. Mail your message to:

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

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