



# CARTOONISTS DEFEND OUR RIGHTS. WHO'S THERE FOR THEIRS?



**CARTOONISTS  
RIGHTS**

DEFENDERS OF FREE EXPRESSION

**DAMASCUS:** Editorial cartoonist Ali Farzat is abducted by armed and hooded men believed to be of the mukhabarat – Syria’s security police. He is so severely beaten that his one eye is damaged and his fingers and hands are broken “as a warning” against his caricatures depicting President Bashar al-Assad and his regime as tyrants.

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA:** Long form cartoonist ‘Jamón y Queso’ is arrested by police on charges of counterfeiting, and spends almost six months in the notorious Black Beach Prison until all charges are dropped when the court learns that the accusations were ordered “from above” – most likely in response to cartoons he had drawn in criticism of the dictatorship.

**AUSTRALIAN** authorities trawl the oceans, netting “illegal immigrants” seeking a better life, and imprisoning them without rights and under inhumane conditions in detention camps on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea. Incarcerated there for seven years, Iranian cartoonist ‘Eaten Fish’ battles mental health and physical abuse as he campaigns – through his drawings – for his own release and that of his fellow inmates.

In **IRAN**, a cartoon by Atena Farghadani depicts members of parliament as animals as they vote for a bill that would further reduce women’s rights. She is arrested, charged with “spreading propaganda”, and sentenced to over 12 years imprisonment – reduced to 18 months on appeal. During her incarceration she is strip-searched, beaten and verbally abused by guards. She is also subjected to virginity and pregnancy tests after shaking the hand of her lawyer. They are both charged with “indecent conduct”. She mounts a hunger strike and survives a heart attack in prison.

**NICARAGUA:** Subjected to a growing number of personal threats as a result of his cartoons exposing the brutal regime, Pedro Xavier Molina is eventually forced into exile in fear for his safety, after police kill a journalist, detain two others, and ransack the offices of the publication he works for.

**DENMARK:** Twelve editorial cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad spark a global response subjecting the cartoonists to state sponsored death threats (fatwas) and a decade long global frenzy of violence including the burning of embassies, bombing of churches and other riotous acts of terror, resulting in the reported loss of 250 lives and 800 wounded worldwide, culminating in an attack in **FRANCE** where twelve people are murdered including the authors of subsequent Muhammad cartoons.

These are but a few examples of the threats faced by editorial cartoonists around the world whose rights we continue to champion.

**CARTOONISTS RIGHTS** was founded by Dr Robert Russell in 1999 as a non profit organization to protect the rights of editorial cartoonists under threat. Ours was the first global organization whose core purpose is the protection of cartoonists rights in the pursuit of freedom of expression without fear. If you appreciate the crucial need for cartoonists speaking truth to power, please join our campaign as a Cartoonist Defender, follow our socials overleaf, and if you are able make a donation to aid the cause.



**JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN AS A CARTOONIST DEFENDER:** all support is welcome, but regular (monthly / quarterly / annual) donations help us to budget, and free up our resources. Please visit [cartoonistsrights.org](http://cartoonistsrights.org).

# YOUR DONATION WILL HELP DEFEND CARTOONISTS SO WE CAN KEEP DEFENDING YOU!



**FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION DOESN'T COME CHEAP.** In fact, many cartoonists have lost their lives in pursuit of that right. Others have been assaulted and abused, criminalized or imprisoned, and an increasing number are displaced from their homes and countries.

Our mission is to defend these cartoonists, providing legal and material aid to those in need, but we need your help. When you donate, you show support of our work and your commitment to human rights and free expression.

## WAYS TO HELP:

- **DONATE** in support of cartoonists in danger
- **SIGN UP** to become a Cartoonist Defender
- **FOLLOW US** on our **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **Twitter** and **Mastodon** feeds and share our posts from time to time
- **SHARE** this PDF with anyone you think would appreciate it
- **ALERT US** of any cartoonist in danger

For more info visit [cartoonistsrights.org](https://cartoonistsrights.org)

