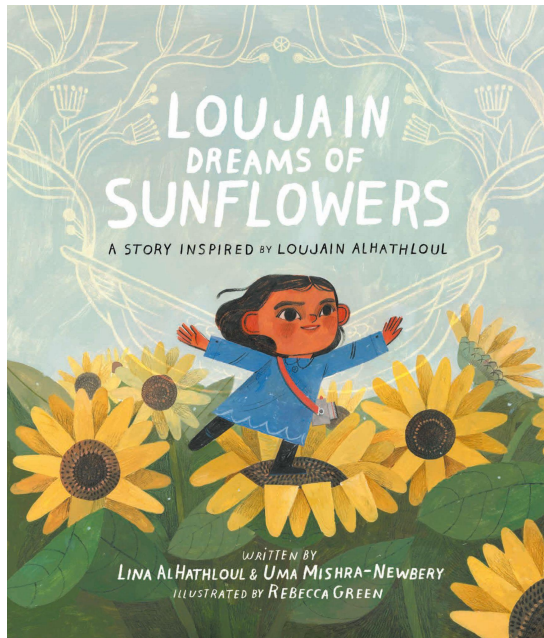


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10 Feb 2022**

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## **Publisher Commemorates the One Year Anniversary of Loujain AlHathloul's Release from Prison with Pre-Order Campaign to Benefit Organization Focused on Disrupting Inequity**

*Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers*, a children's picture book inspired by Saudi women's rights activist Loujain AlHathloul, launches a pre-order campaign to honor and celebrate her fight.



**WORLD | 10 Feb 2022** -- Today marks the one-year anniversary of the release of Saudi women's rights activist Loujain AlHathloul from prison. Loujain, a Saudi citizen and women's rights activist was imprisoned for 1001 days after being sentenced on 28 Dec 2020 under terrorism laws for her work campaigning for the right to drive. Loujain was placed under a five-year travel ban and cannot leave Saudi Arabia. She also was placed under a three-year probationary period that prevents her from speaking out on her imprisonment and continuing her advocacy work for equal rights for women. Loujain was also sentenced and labeled a terrorist in Saudi Arabia.

Uma Mishra-Newbery and Lina AlHathloul's children's picture book *Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers*, illustrated by Rebecca Green and inspired by Lina's sister Loujain, will be released on 1 March 2022 in the US by mineditionUS, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, and 8 March 2022 in Germany by minedition. This inspirational story is about a girl who dreams of flying to see an enormous field of sunflowers, despite living in a country where only boys are allowed to fly.

"When Uma and I set out to write this book in 2019, my sister Loujain was still in prison. Today Loujain is at home, but she cannot speak out, travel outside of Saudi Arabia or

continue her activism. Our greatest hope in writing *Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers* is to inspire the next generation to never give up their dreams," said co-author Lina AlHathloul.

mineditionUS, an imprint of Astra Books For Young Readers, is commemorating the one-year anniversary of Loujain's release by launching a pre-order campaign for the book to benefit The Conscious Kid, an education, research, and policy organization that supports families and educators in taking action to disrupt racism, inequity, and bias.

"We're all so excited to send this beautiful book out into the world," said Maria Russo, Editorial Director of mineditionUS. "*Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers* will give picture book audiences the chance to explore gender bias in a fantastical setting, while introducing children to a real-life heroine."

*Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers* has received advance praise from:

"Poetic, moving, and empowering." - ***Kirkus Reviews***

"Successfully makes a real-life issue accessible for the youngest audiences." - ***Publishers Weekly***

"One of the Most Anticipated Picture Books of 2022" - ***Mutually Inclusive***

"Beautiful and powerful and moving. A must-read." - ***The Conscious Kid***

For every copy of *Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers* purchased from the 10th Feb 2022 - 1 March 2022, mineditionUS/Astra Books For Young Readers will donate \$1 to [The Conscious Kid](#) organization. Books may be ordered from your favorite bookseller; for more information, see [here](#).

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Media Assets:

- **10 Feb 2021** - After 1001 days in prison, Loujain AlHathloul was released from prison. The family held a press briefing on 11 Feb 2021 which can be viewed [here](#).
- **10 Feb 2021** - President Joe Biden [welcomes the release of Loujain AlHathloul from prison](#).

- **8 March 2021** - #FreeLoujain [thank you video to all who fight for imprisoned activists on International Women's Day](#)
- 14 Jan 2022 - [An update on Loujain Alhathloul and a peek inside Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers](#)
- 14 Jan 2022 - [Using Fantasy and Artwork to Tell a Story in Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers](#)
- [Book Trailer - Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers](#)
- [Teaching Guide and Activity Guide - Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers](#)

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**WEBSITE:** <https://www.loujaindreamsofsunflowers.com/>,  
<https://astrapublishinghouse.com/product/loujain-dreams-of-sunflowers-9781662650642/>

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