



Southampton Group

AMNESTY NEWS

www.amnesty-volunteer.org/uk/southampton-city

If you would like more information about the Group or would like to take part in any activities please get in touch by e-mailing:

AmnestySouthampton@yahoo.co.uk

January 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR

In the words of Kate Allen, Director AIUK
"2020 HAS BEEN A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER
But we have not stopped
STANDING UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS"

Bilal Hussain, Community Organiser AIUK, joined our virtual December meeting to explain Amnesty UK's new approach to community campaigning; he has sent the following email for this News Letter:

"Local groups do a lot of great work up and down the country, whether they are working on prisoners of conscious or writing mass letters for write 4 rights or even campaigning and spreading awareness in their local areas. AIUK wants to encourage more of this type of work by adding staff times as well as training materials to 2 types of campaigning local groups do. These being:

- 1) Community linked campaigning, where local groups campaign on an international issue that their communities feel solidarity with in some way.
- 2) Community based campaigning, where local groups campaign in their local communities.

AI's VISION

is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international standards

AI's MISSION

is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom and conscience and expression and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights

AI's CORE VALUES

remain those of international solidarity, effective action for the individual victim, global coverage, the universality and indivisibility of human rights, impartiality and independence, and democracy and mutual respect

REAL LIVES CAMPAIGN

SAUDI ARABIA

NASSIMA AL-SADA

Detained for demanding woman's rights

Nassima al-Sada, a prominent Saudi Arabian activist and human rights educator, has been detained in Al-Mabahith prison in Dammam for over two years.

She has spent many years campaigning for women's freedom, including campaigning for woman's right to drive and ending the male guardianship system. She is at risk of being sentenced to a lengthy prison term.

She was arrested on 31 July 2018, and was held in solitary confinement from February 2019 for a year. She has also endured threats and ill-treatment. Her first trial session began on 25 June 2019. Her latest trial session in March 2020 was cancelled due to 'Covid-19. So far all her court sessions have been closed, with diplomats and journalists banned for attending.

A mother of three, she is allowed one weekly phone call with her family, but no visits, not even from her lawyer. Her detention is part of a recent wave of arrests that target Saudi women's human rights activists.

APPEAL:

Ask the King of Saudi Arabia to release Nassima al-Sada immediately and unconditionally.

SEND APPEALS TO: His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
c/o His Excellency HRH Prince Khalid Bin Bandar Bin Sultan Al-Saud
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
30 Charles Street
Mayfair
W1J 5DZ

Salutation: Your Majesty

Postage: World

In your letter ask him: Immediately and unconditionally to release Nassima al-Sada and all women human rights defenders and activists detained for their peaceful human rights work.

December Business Meeting

1. Reply from Hants Archive & Film Archive that our mosaic is stored there.
2. We have been able to donate £1000 to AIUK this year.
3. A write 4 rights message case has been placed in the Phoenix film festival programme.
4. Digital training for activists: Giampaolo will be attending.
5. Next meeting will be on line.
6. JW agreed to provide an update on the Death Penalty, with a particular focus on the USA.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The future of the Human Rights Act has been under debate for a number of years. Now that we have left the European Union there is a possibility that this debate will be rekindled. It is therefore important that we remind ourselves of why its removal would not be in the people's best interest.

What is the Human Rights Act?

The Human Rights Act (HRA) protects us from abuse by the state. It requires that all public authorities – for example, a school, hospital, council or government ministers – have a legal obligation not to violate our human rights.

The HRA brings our rights home. The HRA brings into UK law the European Convention on Human Rights – which the UK helped establish in response to the horror and inhumanity of the Second World War.

Until the HRA came into effect in 2000, it was more difficult for ordinary people to enforce their rights. Everyone was protected by the Convention, but people inside the UK had to take their cases to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, which cost time and money. The HRA brings our rights home. So now cases about people in this country are decided by judges here.

The HRA has helped:

- An elderly couple to stay together in a care home
- Rape survivors secure justice
- Children with learning disabilities get support to travel to and from school
- Families of hospital patients to be consulted about use of the “Do not resuscitate” instruction
- Women fleeing a violent partner to keep their family together.

**WE CAN'T MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE IF WE TURN
OUR BACKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

Join the Campaign: www.savetheact.uk

CORONA VIRUS

For the foreseeable future the Southampton Group will not be holding face-to-face meetings. However, we will be arranging virtual meetings see DIARY box. And if possible some external fundraising events

We plan to continue to produce a monthly News Letter.

Each month we will include at least one letter or action, which you will either be able to copy or email, any update we may receive about cases we are working on and news from the web.

DIARY

For details of how to join any of the events/meetings outlined below please contact our secretary, Valerie at our email address:
AmnestySouthampton@yahoo.co.uk

JANUARY 2021

Monday 11th: Update on Death Penalty, particularly USA. John Williams, Southampton Group

FEBRUARY 2021

Monday 8th: meeting details to be confirmed

MARCH 2021

Monday 8th: meeting details to be confirmed

SOUTHAMPTON GROUP WHO'S WHO

Group Officers:

Chair: Giampaolo D'Alessandro

Secretary: Valerie Oswald

Treasurer: Gareth Davies

Outreach and Parliamentary Officer:
Veronica Tippetts

Newsletter: John Williams

Campaigning Activity:

People on the move

Protecting the space for human rights defenders

Death Penalty

HR Act

Snoopers Charter

South Asia

Case file: Marielle Franco, Brazil

Individual at Risk: Aster Fissehatsion and Dawit Isaak, Eritea

Issues on the Web

amnesty.org.uk

Includes:

Iran: Help save Swedish-Iranian doctor from imminent execution.

Egypt: Free Mohamed, Gasser and Karim now.

Hong Kong: Stop the crackdown on freedoms.

Saudi Arabia: Drop charges against Israa and fellow activists.

Egypt: Drop absurd charges against Azza Soliman

Burundi: Demand justice for Germain

NB the views expressed in this News Letter may not necessarily be those of Amnesty International. John Williams editor