



# Southampton Group AMNESTY NEWS

[www.amnesty-volunteer.org/uk/southampton-city](http://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:

April 2022

## CRISIS IN UKRAINE

(From Amnesty Summer 2022 Issue 213)

### Amnesty's findings:

- Russia forces have committed serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in Ukraine, including unlawfully killing and injuring civilians, destroying infrastructure, and blocking desperately needed aid.
- Attacks on hospitals and schools, employing “surrender or starve” strategies on civilians, the use of banned weapons such as cluster munitions and strikes on populated areas using inaccurate weapons may constitute war crimes.
- People in besieged cities are on the brink of humanitarian disaster, exposed to constant attacks, their food, and medical supplies dwindling, in many cases deprived of water, electricity and heating.

### Amnesty's recommendations:

- The parties to the war must make every effort to spare civilians, prioritise their safe passage out of conflict areas, and allow access to impartial humanitarian relief.
- Both sides must agree on establishing well-planned, safe humanitarian corridors and respect such agreements in good faith.
- Governments across Europe-including in the UK-must put humanity first, ensuring anyone fleeing Ukraine is given protection without discrimination.

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

## **BUSINESS DISCUSSION**

### **1. Press Freedom Day 3<sup>rd</sup> May:**

Agreed that Giampaolo would write a letter the Echo making the link between freedom of the Press in countries like Russia and Eritrea. An excellent letter was published in the Echo.

Peter will also explore the possibilities local radio.

Gareth will post on our Facebook page.

### **2. Palestine Solidarity Campaign:**

Agreed Valerie would contact the local PSC group and suggest that if we are to hold a joint meeting we would be prepared to approach AI for an appropriate speaker, to focus on the recent Amnesty report.

### **3. Future of the Group:**

We had a long discussion about the future of the Group. We are very aware that attendance at Group meetings has reduced over the years. There was a general feeling that we would want to continue as Group to consider business issues, campaigning etc. However, when we invited a speaker it may be better to link with other Groups such as Romsey and possibly Salisbury, .three or four times a year via zoom. Valerie will explore this further.

### **4. Annual Human Rights Lecture:**

So far no speaker has been identified. John will now contact MSF

### **5. Group Subs:**

Gareth will pay our annual subs to Amnesty

### **6. May meeting:**

Agreed that we would not hold a meeting but instead hold a Group walk. See details below.

**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
GROUP WALK  
MOTTISFONT  
Park in THE NT CAR PARK**

**MEET AT 10.30  
FOR A 3 MILE WALK AROUND MOTTISFONT**

## Campaign Real Lives

### CANADA

#### **Violence against indigenous women and girls**

In Canada, First Nations, Métis and Inuit women and girls are at least three times more likely to experience violence and at least six times more likely to be murdered than other woman and girls. Indigenous women's organisations have been sounding the alarm about the violence for decades.

According to a report released by the Royal Mounted Police in May 2015, 1,017 indigenous women and girls went missing or were murdered between 1980 and 2012. Not all cases are reported, so the actual number may be far higher.

In 2019 the Canadian government published the final report of a national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, setting out 231 Calls for Justice to address this violence.

In 2021, the federal government announced work was under way to create a National Action Plan to implement next steps, including support services for survivors and family members, public awareness, and training. However little progress has been made.

**APPEAL:** Urge the Prime Minister of Canada to ensure the safety of Indigenous women and girls, and to bring those responsible for violence against them to justice. Ask that regular, comprehensive data is recorded on violence against Indigenous women in official crime statistics.

**WRITE TO:** Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, Office of the Prime Minister, 80 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. K1A 0A2  
e-mail: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

**SALUTATION:** Dear Prime Minister

His Excellency Mr Ralph Edward Goodale, High Commissioner, High Commissioner of Canada, Canada House, Trafalgar Square, London SW1Y 5BJ. **SALUTATION:** Your Excellency

## **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 information 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

### **MAY:**

No meeting

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May :Walk around Mottisfont meet in NT carpark at 10.30

.All welcome.

Please note joining instructions and any further information about the Group see email address above.

## **SOUTHAMPTON GROUP WHO'S WHO**

### **Group Officers:**

**Secretary: Valerie Oswald**

**Treasurer: Gareth Davies**

### **Additional Roles Include:**

**Chair: Rotating:**

**Outreach and Parliamentary Officer:  
Veronica Tippetts**

**Newsletter: John Williams**

**Campaigning Activity:  
Eritrea; Individuals at Risk: Aster Fissehatsion, Dawit Isaak and Ciham Ali Ahmed**

**People on the move  
Protecting the space for human rights defenders  
Death Penalty  
HR Act**

**Case file: Marielle Franco, Brazil**

## **Issues on the Web amnesty.org.uk Include:**

**Ukraine:** Help protect civilians in Ukraine.

**Afghanistan:** Stand with women and girls in Afghanistan

**Palestine:** End Israel's apartheid.

**LGBTQI+:** Learn more

**Climate Crisis:** Five young women of colour fighting climate change worldwide.

**Iran: 30+ years in prison for protesting forced veiling laws.**

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