BOGNOR CHICHESTER AND DISTRICT AMNESTY GROUP

LOCAL AMNESTY NEWSLETTER: SUMMER 2016

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Sat 6/8 afternoon: Tribute to JUDY BOX, Bosham**

**Sat 3/9 morning: AmnesTEA, Barnham**

**Sun 30/10 afternoon: Arias for Amnesty, Christ Church, Chichester**

**Sat 10/12 Human Rights Day table, Cathedral Green, Chichester**

Our sympathies should go to the family of the late JOHN RANKIN, who died on June 18th, aged 91. He was a strong supporter of Amnesty and our Group, and braved much criticism when he made Amnesty his mayoral charity (he was twice Mayor of Chichester).

**LOCAL EVENTS**

SATURDAY 6/8; Dave Box and others are organising a tribute to the late JUDY BOX in the afternoon at the Pennyroyal Theatre, Trippers Meadow, Canute Road, Bosham, from 3pm to 5pm. Tea, coffee and one glass of wine will be served, and local drama/opera societies can collect Judy’s costumes. I have a map and a programme (featuring music, songs, magic, poetry and readings). Please ring Dave Box on (01243) 865326 for more details.

SATURDAY 3/9, AmnesTEA, Barnham, 1030-noon –though in fact it will be coffee (and CAKE and a raffle). 67 Downview Road, Barnham, PO22 0EE. Please ring Kath Shakespeare on (01243) 552131 if you wish to go.

Many thanks to those who went to the REFUGEE VIGIL in the Cathedral on 21/6. I have details of the event for those who didn’t. The Cathedral is now hosting “Shadows of the Wanderer”, a sculpture exhibition by Ana Maria Pacheco 16/7-14/11/16, using classical texts to relate to exile, migration, and the displacement of people. The exhibition is supported by UK Amnesty and by Kate Allen (our Director) personally. Find out more on <http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/shadows-of-the-wanderer.shtml>

**OTHER EVENTS**

There is a vacancy on the UK Amnesty Board; anyone can apply –see <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/jobs/voluntary-board-member>

Carry on Writing!!!!!!!!!!!!

*BOB DEWICK*

**Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing**



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| **Stop Torture campaign – Roundup**  The global Stop Torture campaign came to an end in May 2016. This update will give a summary of some of the key achievement of the campaign and highlight how you can continue to take action against torture.   * **Mexico** In August 2015, Mexico’s Attorney General approved a new of National Protocol for Investigation of Torture. This was one of the key safeguards that the Stop Torture campaign called for. Amnesty supporters across the country have sent letters, action cards and emails to the Attorney General calling for this and AIUK contributed 17,139 signatures to 112,374 strong petition, delivered to the Federal Attorney General in advance of the conference where the protocol was agreed. * **Morocco** In November 2014 Morocco ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). This strengthened Morocco’s international commitment to the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment in detention. * **Nigeria** In June 2015, Nigerian lawmakers passed the Anti-Torture Bill, which was one of the major advocacy calls of the campaign in Nigeria. It is currently being reviewed by the Nigerian Law Reform Commission. * **UK / EU specific work:** In October 2014 **Shaker Aamer** was released after 14 years, detained without charge or trial. The majority of these years were spent in Guantánamo Bay. Amnesty first issued an Urgent Action for Shaker Aamer in 2005 and many AIUK supporters campaigned tirelessly for his release. **EU Tools of Torture campaign** In October 2015 the European Parliament voted overwhelmingly to close the loopholes we identified in the EU law prohibiting the trade in torture equipment. The vote was in the region of 630-30. * **More information about the campaign successes, as well as ways to continue to take action against torture, such as joining the Urgent Action network, can be found here:** [**https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/stop-torture-roundup**](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/stop-torture-roundup)   **My Body My Rights (MBMR): roundup**  The global MBMR Amnesty campaign came to an end in June 2016. Over the past 2½ years, AIUK have been working on the MBMR as one of its priority campaigns. At the heart of the campaign is that everyone’s should have the right be able to make decisions about our health, body and sexual and reproductive lives. This means being able to choose who to love, for instance or if and when to marry and have children and to be able to make these decisions without fear, coercion, violence or discrimination.   * The aim of the MBMR campaign and work has been to defend these Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SRR) for all. The campaign has focussed on some priority countries where states encroach on these rights through control and criminalisation, including Ireland (north & south), El Salvador and Burkina Faso, as well as working on Individuals at Risk cases and reactive campaigning relating to Maghreb (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia) Chile, Argentina. Peru and Spain. * **More information about the campaign successes can be found here, as well as ways to continue to take action for women’s rights and women’s sexual and reproductive rights:** [**https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/my-body-my-rights-roundup**](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/my-body-my-rights-roundup)   **Thank you** to all group members for your work on these two campaigns, both via the group newsletters, via the Write for Rights events, at letter-writing evenings and at public events. We’ll let you know about the two new global campaigns focussing on **Refugees** and **Human Rights Defenders** ASAP, but here is early notice of the UN special assembly on 19/09/2016 on Refugees. In the UK, Amnesty supporters will be asked to put pressure on the UK Government to ‘be on the right side of history’ – by playing a central role in creating a new global agreement for refugees |
| **This month’s action** |
| **Brazil: Jorge Lazaro, Samba Nunes Father seeking justice for his sons** |
| *Background to this action*  Jorge Lázaro, 50 years old, had two of his seven children murdered and has been fighting for justice since.   * **Ricardo Mattos dos Santos** was a talented circus acrobat who was working in a well-known circus company in Brazil. He was spending his vacation with his family in Boca do Rio, a poor neighbourhood in Salvador, and went out to play football with friends on 22 January 2008. He was in a field with the other young men when a car came past with four men in it. Three of the men started shooting at the young men playing football: they were looking for young men who were suspected of stealing a bike from the son of a retired military police officer. Ricardo and another young man, Robson de Souza Pinho, were killed. Ricardo was hit by 5 shots while he begged for his life and said that he was not one of the people the attackers were looking for. After an investigation, in March 2011 the public prosecutors charged three military police officers with the crime. But six years after the extrajudicial execution took place, the case still has not gone to trial, and no one has been brought to justice. * On 10 March 2013, **Enio Mattos dos Santos**, another son of Jorge Lázaro, was abducted from his home and shot by unknown people. He was 19 years old. The context of his death is still unknown and there is little information about the perpetrators and the circumstances of the case. Jorge Lázaro had applied in 2011 for Enio to be included in the National Program for Children and Adolescents Threated by Death (PPCAM), but the program refused to include him, arguing that he was not threatened.   Further information about this case can be found here: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/sites/default/files/july_2016_monthly_group_action_-_jorge_lazaro_0.pdf>  *What you can do*  There are four targets in this case, each with a different appeal. You can write to all targets, or just one. These are listed on the next page.    This action is to write to relevant authorities calling on them to guarantee a fair and timely investigation and to bring those responsible for the killings of Jorge Lazaro’s sons, Ricardo dos Santos and Enio dos Santos, to justice.   1. Write to **the Governor of Bahia State** calling on him to guarantee a fair and timely investigation, to bring those responsible for the killings of Ricardo dos Santos and Enio dos Santos to justice, and to ensure that Jorge Lázaro and his family are able to obtain the social, economic and psychological assistance they need.   **Jacques Wagner, Governor of Bahia State**  Avenida 3, n° 390, Plataforma IV, Prédio da Governadoria, 3° andar – Centro Administrativo da Bahia – CAB CEP: 41745-005. Salvador – Bahia, Brasil **Fax:** +55 71 3371 0610 **Twitter:** @jacqueswagner / @secom\_bahia  **Salutation:** Exmo Sr. Governador / Dear Governor   1. Write to **the President of the National Council of Justice** (Conselho Nacional de Justiça, CNJ) calling on him to ensure that the CNJ pressure the Tribunal of Bahia State to ensure that those charged with the murder of Ricardo are given a fair trial without further undue delay.   **Joaquim Barbosa, President of the National Council of Justice**  Ed. Anexo I do Supremo Tribunal Federal, 2° Andar, Gabinete da Presidência, Sala B219.  Praça dos Três Poderes, s/n°, Brasilia – DF, CEP: 70.175-900, Brasil **Fax:** +55 61 3224 7468 **Email:** presidencia@cnj.jus.br  **Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/cnj.oficial **Twitter:** @joaquimbarbosa / @CNG\_oficial  **Salutation:** Exmo Sr. Presidente / Dear Mr. President   1. **Solidarity Action with Jorge Lazaro**   Please write a (non-religious) solidarity card and send it to: Anistia Internacional Brasil, Praça São Salvador, 5 – casa – Laranjeiras  Rio de Janeiro / RJ/ Brazil CEP: 22.231-170   1. **Please copy any correspondence to the Ambassador of Brazil to the United Kingdom:**     **Ambassador Eduardo dos Santos**  14-16 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5BL  **Email:** info.london@itamaraty.gov.br **Salutation:** His Excellency |
| [**www.amnesty.org.uk/bognor**](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/bognor) **for further information about the Bognor Regis, Chichester & District group** |