
Amnesty International

YOUTH GROUP ACTION



Campaign: Individuals at Risk

April/May 2017

Free Nazanin



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We hope you will feel inspired to take action on all of our campaigns but remind you that all actions are optional.

This mailing is also available to download at

www.amnesty.org.uk/youth

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Free Nazanin!



During November and December many of you will have campaigned for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a British-Iranian charity worker, as part of our annual Write for Rights campaign. She was arrested at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Airport in April just before she was due to fly home to London with her two-year old daughter, Gabriella, following a family visit. Nazanin was allowed to leave Gabriella with her parents, but the toddler's British passport was taken away by

officials and she is stuck in Iran. Nazanin spent some weeks in solitary confinement (kept on her own in a prison cell) and was only allowed limited visits from her family. She is now in the general cells and sees her family more frequently, though still not enough. In September 2016, after an unfair trial, she was sentenced to five years in prison for 'membership of an illegal group' in connection with her work with a number of media organisations. Her lawyer appealed this decision but in April her sentence was upheld. Amnesty's supporters, including many youth groups, have been campaigning hard for Nazanin, urging Iran's Supreme Leader to release Nazanin immediately and unconditionally.

Update 1: 5-year prison sentence is upheld

On 24 April 2017, it was announced that Iran's Supreme Court upheld Nazanin's Zaghari-Ratcliffe's five-year prison sentence. **See Take Action 1 for details of what you can do.**

Update 2: Nazanin needs urgent medical care

Nazanin is suffering with severe arm, neck and back pain and needs urgent hospitalisation. On 4 February, she was seen by a doctor in prison, who referred her to a specialist. However, her visit to the specialist was not allowed by the authorities until 19 February, when she was finally taken to a hospital outside prison. There, she was advised that she needed immediate admission for tests and treatment, without which there was a risk of permanent damage to her right arm and hand. Despite this, she was returned to prison the same day. **See Take Action 1 for details of what you can do.**

Update 3: One year anniversary of Nazanin's arrest

April marks the first anniversary of Nazanin's arrest. Her husband, Richard Ratcliffe, has been asking her supporters to think about what they would they would do if they had one day of freedom which he hopes to share with Nazanin one day when she is back at home in the UK. **See Take Action 2 for details of what you can do.**

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Take Action 1: Write a letter

Write to the Iranian authorities urging Iran's Supreme Leader to:

- release Nazanin immediately and unconditionally as she is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for her work in connection with peacefully exercising the right to freedom of expression and association
- Urging them to ensure that she is immediately granted access to specialised medical care outside prison

Send your letters to:

Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
c/o Public Relations Office Number 4,
Deadend of 1 Azizi Above Pasteur Intersection Vali Asr Street,
Tehran, Iran

Start your letter: Your Excellency

Deadline: As soon as possible.

Take Action 2: Creative Action



Richard Ratcliffe with youth group members.
December, 2016)

Richard Ratcliffe, Nazanin's husband, has been encouraging supporters to think about what they would do if they had one day of freedom. He is thinking forward to the day that he hopes Nazanin will be at home with her family in the UK. In his own words he hopes these ideas,

“will be there to discover one day when she and the others come out, a collection of hopes and ideas for actually trying out when released.”

(<https://www.change.org/p/free-nazanin-ratcliffe/u/19782824>)

We would like youth groups to take part in this activity.

Step 1: What would you do with a day of freedom?

First of all, think about what you would do if you had one day to enjoy and catch up with living again. What kind of things you do when looking to cheer yourself up, or to be whole? What adventures can your friends/ family suggest?

Step 2: Write your ideas on gift tags & send them to us

Write up your ideas on small pieces of paper and attach some coloured ribbon as if you are making a gift tag.

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Send your gift tag ideas to:
Anne Montague (Community Organiser – Youth)
17-25 New Inn Yard
London
EC2A 3EA

Deadline: By the end of the summer term

We will pass on all your ideas/gift tags to Nazanin's family.

Note: Nazanin's husband has also requested that youth groups post their ideas digitally using the Change.org petition that has been set up for this purpose. Here is the link to the page:

<https://www.change.org/p/free-nazanin-ratcliffe/u/19782824>

Extra creative idea: Make a 'One day' tree

Nazanin's family have been tying the messages they have been receiving on to a tree in their local park in London. You could make your own 'one day' tree and ask people to hang their messages on it. This is a great way of engaging people in a creative way to the campaign and Amnesty's work. We recently did this at both our Youth Conference and National conferences. Have a look at the photos below for inspiration.

Don't forget: If you do make your own 'one day' tree don't forget to take a photo of it and send it to us at activism@amnesty.org.uk. We'd love to see them!

