

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
JULY TO DECEMBER 2017

JULY

Friday 7th 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING** Newport

Sunday 23rd 12:00 noon **PICNIC IN THE GARDEN**

(Weather Permitting - Bring your own food)

Meet in Ventnor Botanic Garden outside Visitor Centre
Group Admission £5.00

AUGUST

Friday 4th 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING** Newport

SEPTEMBER

Friday 1st 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING** Newport

Saturday 23rd 14:00 **AFTERNOON TEA** Ryde

OCTOBER

Friday 6th 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING** Newport

Sunday 29th T.B.A. **WALK & TEA** Newport

NOVEMBER

Friday 3rd 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING** Newport

Friday 17th 10:00-Noon **COFFEE MORNING** Newport

DECEMBER

Friday 1st 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING** Newport



ISLE OF WIGHT AMNESTY NEWS



JULY 2017



Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe

Nazanin, the British-Iranian charity worker, is serving a five year sentence on “national-security-related charges” after visiting her family in Iran with her young daughter Gabriella. Harsh treatment and solitary confinement have resulted in her poor physical condition and depression. Gabriella, who Nazanin has seen periodically, has been given into the care of her grandparents in Iran.

Islanders have signed a large card with messages of encouragement which was forwarded to Nazanin’s husband. The group has appealed to the Iranian authorities for Nazanin to have urgent medical treatment. We have not heard the outcome.

Our individual efforts may be small, but together we can influence things and bring about change.

Why not join the Isle of Wight Group?

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CAMPAIGNING

NAMCAR - North America and Caribbean Region.

Good news: In January President Obama commuted Chelsea Manning's sentence and she was freed in May.

The native American Leonard Peltier, now in his forty-second year of imprisonment, is very appreciative of the solidarity messages from around the world. In fact he has received so many that he has asked us to stop! His family and lawyers are working on a new action for him.

More good news: Jacqueline Montanez has been resentenced allowing her to return home in just under 7 years. She was serving a life sentence without parole for a crime committed as a child.

NORTH AFRICA

In May a Cairo court was due to hear an appeal by Ahmed Douma, a political activist, against his solitary confinement of more than three years. We sent appeals.

ALI AARRASS

Ali Aarrass, our adopted prisoner of conscience, has for the past six months been held in solitary confinement. After waiting four years, Ali's appeal to the Court of Cassation has finally been turned down. The UN Committee Against Torture has requested the Moroccan authorities to improve detention conditions for Ali. Group members have expressed their concern to Ali and assured him of their continuing efforts to secure his release.

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

Our group members are among the 18,000 members of AI who protect and promote women's rights in the UK and across the world. We take part in campaign actions, Urgent Action cases and run campaigns on behalf of individual women and girls whose rights have been abused.

Authorities in Iran received appeals on behalf of Bassemah Darwish Khidar, a Yezidi woman, abducted and detained with her infant daughter. Bassemah is accused of belonging to a terrorist group. She has been tortured and made to sign a confession without being able to read it.

Burkina Faso pledged to eradicate early and enforced marriage and to raise the legal age for marriage to 18. A group letter to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh urged him to also commit his government to end child marriage. Many of the young girls who have been abused are forced to marry their abusers, who are often elderly men.

INDIVIDUALS AT RISK.

Raif Badawi, the Saudi-Arabian blogger who was sentenced to ten years imprisonment and 1000 lashes, has recently received a further 50 lashes. Sixty-eight Islanders sent their support for him by signing a large Isle of Wight card. Itai Dzamara, Zimbabwe, was abducted in March 2015 and his whereabouts are still unknown.

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY

During the period January to June 2017 we have dealt with cases from six countries.

Bahrain	3 executed
China	1 executed
Iran	1 youth executed
Iraq	2 cases
Syria	Reports of up to 3000 executed
USA	4 executed (3 in Arkansas)

There have been reports from China that body parts from executed prisoners are still being used for transplants.

PUBLICITY

We had an Amnesty display for a month at the Lord Louis Library and another one at the VI Form Campus where Bryn Davis gave a talk to the students. He also gave talks at two local events.

A performance of Asylum Monologues, organised by Glenn Koppany, was staged at the Ventnor Exchange. The Monologues, through the voices of 3 group members, recounted the experiences of 3 refugees from the Congo, Uganda and Syria. They each gave a harrowing account of how they became victims of brutality and how, to save their lives, they fled to Britain. They told of their struggle to stay here and rebuild their lives.

PICNIC IN THE GARDEN

Join us for poetry and music
featuring Folk duo

'Coppersmith'

Ventnor Botanic Garden

Sunday 23rd. July 12:00 noon.

Bring your own picnic.

FUNDRAISING

The recent Flag Day raised £514.03. Many thanks to all who collected and to those who donated so generously. A concert, organised by Marie Sawle, was held at the Wootton Community Centre. It was so successful that there was standing room only. The performers were the Medina Choir, the Island Scottish Dancers and Sounds Lively. An impressive £516.33 was raised

CAN YOU HELP?

Amnesty is well supported on the Island but the group would welcome more active members.

The group meets on the first Friday of each month to plan future campaign activities and fund raising events.

It is not essential to attend group meetings to take part in any of our campaigns, as they can be effectively undertaken from home. Instructions will be sent with each action.

If you can spare a half-hour or so a month why not give us a call on any of the numbers below? Further information on campaigns can be found on the Amnesty website www.amnesty.org.uk

If you would like to receive your Isle of Wight Group News via e-mail or information on any aspect of Amnesty's work, please contact either of the Officers listed below or email us at: stubbsrw@btinternet.com

For further news and latest updates visit our website at:-
www.amnesty.org.uk/isleofwight

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