

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY  
JULY TO DECEMBER 2018

**JULY**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 12:00 noon **PICNIC IN THE GARDEN** Newport

Poetry and music  
featuring  
Folk Duo “Coppersmith”  
Meet in Ventnor Botanic Garden  
outside Visitor Centre  
Group Admission £5.00  
(Weather Permitting - Bring own food)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm **GENERAL MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKER** Newport

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> **AMNESTY STALL AT PRIDE FESTIVAL, RYDE**

**AUGUST**

**HUMAN RIGHTS TAPESTRY DISPLAY**

At the Newport Minster every Tuesday throughout August 10:00 to 12 noon

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING** Newport

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> **ALL ISLAND FLAG DAY**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:30 pm **ASYLUM MONOLOGUES** Ventnor  
Pier Street Playhouse Ventnor

**SEPTEMBER**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING** Newport

**OCTOBER**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING** Newport

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> **COFFEE MORNING** Newport

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING** Newport

**DECEMBER**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING** Newport  
Newport ☎ 523294



**ISLE OF WIGHT  
AMNESTY NEWS**



JULY 2018



**Aser Mohamed**

Aser was arrested by Egyptian security officers in January 2016. They held him incommunicado for 34 days and tortured him into “confessing” to a series of offences including belonging to a banned Muslim Brotherhood group. He was 14 years old.

Two years on, Aser is held at the police station in Giza sharing a cell with twelve other detainees. He is not allowed to leave this cell at any time and his family has not been allowed to visit him since last August. Aser faces a 15 year sentence if convicted.

**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**

**Good News** Journalist Eskinder Nega was among 746 prisoners released by the Ethiopian government in February. He featured in the Write for Rights campaign at the 2013 Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival.

**North America and Caribbean Region.** January 11<sup>th</sup> marked the 16th anniversary of the opening of Guantanamo Bay detention camp. Our group renewed calls for its closure and for fair trials or immediate release of all detainees and we opposed detainee transfers to Guantanamo.

**North Africa Campaign.** Photo journalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid, known as Shawkan, who was arrested while covering a sit-in in Cairo has been charged with 24 offences including murder. Despite a lack of evidence the prosecutor is demanding the death sentence for him, along with 738 other defendants. We appealed once more against the persecution of Azza Soliman the Egyptian human rights lawyer.

We urged the Egyptian authorities to release Amal Fathy. She posted a video on her Facebook page criticising the government for failing to protect women from sexual harassment.

**WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN** It is reassuring when our efforts to help stop violence against women and girls, are met with success, especially when Prisoners of Conscience are aware of our actions and given hope. Despite these successes, our appeals to governments worldwide continue.

Many of the cases relate to human rights defenders who put their own lives at risk trying to help others. Such cases include Samiece Petit Phat of Haiti and Patricia Gualinga in Ecuador. They have both received

death threats and are at risk of torture. Two Afro-Descendant defenders, Sara Quinonez and her mother Tulia Maria Valencia, both community leaders, have been unjustly detained in prison in Colombia.

Other cases we have taken action on include hundreds of students and women rights activists arrested by the Sudanese Security Services. Pro-democracy activists in Goma DRC were arrested, beaten and imprisoned for a peaceful demonstration. Akmaral Tobylova, a POC is under house arrest in Astana, Kazakhstan, for supporting the opposition party on social media. 11 women from Iran's Gonabadi Dervish religious minority detained in Tehran, have been denied urgent medical treatment, and access to lawyers. In Swaziland dozens of people were left homeless after forced evictions from farming land and are now without work, medical services and schools. 19 years old Nouri Hussein Hamad Daoud, of Khartoum, Sudan, was forcibly married and then raped by her husband. When he attempted to rape her again, she tried to defend herself with a knife and her husband was killed in the struggle. She is threatened with the death penalty if found guilty of murder.

### **ANTI-DEATH PENALTY**

Amnesty's Annual Death Penalty Report for 2017 has been published. Highlights include the fact that the number of executions declined by 4% and the number of death sentences declined by 17%. However, there are still 21,000 people on death row.

In many countries children and the disabled are still being executed, particularly in Japan, the Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore and the USA. Nevertheless, more countries are abolishing the death penalty; Guinea, Gambia and Kenya and Indonesia did

not carry out any executions last year. Also Iran and Malaysia have changed their anti-drug laws to reduce the use of the death penalty.

## **REFUGEES**

### **ASYLUM MONOLOGUES**

Devised by Ice & Fire theatre, Asylum Monologues, through the voices of three IW Amnesty members, recount the real life experiences of Dembe and Julie from Uganda and Marwan from Syria. Each one gives a harrowing account of how they became victims of brutality and how, to save their lives they fled to Britain. They go on to tell of their experiences as asylum seekers and their struggle to obtain permission to stay with a chance to rebuild their lives. It will be an informative and rewarding event.

Supporting performance of poetry and song.

**Pier Street Playhouse, Ventnor  
Thursday 9th. August 2:00pm  
Suitable for 16+**

**Human Rights Centre** A visit to the Human Rights Centre in London was arranged for newer members of our group. They were made welcome by Kate Allen, Director of AIUK. Coordinators of various campaigns gave short talks. These were followed by a tour of the Centre which ended beside the life-size photo of Derek Stirman, founder and life-president of our group.

### **PUBLICITY**

Following the recent visit to the Human Rights Centre the group has become more involved in human rights education for Island schools. An

Amnesty display was on show at the VI Form Campus and Bryn gave a talk for the school's assembly. We ran Human Rights sessions at Carisbrooke and Lane's End Primary Schools. Teaching Human Rights brochures are being offered to Island schools.

## **FUNDRAISING**

"Sing For Joy", a concert, organised by Marie Sawle, was held at the Wootton Community Centre and as at last year's concert, it was standing room only. The performers were the Wight Satin Ladies, Irish Dancers and Sounds Lively. An impressive £426 was raised for AIUK.

### **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](http://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: [stubbssrw@btinternet.com](mailto:stubbssrw@btinternet.com)

For further news and latest updates visit our website at:- [www.amnesty.org.uk/isleofwight](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/isleofwight)

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