

# Newsletter: November 2018

## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



<b>Dates for your diary</b>	<b>Wed 05/12 11:00: Photo-shoot at our Amnesty plaque, Bognor</b> <b>Sat 08/12/2018 10:00 - 12:00 Write for Rights card-signing, Cathedral Green, Chichester</b> <b>Mon 10/12/2018 19:30 - 21:00 celebration of 70th anniversary of the UDHR; committee meeting, Friends Meeting House, Chichester</b> <b>Wed 20/03/2019 19:30: Group AGM, Friends' Meeting House, Chichester</b>
-----------------------------	--

Dear writers,

I am enclosing the leaflets for those who still get our newsletter by post of the WRITE FOR RIGHTS greetings card campaign. Please read the details carefully, especially on whether to send religious or Amnesty cards, and write to as many as you can. *Please see overleaf for guidance for those of you who get this newsletter by email.*

### Local events

Bognorians! Do you remember that Colin Crouch, our then chair, masterminded the installation of a plaque in Steyne Gardens on Bognor seafront to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great UN Declaration of Human Rights? Now, twenty years on, the local paper would like a picture of it with our members. Ring me for details (823016); we should meet up just before 11 am at the plaque.

We shall be sending cards from our CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL GREEN TABLE on SATURDAY 8/12. We start at 10 am and go on until noon or until all cards are signed and put on our Christmas tree, ready for sending. Contact me on (01243) 823016 to volunteer.

The following MONDAY 10/12 is the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the foundation of Amnesty's work. This calls for a cake, which we hope to cut at a meeting, 7.30 onwards, at the Upper Room of the Friends' Meeting House, Priory Road, Chichester; we'll have a committee meeting afterwards.

### Other events

- Until 10/12/2018 **Whisper Her a Poem: Poetry-fest for Azza Soliman**, Amnesty Cambridge City Group. Azza Soliman is a strong woman who, at great personal cost, is making a difference for many women in Egypt and beyond. She is an inspiration to many, and what better way to capture that inspiration than in a poem, dedicated to her, standing in solidarity with her? The poetry-fest for Azza was launched on 13 September and concludes with an event on 10 December, Human Rights Day. Submit poems here: <https://form.jotformeu.com/82247704515355> and, once approved, will be sent to Azza, published on the group's social media channels and may also be chosen to be read out. Details of the poetry-fest can be found online here: [www.amnesty.org.uk/cambridge](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/cambridge)
- 29/11/2018 **Women's Human Rights Defenders Day**
- 12/12/2018 **BRAVE Campaign for Human Rights Defenders** – contact me

Carry on writing!

*Bob Dewick, Amnesty*

**Compliments of the Season to you all!!!**

If you no longer wish to receive information about this Group, please reply to this newsletter with a request to **Unsubscribe**.

Please let us know if there have been any changes in your personal information

For more information about this Group, go to: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/bognor-chichester-and-district>

# Newsletter: November 2018

## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



### Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

#### Action: Write for Rights campaign, 1 November - 31 December

As you know, our annual letter-writing campaign launched on 1 November. As always, your letters and cards will have a huge impact on the lives of this year's cases. For some people, speaking out for freedom, justice and equality means putting themselves at risk – of humiliation, imprisonment, violence, even death. That's why we run Write For Rights. Every year, we ask people like you all over the world to send messages of hope and support to people under threat.

As part of launching this year's Write for Rights campaign and to mark the Annual Human Rights Day (10 Dec), Amnesty will be hosting a launch event in parliament to introduce the campaign and related cases to Members of Parliament. Attending is a great way for MPs to be introduced not only to the cases but the wider campaign and issues and threats facing Human Rights Defenders (HRD) around the world but also to increase the understanding of the role HRDs play in achieving social change and upholding and furthering human rights for all.

**1. Please write to your MP** and ask them to drop into our Annual Human Rights Day reception any time between 12:30-2pm on 12th December 2018 at Speakers House and take action on some of our cases.

**Write to your MP / Foreign Secretary** at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

- Nick Gibb (MP Bognor and Littlehampton)
- Nick Herbert (MP Arundel and South Downs)
- Gillian Keegan (MP Chichester)

**2. Please write or send online messages to those cases highlighted in the 2018 Write for Rights campaign.**

For those of you who are receiving this Newsletter by email, this is the link to the Write for Rights actions for 2018:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights>

- Here you can browse the cases and take action: there are opportunities here to send a message online in some of the cases, as well as some translated messages of support.

#### Action: Egypt: 80-year-old Egyptian's death sentence upheld

On 24 September 2018, the Court of Cassation upheld the death sentence of Sheikh Abdel Rehim Abdel Halim Gabreel – an 80-year-old Quran tutor – in one of Egypt's largest mass trials since 2011.

Egypt's Court of Cassation, which issues final rulings that cannot be appealed, upheld the death sentences of 20 Egyptians, including Sheikh Abdel Rehim Abdel Halim Gabreel. The 20 were convicted of killing 13 policemen during the 2013 attack on a police station in the Giza suburb of Kerdasa. The case relates to what is commonly known as "the Kerdasa Massacre". On 26 September 2013, Sheikh Abdel Rehim Gabreel was arrested from a mosque. After six months of investigations without a lawyer, he was put on trial. On 2 February 2015, he was sentenced to death.

What you can do:

**Please write before 24 December:**

- Urging the Egyptian President to grant Sheikh Abdel Halim Gabreel a presidential pardon to halt his execution.
- Urging the Egyptian authorities to halt any planned executions, to commute all existing death sentences and immediately establish an official moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty;
- Calling on them to ensure that Sheikh Abdel Halim Gabreel has adequate and regular access to qualified health professionals providing health care, including access to prescribed medication, in compliance with medical ethics, including the principles of confidentiality.

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Office of the President, Al Ittihadia Palace, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. **Salutation: Your Excellency**

Email: [p.spokesman@op.gov.eg](mailto:p.spokesman@op.gov.eg)

Twitter: @AlsisiOfficial

HIS EXCELLENCY MR NASSER AHMED KAMEL ALI, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 26 South Street, London, W1K 1DW.

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Email: [eg.emb\\_london@mfa.gov.eg](mailto:eg.emb_london@mfa.gov.eg) and [etembuk@hotmail.com](mailto:etembuk@hotmail.com)

If you no longer wish to receive information about this Group, please reply to this newsletter with a request to **Unsubscribe**.

Please let us know if there have been any changes in your personal information

For more information about this Group, go to: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/bognor-chichester-and-district>