

Newsletter: January 2020

Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



Dates for your diary	Thu 19/03/2020 AGM Bognor Sat 23/05/2020 Plant and Book Sale, Emsworth
----------------------	---

Dear writers

Happy New Year!

Many thanks to all who Wrote For Rights, especially those who helped on the Cathedral Green table; we sent off 54 cards in all.

Local events

- This is the formal notice of our Group AGM on THURSDAY 19/03 at the School of Music, Bognor. Full details and reports will be in the next newsletter.
- We hope to have a CHICHESTER STREET COLLECTION in March or (preferably) April, if the council allow.
- We have booked the hall for the EMSWORTH PLANT AND BOOK SALE on 23/05.

Other events

The world Amnesty Secretary-General has resigned for health reasons.

Deborah Singer, UK Amnesty's new Egypt co-ordinator, has invited us to a one-hour action at the Egyptian embassy in London on SATURDAY 01/02 at noon, to ask for a full independent enquiry into the kidnap, torture and murder in Egypt of GIULIO REGENI – contact me for details.

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

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: January 2020

Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Update on the Egypt campaign

Many thanks to those of you who have written on behalf of Egyptian victims of human rights abuses over the past year. I hope that you will all have made it your New Year's resolution to keep on writing as we continue to campaign in the face of increasing repression in Egypt. If you have not yet written on behalf of **Aser Mohamed**, the teenager arrested at the age of 14, tortured into making a false confession and currently appealing against a 10 year prison sentence, it is not too late. Please follow the sample letter provided.

Our group has also taken on the case of **Ibrahim Ezz El-Din**, a 26 year old researcher into housing rights for the Egyptian Commission on Rights and Freedoms. He was arrested and forcibly 'disappeared' in June 2019. He has now reappeared and was brought before the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) in November. At his hearing he appeared very malnourished and complained of being held in inhumane and degrading conditions while in detention. A template letter is provided for use in either writing or emailing the Public Prosecutor to appeal for his release.

I am already very grateful to you for taking action on behalf of Egyptian human rights defenders and victims of abuse but I have one further request. In order to monitor how effective our group response has been, it would be extremely helpful if you could just email me at mn_robertson@hotmail.com to let me know that you have written/emailed. A simple message such as : *Appeal sent on behalf of ...* and the date would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks again for your continuing support. With all good wishes for 2020

Margaret Robertson

Action

*There are two sample letters below, for our new case **Ibrahim Ezz El-Din** and for our on-going campaigning for **Aser Mohamed***

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Your Excellency

Re : Case of Aser Mohamed

I urge you to release Aser Mohamed immediately. On 12 January 2016 NSA officers detained Aser, who was 14 years old at the time, for 34 days. He was tortured into 'confessing' the crimes with which he is charged. Aser is facing trial as a result of these confessions extracted under torture and faces 15 years in prison.

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: January 2020

Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



As a signatory party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Egypt has an obligation to ensure all of its children are free from torture. This right is also enshrined in the Egyptian constitution under Article 80.

I strongly implore the authorities to drop the charges against Aser and to release him unconditionally.

Yours respectfully

To : m.office@ppo.gov.eg

Public Prosecutor Hamada al-Sawi
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat al-Rehab
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Dear Counsellor

On 26 November 2019, researcher **Ibrahim Ezz El-Din** was brought to the Supreme State Security Prosecution, after 167 days of enforced disappearance. The prosecutor questioned Ibrahim Ezz El-Din in the presence of his lawyers, on accusations of “contributing to the achievement of the objectives of a terrorist group” and “publication of false information undermining national security”. He was assigned to case 488/2019 of the Supreme State Security Prosecution, which relates to the anti-government protest in March 2019. Lawyer and WHRD, **Mahienour el-Masry**, and human rights defender and journalist **Esraa Abdelfattah** are also among the defendants. Ibrahim was also questioned about his human rights work and no evidence was presented against him. Neither Ibrahim nor his lawyers were allowed to examine the National Security Agency (NSA) investigation case file against him. Despite being in state custody since 11 June 2019, the NSA stated that he was arrested on 25 November 2019 and denied that he had been forcibly disappeared. His lawyers contested the date, stating the actual date of his arrest.

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din, who appeared weak and having lost much weight, told the prosecutor that he was tortured during his detention to extract information about his relationship to the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms (ECRF), and about ECRF's work. He also told the prosecutor he had been kept in inhumane and degrading conditions of detention, at several security agency locations. The prosecutor ordered his detention for 15 days in Tora prison pending investigations.

I urge you to release Ibrahim Ezz El-Din immediately and unconditionally. His detention is arbitrary as it relates to his peaceful human rights work. I call on you to also ensure that, pending his release, he is granted access to his lawyer and family, and that he is protected from torture, other ill-treatment and inhumane conditions of detention. I also urge you to open an investigation into his enforced disappearance and the torture he has been subjected to and to bring all those responsible to justice.

Yours sincerely

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>