

Newsletter: November 2020

Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



Dates for your diary	Sunday 01/11/2020 - Thursday 31/12/2020: Write for Rights campaign Thursday 10/12/2020: Human Rights Day Early December: Online Write for Rights event, Amnesty UK (date & time TBC) Wednesday 27/01/2021: Holocaust Memorial Day
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Dear writers,

I hope the second lockdown is not as bad for you as the first. Arun Wellbeing (01903 737862) is there to help those of us in Arun, the Community Hub (0330 2220 7980) with Covid more generally.

Local events



Sadly, this year we are unable to hold our annual Write for Rights event on the Cathedral Green: so here is a photo of our 2019 event, with the lovely cards pinned to our Amnesty tree!

Every year, we ask people all over the world to demand justice for those who find themselves at risk of human rights violations or under threat for speaking out for freedom, justice and equality. Last year, more than 6.5 million appeal letters and messages were sent, making a huge difference to the young people and communities confronting injustice and facing human rights violations.

Please write or take action online in support of as many of the ten Write for Rights cases as you are able (see next page for details). I am posting out details for those of you not online.

Other events

Amnesty UK will be organising a central **online Write for Rights event early in December**. We should get some more details in the next Groups mailing, which we will receive on 30 November. Kate Allen (director, Amnesty International UK), will be joining us, together with a Write for Rights campaigner, and an individual who was involved with Write for Rights in a previous year. We will email you with the details of the online event as soon as we have the information from Amnesty.

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

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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>

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Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Action: Write for Rights: 1 November - 31 December 2020

Every year, we ask people all over the world to demand justice for those who find themselves at risk of human rights violations or under threat for speaking out for freedom, justice and equality. Last year, more than 6.5 million appeal letters and messages were sent, making a huge difference to the young people and communities confronting injustice and facing human rights violations. Here are some updates on the cases you helped with in 2019:

- **Yasaman Aryani:** Amnesty supporters wrote 1.2 million messages and appeals, highlighting Yasaman's case and the growing movement of women's rights defenders in Iran. On 05/02/2020, her prison sentence was reduced on appeal from 16 years to 9 years and 7 months.
- **Yiliyasijiang Reheman:** Although his whereabouts is still unknown, his wife Mairinsha says the thousands of messages she received from Amnesty supporters were a lifeline: she particularly appreciated Amnesty UK's solidarity football match, Yiliyasijiang's favourite sport. **"I'm very grateful for everyone who supports me. In the course of campaigning for my husband, I feel that I'm not alone. I need their support all the time."**



What you can do:

- There are 10 cases in all highlighted in this year's Write for Rights booklet.
- You can access the booklet online here: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-rights-2020-get-started>. This booklet introduces you to each case and sets out how you can write to them, and how to write to the authorities on their behalf.
- If you only have time to take a few actions online, have a look here: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights> where four cases are highlighted. These four have been highlighted because Amnesty believes supporters in the UK can have a special impact on these cases. In the Write for Rights booklet, these four cases are marked with "Special UK Focus".
- At the moment, it may be difficult for you to get to a Post Office to send out your card. If you have a printer at home, you might want to try using the Post Office's [Send an Item service](#). Alternatively, you might want to focus on those cases that allow you to take an online action, or provide an email address.

Action: Send a Postcard of Kindness to residents of care homes

In October, Amnesty launched a report [As If Expendable](#), which highlights the UK Government's failure to protect older people in care homes in England during the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the things Amnesty found was the isolation many residents in care homes are feeling, so has linked up with a group called [Postcards of Kindness](#)

We know, from the individuals at risk we work with around the world, how powerful it can be to receive a message of solidarity from Amnesty activists. If you are taking part in the Write for Rights campaign this year, why not add this activity to your list of people to write to?

What you can do:



Please join Amnesty in sending postcards/Christmas cards to people living in care homes. The aim is to give residents something to hold on to and treasure, and open new avenues for communication and friendship. Please find out how to [here](#).

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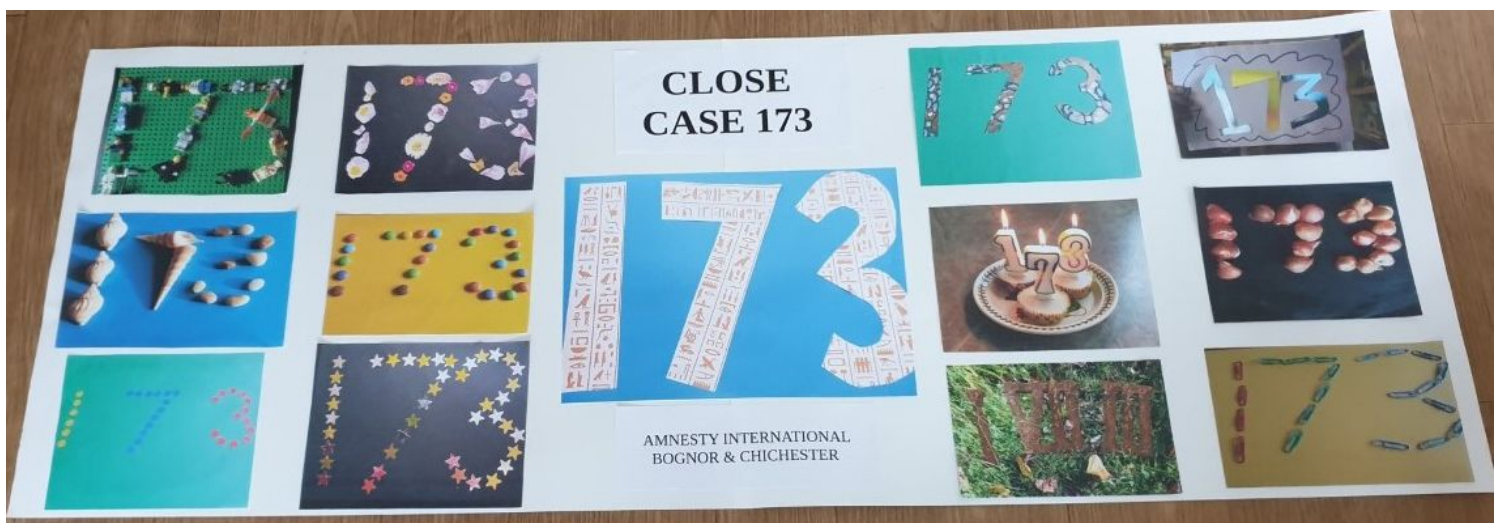
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Egypt update from Margaret Robertson, campaign co-ordinator

Case 173 Action

- Many thanks to all those members who took part in our very enjoyable joint online meeting with the Horsham group on 29 October to share in calling for the lifting of the travel ban and asset freeze on NGOs and Human Rights Defenders, including Azza Soliman, under Case 173.
- The online meeting was breaking new ground for us as a means of finding new and imaginative ways of joining together during the Covid-19 crisis. It was good to meet each other and to share creative and original ways of expressing opposition to Case 173 restrictions. I was very impressed by the ingenuity and originality of members' who have used flowers, Lego, shells, candles, Egyptian hieroglyphics and even tulip bulbs to illustrate the number 173 in their messages. My thanks to all of you who have taken part in the action and continue to send a steady flow of messages to President al-Sisi and the Egyptian Embassy in London.
- We hope our quirky and dramatic images will have an impact on the Egyptian authorities who are very sensitive to international disapproval and have already modified some aspects of the NGO Law in response to foreign criticism. If you haven't taken action yet, it's not too late. Please send your appeals plus images to:
 - President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi (p.spokesman@op.gov.eg)
 - Copied to Egyptian Ambassador, H.E. Mr Nasser Ahmed Kamel (egtamboff@gmail.com)



Ibrahim Ezz El-Din

As his birthday approaches, we have sent a card of greetings and good wishes to Ibrahim, via his mother. Sadly, he is unlikely to have a happy birthday but we hope that it will be of comfort to know that he has friends who are thinking of him and wishing him well. Those of you who use Twitter may also have taken part in Amnesty's Twitterstorm to highlight his case on his birthday, 15 November.

Please contact me for further information on either of these cases or to let me know you have taken action:

mn_robertson@hotmail.com

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