

BANBURY AREA GROUP AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



[@BanburyAmnesty](https://twitter.com/BanburyAmnesty)

www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/banbury

NEWSLETTER 1
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We are ordinary people, who live in and around Banbury, who stand up for humanity and human rights. Our purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness and truth are denied.

We meet, currently online, on the third Monday of each month except August. You are very welcome to join us. Sign up for email updates via the website.

As a global movement of over seven million people, Amnesty International is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation.

Current Campaigns

Yiliyasijiang Reheman, China

We are campaigning to establish the whereabouts of Yiliyasijiang Reheman. He is a Uyghur Muslim, who was deported from Egypt in 2017 back to the Xinjiang region of China. He has not been heard of since, it is thought he may be either detained in a 'transformation-through-education' centre or imprisoned without trial.



Yiliyasijiang Reheman

"The Egyptian and the Chinese governments did not disclose any reasons why my husband and other Uyghurs were detained. It's against international law and unjust. Up till now, I haven't received any information about my husband. This violates my human rights. I oppose that. What the Egyptian and Chinese governments did have destroyed our family, making my innocent children separated from their father."

Mairinisha Abuduain, wife of Yiliyasijiang.

Pastoralist communities, Angola

About 65,000 cattle farmers in the Gambos area of Angola have had two thirds of their grazing land taken by commercial ranchers. They have been forced to survive on barren and drought ridden land pushing the communities to the brink of starvation.

We are campaigning to raise awareness of their plight and to get the Angolan authorities to address their Economic and Social rights.

"The only thing we eat is lombi..when we eat these leaves by themselves without porridge or rice we get sick. But now just to survive we eat them. Lombi causes stomach ache and children get diarrhea; they cry because they cannot handle it"

Ms. Kalela, Pastoralist in the Gambos.



A pastoralist in a village in the Gambos region of Angola



Campaigning

THIS WINTER
Your voice is powerful
Send a message for human rights



**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**



Amnesty's annual Write for Rights event is always a high point in the group's calendar. We will be joining millions around the world writing cards and letters of support and solidarity to a handful of individuals facing human rights abuses.

We will be holding an online card writing session on **Monday 7 December from 7.30pm**. Further details can be found on our [website](#).

It only takes a few minutes to write a card but for a prisoner of conscience an activist facing threats a message of support is a powerful reminder that they are not alone.

One of the cases highlighted this year is that of Chilean Gustavo Gatica, a 22-year-old psychology student who was protesting against rising prices and inequality when he was struck in both eyes and blinded by police firing rubber and metal ammunition.



'I gave my eyes so people would wake up.'
Gustavo Gatica

Forthcoming events

Festival of Social Justice

We are excited to be involved in a brand new human rights festival set to run next year. The **Festival of Social Justice** will showcase a wide variety of events across central England under the topic of *Speaking out for Social Justice*.

The event will explore Article 19 of The Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 19: Everyone has the right to their own opinions, and to be able to express them freely. We should have the right to share our ideas with who we want, and in whichever way we choose.

A central theme will be the 'Soapbox Challenge' in which people will be encouraged to voice, on social media, what social justice looks like to them. Andy Hackman, Head of Community Organising at Amnesty International UK said

"Amnesty's Festival of Social Justice is shaping up to be a fantastic series of events and a brilliant opportunity to bring together people from across Central England. We are working with amazing supporters and partner organisations and the festival is central to our plans to build an even stronger human rights movement in the Midlands"

The event will run throughout April until mid May 2021.

School Groups

We are particularly keen as a group, to involve as many young people as we can in Amnesty campaigns. We have been very fortunate to have a number of active school groups develop across Banbury, each highlighting the importance of social justice for all ages groups, all cultures and all

countries. They have been running workshops, assemblies, talks, tutorials and targeted events to help raise awareness of the importance of human rights. If you would like to get involved, or know of a school who would like to start a group, then please let us know.

"INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE."

Martin Luther King, African-American civil rights activist