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|  | stockport  amnestynovember 2020 | | |  | | |
|  | Facebook page: Amnesty international stockport group  Twitter: @aistockport  webpage: https://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/stockport| | | |  | | |
|  | **IDRIS KHATTAR**  Idris has been held at an unknown location by the military in Pakistan since he was forcibly abducted in November 2019. His detention was only revealed in June 2020 and his family still do not know where he is or the charges against him.  We are writing each month to different officials in Pakistan. In October we wrote to the Pakistan Minister for Human Rights and in November we will be writing to Imran Khan, the Prime Minister. For the lastest letterwriting details please see our web page or join our googlegroup.  You can read more about the background to this case in [this action](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/pakistan-disappeared-human-rights-defender-risk-torture) from May 2020. There is also an online petition on the Amnesty.org website [here](https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/w4r-2020-pakistan-idris-khattak/) | | | See the source image  **IDRIS KHATTAR** | | |
|  |  | **WRITE FOR RIGHTS** |  |
|  | **Laos**  Amnesty have released a public statement following ofUniversal Periodic Review (UPR) of Lao’s human rights record at the United Nations Human Rights Council at the end of September. Singapore’s representative used the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Lao’s rights record to highlight the case Sombath Somphone, whose wife is Singaporean.  “We note from the addendum to the UPR report that it is the duty of the Lao government to search for missing Lao citizens including Mr. Sombath Somphone, the Laotian spouse of a Singapore citizen. We hope that Laotian authorities will resolve the case expeditiously and bring about the much-needed relief to his family,” said En Yu Keefe Chin. |  | The U.K. however was most critical about Laos’ record on freedom of expression.  In an annual survey of press freedom released in April, Laos was ranked 172 out of 180 countries by Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (RSF), which said the ruling Lao People’s Revolutionary Party “exercises total control over the media.”  Laos also routinely detains and punishes dissenters who air their grievances on social media platforms like Facebook.  Of the 226 recommendations made by the international community during the UPR process, Laos rejected 66, citing various reasons including that some of the recommendations were made with a faulty understanding of the situation on the ground and that others went against Vientiane’s national cultural values and morals.The link to the AI statement is [here](https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/ASA2631612020ENGLISH.PDF) | Write for Rights 2020 is launching on 1 November 2020. This year’s campaign will focus on 10 individuals at risk from around the world. Our special focus will be on 4 of the cases but you will be able to take action on all cases. You can order your Write for Rights booklets [**here**](http://webmail1.amnesty.org.uk/c/12JpZFqLLWhKVIZipfu0DMWN5x). From the 1st of November you will also be able to find a pdf-version of the booklet on the You can order your Write for Rights booklets [**here**](http://webmail1.amnesty.org.uk/c/12JpZFqLLWhKVIZipfu0DMWN5x). From the 1st of November you will also be able to find a pdf-version of the booklet on the AIUK website. | | |

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| **STOCKPORT PRIDE**  Are holding their AGM via zoom at 3pm on November 6th 2020.  For information on how to attend please message [info@stockportpride.co.uk](mailto:info@stockportpride.co.uk) there is more information about the AGM [here](https://www.stockportpride.co.uk/agm/) | **SOUTH AMERICA - COLOMBIA**  **Amnesty is calling on the Colombian Congress to guarantee the safety of Human Rights Defenders**. [Please sign Amnesty's petition to the Colombian Congress](https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/protege-a-quienes-nos-protegen/) to set up a Commission for the Verification of Guarantees to monitor and fulfil its responsibilities to protect defenders, including those who protect the environment and our natural resources.  [**One of Amnesty International's Write for Rights human rights defenders, Jani Silva, tells her story**](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/10/we-must-defend-life-on-our-planet-together/). It begins “*My name is Jani Silva and I’m a* campesina*, or small-scale farmer, from Colombia. I’m 57 years old and I work in the Perla Amazónica Farming Reserve Area in the southern region of Putumayo. Ever since I was little, I’ve always followed my convictions and always defended what I believe in. This is why I’m fighting to preserve the Amazon and its biodiversity*... “ [Please sign the letter to President Duque](https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/w4r-2020-colombia-jani-silva/), asking him to ensure that Jani Silva and the colleagues she works with have access to a collective protection plan. | | | | |
| OUR MEETINGS are currently held by conference call at 8pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month.  The meeting code is sent out monthly to our googlegroup members, or you can ask for details by emailing amnestystockport@gmail.com | | | | **JOIN THE CONVERSATION**  Our google group is where all messages go to all our members.  To join our googlegroups for minutes and for general membership, send a message to: amnestystockport@gmail.com | |
| ****Video: Detained researcher in critical condition**** | | | **AMNESTY CHRISTMAS SHOP** | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [This video](http://webmail1.amnesty.org.uk/c/12Jq4CCho8BsodqF8MrfCEe62u)focuses on Ibrahim Ezz El-Din, a Wright for Rights case in 2019, and an action activists can take on his behalf. | | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | Ibrahim works as a housing rights expert for an NGO in Cairo. In June 2019 he disappeared and reappeared that November having been tortured. He has been charged and continues to be detained.  We are very concerned about his mental and physical health.  Our simple action focuses on the right to speak freely about human rights. | Fundraising for Amnesty has been all the more difficult this year, so remember the Amnesty online Shop when looking for cards and Christmas gifts. [Amnesty Online Shop](https://amnestyshop.org.uk/) | |