

# Newsletter: July 2021

## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



<b>Dates for your diary</b>	<b>Tuesday 20/07/2021, 19:00: Community Organising Training.</b> Online <b>Tuesday 10/08/2021, 19:30: Human rights law and Amnesty.</b> Online talk by Ian Myson <b>Saturday 21/08/2021 (tbc): PUMBLE</b>
-----------------------------	---

Dear writers

Eighteen months ago, “furlough” was just a US Army term for “leave”, the Rainbow flag was the symbol for Gay Liberation, the trains were crowded, and ever washing your hands was a symptom of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. There is still much confusion about what will happen after Monday 19/07, so we have not organised any indoor events yet. I hope you are all double-jabbed by now, but even then many are still prudent about meeting up with others indoors. Please contact me about the latest position.

### Local events

**Tuesday 10/08/2021: 19:30 International Human Rights Law and Amnesty.** Online talk by Ian Myson (Activism Representative – South Midlands), organised by West Sussex Amnesty Groups. This is an introductory talk, geared to the needs of local groups and has been run most recently in the Amnesty Festival of Social Justice (April -May 2021). Ian believes this can help with a challenge often faced by local group activists - that in jumping from campaign to campaign, or case to case, it can be difficult to develop a clear understanding of the legal basis of human rights. The talk - which involves opportunity for discussion and Q&A - covers:

- what are human rights and where do they come from?
- the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- categories of rights
- the relationship between international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international criminal law and international refugee law
- the UN human rights system, regional systems, domestic law
- some debates and controversies
- what actually drives human rights improvement on the ground?
- successes and failures of the system
- Amnesty’s relationship with international human rights law
- challenges arising for Amnesty

**If you would like to attend this talk**, please contact Kath Shakespeare on [shakespeare.kath@gmail.com](mailto:shakespeare.kath@gmail.com) or 01243 552131. The talk is being hosted by the Horsham Group, so Kath will forward you the meeting link from the host.

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: July 2021

## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



### Other events

**20/07/2021: Community Organising Training for local Groups** [online]. This can be [booked via Eventbrite](#) by individual members of a Group. Discussions will include the theory of community organising as well as useful tools to build a stronger and more diverse and inclusive movement in our communities.

**Update: Amnesty's Annual General Meeting (AGM)** took place on 19/06/2021. The one-day event included presentations from the Board and from our interim CEO Sacha Deshmukh. We were delighted to welcome a special guest for this year's AGM, our new Secretary General Agnès Callamard.

- If you were unable to attend, or if you'd like to read what resolutions passed and more, please [have a look here](#)

[Refugees in Russia: Friends House Moscow Newsletter](#). This resource has been shared by the Chichester Quakers and comprises a report looking at the situation of refugees in Russia, some statistics, and how asylum seekers live

Carry on writing!

*Bob Dewick, Amnesty*

### Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

#### **Urgent update: Nationality and Borders Bill - action needed for 19 & 20 July**

Last week, the Government introduced the Nationality and Borders Bill to parliament. The content of the bill is deeply concerning - it seeks to largely dismantle the UK's asylum system, which has for decades enabled people fleeing conflict and persecution to rebuild their lives, in safety, here in the UK. Not only is this bad for people seeking asylum in the UK, it is bad for the international framework for protecting refugees. Many of you took part in the consultation period to oppose this bill and we are now asking you to **take further action with us**.

**Many of you who are national Amnesty members will have already been sent this information by email: but please do follow this link to take action prior to the reading of the bill on 19 and 20 July.**

- Send [this briefing](#) to your MP and request that they attend the 2nd Reading of the Nationality and Borders Bill on 19 and 20 July.

#### Update: Egypt

**Margaret Robertson**, our Egypt Campaign Co-ordinator, writes: "Many thanks to all of you who responded to the appeals listed in the June 2021: update on our most urgent cases action on the second anniversary of Ibrahim Ezz El-Din's arrest, action on behalf of human rights lawyer Mohamed El-Baqer and his client, activist, Alaa Abdel Fattah and action relating to teenager Aser Mohamed on UN International Day in support of Victims of Torture. *My especial thanks to those of you who sent me a brief note to let me know that you had taken action. It is very helpful in monitoring the response to cases and greatly appreciated.*"

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>

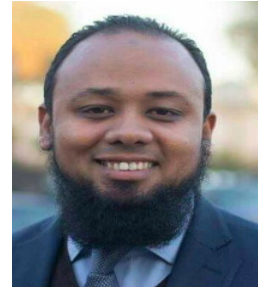
# Newsletter: July 2021

## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



### Mohamed El-Baqer Update

This month there is further action for **Mohamed El-Baqer**, an award winning human rights defender. The action is timed to coincide with his birthday on **20 July**. He is being held in appalling conditions in prison and there are grave fears for his health and welfare.



#### What you can do

This action is being coordinated by a number of human rights organisations.

- For further information on how you can send a message of support please click on [www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/profile/mohamedel-baqer](http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/profile/mohamedel-baqer)

If you are a **social media user**, you can also take the action described below.

- On 20 July take a photo of yourself with a sign wishing Mohamed Happy Birthday / demanding his release and then post the image on social media. If you would prefer not to share a photo with you in it you could post a photo just of your message. Please use the hashtag #FreeBaker (do copy in the handle @hrd\_hub if you wish)
- *Our Amnesty Coordinator for North Africa is very keen to encourage us to use social media for wider impact so I should be very grateful for feedback ([mn\\_robertson@hotmail.com](mailto:mn_robertson@hotmail.com)) on how many of you are social media users and would like social media details included in future appeals.*

### UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 26 June 2021



As requested, Bognor and Chichester Amnesty group sent a bouquet of flowers to the Egyptian Embassy on **26 June** calling upon the Ambassador to note mark **UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** and, in particular, to express our grave concern about the torture of **Aser Mohamed**, jailed for ten years after a confession extorted by torture, after his arrest as a 14 year old. It seems that the campaign was well supported by Amnesty groups throughout the country so we hope that this event will send a clear message about international condemnation of the use of torture by the Egyptian authorities.



### Action: New Urgent Action 9 July 2021 on behalf of 12 Egyptian men facing imminent execution after an unfair trial

Finally, we have a new action requiring an immediate response. Please send this email if you possibly can

To; President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ([p.spokesman@op.gov.eg](mailto:p.spokesman@op.gov.eg))

Copied to: HE Tarek Ahmed Ibrahim Adel ([egtamboff@gmail.com](mailto:egtamboff@gmail.com))

I am writing to appeal to you to overturn the Court of Cassation's verdict on 14 June 2021 upholding the convictions and death sentences against 12 men following a grossly unfair mass trial marred by allegations of enforced disappearance and torture. The 12 men, namely: Abdelrahman Abdelhamid el-Bar, Mohamed Mohamed Ibrahim el-Beltagy, Safwat Mohamed Hamouda Higazy, Osama Yassin, Ahmed Mohamed Aref, Ihab Wagdi Mohamed, Mohamed Abdelhai Hussein al-Faramawy, Mostafa Abdelhai Hussein al-Faramawy, Ahmed Farouk Kamel, Haytham al-Sayed al-Araby, Mohamed Mahmoud Ali Zanati

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>

## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group

and Abdelazim Ibrahim Attiya, have no recourse but a commutation or pardon from Your Excellency. The 12 men, who include a former minister, a former parliamentarian and other senior figures in the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, are imprisoned in conditions that violate the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment, including prolonged solitary confinement and denial of adequate medical care.

In September 2018, a terrorism circuit in Cairo's Criminal Court handed down death sentences against 75 people, convicting them of participation in illegal protests, the murder of seven members of the security forces and 10 others, attempted murder and other charges in relation to their involvement in the Rabaa al-Adawiya Square sit-in dispersal, as well as other protests and clashes between supporters and opponents of former president, Mohamed Morsi, that had taken place from 21 June to 14 August 2013. Amnesty International considered the mass trial, involving 739 defendants, to have been grossly unfair. Despite this, the Court of Cassation upheld the verdict, convicting all defendants of all charges, without establishing individual criminal responsibility. The proceedings were marred by violations of fair trial rights, including the right to adequate defence; the right not to self-incriminate; the right to be tried by a competent, impartial and independent tribunal; the right to call and examine witnesses; and the right to a genuine review.

I therefore urge you to commute their death sentences, quash their convictions and order retrials in accordance with international fair trial standards, in proceedings that exclude coerced "confessions" and without recourse to the death penalty. We also urge 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.

Yours sincerely

### Action: China - End the repression of Uyghur communities

Since 2017 an estimated 1 million people have been detained by the Chinese government. In a crushing repression, men and women from predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities such as Uyghurs and Kazakhs have been targeted and sent to brutal camps in the Xinjiang region in China - all experienced torture.

- [Add your name to the online petition](#) calling on the Chinese authorities to immediately release everyone arbitrarily detained and reunite them with their families



### Action: Nepal lack of a second dose endangers over 1.4 million

Over 1.4 million people in at-risk populations in Nepal received their first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine between 7 and 15 March 2021. To be fully immunised, and to ensure that the effect of the first dosage does not become largely ineffective, this group must have their second jab before 5 July. However, Nepal does not have these doses. To date, Nepal has only been able to fully vaccinate 2.4% of its population and has not received deliveries as scheduled amid another deadly wave of Covid-19.

The international community, particularly wealthier countries with large vaccines supplies like the UK, must urgently provide sufficient doses to Nepal so it can fully immunise these 1.4 million people, and fulfil the right to health and right to life of hundreds of thousands.

- This action can be done [online \(sent by email\)](#) by following this link, or by post, using this template letter:

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: July 2021

## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to bring your urgent attention to the deadly wave of Covid-19 in Nepal and to request immediate support from your government to address the dangerous and acute shortage of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine supplies, which puts the lives of hundreds of thousands of people at risk.

It is distressing to learn that the more than 1.4 million Nepali people, who belong to high-risk groups and received their first vaccine doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca in March 2021, have been unable so far to get their second doses. While it is welcome that the UK has already supported the COVAX Facility, unfortunately this has not been enough, as several lower- and middle-income countries, including Nepal, face glaring vaccine gaps, while wealthier countries have ordered vaccines well beyond their requirements.

The UK has unique strong current and historic ties with Nepal. The UK is the largest bilateral donor to Nepal and thousands have served in Britain's armed forces. Owing to this, and as the current chair of G-7, I am appealing to you to urgently look to directly supply Nepal with additional vaccine doses, in order to prevent the damaging risk to the health and lives of hundreds of thousands of Nepali citizens who would otherwise be left without access to a second dose. To date, Nepal has only fully vaccinated 2.4% of its population. At this rate, it will take more than 10 years for Nepal to vaccinate 70% of its population.

Nepal is only one example of many countries facing acute vaccine shortages, which can only be resolved in the long term by ensuring that intellectual property rights are not a barrier to much-needed increased global production by a wider range of manufacturers and fair distribution across countries.

Therefore, I call on you to:

- Provide immediately 1.4 million Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines to Nepal so that this group of people can be fully immunized by June 27 to July 5;
- Share urgently additional vaccine doses and encourage others to do the same, preferably through initiatives such as COVAX so all countries have a fairer access to Covid-19 vaccines and can immunize their population in a timely fashion, especially priority groups who are most at risk;
- Support the World Trade Organization's TRIPS waiver, which lifts intellectual property rights restrictions, and push pharmaceutical companies to share their knowledge and technology with other manufacturers to maximize global supply of much-needed Covid-19 vaccines.

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>