

# Newsletter: October 2021

## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



Dates for your diary	<b>10-17 October: Amnesty Week of Action</b> <b>13-14 November: UK Amnesty AGM and student conference</b> <b>Thu 9 December: Sussex Amnesty Human Rights Day action (online)</b> <b>Fri 10 December: Human Rights Day</b> <b>March 2022: Group AGM</b>
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Dear writers

I'm sorry to tell you of the death of Michael Woolley, a staunch supporter of our Group for many years.

Although the clutch of Bills threatening UK human rights has been rubberstamped by the Commons and are now in the Lords, we should keep our powder dry and be prepared to lobby when needed, especially on any threats to the Human Rights Act.

### Local events

**09/12/2021: Virtual Write for Rights event.** A joint meeting with other Sussex Amnesty groups is being planned. Provisionally the event will run on Zoom and enable Group members to meet other Amnesty members across Sussex to work together on the *Write for Rights* 2021 cases. We also hope to take a photo of all the cards you have written on screen, which should hopefully be as satisfying as seeing a big pile of completed cards when we were able to complete this type of event for Human Rights Day in person! Further details to follow in the Group's November newsletter.

### Other events.

**Tuesday 19/10/2021, 19:30 Amnesty's Anti-Racism network: online briefing** Lambeth Amnesty would like to invite you to a presentation run by Sotez Chowdhury in the community organising team to discuss Amnesty's Anti-Racism network. The presentation will last 20 minutes and will take place at 7:30 on Tuesday, 19 October (at Amnesty Lambeth's monthly meeting over Zoom). The invitation has also been shared with other Amnesty activists in London, South and South East England.

Meeting access details:

Topic: Amnesty Lambeth Group Meeting

Time: Oct 19, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88325696826?pwd=SDd6ZGc5dHpsdVVVemRMOE1NWEZuUT09>

( Meeting ID: 883 2569 6826; Passcode: 044203)

**Children's rights.** You can find out about children's rights in a new book for young people called *Know Your Rights and Claim Them*.

Co-written by Amnesty International, Angelina Jolie and Professor Geraldine Van Bueren QC, this book offers knowledge and tools to claim rights, while also explaining why they matter in the real world. Find your copy [here](#).

Our Group AGM has been postponed (again!) to next March, in the hope Covid restrictions will have continued to be eased and members happier to attend. Keep well!

Carry on writing!

*Bob Dewick, Amnesty*

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### Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

#### Egypt update: from Margaret, our Egypt Campaign Co-ordinator

It has been another busy month of campaigning on the Egyptian situation so my grateful thanks to all of you who have supported calls for action.

#### Aser Mohamed : A Flight of Doves



My particular thanks to all those of you who made such a splendid effort to send me your dove messages appealing for the release of Aser Mohamed. As you will see, we had quite a flock of 22 birds to send to the Egyptian embassy, with copies and an accompanying letter to President al-Sisi. Disappointingly, we have now heard that the date of Aser's appeal hearing has been changed to 21 November. However, the flowers sent in his name last month and the flight of doves is certainly keeping his case uppermost in the minds of the Egyptian authorities and showing the extent of international support for him. Look out for a follow up campaign next month before his court hearing.

#### Case 173 Update

Following news of the dropping of charges against **Azza Soliman** and other human rights defenders last month, we have written, on behalf of the group, welcoming news of the dropping of charges against Azza Soliman and others and the lifting of the travel bans and asset freezes imposed on them. We reminded the Egyptian authorities of other NGOs and individual human rights defenders still facing charges and calling for the complete closure of Case 173.

#### Action: Egypt - Zyad el-Elaimy, Hossam Moanis and Hisham Fouad

Zyad el-Elaimy (human rights lawyer), Hossam Moanis (journalist) and Hisham Fouad (trade unionist)

- Amnesty believes these three men (to be prisoners of conscience, imprisoned solely because of their peaceful political activities and criticism of the government.
- Please respond to this Urgent Action for Egypt if you possibly can.

#### What you can do:

- Please use the template message below to email **President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** and copied to **HE Tarek Ahmed Ibrahim Adel** to appeal for their release and an immediate improvement in their conditions and treatment in prison.

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To: President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ([p.spokeman@op.gov.eg](mailto:p.spokeman@op.gov.eg))  
Copied to Tarek Ahmed Ibrahim Adel ([egtamboff@gmail.com](mailto:egtamboff@gmail.com))

*Your Excellency*

*Human rights lawyer and former parliamentarian **Zyad el-Elaimy**, journalist and politician **Hossam Moanis**, trade unionist and socialist politician **Hisham Fouad**, and three others were referred to trial in July 2021 in front of an Emergency State Security Court (ESSC) on the charge of "spreading false news to undermine the state, national security, public security and spreading panic among the people" in Case No.957/ 2021.*

*Amnesty International considers the three men to be prisoners of conscience, targeted solely due to their peaceful political activities. They have been held in pretrial detention since July 2019 and denied the right to challenge the lawfulness of their detention. Amnesty International also considers the conduct of their trial to be unfair and the call for Zyad el-Elaimy to be added to the 'terrorism list' to be unfounded.*

*I therefore ask you to immediately and unconditionally release Zyad el-Elaimy, Hossam Moanis, Hisham Fouad, as their detention is arbitrary and solely based on the peaceful exercise of their human rights. I also call on you to ensure that charges against them are dropped, and the decision to include Zyad el-Elaimy on the "terrorists list" rescinded. Pending their release, I urge you to ensure that they have access to adequate healthcare and are held in conditions meeting international standards for the treatment of prisoners.*

*Yours sincerely*

### Action: Morocco - Activist Mohamed Lamine Haddi

Mohamed – a Sahrawi activist held in solitary confinement since 2017 in Tiflet II prison, Morocco - on 15 July was permitted to make a 5-minute phone call to his family for the first time since 9 April this year. His lawyer told Amnesty International that Amnesty's support of Mohamed's case, through both the UA and relief aid, has been invaluable for this small but significant progress.

Mohamed's lawyer informed Amnesty in September that Mohamed has gone on hunger strike (again). He is now so poorly that he is unable to move. He told his lawyer on 24 September that because of his ill-health, and the fact that he remains unseen by a doctor, there is no reason for him to live. He was supposed to call his sister on 27 September but he didn't, most likely due to the fact that he is physically unable to move out of his cell in order to make the call. There has been no news from the prison either.

### What you can do:

Please take **urgent action** (owing to Mohamed's poor health situation), asking for your appeal to be forwarded to the Head of Government.

To: His Excellency Mr Abdessalam Aboudra  
[ambalondres@maec.gov.ma](mailto:ambalondres@maec.gov.ma)

**Please forward to Head of Government of the Kingdom of Morocco Saad Eddine el Othmani**

*Your Excellency*

*I am writing to express my grave concern about the incommunicado detention of **Mohamed Lamine Haddi** in Tiflet Prison in Rabat, Morocco. I understand that he is in a desperate situation having been held incommunicado in a punishment cell known as 'the coffin', 2 metres square without window, tap or toilet. I believe that he has been brutally treated while in detention with the result that he is now on hunger strike again and is so ill he can no longer move. Despite his severe deterioration he has not been treated by a doctor.*

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*His family have not heard from him nor received reports from the prison about his situation. He and other Gdeim Izik prisoners are already held in solitary confinement in cells for 23 hours a day in contravention of international legal standards. This is deeply inhumane and cruel.*

*I am writing, as a matter of the utmost urgency, to call upon you to use your good offices to demand an immediate improvement in his conditions and the provision of desperately needed medical care. Please ensure that his family and lawyer are informed about his situation and allowed immediate access to him before it is too late.*

*Yours sincerely*

**If you do not have access to email**, this is the address: His Excellency Mr Abdesselam Aboudrar, Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco, 6 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH

### Action: Tunisia - Whistleblower and parliamentarian Yassine Ayari

Yassine Ayari, is an outspoken parliamentarian and whistle-blower who exposed several corruption cases in Tunisia, has been held since 28 July in the Mornaguia prison, on the outskirts of Tunis. He is serving a two-month sentence pronounced by a military court in 2018 for his Facebook posts criticizing the army. The military court has initiated new prosecutions against him following his statements calling President Saied's assumption of exceptional powers on 25 July a "coup". Yassine Ayari started a hunger strike on 7 September to protest his prison conditions.



What you can do:

Please use the template below to email the President of the Republic, Kais Saied ([contact@carthage.tn](mailto:contact@carthage.tn)), calling for his immediate release.

*Your Excellency*

*I am writing to call upon you to order the immediate release of Yassine Ayari, a member of Parliament, who has been prosecuted by the Tunis Military court in breach of international legal standards such as Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. I believe him to be a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely because of exercising his right to freedom of expression to expose military corruption and his criticism of the decision to suspend parliament.*

*Yassine Ayari is also facing seven other prosecutions in cases before civilian courts, all stemming from his Facebook posts commenting on corrupt practices, including accusing political parties or their leaders of conflicts of interest and embezzlement. On 7 September, Yassine Ayari started a hunger strike to protest his unjust imprisonment and his prison conditions. He has denounced the fact that prison authorities have not allowed him to receive letters from his supporters or family.*

*I call on Your Excellency to release Yassine Ayari immediately and to drop the military prosecution against him, which stem from his exercise of his freedom of expression. I also call on the authorities to stop the prosecution of civilians before military courts and to halt the use of defamation laws as a repressive tool against critical voices.*

*Yours sincerely*

### Want to do more?

There are always cases to be done on Amnesty Urgent Action website: both email actions and written actions  
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