

STOCKPORT

Amnesty

AUTUMN 2021



BACK TO LIVE MEETINGS!

After two “practice” live meetings in July and September, we are pleased to formally announce that our meetings are back (relatively) to normal. We are happy to welcome old and new members and anyone with a shared interest in human rights. Our October meeting will be on Thursday 14th October.

Meeting at 7:45PM for 8PM in the Friends Meeting House, 91 Station Road, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 7BG on the second Thursday of the month. The building is on the corner of Station Road and Ramillies Avenue, opposite the Methodist Church.



(from 2007 when we didn't know about social distancing)

We will be following the current rules of the meeting house, maintaining a social distance and keeping the room ventilated. I'm optimistic that one day we will have to turn people away as we are too crowded – but not this month!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Our google group is how we send messages go to all our members.

For information on how to join our googlegroups for minutes and for general membership, send a message to:

amnestystockport@gmail.com

FACEBOOK PAGE: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STOCKPORT GROUP

TWITTER: @AISTOCKPORT

webpage: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/stockport>

RIGHTS FOR REFUGEES

Nationality and Borders Bill

This is a cruel piece of legislation which, if enforced, would largely shut down the UK's asylum system and criminalise people for trying to reach a place of safety

The bill is now back in the House of Commons. We have submitted evidence to the Committee scrutinising the bill and trying to build parliamentary support to oppose the asylum elements of the bill. We have been contacting our MPs to explain how this legislation, supposedly relating to economic migrants, will affect the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers.

In July we showed our support for refugees in the UK by arranging a walk for the Great Get Together during Refugee Week.



Amnesty National Conference 13th November

Join us for feast of sensational speakers, training sessions, performances, workshops and much, much more. Here is a flavour of what to expect.

- Inspirational speakers
- Upskill yourself with training sessions and workshops
- Hear directly from voices in our movement
- Stand up for human rights and learn about our current campaigns
- Dedicated time to meet fellow activists and build your community
- Take a stretch and moment to yourself with chair yoga and mindfulness sessions
- Watch incredible comedy acts and performances
- Bar, DJ and dancing in the evening (or quiet drinks and chat if you'd prefer)

For those unable to attend the conference, we will be livestreaming a selection of the programme at HRAC. This means that if you are unable to join in person, you will still be able to be a part of this great day. More information and the link to the livestream will be shared with you closer to the Conference

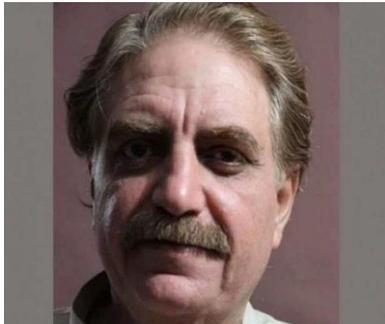
Get your tickets now before they go!

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IDRIS KHATTAK – Our Individual at Risk (IAR)



November 13th will be the second anniversary of the abduction of Idris Khattak. Idris is a human rights worker who 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 one of a number of groups who write regularly to the government in Pakistan on behalf of Idris and his family.

Please write (email) to the following addresses using the sample letter below or your own words:

Prime Minister Imran Khan
Prime Minister's Office
Constitution Avenue G-5/2
Islamabad
Pakistan
info@pmo.gov.pk

H.E. Moazzam Ahmad Khan
Pakistan High Commissioner in
London
34-36 Lowndes Square,
London,
SW1X 9JN
phclondon@phclondon.org

Your Excellency Prime Minister,

I am writing to express my deep concern about Muhammad Idris Khattak who forcibly disappeared on 13 November 2019.

I am disappointed that it has now been almost 2 years since his disappearance, yet his family still do not know where he is being held.

I understand that on 1 February 2021, the Peshawar High Court dismissed Idris Khattak's petition that challenged the jurisdiction of the Field General Court-Martial on his case. The verdict means that Idris Khattak's trial, which was paused in the Military Court, will now resume. Pakistan is party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). ICCPR gives individuals the right to public hearing, but the trial by the Military Court will deny Idris Khattak of the right for a public trial.

In respect of Idris Khattak's disappearance I call upon you to:

- Immediately disclose the location of Idris to his family.
- Ensure that Idris' enforced disappearance is promptly, thoroughly, independently and impartially investigated.
- Release Idris unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence – determined by an independent court - that he has committed an internationally recognized offence.

If Idris is committed to trial, ensure he receives a fair public trial in line with international law and standards.

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UK GOVERNMENT: STOP THE ASSAULT ON OUR FREEDOMS

A new Bill giving police sweeping powers - including additional powers to shut down peaceful protests - is going through Parliament. We cannot allow this to happen. Take action now and call on our Prime Minister to stop the assault on our freedoms. The right to protest is fundamental to a free and fair society. It's a right we have fought long and hard for. Without the right to protest, accountability and freedom suffers.



The Government's proposed 'Police Crackdown Bill' gets the balance dangerously wrong. Such an enormous and unprecedented extension of policing powers would put too much power in the hands of the state, to effectively ban peaceful protests should they see fit. Recent uses of excessive force by the police highlight precisely why Parliament must not grant further powers.

The police already have powers to prevent public assemblies from causing serious harm. This Bill does something entirely different – it cracks down on explicitly nonviolent dissent. [Sign the Amnesty petition here to help stop this legislation.](#)

SOUTH AMERICA: COLOMBIA

Colombia is the country in Latin America with the highest number of killings of human rights defenders and the second most dangerous in the world to carry out this work.

Who faces the most risk? The defenders who work to defend the land, territory, and environment in rural areas, in Indigenous, campesino (peasant farmer) and Afro-Colombian communities. They find themselves trapped between the violence caused by the armed conflict and disputes over land and natural resources. [Follow this link](#) to a petition calling for the Colombian Congress to ensure that human rights defenders have the guarantees necessary to continue protecting the environment.

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