

Newsletter: January 2022

Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



Dates for your diary	Tue 25 January 2022, 17:30: Introduction to Equity and Inclusion course (online) Thu 27 January 2022: Holocaust Memorial Day Sat 19 February 2022: Concert for Amnesty, Christ Church, Chichester (Provisional) Tue 15 March 2022: The country co-ordinator role (online talk) Thu 24 March 2022: Group AGM, Regis School of Music, Bognor Sun 19 June 2022 UK: Amnesty AGM (hybrid: online and in-person)
----------------------	---

Dear writers

Local events

Sat 19/02/2022, 19:30: Arias and Song for Amnesty, Christ Church, Chichester. Rebecca Grove (Soprano), Stephanie Peat (Mezzo Soprano), Charlie Wood (Tenor) and Peter Allwood (accompanist) will be performing a concert in aid of Amnesty International. The concert will include Aria, French and English Song. Admission is free with a retiring collection and all donations to Amnesty.

- We are working hard to ensure that you are welcomed to the event safely and in line with the current Government guidance.
- Hand sanitizing will be supplied and the space will be ventilated by open doors and windows, so you may wish to dress appropriately; we will also ensure that the up-to-date advice on face coverings is applied.
- We will have a copy of the event risk assessment available at the venue but do please contact us if you wish to view this in advance.

Other events

Thu 27/01/2022 Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD)

- Online: **UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day 2022** will be streamed online on **Thursday 27/01/2022 at 7pm**. You can register to watch the Ceremony online, which runs from 7pm to 8pm. At 8pm, get ready to **Light the Darkness**: households across the UK will be lighting candles and putting them in their windows to remember those who were murdered for who they were, and against prejudice and hatred today <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/ukhmd/>
- There are other online and local events to mark HMD, such as planting a memorial oak tree (e.g. Horndean), in-person commemorations (e.g. Havant) and online lectures (e.g. hosted by the Freud Museum, London). Details about the various activities can be found on the HMD website: <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/activities/>

Tue 25/01/2022, 17:30 - 19:30 Introduction to Equity and Inclusion course (online). This two-hour introductory learning session will look at the core principles of equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism. Facilitated by Amnesty's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Lead Danny Nasr, participants will explore the contemporary language of inclusion, gain a greater understanding of individual privilege and the impact it has on their roles, as well take part in constructive conversations on what anti-racism means for AIUK.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-equity-and-inclusion-tickets-219850768567>

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

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: January 2022

Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

Good News about Aser Mohamed

I am delighted to report some good news to start the New Year, although this is still unofficial and not yet for public information. We have heard that Aser Mohamed was acquitted at his court hearing on 2 January. We are awaiting confirmation that he has actually been released but, after 5 years in jail, we hope that this unfortunate teenager will now be able to rebuild his future. My sincere thanks to all of you who have supported his campaign and for all your efforts on his behalf: the deluge of flowers, emails and cards, including the New Year card to President al-Sisi (right).



Mohamed Baker, Alaa Abdel Fattah and Mohamed Radwan

Sadly, despite featuring prominently in the *Write for Rights Campaign 2021*, the news about the human rights lawyer, **Mohamed Baker** is extremely disappointing. I'm very sorry to report that **Mohamed Baker** (aka **Mohamed el-Baqer**), has been sentenced to a 4 year prison sentence after what has been described as 'a deeply unfair trial.' He and his co-defendants, **Alaa Abdel Fattah** and **Mohamed Radwan**, sentenced to 5 years and 4 years respectively, were sentenced by the Emergency State Security Court against which there is no right of appeal. This is particularly distressing in view of the dire conditions in which they are being held. We will await advice about what further action can be taken to support them.

New Year, New Action for Ibrahim Ezz el-Din (see below)

Since his arrest in 2019, housing rights researcher **Ibrahim Ezz el-Din** has been held in prolonged pre-trial detention and subject to alleged torture. His release was ordered in 2021 but the NSA then charged him with new offences and he is still detained and is in poor mental and physical health.



Action:

The Egyptian authorities are highly sensitive to international criticism relating to their contravention of their own laws, so this action aims to highlight the ways in which Ibrahim's treatment is unlawful under their own legal system. We are asked to choose one of the following abuses to highlight in appeals for his release to President al-Sisi (copied to Ambassador).

What you can do:

Please take a photo of yourself holding a placard or sheet of paper with one of the following statements written upon it and send the image with your message to the President and Ambassador.

Suggested Statements to write, Including the laws broken (choose one)

- Article 201 of the Code of Criminal Procedures (CCP): Only judges can order pre-trial detention.
 - Message: Free Ibrahim Ezz el-Din!
- Court of Cassation, "Criminal Circuit" (Case 26645/84 Judicial), 2 February 2015: Secret police investigations do not constitute "evidence" on their own.
 - Message: Free Ibrahim Ezz el-Din!

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: January 2022



Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group

- Article 126 of the Penal Code: Ibrahim's treatment amounts to torture.
 - Message: Free Ibrahim Ezz el-Din!
- Article 143 of the Code of Criminal Procedures (CCP): Pre-trial detention cannot exceed two years.
 - Message: Free Ibrahim Ezz el-Din!

Letters and emails: Please send letters and emails to both the President and the Egyptian ambassador. Emphasise the lack of legal justification for Ibrahim's treatment, stating concern about his mental health and asking for his immediate and unconditional release. Please attach the photograph to the emails or print it off to go with letters.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi (Dear President), Office of the President, Al Itthadia Palace, Cairo, Egypt
Email: p.spokesman@op.gov.eg

Copies to Ambassador

Tarek Ahmed Ibrahim Adel (Your Excellency), Egypt Ambassador to the UK, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 26 South St, London, W1K 1DW
Email: egtamboff@gmail.com

Tunisia: ex-minister and official arbitrarily detained



On 31 December 2021, men in civilian clothing arrested former Justice Minister **Nouredine Bhiri** and **Fathi Beldi**, a former Interior Ministry employee, in Tunis and took them to undisclosed locations. Nouredine Bhiri is also the vice president of Ennahda which was the majority party in parliament until President Kais Saied suspended it in July 2021; he is the most senior Ennahda official to be arrested since that move. Neither men have been formally charged. Nor have they had any access to their lawyers or been granted the opportunity to challenge their detention before a judicial authority. They must be immediately released.



On 25 July 2021, President Kais Saied suspended parliament and dismissed Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi, citing emergency powers under Article 80 of the Constitution. In September 2021, he issued Decree-Law 117, which suspended most of the Constitution; granting him total control of most aspects of governance, including the right to legislate through decrees and gave him supreme executive power. Since then, the authorities have imposed several repressive measures against judges, senior states officials and parliamentarians such as arbitrary house arrest and travel bans. There has also been an increasing pattern of referral of civilians, including opposition politicians and critics of the President, before military courts.

What you can do

- There is an Urgent Action on the Amnesty website which enables you to complete the action online if you prefer, or select a letter to print: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/ex-minister-and-official-arbitrarily-detained>
- This webpage also includes additional background about the case and about the current human rights situation in Tunisia follow the suspension of Parliament by President Kais Saied in July 2021.

Want to do more?

- Take the Urgent Actions highlighted on the Amnesty website: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions>
- These actions are a mixture of online and letters to be printed and posted, as you prefer.

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>