

BANBURY AREA GROUP AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



 @BanburyAmnesty  banburyamnesty
www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/banbury

NEWSLETTER 4
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We are ordinary people, who live in and around Banbury, who stand up for humanity and human rights. Our purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness and truth are denied.

We meet on the third Monday of each month except August. You are very welcome to join us. Sign up for email updates via the website.

As a global movement of over seven million people, Amnesty International is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation.

Current Campaigns

YILIYASIJIANG REHEMAN, CHINA

We are continuing to pursue the authorities to investigate the whereabouts of Yiliyasijiang Reheman after he 'disappeared' during deportation from Egypt to Xinjiang, China. We have written to Victoria Prentis MP and have received a reply from Amanda Milling MP the Minister of State for Asia and the Middle East at the Foreign, Commonwealth and International Development Office. The response states that the Government shares our deep concern about Yiliyasijiang's disappearance and the broader human rights situation in Xinjiang. It explains the actions the Government has taken to increase pressure on China to change its behaviour and that they will continue to do so. There was no specific update on the whereabouts of Yiliyasijiang Reheman.

PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES, ANGOLA

We are following up with the campaign co-ordinator to establish how best to use the funds we have raised for local activist Padre Pio. He was scheduled to fly to the UK but Covid stopped that in 2020. We are hoping that we can directly support the pastoralists who are facing starvation due to land grabs and climate change.

Further information of the situation can be found in the Amnesty report [Angola: The end of cattle's paradise](#)

STOP THE RIGHTS RAID



Group members met with our MP Victoria Prentis as part of the Stop the Rights Raid campaign. They discussed the Nationality and Borders Bill which is currently progressing through the House of Lords. The bill will criminalise refugees for trying to reach a place of safety while leaving no safe alternatives. We continue to challenge the Government's position on refugees and will be writing to Victoria Prentis to contest some of the claims she has made regarding the Bill's compatibility with the UK's global obligations.

KASHMIR

The activist led campaign, although in the early stages, is gathering momentum. An Advisory group has been established to support the co-ordinating group and has already suggested some campaign ideas. Approval for this new campaign has been given by Amnesty UK but final approval is awaited from the International Secretariat. We are planning to engage with the local Kashmiri-origin community on this issue.



Campaigning

WRITE FOR RIGHTS



The group's Write for Rights event in December was a great success with a steady stream of people coming to send solidarity messages and appeal letters. Everyone participating in this campaign makes a difference. The global action produces hundreds of thousands of appeals and messages of support. 8 out of the 10 cases in last years campaign are showing signs of positive progress.

ISRAEL'S APARTHEID AGAINST PALESTINIANS

A new report has found that Palestinians in Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel are forced to live with 'cruel policies of segregation, dispossession and exclusion' amounting to crimes against hu-

manity They are treated as 'inferior racial group and systematically deprived of their rights'. This is apartheid. Israel must dismantle this cruel system and the international community must pressure it to do so. [Read the Report](#) and [Take Action](#).

CONNECTION SUPPORT

We are very grateful to Debbie Hollingsworth of Connection Support for the clear and compelling account she gave us of the practicalities of resettling refugee families in our area. Connection Support have been commissioned by Cherwell District Council to handle refugee resettlement. They are currently involved in the resettlement of Syrian and Afghan refugee families but rely heavily on volunteer support.

If you can help then please contact debbiehollingsworth@connectionsupport.org.uk Help is needed to assist with transport (lifts to appointments etc.), befriending (being prepared to show people around the local area etc.) or providing furniture or kitchen equipment.

Forthcoming events

The turn of the year is the time for the Banbury Area Group to plan the events we would like to hold throughout the year. The highlight is to return to our Garden Party in the summer. Part fund raising, part awareness raising but also a very social event, with raffles, cakes, stalls, music and games, it's a wonderful afternoon.

We also intend to host regular talks about various aspects of human rights from around the world. It is also planned to take a stall at local Banburyshire events such as Pride. A film night and concert may also be held to raise awareness and funds for the

vital work Amnesty International does. Details of these events will be published on our website, Twitter and Instagram feeds and in future editions of this Newsletter.

Amnesty talks

Recently we have given several presentations to local organisations including secondary schools about human rights and the work Amnesty around the world. If you would like us to talk to your organisation, school or group about how you can get involved and stand up for human rights please contact us below.

To join our email list or for any queries about the Banbury Area Group please contact ian_myson@hotmail.com

To join Amnesty International contact [Amnesty.org.uk](https://www.amnesty.org.uk) and take action on urgent cases at [Amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions)

"INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE."

Martin Luther King, African-American civil rights activist