

# Newsletter: March 2022

## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



Dates for your diary	<b>Monday 25 April 2022: Planning meeting for British Nationals detained in Iran (online)</b> <b>Wednesday 27 April 2022: Group AGM, Regis School of Music, Bognor Regis (in person) RESCHEDULED</b> <b>Saturday 25 June 2022 UK: Amnesty AGM (hybrid: online and in-person)</b>
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Dear writers

This Newsletter will focus on actions you can take in support of human rights. We hope to have some events to share with you once we have held our Group AGM, sadly canceled at short notice and now rescheduled for Wednesday 27 April.

### Local events

**Wed 27/04/2022, 19:30 Group Annual General Meeting (in-person) - RESCHEDULED** Our Group Constitution orders an AGM every year, and we had to postpone the 2020 and 2021 events. We have provided you with our annual reports as a committee in our February 2022 Newsletter and hope that you will be able to attend the rescheduled Group AGM in Bognor, at the School of Music, Sudley Road.

### Other events

**Mon 25/04/2022, 19:00 - 20:30 Activist planning meeting for British Nationals arbitrarily detained in Iran (online).**

Amnesty UK invites you to join us for an activist planning meeting for British Nationals arbitrarily detained in Iran.

- In this meeting Amnesty will be sharing the latest updates and campaign strategy with you, and also welcomes your input in planning activities for 2022 in the campaign to free British Nationals detained in Iran. For further information about the British Nationals detained in Iran, please see the *Campaigns and letter-writing section*, below.
- This planning meeting is delivered online and can be booked via Amnesty International UK on [Eventbrite](#)

**Sat 25/06/2022 10:00 - 18:00 2022 Annual General Meeting of Amnesty International United Kingdom Section**

- This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held as a hybrid meeting on Saturday 25 June, at the Human Rights Action Centre (HRAC) in London at 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA.
- Members will also be able to access the meeting online.
- Information about attending can be found on the [Amnesty website](#)

### New short courses online

Amnesty has created a new space on their website for all the training and education Amnesty UK produces. Included is some helpful Activist Education you may find helpful: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/education/activist-education>

Carry on writing!

*Bob Dewick, Amnesty*

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### Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

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

This month has seen a reversal of fortunes in two of the cases reported in February.

- The good news is that **Azza Soliman's** travel ban has actually been lifted and she has been allowed to leave Egypt on a long awaited visit to family abroad.
- However, we are deeply disappointed to learn that **Aser Mohamed**, who seemed to be on the point of release now faces further charges. We will await advice on future campaigning on his behalf.

The group took part in an online action to highlight the case of **Ibrahim Ezz El Din** to coincide with a big football match (World Cup qualification final) involving the Egypt team. Ibrahim has now been unlawfully detained in pre trial detention for longer than the period permitted by Egyptian law and his family have joined with other detainees in the same situation to press for their release.



#### Action:

If you would like to email a message for one of the other detainees in this situation, **Mohamed Salah**, please use the template message below to send to the Public Prosecutor, Hamada al-Sawi ([m.office@ppo.eg.gov](mailto:m.office@ppo.eg.gov))

Public Prosecutor Hamada al-Sawi  
Office of the Public Prosecutor  
Madinat al-Rehab  
Cairo,  
Arab Republic of Egypt

Dear Counsellor

*I am writing to raise concerns about the ongoing arbitrary detention of journalist **Mohamed Salah** since 26 November 2019, without charge or trial, and to call for his immediate and unconditional release as he is held solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights. On 19 July 2020, a court ordered his release in relation to investigations into accusations of "joining a terrorist group" and "spreading false news".*

*However, he was not released and remains in pre-trial detention in violation of the Code of Criminal Procedures, which sets the maximum duration for pre-trial detention at two years for crimes punishable by the death penalty or life imprisonment. He has not been charged, presented with evidence linking him to any crime, or allowed to challenge the lawfulness of his detention.*

*On 23 July 2020, Mohamed Salah was transferred to Dar Essalam police station, where he remained held until his transfer to the Tora Investigations Prison on 10 January 2021. During this period, he reported being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment including beatings and denial of medical care, but no investigations were opened into his claims.*

*I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Mohamed Salah as he is held solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights and to open prompt, independent, impartial, transparent, and effective investigations into allegations that he has been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in Dar Essalam police station with a view of bringing those suspected to be responsible to justice.*

Yours sincerely

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### Update: Ukraine

Amnesty International globally has formally declared a Crisis Response. An Urgent Crisis Coordination Team on Ukraine has been established; there are significant areas of work underway on the human rights situation including directly with refugees in the many hundreds of thousands who have crossed borders, as well as more broadly in evidence gathering, advocacy, security planning and of course campaigning.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a human rights catastrophe and Amnesty is calling on the UK government to urgently:

- Strengthen international efforts to protect civilians, provide humanitarian relief and help bring suspected perpetrators of crimes under international law to justice.
- Press for parties to the conflict to create & respect humanitarian corridors to safe havens, for all civilians to have access to transportation and time to leave, and for international observers to be granted access to monitor their safe passage.
- Fulfil the commitment to provide sanctuary to 200,000 Ukrainian refugees in the UK by providing safe routes to travel here, such as by a temporary visa waiver.
- Abandon measures which will do serious damage to the UK's asylum system.

Please take and share our current online action [here](#)

Amnesty staff recently returned from a research mission to Poland-Ukraine border, where they found evidence of chaotic and racist response to people fleeing Ukraine. Amnesty's [Crisis Evidence Lab](#) continues to monitor and expose human rights violations.

### Update: British Nationals in Iran

We would like to thank you for your support in the campaign for **Nazanin and Anoosheh**. We are delighted that they've been reunited with their families in the UK. Thank you for your campaigning and solidarity over the past six years.

While Nazanin and Anoosheh have been reunited with their families, we continue our campaign for **Morad Tahbaz and Mehran Raoof**, who are still arbitrarily detained in Iran.

Please continue to campaign with us, and contact your local MP (using the template letter below) to ask them to raise Morad's and Mehran's cases with the Foreign Secretary, asking for them to not be forgotten and calling for their release, and to ask them to raise their cases publicly and mention Morad and Mehran in Parliament.

You are invited to join an activist planning meeting for British Nationals arbitrarily detained in Iran on 25 April. In this meeting, Amnesty UK will be sharing the latest updates and campaign strategy with you, and welcome your input in planning activities for 2022 in the campaign to free British Nationals detained in Iran. Information about joining the online meeting can be found in the *Events* section on page 1.



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## Newsletter: March 2022

### Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



[x] MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

dd/mm/2022

Dear [x],

#### **Re: Urgent – Morad Tahbaz – British national detained in Iran**

I am a constituent (please find my details and postcode below) and I am writing to you regarding the ongoing arbitrary detention of Morad Tahbaz, a 66-year-old British national and conservationist.

According to Amnesty International UK, Morad has been arbitrarily detained in Iran for over four years:  
(i) after his arrest on 10 January 2018, he was held in prolonged solitary confinement for eight months;  
(ii) he is serving an unjust 10-year sentence for spying charges in connection with his conservation work;  
and (iii) he suffers from multiple underlying health conditions and is a cancer patient.

When the welcome news of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori's release broke, we were told by the Foreign Secretary, on 16 March 2022, that Morad had also been released from prison on furlough, and that he would also be reunited with his family and loved ones. Morad's family said that the news regarding Morad was misleading and that they were bitterly disappointed that he was not on the plane with Nazanin and Anoosheh. Morad was placed under strict house arrest for two days before being returned to prison, where he now remains. Morad spent 7 days on hunger strike to protest what happened to him. His family have said he was left behind by the UK government and are urging immediate intervention in his case.

As my MP I am requesting that you urgently write to the Foreign Secretary regarding Morad's case and the cases of other British Nationals (including **Mehran Raoof**) that remain in arbitrary detention in Iran.

Please urge the Foreign Secretary to do everything she can to secure the release and return home of all British nationals that remain unfairly detained in Iran.

Yours sincerely,

[Full name]  
[Address including postcode]

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