

STOCKPORT Amnesty SPRING 2022



FOOTBALL WELCOMES!

In March, at a week's notice, we managed to pull together a Football Welcomes Refugees event with Stockport County Football Club.

The Club were participating in a national event showing solidarity with Ukraine and wanted people to help with a collection for the DEC Ukraine appeal. We raised an amazing £1643.13

County Players wore Football Welcomes T-Shirts for the warm up and we got a good page of information on the campaign in the programme.

Football Welcomes is an annual part of the Refugees Welcome Campaign, which aims to portray positive images of the contribution of refugees in the UK. We hope this will be the start of an ongoing relationship with County.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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

To join our googlegroup for general membership, send a message to:

aistockport+subscribe@googlegroups.com

To get copies of our monthly minutes sent a message to: [aistockport-](mailto:aistockport-minutes+subscribe@googlegroups.com)

minutes+subscribe@googlegroups.com

FACEBOOK PAGE: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STOCKPORT GROUP

TWITTER: @AISTOCKPORT

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

CRISIS IN UKRAINE

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](#).

You can find our latest parliamentary briefing and MP action for Amnesty groups [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](#). Our [Crisis Evidence Lab](#) continues to monitor and expose human rights violations.

COME TO OUR MONTHLY MEETING

We meet regularly at 7:45PM for 8PM on the second Thursday of the month.

At: the Friends Meeting House, 91 Station Road, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 7BG

The building is on the corner of Station Road and Ramillies Avenue, opposite the Methodist Church.

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Amaretti Concert Raises £1100

Thanks to the Amaretti Orchestra for donating the proceeds from their February concert to Stockport Amnesty! The event was very well attended and Helen, our Chair, was able to give a brief talk at the interval about the work of Amnesty. It is a sad truth that the war in Ukraine has generated a level of awareness of the fragility of our Human Rights which I'm sure helped on the night with our bucket collection. We sent nearly 40 cards on behalf of Idris Khattak, a Human Rights worker detained in Pakistan.

We got a nice piece in the Stockport Express too!



END ISRAELI APARTHEID



Across Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Palestinians are treated as an inferior racial group and systematically deprived of their rights. **This is apartheid.** This new campaign aims to raise international awareness about the situation in Israel and the Occupied Territories. There is a 15 minute video on youtube which summarises the issues raised in a lengthy Amnesty Report. [You can access the video here](#)

To take action on this campaign there is a link to an [online petition](#).

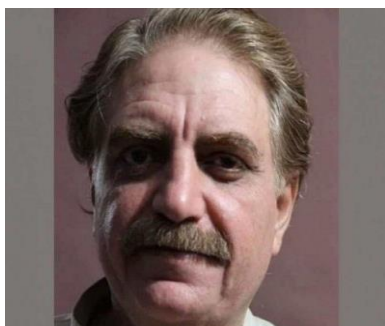
AIUK are calling for:

- By the end of 2022, actions challenging Israel's system of apartheid will increase in the UK across all targeted audiences.
- By the end of 2022, the UK government and political parties take meaningful steps towards recognising the system that Israel imposes on Palestinians as apartheid.
- By the end of 2022, the Israeli authorities take meaningful steps towards ending the practice of forced evictions and home demolitions in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

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IDRIS KHATTAK Our Individual at Risk

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. We believe he has now been tried by a military court on charges of treason and sentenced to 14 years in prison. 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 understand Idris Khattak has been sentenced by a military court to 14 years imprisonment for allegedly passing on official secrets to foreign agents.

The UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner has described Mr. Khattak's reported sentencing as "an attack against the human rights community in Pakistan". As a civilian, he should be tried by a civilian court.

I call on you to ensure the full restoration of Mr. Khattak's human rights, including unrestricted access to lawyers, a full medical assessment, his right to a civilian trial in full compliance with due process and his right not to be detained arbitrarily.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT 2021/22

The Amnesty International Report gives a yearly update on major Human Rights issues around the world. If you have an interest in a particular country or region you can read the report in more depth [here](#)



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PANUSAYA SITHIJTRAWATTANAKUL (RUNG)



Rung – which means “rainbow” in Thai – became politically active while studying sociology and anthropology at university in the capital, Bangkok. She bravely took part in protests for social and political change throughout 2020. By August, she had become a protest leader. Watched by thousands, Rung called for equality, freedom of expression and – what is a highly sensitive topic in Thailand – the reform of the monarchy. Accused of provoking unrest, she was arrested in March 2020 under a lèse-majesté law that outlaws criticism of the monarchy. She was imprisoned for 60 days

during which she was diagnosed with Covid-19. The authorities denied her bail six times. In defiance, she went on a 38-day hunger strike and was released on 30 April 2021. Rung faces dozens of charges against her and, if found guilty, life imprisonment. “Once you step into the prison; you will no longer feel that your humanity is still intact,” she says.

Please send this message to the following emails:

prforeign@gmail.com prforeign@prd.go.th rtelondon@thaiembassyuk.org.uk

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha, Office of the Prime Minister, Pitsanulok Road, Bangkok 10300, Thailand

Dear Prime Minister

I call upon you to immediately drop all the criminal proceedings against Panusaya (Rung) Sithijirawattanakul and others charged solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression.

I look forward to your government stating that they will comply with my request.

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