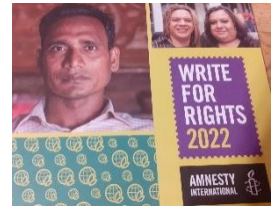




News from the Minehead Group



www.amnesty.org.uk/minehead www.facebook.com/amnestyminehead Instagram: @amnestyminehead

Actions you can take this month:

- ✓ **Support** our **Write for Rights Coffee Morning** on Friday 9 December 1000 to 1200 in the Avenue Methodist Church, Minehead. Enjoy tea/coffee and cake and sign letters to the authorities and messages of solidarity to people from around the world featured in this year's campaign.
- ✓ **Visit** our Amnesty Tree in the Minehead **Christmas Tree Festival** at the Avenue Methodist Church from 2 to 4 December open from 1000 to 1600 on Friday and Saturday and 1200 to 1600 on Sunday. We have decorated the tree with pictures from the **Write for Rights** campaign booklet.
- ✓ **Make a diary date** to come along to our **AGM** on Thursday 9 February at 1430 at the Quaker Meeting House in Minehead. After a short business meeting, Cherry Bird will give a talk on human rights in **Sri Lanka**. Please come along and make sure we are quorate!
- ✓ **Sign the petition** to the Iranian Embassy in London calling on the authorities to stop the bloodshed in **Iran**. During protests in response to the death of Mahsa (Zhin) Amini, Iran's authorities have used violence, killing dozens, with impunity. You can find the petition on the AIUK website: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/woman-life-freedom>
- ✓ **And** if you haven't managed to get to any of our Write for Rights events, you can still find actions on the AIUK website <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/>

News from our group

Harp Concert *Cherry writes:*

On 21 October, in Carhampton Village Hall, more than 40 people enjoyed a delightful afternoon tea concert by Hazel Prior, with harp music and songs drawn largely from folk traditions, including favourites such as Scarborough Fair. In addition to her talent as a musician, Hazel is also a successful author, and many people took advantage of the opportunity to buy her latest novel, Call of the Penguins. We raised £300 for Amnesty's work and are grateful to Hazel for giving us her time free of charge. Here are some photos of the event, including the happy kitchen team.



AIM's 20th anniversary *Alison writes:* 2022 is the 20th anniversary of the Minehead Amnesty International local group. So we were delighted when our founders, Chris and Christina Lawson, joined us from their present home in Lewes for supper at the Spice Merchant restaurant in Watchet on 23 October. Twelve members and supporters enjoyed the occasion: the company, the reminiscences, and the good food. We hope that in 20 years' time there will still be an Amnesty International group in Minehead.

Campaign News

Afghanistan [Cherry Bird]

The lives of women in Afghanistan continue to be severely restricted by the extremist form of Sharia law imposed by the Taliban government. Every single human right is under threat under the Taliban regime, affecting not only women, but also their families and communities. Policies severely restrict women's freedom of movement and expression and undermine girls' access to education and employment. The Taliban have eroded two decades of women's contributions to the country. To mark this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Amnesty is highlighting the plight of Afghan women. Please share a message of support and help stop the roll back on human rights in Afghanistan: Take action now and sign our petition:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/stop-the-roll-back-on-human-rights-in-afghanistan/>

India: BK16 [Cherry Bird]

We are expecting a petition for the BK16 to go live on Amnesty's website on 10 December – Human Rights Day. Meanwhile, there is news that, under a ruling from the Supreme Court, one of the BK16 prisoners, Gautam Navlakha, was released from prison on 19 November because of his failing health. Although this is a positive development, he is to remain under house arrest, and the fact that he is in such poor health after years in prison is hardly cause for optimism. It is also worth noting that the Indian Government challenged the Court, saying he remained a security risk, but was over-ruled by the Court.



Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories [Source: AIUK website]

Recent news was that a school was demolished in Masafer Yatta in the Occupied West Bank. 1,150 people in the area remain at risk of having their homes demolished and being forcibly removed. Israel's execution of this large-scale expulsion would amount to forcible transfer, which is a war crime and crime against humanity - and takes place within the wider context of Israel's system of apartheid. You can find an urgent action concerning this situation, at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/6240/2022/en/>

Diary Dates

The Minehead Group aims to meet or take action together approximately once a month. All Amnesty supporters are welcome to join us!

Thurs 2 February

Planning meeting
1400-1600 at the Beach Hotel.

Thurs 9 February

Minehead Group's AGM 1400 for 1430 at the Quaker Meeting House, Bancks Street

Friday 10 March

Street Stall 1000-1200 in Minehead for International Women's Day (details tbc)

Saturday 24 June

Amnesty Cantata 3pm at St Andrew's Church, Minehead. Conducted by Emily Feldberg, the composer, performed by a choir and small orchestra. Followed by tea & cake.



That's all for this month, but....

Here is a picture of our Amnesty tree in the 2022 Minehead Christmas Tree Festival.

We wish all our members and supporters a very happy festive season and good campaigning in 2023.

How to contact the Minehead Amnesty International Local Group:

Website: www.amnesty.org.uk/minehead

Email: amnestyminehead@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/amnestyminehead

Instagram: [@amnestyminehead](https://www.instagram.com/amnestyminehead)

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Treasurer: Cherry Bird Tel. 01984 641052 Email: cherrybird@gmail.com

Newsletter, website & press: Susan Mew 01643 821209 Email: brightmanmew@btinternet.com