



Dates for your diary	Thursday 25/04/2023, 19:30 Group Annual General Meeting (in-person, Chichester) Saturday 24/06/2023 Amnesty UK AGM: London and online (hybrid meeting) Summer (date tbc): Pumble
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Dear writers

Local events

REMINDER: Thu 25/04/2023, 19:30 Group Annual General Meeting (in-person) Our Group Constitution orders an AGM every year. We would like to provide you with our annual reports as a committee, which are included with this Newsletter and hope that you will be able to attend the Group AGM in Chichester.

- Agenda and reports are available in the March 2023 Newsletter.

Summer event: Pumble (pub ramble). I am investigating a number of possible routes for our Group Pumble this summer. If you are interested in coming along this year, please could you let me know if you would prefer a flat, coastal Pumble or a hilly Downs Pumble?

Other events

- **Saturday 24/06/2023, 10:00 - 17:00: Amnesty UK Annual General Meeting.**
 - This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held as a hybrid meeting at the Human Rights Action Centre (HRAC) in London at 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA. You will also be able to participate remotely.
 - Amnesty's AGM offers all members - groups, individuals and networks – their say in Amnesty International UK.
 - <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting-2023> to apply to attend
- **Online course: Confronting and Countering Gender Based Violence.**
 - This new course explores gender-based violence as a global pandemic that disproportionately affects women, girls and gender-nonconforming individuals. Learn about the various forms of violence that constitute this crime against humanity, and explore strategies for preventing and addressing it.
 - You can access this and other online courses on the Amnesty Academy page [here](#) just by signing up.
 - You can also access the courses on [Futurelearn](#) by clicking the 'Join with limited access' button after registering.

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

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For more information about this Group, go to: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/bognor-chichester-and-district>

Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

Alaa Abdel Fattah

Alaa is well physically and mentally now. His prison conditions have changed slightly - he can watch sport (but nothing else) on TV. He can exercise but only in a hall, not outdoors. He can receive books. At his sister Mona's last visit, they talked mostly about her pregnancy (her baby is due in early June).

The Egyptian authorities are making it difficult for Alaa to renounce his Egyptian citizenship, a prerequisite before he is treated as British. This is a barrier they did not impose when Sanaa was in prison and obtained her British citizenship. Alaa is particularly wanting to have access to consular visits which continue to be denied by the Egyptian authorities.

There has been a lot of discussion of Egypt at UN level, which Amnesty, the family and the Foreign Office have contributed to.

- Sanaa Seif, Alaa's sister, [spoke about Alaa](#) on 14th March at the UN Human Rights Council
- The UK gave a [Statement](#) under Item 4 General Debate to the Human Rights Council meeting on 22nd March 2023.
- "The ongoing detentions of human rights defenders and reports of worsening prison conditions in Egypt is concerning. We urge Egypt to ensure media can operate freely, and lift travel bans and asset freezes on civil society leaders, including Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights staff."
- Amnesty International Secretariat sent a [submission](#) about Egypt to the UN Human Rights Committee to inform its findings. The UN Human Rights Committee published its [findings on Egypt](#) on 24th March 2023.

Action:

Alaa's sisters have asked us to take an action during Ramadan. This is because the President pardons some prisoners when Ramadan ends at Eid.

Please send a card to President Al-Sisi. Your card can be an Eid Mubarak card or a plain card, bought or handmade. Margaret has also created a template for you to copy, if you prefer.

Please write **Ramadan Mubarak** inside the card: this means Have a blessed Ramadan or happy Ramadan

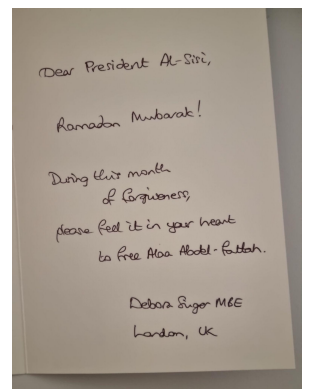
Then write your own message asking the President to free Alaa, or use one of these messages

- During this month of forgiveness, please pardon Alaa Abdelfattah
- During Ramadan, please feel it in your heart to free Alaa
- This Eid, please make Khaled's dream come true and release his father, Alaa Abdelfattah

Please include your name and where you are writing from.

Please send your card to: **President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, c/o Embassy of Egypt, 26 South Street, London, W1K 1DW**

Please post your card by **Monday 17th April** so that the embassy can send it to the President before 21st April (Eid, when Ramadan is expected to end)



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Newsletter: April 2023

Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



To: President Al-Sisi



During this month of forgiveness, please pardon Alaa Abdel Fattah and reunite him with his family

from

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