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| Dates for your diary | Sunday 06/08/2023, 11:00 - 14:00: Hiroshima Day event, Chichester<br>Saturday 12/08/2023, meeting 11:00-11:15: Downs Pumble from Singleton; The Fox Goes Free<br>Monday 25/09/2023, 18:00 - AIUK General Election Campaign - Skillshare Share (online)<br>Monday 09/10/2023, 18:00 - AIUK General Election Campaign - Organising Brainstorming<br>Saturday 04/11/2023: AIUK National Conference Human Rights Action Centre, London |
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Dear writers

### Local events

- **Saturday 12/08/2023:** date confirmed for our annual **Pumble** (“pub-ramble”). Meeting at Singleton (60 bus leaving Chichester Cathedral at 10:48, arriving 11:07; car users park near the village hall) between 11:00 and 11:15. Proposed pub is The Fox goes Free <https://www.thefoxgoesfree.com/> We will need to book a table for food, so please confirm your attendance by **Sunday 30/07/2023**, so we can book a suitable sized table; and also share the proposed walking route with you (01243 823016)
- **Coming soon: Members’ survey.** Following the Group AGM in April, we’ve been working on a short members’ survey to seek feedback on what we are currently doing, whether you are happy with how we are doing it and if you want to suggest things we might want to do in future. **This will go out to members** either by email (for those of you who receive this Group newsletter by email) or by post, **at the start of September**. We look forward to hearing your feedback!

### Other events

#### Amnesty Summer Raffle

- You could win £5,000 and help individuals at risk at the same time. Tickets are £2.00 per entry and can be bought online no later than 25/07/2023: <https://raffle.amnesty.org.uk/>, organised by the Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust.

#### Urge Japan to end the death penalty: Saturday 05/08/2023 12:00.

- In-person, at the Embassy of Japan, London, W1 7JT. Contact Rachael Foster at Amnesty HQ [Rachael.Foster@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Rachael.Foster@amnesty.org.uk) for details

#### Commemoration of Hiroshima Day, Sunday 06/08/2023, 11:00 - 14:00.

- Outside the Chichester City Council House, North Street, Chichester. Group hopes to have petitions to sign, and will be giving out leaflets about peace issues.

#### Monday 25/09/2023, 18:00 - AIUK General Election Campaign - Skillshare Share with Activists (online).

- Contact [thea.ioannou@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:thea.ioannou@amnesty.org.uk)

#### Monday 09/10/2023, 18:00 - AIUK General Election Campaign - Organising Brainstorming with Activists (online).

- Contact [thea.ioannou@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:thea.ioannou@amnesty.org.uk)

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# Newsletter: July/August 2023

## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



### We have some good news to share!

After years of injustice, 4 human rights defenders in Türkiye - including former Amnesty staff - have finally been acquitted of the charges against them. Many of you will have written actions for them over the years, including Write for Rights actions and individual actions in support.

Taner, İdil - who are founders of Amnesty Türkiye - and Günel & Özlem were acquitted last week after a lengthy ordeal that included 12 hearings over the course of 6 years. Outside the Court, Taner said that the news was bittersweet, since every allegation was repeatedly and comprehensively proven baseless many times - including in the state's own police report. But now, all four human rights defenders can live their lives, finally free of judicial harassment.



### Some more good news to share!

Thanks to your continuous support and action, last week the *Rights Removal Bill* (aka 'Bill of Rights') was officially announced to be scrapped by the UK Government. This proposed legislation threatened to strip us of our Human Rights Act - our invisible safety net that protects all our human rights. Thank you for taking action on this.



### Immigration Bill Update

The government's latest immigration Bill has passed through the Commons and is currently being debated in the House of Lords. Despite widespread criticism, the government continues to push this bill.

If you haven't done so already, please email Rishi Sunak directly calling him to stop this cruel bill <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/stop-cruel-bill-email-rishi-now>



**Foreign Office complacent over Britons held overseas**: Richard Ratcliffe expresses his disappointment of Foreign Office's complacency in securing the release of British nationals overseas (*The Guardian*, 06/07/2023, no paywall). Article mentions Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Alaa Abd el-Fattah.

### Palestine at Home

Amnesty recently launched the first instalment of their new #PalestineAtHome series. In the video, Palestinian chef Joudie Kalla teaches comedian Guz Khan how to cook Fattet Makdous. You can watch the video and download the recipe card on the Amnesty [website](#).

Amnesty also recently launched an online action calling on the leaders of UK political parties to commit to banning the import of goods originating from illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank - you can write to your MP [here](#).

Carry on writing!

*Bob Dewick, Amnesty*

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## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



### Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

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

##### **More good news! Mohamed Baker (aka Mohamed el-Baqer) and Patrick Zaki**

I am sure that all of you who have campaigned so long in support of Mohamed Baker, Alaa Abd El-Fattah's lawyer, will be delighted to hear that he, and another of our urgent action cases Patrick Zaki, have just received a presidential pardon and been released.



As you may remember, Mohamed Baker (right) and Alaa Abd El-Fattah were imprisoned together at one stage in appalling conditions so we are hugely relieved to learn of his release and hope that this might indicate a softening of attitude on the part of the Egyptian authorities which may lead to improvements in Alaa's situation.

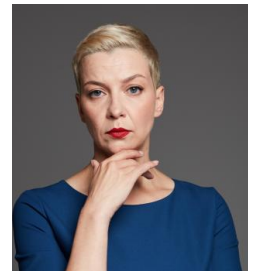


Patrick Zaki (left) is a human right researcher who was arrested in February 2020 on his return to Egypt after studying in Italy. He was interrogated, tortured and imprisoned because of his human rights activities in Egypt.

Sincere thanks to all of you who have taken action on their behalf. Please keep on campaigning until all our prisoners of conscience are released!

#### Belarus: Action to stop ill-treatment of jailed opposition leader

Belarusian authorities should immediately and unconditionally release and end the ill-treatment of **Maryia Kalesnikava**. She is a prominent opposition figure and symbol of the 2020 peaceful protest, and has been behind bars since September 2020. Maryia has been ill-treated by the penal colony administration and her health has deteriorated. She has been denied any communication with her family and lawyers since mid-February, including calls, letters or visits.



Please take action for **Maryia Kalesnikava** online:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/stop-ill-treatment-jailed-opposition-leader>

#### Indonesia: Action to seek release of environmental rights defender

On 24/03/2023, environmental activist **Heri Budiawan** (known as **Budi Pego**) was jailed for a second time in Banyuwangi, East Java, for "crimes against state security" after the Supreme Court rejected his appeal, and decided to increase his punishment from 10 months to 4 years in prison. His case was the first conviction under the article banning a communist ideology, since the downfall of Soeharto in 1998. Budi Pego is being targeted for his work as a human rights defender and must be immediately and unconditionally released.

Please take action for **Heri Budiawan** online:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/environmental-rights-defender-must-be-released>

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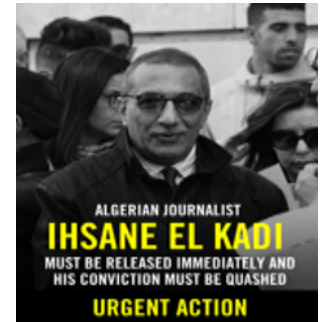
## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



### Algeria: Urgent Action on behalf of Ihsane El Kadi

On 18th June, the Algiers Court of Appeal announced the verdict of journalist Ihsane El Kadi's appeals trial, confirming his conviction and increasing his sentence from five to seven years, two of which are suspended.

This is the heaviest sentence against a journalist since the election of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune in 2019. Ihsane El Kadi was convicted on charges of receiving funds "that could harm the security of the state" and receiving foreign funds "for political propaganda". The appeals court failed to recognize and remedy violations against Ihsane El Kadi from the moment of his arrest



What you can do:

Please use the template letter below appealing his immediate release from arbitrary detention in El Harrach prison, and the overturning of his conviction

- To: President Abdelmadjid Tebboune Email: [President@el-mouradia.dz](mailto:President@el-mouradia.dz)
- To: Algerian National Human Rights Council (CNDH) Email: [contact@cndh.org.dz](mailto:contact@cndh.org.dz)

*Your Excellency*

*I am writing to express my deep concern about the conviction on appeal and the increase in journalist Ihsane El Kadi's sentence from five to seven years in prison, of which two are suspended, on trumped up and vague charges used to criminalize journalism.*

*On 18 June, the Algiers Court of Appeal announced its verdict following an appeals trial initiated by Ihsane El Kadi's defence team. His defence team argued in the appeals hearing that his right to a fair trial had been violated throughout the proceedings. For example, according to one of Ihsane El Kadi's lawyers, the Court of Appeal did not examine any of the evidence presented by the defence team during the appeals trial. The defence team also asked that the trial proceedings be cancelled due to the illegal nature of Ihsane El Kadi's arrest and imprisonment.*

*The appeals court, instead of taking this opportunity to recognize that Ihsane El Kadi should not have been arrested and prosecuted in the first place and to quash his conviction, has deepened the violations perpetrated against him and extended the time of his arbitrary imprisonment.*

*I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Ihsane El Kadi and quash his conviction. I further demand that you end the targeted crackdown and censorship of independent media and journalists in Algeria through vaguely worded articles of the Penal Code which are used to violate the right to freedom of expression.*

*Yours sincerely*

Want to do more?

### **Urgent Action Network**

When you take action here, you do it as part of a movement of tens of thousands of people across the world, working together to raise our voices, demand justice and make change happen. Please do take action in solidarity with individuals at risk everywhere: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions>

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