

CAN YOU HELP?

Amnesty is well supported on the Island but the group would welcome more active members.

The group meets on the first Friday of each month to plan future campaign activities and fund raising events. It is not essential to attend group meetings to take part in any of our campaigns, as they can be effectively undertaken from home. Full details will be sent with each action.

If you would like to receive your copy of the Isle of Wight Amnesty News via e-mail or require information on any event or any aspect of Amnesty's work, please contact one of the Officers listed below or e-mail us at: stubbsrw@btinternet.com. For further news and latest updates visit our website at:-

www.amnesty.org.uk/isleofwight

CHAIRMAN: Bryn Davis 406125

TREASURER: Bob Stubbs 883095

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY **FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2025**

FEBRUARY

Friday 7th 7:30 pm **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

MARCH

Friday 7th 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING**
Sunday 30th 2:00 pm **WALK AND TEA**

APRIL

Friday 4th 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING**

MAY

Friday 2nd 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING**

JUNE

Sunday 1st 12:00 noon **BARBECUE IN THE WOODS**
Friday 6th 7:30 pm **GENERAL MEETING**
Sunday 29th 12:00 noon **GARDEN PICNIC**



ISLE OF WIGHT AMNESTY NEWS



JANUARY 2025



Manahel al-Otaibi

Fitness instructor and activist, Manahel al-Otaibi is in prison because of her social media posts championing women's rights in Saudi Arabia. She was forcibly 'disappeared' and subjected to solitary confinement and torture.

Manahel was referred to the Specialised Criminal Court on the basis that her actions "violated religious principles and social values and disrupted public order". In a secret trial she was sentenced to eleven years in prison.

Since Manahel's phone has been taken away and she has been denied access to lawyers, all contact with her has been lost. Her sister is deeply concerned.

Local Amnesty supporters and visitors to Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival have signed a message of love and support to Manahel and we hope she receives it.

Our individual efforts may be small, but together we can influence things and bring about change.

Why not join the Isle of Wight Group?
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

GOOD NEWS!

11 People Released:

Rita Karasartova, Kyrgyzstan
Thulani Maseko, Eswatini
Maung Sawyeddollah, Myanmar
Aleksandra Skochilenko, Russia
Omar Radi, Morocco
Taoufik Bouachrine, Morocco
Soulaïmane Raïssouni, Morocco
Abdulmalik Bajabu from
Guantanamo Bay to Kenya
Ridah Bin Saleh al-Yazidi from
Guantanamo Bay to Tunisia
Naryan Mansour al-Walsali, Libya
Hakamada Iwao, Japan, the
“world's longest serving death row
prisoner.” At the age of 88 he had
spent 45 years in prison.

CAMPAIGNING

WRITE FOR RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Valerie launched our campaign with appeals to the authorities on behalf of nine people whose rights had been abused. Visitors to Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival signed three IOW maps with messages of love and support to Ana da Silva Miguel, Angola; Oqba Hashad, Egypt, and Manahel al-Otaibi, Saudi Arabia. Altogether 192 signatures were collected.

NORTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION.

We joined in the appeals to President Biden about Guantanamo Bay. We also urged the President to order the release of Leonard Peltier on humanitarian grounds. The Native American activist has been imprisoned

for nearly 50 years, accused of murder despite serious concerns about the fairness of his trial. He suffers from several chronic ailments and needs to be with his family to care for him. .

NORTH AFRICA CAMPAIGN.

Alaa Abdel Fattah, the Egyptian pro-democracy activist, has completed his 5 year sentence but has still not been released. His mother continues her hunger strike outside the Foreign Office where she attracts attention from journalists and supporters .

We appealed for the release of Oqba Hashad, an Egyptian business student, who has been detained without trial for five years solely because of his brother's human rights activism. He is detained despite a court order for his release.

We have urged the Egyptian government to release Mahmoud Hussein. In June he was sentenced to three years in prison for wearing an anti-torture T-shirt when he joined a protest in Cairo.

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN.

The group has campaigned to protect women's rights around the world. Research from Amnesty International's network brought to our notice the remarkable and inspiring actions of women who are standing up for their rights and the rights of others in the most dangerous and terrifying circumstances.

Actions on behalf of women and girls were sent to the USA, Buenos Aires, Ecuador, Argentina, Egypt, Poland, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Belarus and China. Actions included Justyna Wydrzynska, from Poland, convicted for helping a woman in an abusive relationship to access a safe abortion.

We also appealed for the release of Natalya Filonova, activist and journalist from Russia's eastern Siberia, imprisoned for a peaceful protest against the conscription of men to fight in the Russian military in the war in Ukraine.

A petition was signed calling on the president of South Korea not to abolish the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family.

We took part in a postcard action, mailed out to individual voters in various districts in the state of Arizona, encouraging them to say “yes” in the vote on the Abortion Access Act in November 2024. Personal healthcare, including abortion, belongs to the individual person not the politicians.

ANTI DEATH PENALTY.

Good News! In Texas, Melissa Lucio is set to have her death sentence and conviction overturned after flaws in her original trial process were discovered.

We have campaigned on behalf of four Americans, one in a case where after the jury voted for life the judge imposed a death sentence, and another where the defendant refused to plead guilty although there was strong evidence he was suffering from paranoia; also on behalf of two Iranians, one in the region Isfahan involving the case of a famous rapper Toomaj Salehi who however has since had his death sentence overturned and has been released from prison; and on behalf of a Vietnamese woman sentenced to death for embezzling funds.

In the USA death penalty opponents are urging companies to cut off supplies of nitrogen to states that are

seeking to implement nitrogen hypoxia as an execution method. President Joe Biden was to commute the remaining federal death sentences.

The Zimbabwean Senate has passed a law which aims to abolish the death penalty there. The law now just needs to be signed off by the President.

Finally, the group has joined an international campaign writing to governors of US States which retain the death penalty to persuade them to abolish it. We chose Governor Kevin Stitt of Oklahoma for our letter writing. Also we were asked to write to governors of states that have put a hold on executions but have not abolished the death penalty and we chose Governor Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania.

LGBTQI+ CAMPAIGN

Michelle represented the group at the Pride Parade in Ryde. This was greeted with appreciation and warmth by the many people who turned out to celebrate diversity.

PICNIC IN THE GARDEN

Sunday 29th June –12 Noon

Relax and listen to:

Music and Poetry

(Bring own picnic)

PUBLICITY

The County Press continued to publish our reports. Amnesty Christmas trees were displayed at Brading and Brighstone Festivals. The trees were decorated with stars showing the faces of 9 people who had been subjected to human rights abuses in 2024.