

Dates for your diary	Saturday 21/06/2025, 19:30: An Evening of Aria and Song, Christ Church, Chichester 16/06/2025 – 22/06/2025: Refugee Week Saturday 09/08/2025: Pumble (pub & ramble) – provisionally Cocking/The Blue Bell (tbc)
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Dear writers

Local events

Saturday 21/06/2025, 19:30 An Evening of Aria and Song for Amnesty. Join sopranos Rebecca Grove, Stephanie Peat and accompanist Anthony Groves for a midsummer's evening of classical, operatic and musical song.

- Admission free, no ticket required.
- All donations go to Amnesty International UK (cash donations please) and tea, coffee and light refreshments available at the interval.
- Further details about the event and access to the venue: <https://festivalofchichester.co.uk/event/event-m13-an-evening-of-aria-and-song-for-amnesty-international-uk/>



Saturday 09/08/2025: Pumble (pub & ramble). Start time tbc; provisional route is a Downs route around Cocking/[The Blue Bell](#)

Other events

Monday 16/06/2025 – Sunday 22/06/2025 Refugee Week. The theme of Refugee Week 2025 is '[Community as a Superpower](#)': everyone is invited to spend time with friends and build new connections. We are delighted to share this event organized by Sanctuary in Chichester on World Refugee Day, 20/06/2025

Friday 20/06/2025, 18:30 – 20:00 Community as a Superpower: an evening of refugee and volunteer speakers from our community. 104, The Hornet, Chichester, PO19 7JR

- Free tickets from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sanctuary-in-chichester>
- Donations to cover costs will be gratefully received on the evening

Saturday 14/06/2025 – Sunday 20/07/2025 Festival of Chichester 2025: a month-long celebration of the arts with a wide and varied programme, and including the following events of interest to those concerned with human rights:

- Wednesday 02/07/2025: [A Holocaust survivor's testimony](#): Manfred Goldberg, liberated by British troops following 3 ½ years in labour and concentration camps
- Wednesday 02/07/2025: [The West Sussex Fascists](#): leading figures in Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists in the 1930s

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty



Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

I am sure many of you will have been very concerned about recent reports in the media of the deteriorating health of **Alaa Abd el-Fattah** himself on hunger strike in prison in Cairo, and that of his mother, **Laila Soueif** (pictured) who has been on hunger strike in support of her son since September 2024. She started her hunger strike in protest against the refusal of the Egyptian authorities to release Alaa although he had completed his five-year prison sentence. Alaa has been on hunger strike since 1 March. Both are now in very weak condition. However, despite her frail health, Laila has just returned from a journey to Cairo to visit her son in prison, perhaps for the last time. Sadly, they were not allowed to meet alone together and were denied any physical contact.



On 28 February, after growing public and Parliamentary pressure, Keir Starmer phoned the Egyptian President al-Sisi to raise Alaa's case. However, there has been no further progress as a result. Alaa's family are now appealing to Amnesty supporters to contact their MPs to urge further immediate action by the Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, and Prime Minister to intercede on Alaa's behalf.

Please support Alaa and his family by writing to your MP using the template message below or adapting the message using your own words.

- **Arundel & South Downs:** Andrew Griffith, andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk
- **Bognor & Littlehampton,** Alison Griffiths, alison.griffiths.mp@parliament.uk
- **Chichester,** Jess Brown-Fuller, jess.brownfuller.mp@parliament.uk

Please remember to include your postal address

Dear [insert MP's name],

I am writing to you to express my concern for British citizen, Alaa Abd el-Fattah, who is unjustly detained in prison in Cairo.

The Prime Minister told parliament on Wednesday February 26th that "I will do everything I can to ensure the release in this case, and that includes phone calls as necessary. I've raised it before, I'll raise it again, we've raised it and will continue to do so."

But there has been no progress since then, and both Alaa and his mother are on hunger strike. Please urge the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister to do everything they can to resolve Alaa's case with the utmost urgency.

Yours sincerely,

[insert your name and address]"

Some good news to share: Sufi Sheikh Muftah Al-Amin Al Biju released

We featured this case in the March 2025 Newsletter. He had been forcibly disappeared and detained in Gernada Prison, in Libya and was released after a year-long detention, at the end of March 2025. Thank you to all those who wrote on his behalf.





Action: Tunisia Human Rights Defenders

In early May 2024 Tunisian authorities arrested refugee rights defenders **Mustapha Djemali** and **Abderrazek Krimi**, from the Tunisian Council for Refugees (CTR), and ordered their pre-trial detention as part of a broader crackdown on organizations supporting refugees and migrants. They questioned them solely in relation to their legitimate work defending the rights of refugees and asylum seekers. Tunisian authorities must immediately release them, drop all charges against them and ensure that human rights defenders are able to work in a safe and enabling environment without reprisal.

What you can do

Please use the template message below and send your urgent action appeal to **President of the Republic Kais Saied** at contact@carthage.tn

Your Excellency

I write to you to express my grave concern over the prolonged detention of human rights defenders **Mustapha Djemali** and **Abderrazek Krimi**. On 7 May 2024, a Tunis investigative judge placed them in pre-trial detention pending investigation for “assisting the clandestine entry” of foreign nationals and “providing [them] shelter” and has since renewed their pre-trial detention orders twice.

The charges are solely based on their legitimate work at the **Tunisian Council of Refugees** (Conseil Tunisien pour les Refugies – CTR). Their detention is arbitrary as defending refugee and migrant rights, irrespective of their legal status, including by providing shelter, is not a legitimate offence under international law and should never be equated with human smuggling or trafficking, in line with the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its Trafficking and Smuggling Protocols ratified by Tunisia. The authorities are abusing these provisions to criminalise human rights and humanitarian work, constituting undue interferences with the rights of human rights defenders, as set out by the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, and with the right to freedom of association under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ratified by Tunisia.

Tunisia is a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention which gives refugees the right to identity and travel documents; work, housing, education and relief; and protection from sanction for irregular entry. Following their arrest, the CTR suspended its activities, triggering critical disruptions in access to asylum procedures and basic services including health assistance, shelter and child protection.

Authorities have failed to provide them with medications without which they risk health complications.

I urge you to ensure that authorities drop all charges against Mustapha Djemali and Abderrazek Krimi and immediately release them. Pending this, I urge you to ensure that authorities provide them with access to the medication they require urgently. I also call on your government to cease targeted arrests of human rights defenders and allow them to operate in a safe and enabling environment without reprisals.

Yours sincerely

Want to do more? The Urgent Action Network

When you take action, 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>