

Dates for your diary	Saturday 21/06/2025 19:30: An Evening of Aria & Song, Christ Church, Chichester 16/06/2025 – 22/06/2025: Refugee Week Saturday 09/08/2025: Pumble (pub + ramble) Saturday 18/10/2025 (provisional): South East regional gathering
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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

05/07/2025 – 06/07/2025 Amplify Summit, University of Warwick. This is Amnesty UK's AGM and National Conference. The AGM will be livestreamed if you cannot attend in person <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting>

Saturday 18/10/2025: date for your diaries. This is the provisional date for the South East regional gathering. Amnesty groups in the south east are starting to plan for the regional gathering (used to be a 'conference') with Arianna Pisetti, our Amnesty Activism Representative – South East (Surrey, Sussex, Kent). The venue is still being decided but is likely to be on the Surrey or Kent borders. If you are interested in getting involved with the planning or interested in attending, please let us know. Planning is currently taking place online.

How Social security in the UK erodes human rights and dignity: On 08/05/2025, Amnesty's Everyday Rights team launched the Social Insecurity report at an event in Manchester. There was a fantastic panel of speakers, including author of the report and Amnesty's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights lead, Jen Clark, plus Rick Burgess from the Disabled People's Human Rights Network, Neil Gow from Society Matters and Graham Whitham from Resolve Poverty.

View recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSjBajgnlQ>

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

First, the good news!

Mahmoud Hussein ('the t-shirt prisoner')

I'm sure you will all be very glad to hear that on 27 August 2024, Egyptian protester Mahmoud Hussein, known as the "T-shirt detainee", was finally released after serving a three-year unjust sentence. His only "crime" was wearing an anti-torture T-shirt that read: "A Nation Without Torture.". Sadly, his physical and mental health have severely deteriorated during his time in custody.

In a message to Amnesty supporters, he said:

"The prison experience is extremely harsh; prison is a place where dreams are killed. The dream of a country without torture should not be a crime. Thank you for your support."



However, the news about Alaa Abd El-Fattah and Laila Souief is extremely worrying.

There has been a series of developments since my report in last month's newsletter about concerns for the health and welfare of both Alaa himself and his mother, Laila, both on hunger strike protesting about the continued unjust detention of Alaa.

- **20 May 2025:** Laila resumed her full hunger strike in protest at the lack of progress in Alaa's case
- **22 May 2025:** Laila and other family members attended a very moving event staged by fellow PEN Writers, who read extracts from Alaa's book, *You Have Not Yet Been Defeated*, at 10 Downing Street.



Although in very frail health, Laila was a dignified and determined figure who thanked each of the readers personally and made a very moving appeal for further action to release her son. (photo) She spoke of Keir Starmer's moral support and phone call to al-Sisi which had failed to produce any positive result

PEN Vigil at Westminster 22 May 2025



- **30 May 2025:** Laila's health deteriorated and she was taken into St Thomas's Hospital, where she refused to end her hunger strike.
- **2 June 2025:** Alaa's detention was officially declared in breach of international law by UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD). You can read a full copy of the report on the #FreeAlaa website: <https://freealaa.net/unwgad-ruling>
- **8 June 2025:** It was reported in *The Times* that, at her family's insistence, Laila had agreed to receive glucose treatment while Sanaa visited Cairo.
- **12 June 2025:** After her return from Cairo, Sanaa, who was allowed a 20 minute visit with Alaa through a glass barrier, reported that Alaa had lost nearly 29% of his original body weight. Laila has now refused further glucose treatment.
- **Weekend 14-15 June 2025** There will be a number of events to mark Fathers' Day and to appeal for Alaa to be released and reunited with his son, including a daily vigil at St Thomas's Hospital where Laila is; online appeals to the Foreign Secretary to urge Alaa's immediate release.

For further background information regarding the case please follow this link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/12/the-idea-was-to-crush-his-spirit-family-of-jailed-british-egyptian-man-describe-awful-prison-conditions>

Meanwhile, Amnesty members will be encouraged to hear that we have received a very positive response from **Jess Brown-Fuller** (Lib Dem, Chichester) who is very supportive, Lib Dems have been amongst several MPs raising the issue in Parliament and support for case from **Alison Griffiths** (Con, Bognor Regis). My thanks to all of you who have written to your MPS about the case.

Action

If you have not yet written to your M.P. please use the information and template message below.

Please remember to include your postal address

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



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]

Action: Campaign to urge the UK Government to ratify the UN Convention on Enforced Disappearance.

The Central America team are running an activist-led campaign, to urge the UK government to ratify the **UN Convention on Enforced Disappearance**.



As you are aware, disappearance is a human rights abuse used in the North Africa Region and should be condemned. We recently sent out an Urgent Action for Egyptian-Turkish poet **Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi**, who has been subjected to enforced disappearance since his extradition from Lebanon to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 8 January 2025.

Please use the link below to sign an online petition in support .

- An online petition at <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/activist-actions/ccenforceddis1>

Journalists under threat

Summer Spotlight on Journalists Under Threat, focuses on a core and universal human right: freedom of expression. Last year, 124 journalists were killed — the highest number ever recorded. Around the world, journalists are being silenced through violence, imprisonment and censorship.

Amnesty International stands with journalists who investigate abuses, uncover facts and speak truth to power – often at great personal risk. We investigate human rights violations, challenge repressive laws, and campaign against attacks on press freedom. Because when the freedom to report is lost, so is accountability.



Add your voice to the online petition <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/defend-press-freedom>

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>