

Dates for your diary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saturday 18/10/2025: SE Regional Gathering, Tunbridge Wells• November & December: Write for Rights campaign• Write for Rights event, Barnham: date tbc
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Dear writers

Local events

Saturday 18/10/2025 1000 – 1630: Amnesty South East Regional Gathering, King Charles Church Hall, Tunbridge Wells

- Copy of the day's agenda in our September newsletter
- If you are interested in attending, please contact Chair Kath Shakespeare for the Eventbrite link: Shakespeare.kath@gmail.com

Other events

Wednesday 15/10/2025, 1800 – 1915: Understanding United Nations Human Rights Mechanism (online). Anna-Karin Holmlund, human rights lawyer and Amnesty International representative at the UN in Geneva. The UN human rights system is under serious attack from authoritarian governments. This webinar explores the mandates of the main bodies and mechanisms particularly relevant for human rights within the UN, focusing on what they do; their strengths and weaknesses; and an exploration of designing an advocacy strategy.

- For more information, contact amnestyunnetwork@gmail.com
- Register to attend here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join-link>

Saturday 08/11/2025, 17:30 Peace Lecture, Lyle Barker, Policy and Campaigns Officer at Liberty. Hosted by the Quakers at Chichester Quaker Meeting House; lecture examines the way in which recent legislation has started to erode our civil liberties, (including the right to take part in peaceful protest), and the effects that we have already seen.

- <https://chichesterquakers.org.uk/calendar/>

Amnesty Teacher Programme 2025/2026. Are you a teacher with a passion for human rights, equality and justice? Amnesty UK's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) teacher programme will give you the expertise to engage your students with human rights.

- There are three online training session on 08/11/2025, 31/01/2026 and 20/06/2026
- To find out more and apply for the programme: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/teacher-training-course-cpd-human-rights-continuous-professional-development>

Tuesday 11/11/2025, 1800 – 1930: Write for Rights – Campaigning for Individuals at Risk, online training event. The Write for Rights campaign is the world's biggest human rights event, encouraging people all around the world to show support for people enduring human rights abuses. By writing letters, cards - or even drawing - we know your messages can bring about real change.

- Join this online event to find out more about the campaign and how you can get involved:
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/events/write-rights-campaigning-individuals-risk>
- **We are planning a local event for the end of November/beginning of December:** date TBC in the November newsletter.

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

Alaa Abd El-Fattah Pardoned and Released from prison 23 September 2025

We were overjoyed to hear the news of Alaa's release from jail on 23 September and to share the delight of his family as they celebrated their reunion. This photo of Alaa and his mother, Laila (image courtesy of Sky News), who has herself undergone prolonged hunger strikes in protest against his treatment, marks a special moment for us all. So far, we have little information about his future plans. We assume that it will take time to make the necessary arrangements, but we hope that it may eventually be possible for him to be reunited with his son and other family members in the U.K. We will keep you updated as we learn more about his situation.



Sincere thanks to all of you who have campaigned so long and hard over many years on Alaa's behalf. Five other prisoners were also released, so we hope this might mark a softening of the Egyptian regime's attitude towards political activists as we consider the possibility of adopting another of the many political prisoners unjustly detained in Egypt.

Want to know more?

- **[‘I deserve to heal’: freed British-Egyptian activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah on his prison ordeal and next steps](#)** [article published in *The Guardian* online, 11/10/2025]. The campaigner, who spent more than a decade in an Egyptian ‘vortex of incarceration’, wants to join his son in the UK while he reflects on the fight for freedom
- First UK broadcast interview with Alaa: Radio 4, [Today programme, 11/10/2025](#), broadcast 08:31 – 08:42

Action: call for the release of Tunisian lawyer Ahmed Souab

Ahmed Souab is a prominent Tunisian lawyer and human rights defender known for his outspoken criticism of violations of fair trial rights, executive interference with judicial independence and executive overreach, particularly under President Kais Saied's administration. He previously served as a judge at the Administrative Court and was a vocal critic of the dismantling of the rule of law following President Saied's 25 July 2021 power grab.

Souab represented several high-level victims of violations like Sonia Dahmani in addition to lawyers and political opposition activists Ghazi Chaouachi and Ridha Belhaj, both defendants in the “conspiracy case”. He has been arbitrarily detained since April 2025 for his work defending victims of human rights violations



- Please write to seek his release here (template email or letter): <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/lawyer-arbitrarily-detained>

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>

Nasser Zefzafi: Butterfly Action

Nasser Zefzafi is one of the key figures of the Moroccan protest movement known as “Hirak El-Rif” which erupted in 2017 in Al Hoceima, Zefzafi's hometown. Nasser took to the streets like many in the region who had had enough of poor healthcare, education and employment opportunities. He was arrested in May 2017. In June 2018, he was sentenced by a Casablanca court to 20 years in prison for his peaceful activism. He is currently in poor health.



- To mark the celebration of Independence Day in Morocco on **18 November**, commemorating 69 years since the restoration of the monarchy, Amnesty are asking his supporters to appeal via the Moroccan Ambassador for his release.
- Please download and sign the attached butterfly motif appeal (or **use your own butterfly images**) to send to His Excellency Hakim Hajoui by post or as an email attachment to the Moroccan Embassy in London:
 - His Excellency Hakim Hajoui, The Moroccan Embassy, 6 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0DH
 - Email: ambalondres@maec.gov.ma
 - The Ambassador is His Excellency Hakim Hajoui

Congratulations on Moroccan Independence Day



Please mark 69 years of Moroccan Independence by releasing Nasser Zefzafi, who has been imprisoned since 2017 for his peaceful activism in support of health, education and employment improvements.

Signed: