

Dates for your diary	01/11/2025 – 31/12/2025 Write for Rights Campaign Saturday 06/12/2025 10:00 – 12:00: Write for Rights event, Barnham Wednesday 10/12/2025 – Human Rights Day
----------------------	---

Dear writers

We are saddened to share with members the death of **Sasha Levto**v, director - with his wife Nina - of the Regis School of Music and a staunch supporter of Amnesty International, and of the Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group.

Nina and Sasha fled the Soviet Union in 1980 with two small children and settled in Bognor Regis. Nina's first concert in 1981 in Bognor was in aid of Amnesty and its support for prisoners of conscience, and she and Sasha have hosted and performed many concerts since then, to fund-raise for Amnesty.

Pianist Nina and guitarist Sasha founded the Regis School of Music in 1993, moving to its current venue in 1996. The RSM has provided a venue for fund-raising events and performances, as well as many Amnesty group meetings and AGMs, over the years. The family's support for Amnesty was warm and constant and human rights a subject very close to their hearts: we were very grateful to hear that anyone wishing to donate in Sasha's memory may do so to support the Regis School of Music or to Amnesty International. Our condolences to Nina and the family.



Pianist Miho Samoa (left) and Sasha Levto, at
Candle Lightning: a concert of readings and music in aid of Amnesty International, 24/10/1998.

Local events

Saturday 06/12/2025, 10:00 – 12:00 Write for Rights Action. You are invited to complete the 2025 Write for Rights cards at Margaret Robertson's house in Barnham and meet up with other Amnesty members for a catch-up and refreshments (tea, coffee, cakes).

- Feel free to drop in any time between 10:00 and 12:00 (you don't need to come along for the full two hours!) and bring along some suitable cards to sign. This year, we've been asked not to use religious cards, so ask you not to bring nativity scenes or jolly Merry Christmas type images, as these will not be appropriate. Cards with messages such as 'Season's Greetings' and snow scenes or animal scenes will be fine, or you can bring postcards or notelets that are not Christmas-themed.
- All details about the cases and suggested messages will be provided on the day.
- Please let Margaret know if you are planning to come along on mn_robertson@hotmail.com. This is so we can plan refreshments; Margaret lives within easy walking distance of Barnham Station and can provide directions to her house. We look forward to seeing you there!



Chichester Amnesty letter writing group. A group of three Amnesty members meet once a month in the centre of Chichester to write letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience, as per the latest Amnesty campaign guidance.

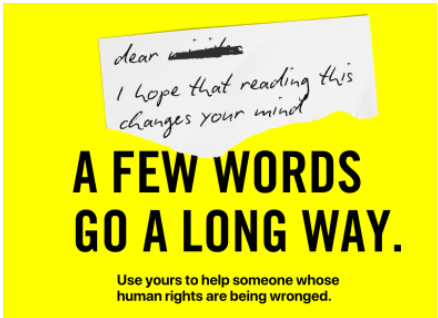
- If there is anyone else interested in joining the Chichester group, please let David know: the group usually meet on a Thursday afternoon.
- Please contact **David Gibson**: david.hugh.gibson@gmail.com; 07768 706239.



Other events

A few words go a long way: Write for Rights 2025, 1 November – 31 December

Every year, Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign brings together people from around the world to fight injustice and support people whose human rights are under threat. Over the past few years your actions have made a real difference to people's lives. Since Write for Rights started in 2001, more than 56 million actions have been taken, while over 100 people featured in the campaign have seen a positive outcome in their case.



This year's booklet features the stories of Indigenous communities trying to protect the environment, journalists targeted for exposing corruption, protesting students facing arbitrary detention and many others.

- **Not much time?** You can take action on all the cases or focus on just a few – whatever you can do will help raise the profile of the people in question, boosting their chances of protection and justice.
- **Want to send a message of support to the individual?** You can send a card to the individual: details of the address you can send your card to, and what messages and cards are appropriate, can be found in the **Write for Rights 2025 booklet**. Group members who receive an emailed Newsletter can download the booklet here: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-rights-2025-get-started> and a copy of the booklet is shared with Group members who get the Newsletter posted to them.
 - This is the action we will be focusing on Saturday 06/12/2025 (see 'Local Events' above, for details)
- **Want to do more?** You can also send a letter to the authorities in support of the individual, if you have time or would like to continue to take action after 31 December: this helps put pressure on governments, leaders and decision-makers: take a look at the campaign booklet which includes letter details and contact addresses: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-rights-2025-get-started>

Updates from previous Write for Rights campaigns

Here are some updates on the people featured in last year's campaign, as well as those from previous years:

- Ana da Silva Miguel, also known as Neth Nahara, was arrested at her home in Luanda on 13 August 2023 after broadcasting a live video on TikTok criticising President João Lourenço. She was convicted of 'outrage against the state, its symbols and bodies', and sentenced to two years in prison and a fine. On 25 December 2024, the president's office announced that 50 individuals, including Neth Nahara, would receive pardons. She was released from prison on 1 January 2025
- Human rights defender Rita Karasartova was arrested in 2022 along with 26 others for opposing a new border agreement that gave control of a freshwater reservoir to Uzbekistan. She was initially detained for organising 'mass disorder' and later charged with attempting to 'violently overthrow the Government', which carries a potential 15-year sentence. Rita and at least 21 others were acquitted on 14 June this year: a significant victory for justice and human rights in Kyrgyzstan, even though the prosecutor has filed an appeal against the ruling.
- In 2021, Amnesty campaigned for Egyptian human rights lawyer Mohamed Baker, who received a presidential pardon in July last year and was released from prison the following day. He is now safely reunited with his loved ones.
- Cecillia Chimbiri and Joanah Mamombe were acquitted by the Zimbabwean High Court in July 2023 of communicating falsehoods and obstructing the course of justice. The two – together with Netsai Marova, who did not face trial as she is out of the country – were arrested and abducted in May 2020 following a protest on the Government's failure to provide social protection during the Covid 19 pandemic. Amnesty campaigned for them during the 2022 Write for Rights campaign.

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

Following the release of our former prisoner of conscience, **Alaa Abd El-Fattah**, we have now agreed to take on the case of another Egyptian prisoner, **Oqba Hashad**.

Oqba Hashad

Egyptian authorities have held 27-year-old student Oqba Hashad in pretrial detention since May 2019, in retaliation for his brother's human rights activism. Oqba was forcibly disappeared, tortured and denied the prosthetic leg he has used to move unassisted since a childhood accident.

We have written on behalf of Oqba on previous occasions and he featured as one of the **2024 Write for Rights Cases**. When you have read the summary of his case history below, I am sure you will agree he is a very deserving case. We hope that we can draw upon our previous experience of campaigning for Egyptian detainees to gain his freedom too: **look out for action to take on his case in future newsletters**.



Here is a summary of his case history:

May 2019

- On 20 May 2019, National Security Agency agents stormed university student Oqba Hashad's dorm, arresting all the students present. After a few days, the other students were released – but not Oqba. Agents realised he was the brother of Amr Hashad, an exiled human rights activist who was calling out the country's human rights violations.
- For 77 days, Oqba's family had no idea where he was. During this time, he was tortured – including electric shocks to his genitals and to the stump of his right leg, which had been amputated following a childhood accident.

August 2022

- His prosthetic leg broke and the replacement did not fit and would have caused injury if fitted. 16 months later another unsuitable prosthetic leg was supplied.

February 2024

- On 20 February 2024, a judge ordered his release, as he had been held in pretrial detention for longer than the two years permitted by Egyptian law. To bypass this, prosecutors opened a new bogus case against him to justify his continued detention. Oqba is being denied proper medical care and even a bed to sleep in. His health is seriously deteriorating.

May 2024

- Urgent action appealing for his release and appropriate healthcare pending release.

November 2024

- Oqba's case featured in Write for Rights 2024
- We were very pleased to learn that he was one of the highlighted cases featured in the Write for Rights Campaign 2024.

Despite a court order for his release, he is still held in dreadful conditions and denied a proper prosthetic leg. He has said: *I don't understand why this is happening to me, why I am tormented and my body can no longer bear it.*

Update on Alaa Abd El-Fattah

We were sorry to read that the Egyptian authorities prevented Alaa from flying to London this week to attend two conferences, including the Magnitsky human rights awards. Alaa and his mother Laila were on Thursday awarded the Courage Under Fire award: it was collected on their behalf by Sanaa Seif, Alaa's sister

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/nov/14/british-egyptian-activist-alaa-abd-el-fattah-stopped-from-flying-to-uk-says-family>

Action: Tunisia - Mustapha Djemali and Abderrazek Kilani

On 24 November 2025, human rights defenders **Mustapha Djemali and Abderrazek Kilani** will face criminal trial before the Tunis Court of First Instance, along with four others. **Mustapha Djemali**, founder and director of the **Tunisian Council for Refugees (CTR)** and **Abderrazek Krimi**, CTR project manager, have been in arbitrary pre-trial detention since their arrest in May 2024 solely based on carrying out their legitimate work and exercising their right to freedom of association. The CTR, a Tunisian organization and implementing partner of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), provided essential assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia. Tunisian authorities must immediately release **Mustapha Djemali and Abderrazek Krimi** and drop all charges against them. Authorities must ensure that human rights defenders are able to freely carry out their work in a safe and enabling environment without any reprisals.



What you can do

Please use the template letter below to send an 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 prosecution of human rights defenders **Mustapha Djemali**, 81 years old, and **Abderrazek Krimi** whose trial opened on 16 October with their next hearing scheduled for 24 November 2025. They are facing unfounded charges of “forming an organization” to “assist the clandestine entry” of migrants into Tunisia and “providing them shelter”, offences that carry up to 13 years in prison. During the first court hearing on 16 October, the lawyers of **Mustapha Djemali and Abderrazek Krimi** defended their clients’ legitimate work and asked for their provisional release, a request which the judge refused. They also asked for an adjournment of the trial, which was granted for 24 November. Finally, the lawyers requested to summon UNHCR as a witness to confirm that CTR activities were in line with the cooperation agreement between Tunisia and UNHCR which the judge also refused.

The charges against **Mustapha Djemali and Abderrazek Krimi** are based solely on the peaceful exercise of their human rights and their legitimate work at the Tunisian Council of Refugees (Conseil Tunisien pour les Réfugiés – CTR), a Tunisian NGO that worked with the Tunisian authorities and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to pre-register asylum seekers and provide essential assistance. Their detention is arbitrary as defending refugee and migrant rights, irrespective of their legal status, including by providing shelter, is not a crime. The authorities are misusing the criminal justice system to criminalize human rights and humanitarian work, contrary to international human rights standards on the rights of human rights defenders, as set out in the **UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders**. Judicial harassment of human rights defenders is also contrary to the rights to freedom of expression and association guaranteed under the **African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights** and the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** both of which Tunisia has ratified. Tunisia is a state 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.

I therefore urge you and your government to ensure the immediate release of **Mustapha Djemali and Abderrazek Krimi** and that all charges against them are dropped. I also call on your government to immediately cease targeted arrests of human rights defenders and allow them to freely carry out their human rights work in a safe and enabling environment without any 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>