

Action

August/September 2016



THE BRIGHTON AND HOVE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

Forthcoming Brighton & Hove Amnesty Group Meetings/Events

Group meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month from 8-10pm at Community Base, Queens Road, Brighton

4th August

Campaign meeting
All welcome

1st September

Campaign co ordinator to speak about our new individual at risk from DRC

6th October

Campaign Meeting

3rd November

Speaker from Hummingbird Project

Monthly Collection

Contact Julian
20th August
julianwatmore@gmail.com
07469776295

Monthly Stall

6th August
Sydney Street
Contact Jill 01273 621697
11am to 1pm

6th August 2016 Pride

Group will take part in the parade and have a campaigning stall

17th September 2016 Annual Street Collection

17th December 2016
Write for Rights
10am to 4pm
Friends Meeting House

Annual Street Collection Saturday September 2016

Every year in September we hold an official Street Collection in the centre of Brighton. This involves volunteers going into North Street or Western Road for a period from 30 minutes or longer (preferably an hour) This year the collection will be on Saturday 17th September.

It is a high profile event for Amnesty in Brighton and Hove in that, even if people don't donate, they see our presence and may in future support our aims.

And, of course, we raise money which goes towards



death, was pardoned in 2015 following appeals from Amnesty Supporters around the world as part of our Stop Torture campaign.

To achieve freedom for Moses and victims like him requires a large international research team, a promoted and maintained membership, effective communications and a worldwide organisation. Our contributions support this. In recent years AI has been setting up and supporting local groups in countries such as Nigeria where otherwise there is not enough money locally to staff them professionally.

If you could help out on the day please contact me via brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com

If you can't help but would like to make a donation, please send a cheque made out to Amnesty International, and post it to me at 30 Roundhill Crescent

Brighton
BN2 3FR
Thanks
Peter gwilliam
Chair.



helping people like Moses
“Amnesty International members and activists are my heroes. I want to assure them that this great effort they have shown to me will not be in vain...”

I promise to be a human rights activist – to fight for others”
Moses Akatugba, arrested and tortured in Nigeria when he was just 16 and then sentenced to

Chelsea Manning



Chelsea Manning, three years into a 35 year jail term, tragically tried to take her own life last month. 'Stored away' in Fort Leavenworth, Chelsea has undergone systematic abuse, humiliation and incidences of appalling injustice since her incarceration in 2010. With gay Pride around the corner, Amnesty exposes a summary of these episodes.

A year ago, Manning triumphed in becoming the first military prisoner to transition behind bars, setting a precedent for how transgender people are considered by the US military. She is a figure of strength and achievement. In summer 2015, her supporters marched at Pride events globally; New York City, London, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Salina, Philadelphia, St. Petersburg, Los Angeles and Seattle all featured Chelsea contingents. Having fought seemingly insurmountable odds for the right to access hormone therapy, change her name and to be referred to as female, Manning was approved for 'rudimentary' treatment in July 2014. However, Manning and the American Civil Liberties Union were forced to sue the military after a year had passed and the promised medical care had not materialised. Despite the commencement of her hormone therapy, Chelsea is still prohibited from growing her hair like other female prisoners. This has been identified as a critical element of her treatment plan by doctors. The set backs Chelsea encounters reflect a deep seated stigma associated with transitioning. In August 2015, the hostility towards Chelsea within the prison system heightened as she was found guilty of 'medicine misuse' and possessing 'prohibited property', for an expired toothpaste and a variety of books and magazines found in her cell. These items, Caitlyn Jenner's Vanity Fair magazine cover, Cosmopolitan magazine, Malala Yousafzai's autobiography and the US Senate Report on Torture, had personal or intellectual appeal to Chelsea. She was sentenced to 21 days of restricted recreation and the charges could impact on her future parole

hearings. The maliciousness of the institution towards Chelsea is evident in that the tube was sold to her by the prison, while the books were delivered to her through the prison's mail service. Chelsea was kept isolated throughout this period; her petition for the hearing to be open to the public and her lawyers was denied, while she was refused access to the prison library to prepare her case. Just last month, Chelsea's lawyers accused the government of a 'gross breach of confidentiality' in leaking information about her suicide attempt. They expressed a 'very real concern' that this unauthorized release of updates would continue. The recent crisis can be attributed to ongoing legal action against Manning's 'unprecedented' and 'grossly unfair' sentence. She is also experiencing some distress and anxiety at being required to wear her hair cut short. Chelsea's attorneys made a public statement after her unsuccessful suicide attempt, saying: 'She is someone who has fought so hard for so many issues we care about and we are honoured to fight for her freedom and medical care.'

We encourage you to send Chelsea your messages of support. Letters can be mailed to address given below:

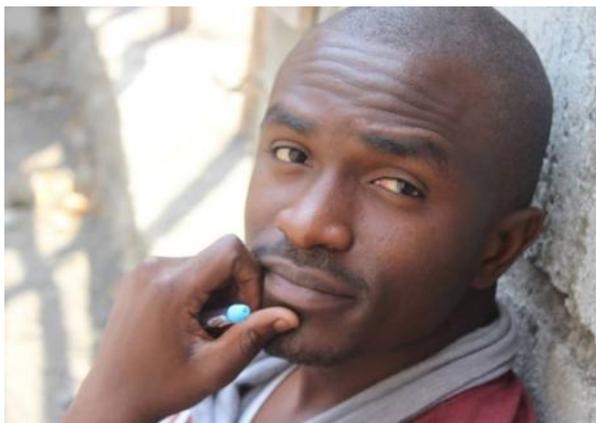
Chelsea E Manning 89289
1300 North Warehouse Road
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-2304
USA

Alternatively, Chelsea's twitter account is managed by her agent, who will be able to relay your messages to Chelsea in prison.

Feel free to write your own message. Here is an example from Amnesty:
'Sending strength to you, @xychelsea. Thanks for speaking out. I stand with you and call on @POTUS to release you.'

Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala

At the June meeting Brighton and Hove Amnesty Group voted to take on the Individuals at Risk case of Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala. Over the next few months we will be campaigning on behalf of these individuals.



Fred Bauma



Yves Makwambala

Case Summary

Congolese activists Yves Makwambala and Fred Bauma were arrested on 15 March 2015 in Kinshasa, DRC during a press conference in which three Congolese youth movements launched a youth platform called Filimbi (which in English translates as 'whistle'). Filimbi aims to strengthen civic education amongst Congolese youth in the context of the upcoming 2016 general elections in the DRC.

Fred and Yves, together with four other activists who escaped arrest on 15 March 2015 are charged with:

Belonging to an association formed for the purpose of attacking people and property,
Conspiring against the head of state, and
Attempting to either destroy or change the "constitutional regime" or incite people to take up arms against state authority.

The DRC authorities have also charged Fred Bauma with disturbing the peace, and Yves Makwambala with publicly offending the head of state. Both of them are at risk of the death penalty if found guilty of some of the charges above.

Take action:

Please write to :

President Joseph Kabila

Address:

Cabinet du President de la Republique,
Palais de la Nation,
Av. De Lemera,
Kinshasa-Gombe

Salutation: Your Excellency

NB - the postal service in the DRC is currently not functioning. Please send any letters via Amnesty International UK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA.

Please include the following recommendation in your appeals:

- Call on the Congolese authorities to drop all charges against Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala and to immediately and unconditionally release them;
- Urge the Congolese authorities to uphold the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in DRC especially ahead of the 2016 general elections.

FREE WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Date Saturday 9th July
Time 11am - 1pm
Venue Outside Amnesty Bookshop, Sydney Street,
Brighton
Weather Warm but cloudy
Activists Andrew, Celia and Jill
Campaign Behareh Heydayat, Women's Rights Activist in
Iran



Behareh has been in prison since 2009, arrested after anti - government demonstrations. She is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for her peaceful activism. Her 10 year sentence includes six months for 'insulting the president' and two years for 'insulting the Leader'(Ayatollah Ali Khamenei). Her health has deteriorated in prison and she needs immediate medical attention.

We made a petition to send to the Head of the Judiciary in Iran calling on him to drop the charges against Behareh and urging him to revise legislation which discriminates against women and guarantees full gender equality. We collected 110 signatures on the day to send to Iran. There was much conversation with people on the street about the Brexit vote and its ramifications for immigrants and refugees and generally.

Next Stall Saturday 6th August
Campaign Persecution of Gay Rights Activists (Brighton's Pride Celebration)

If you would like to help contact Jill on 01273 621697

BRIGHTON & HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS

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Amnesty Stalls co-ordinator—Jill —01273 621697

Campaign Co-ordinators:

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Amnesty Websites: international - www.amnesty.org AI UK -
www.amnesty.org.uk local group - www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton
Follow us on twitter @AmnestyBrighton
See our photos on Flickr— <http://www.flickr.com/groups/amnestybrighton/pool>
Amnesty UK Human Rights Centre - Tel: 0207 0331500

