



EU TOOLS OF TORTURE: Tell the EU not to profit from torture



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We hope you will feel inspired to take action on all of our campaigns but remind you that all actions are optional.

This mailing is also available to download at

www.amnesty.org.uk/youth

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

STOP TORTURE - CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Amnesty International has been fighting torture for over 50 years and campaigned hard for the creation of the United Nations Convention against Torture 30 years ago. But over the past five years, we have reported on torture and other ill-treatment in 141 countries. In response, we launched our Stop Torture campaign last May. Thank you for your work so far. It is already having an impact on people's lives.



May 2014 – Stop Torture campaign launch

On 14 May 2014, AIUK launched the Stop Torture campaign with an event in the Human Rights Action Centre. Speakers from Mexico, Nigeria and the Philippines spoke about their experiences as torture survivors and about their on-going work to stop torture. If you were unable to be there, you can watch the whole event at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSkW1Q4tLEA&noredirect=1>

26 June 2014 – Global Day of Action

On the UN International Day in Support of the Victims of Torture, supporters across the world took part in a global day of action against torture. AIUK held demonstrations outside embassies of each of the five countries we are prioritising for the campaign. See videos and pictures of the day at: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/stop-torture-day-action>



Ongoing work

Survivors of torture are at the heart of the campaign. We are seeking progress on their cases and standing in solidarity with them and their families. Each case also highlights failures in these countries that allow torture to occur and the safeguards that would prevent torture in the future. Because of campaigning by activists, there has been progress in all of the key Stop Torture cases:

Ali Aarrass: On 21 May 2014, the Moroccan authorities re-opened an investigation into Ali's claims of torture. They told us this development was directly linked to our work. On 16 June, Morocco's National Council for Human Rights called for an investigation into several cases, including Ali's. A global Amnesty petition of 215,000 signatures was delivered to the Moroccan authorities in September 2014. Morocco is strengthening international commitments to stop torture. More information on Ali's case: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/ali>

Alfreda Disbarro: On 11 June, an investigation was open into the torture of Alfreda. We received information that this happened after receiving a letter from two Amnesty activists. Since then, hundreds of letters have been sent to Alfreda from all over the world. Because every letter sent directly to Parañaque City Jail has to be scanned by the officers at the prison, they have been complaining of doing nothing but scanning Alfreda's letters! Alfreda's family have sent their love and gratitude to all Amnesty members and supporters, and have said this solidarity has helped to give them strength and courage. On 4 December, Amnesty launched the report 'Above the law: torture and ill treatment in the Philippines'. In response to our findings, the Philippine Senate announced that they would open an inquiry into the widespread abuse in the country. More information on Alfreda's case: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/alfreda>

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Claudia Medina:

On 6 February, a judge dropped the last remaining charge against Claudia, arguing that the sole piece of evidence – a report filed by the marines – was a lie. She is a free woman now, but we are still campaigning for her torturers to be brought to account. In her own words: *“After this long process I had to go through I felt the need to become a human rights*



activist, to show that I'm not a criminal, as authorities portrayed me. I will not allow even one more woman to be tortured in Mexico.” On 2 March 2015 Amnesty delivered a petition to the Mexican embassy on the occasion of the Mexican President's visit to the UK. The petition was delivered inside a giant piñata. After our strong advocacy work and activism, UK Ministers raised human rights concerns at their meetings with the Mexican President. More information on Claudia's case:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/claudia>

Dilorom Abdukadirova: After receiving letters of support, Dilorom's family said *"Thank you very much from bottom of my heart. Our family appreciate your support. It is very emotional to read those letters. Can you please send our THANKS to all people who wrote these beautiful letters."* More information on Dilorom's case:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/dilorom>

Moses Akatugba:

In October, after an Amnesty global action on Moses' case targeting the Governor of the Niger Delta (where Moses is detained) to commute Moses' death sentence, the Governor mentioned Amnesty and Moses on his Independence Day speech saying that he is looking into his case. On this occasion Moses shared this message: *"I am so grateful for everything that people are doing in the UK to help me. The letters I have received give me hope. When I hear about the level of support and everything that is being done for me by Amnesty International, it makes me the happiest man on earth."* More information on Moses' case: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/moses>

Write for Rights Campaign

In December, we had our Write for Rights campaign where several Stop Torture cases were featured, including Moses'. The Minister for Human Rights signed a solidarity card to Moses and showed the UK Government support for Amnesty's demands on Moses' case. Amnesty supporters in over 100 countries took part in the campaign and wrote letters of solidarity and appeal to individuals at risk, with over 3 million actions recorded so far across the movement!

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

TAKING THE STOP TORTURE CAMPAIGN TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union (EU) is currently reviewing the law which stops the trade in items used for torture. Join the campaign and tell the EU not to profit from torture.

Why now?

As a result of concerns raised by Amnesty International and others, the EU introduced specific laws to restrict the trade in torture equipment in 2005. But there are loopholes (gaps in the law) that mean certain types of trade or certain categories of torture equipment continue to be traded. This year sees the start of an EU wide review of the regulation banning the trade in equipment used for torture and the death penalty and we have a unique opportunity to close these loopholes.

A proposal to strengthen the law has been drafted and it will be discussed and voted on by the European Parliament and all EU member states. Before it goes to the vote, the proposal will go to two important committees, the Foreign Affairs and Trade committee, who will have the power to negotiate and finalise the text to be voted on. So, there are lots of ways we can influence to stop the trade in torture equipment.



Youth group members take action for Alfreda Disbarro at the Philippine Embassy June 2014

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

The technical bit! What are we asking for?

We have identified three main areas where the regulation needs to be strengthened:

1	<p>Brokering</p> <p>Currently you can trade in equipment that is banned under the regulation as long as the equipment doesn't physically enter the EU. So, sitting in Paris or Berlin and arranging the sale of items from outside the EU is currently not prohibited!</p> <p>This type of trading activity is known as brokering and is often a key way such goods are traded. We want to ensure no EU Company is involved in the trade in torture equipment. We are calling for effective controls on companies brokering deals that could result in goods banned under the regulation being traded. We need to close this loophole.</p>
2	<p>Advertising</p> <p>Although many items are banned from sale, companies are still able to promote and advertise this equipment in the EU. Whether this is through commercial marketing, exhibitions or trade fairs, companies must not be able to promote the tools of torture in EU member states.</p>
3	<p>Prohibited v Controlled equipment</p> <p>The regulation contains lists of equipment that the law applies to. These lists are comprised of two types of equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firstly, there is a list of totally “prohibited” items, things that can only be used to commit acts of torture or capital punishment so are completely banned. • Secondly, there is a list of “controlled” equipment, which comprises of items that sometimes have valid uses, but can also clearly be used to commit or facilitate acts of torture. An example of this is drugs that can be used in the death penalty but also have legitimate medical uses. Trade in items on the “controlled” list are banned when they risk being used for torture. <p>The problem is that new equipment is coming into the market all the time and the existing lists may not be able to capture all types of equipment being used for torture. Therefore, to stop the trade in torture equipment the EU must introduce a “catch all” clause. This would allow EU countries to immediately prohibit the trade in goods where it is clear that the items are likely being used for torture <u>even if they are not specifically listed under the regulation.</u></p>

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

TAKE ACTION 1: WRITE TO YOUR MEP

Please write to your local Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). MEPs on the International Trade Committee (INTA) will have the most influence, so please prioritise writing to them. There is a list of all UK MEPs on the INTA and their addresses in the **Extras 3** section and a link to find all your other MEPs online.

Seven MEPs are on INTA. Please check (the list in **Extras 3**) if any of your MEPs is listed as members of the committee and write to them first. If you can write to all your MEPs that would be great, as all MEPs can influence their colleagues in the committees and will take part in the final vote.

Enclosed in this mailing are two template letters (**Extras 1** for members INTA and **Extras 2** for all other MEPs). To find a full list of your MEPs and their addresses go to:

http://www.europarl.org.uk/en/your_meps.html

Personal letters are the most powerful. We've enclosed sample letters but these are just a guide. If you can handwrite these letters and include why you, as a youth group care, it will make your letters more effective.

TAKE ACTION 2: SIGN THE PETITION

Get the wider school/college involved by asking them to sign the enclosed petition. Please send petitions back to us at: Anne Montague, Community Organiser (Youth), Amnesty International UK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, EC2A 3EA. There is no deadline but by the end of the summer term would be great!

TAKE ACTION 3: CREATIVE ACTION

We've produced a series of flashcards 'selling' fake torture equipment (examples below!). You can order these cards from our mailing house (see Resources section). With your group brainstorm ways you could use these cards to creatively raise awareness of the issue in your school/college.



RESTRAINT CHAIR

- Tired of your prisoners blocking your blows with their arms? Sick of them struggling during a beating?
- This high-quality chair offers full-body restraint to keep prisoners completely still while you 'question' them. No movement, no fidgeting, no obstruction.
- Comes in four easy-to-assemble parts.
- Delivered from outside the EU to any non-EU country.

Amnesty International is campaigning to close the loopholes in EU laws to restrict the trade in torture equipment. Find out more at amnesty.org.uk/stop torture



Lethal injection drug

- Need to make space on death row? Want the big day to go without a hitch? We have just the drug for you!
- Add this to the mix for a hassle-free execution. The prison service in Georgia, USA is a big fan.
- Stay one step ahead of the rules with our catalogue and check out our latest killer drugs.
- Delivered from outside the EU to any non-EU country.

Amnesty International is campaigning to close the loopholes in EU laws to restrict the trade in torture equipment. Find out more at amnesty.org.uk/stop torture

IMPORTANT! These cards have a humorous side but, of course, still deal with serious issues. Please make sure they are appropriate for the age group you are working with.

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

RESOURCES

For more information on the campaign, including campaign resources, current online actions, research reports and videos see:

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/Stop-Torture>
<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/1629/all/0/1608/Stop/0#.VBrguVc4M0E>

You can download the flashcards here:

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/sites/default/files/student_groups_stop_torture_flash_cards.pdf

You can also order them from our mailing house. Call **01788 545 553** and quote the code STOPT017

All groups should have received a Stop Torture campaign pack at the start of the campaign in May 2014. You can order more copies of this pack by calling the above number and quoting the code STOPT01.



Youth group members protest outside Nigerian Embassy for Moses Akatugba – June 2014

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Extras 1: Letter to MEPs ON the International Trade Committee (INTA)

Dear

I am writing to you as the International Trade Committees (INTA) will be debating Commission proposal 2014/0005(COD) to amend Council Regulation 1236/2005, which is supposed to prohibit the trade in torture equipment. I ask you to support Amnesty International's calls to strengthen this legislation and to close all loopholes that allow the trade in the tools of torture. The UK has been a world leader in preventing the trade of equipment used for torture across the world and I urge you to continue this tradition at the EU level.

Please table or support amendments to the regulation at the International Trade committee that:

1. Introduces effective controls on companies brokering deals potentially resulting in the trade in goods covered by the regulation;
2. Prohibits companies promoting the sale of equipment in their commercial marketing, as well as through exhibition and trade fairs in EU countries, that could be used by law enforcement officials for torture or ill-treatment;
3. Introduces a "catch all" clause allowing all Member States to immediately prohibit the trade in goods where it is clear that the items are likely being used for torture, ill-treatment or the death penalty, even if they are not specifically listed under the regulation.

I am a member of the {insert group name} Amnesty International group and we would welcome you attending one of our meetings or events to discuss this further and learn about our work.

I look forward to hearing from you on how you are supporting this important work.

Yours sincerely,

(Insert name and address so they know you are a constituent)

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Extras 2: Letter to MEPs NOT ON the International Trade Committee

Dear

I am writing to you as MEPs will be voting on Commission Proposal 2014/0005(COD) to amend Council Regulation 1236/2005 during this parliament, which is supposed to prohibit the trade in torture equipment. I ask you to support Amnesty International's calls to strengthen this legislation and to close all loopholes that allow the trade in the tools of torture. The UK has been a world leader in preventing the trade of equipment used for torture across the world and I urge you to continue this tradition at the EU level.

Please discuss these calls with colleagues in the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committees, and support amendments to the regulation that:

1. Introduces effectively controls on companies brokering deals potentially resulting in the trade in goods covered by the regulation;
2. Prohibits companies promoting the sale of equipment in their commercial marketing, as well as through exhibition and trade fairs in EU countries, that could be used by law enforcement officials for torture or ill-treatment;
3. Introduces a "catch all" clause allowing all Member States to immediately prohibit the trade in goods where it is clear that the items are likely being used for torture, ill-treatment or the death penalty, even if they are not specifically listed under the regulation.

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I look forward to hearing from you on how you are supporting this important work.

Yours sincerely,

(Insert name and address so they know you are a constituent)

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Extras 3: MEPs on the Foreign Affairs (AFET) and International Trade (INTA) committees by region Please send the template letter from Extras 1 if the MEP is listed in the table below and the letter from Extras 2 to all other MEPs in your constituency.

Region	MEP name Committee (AFET/ INTA)	Contact address
Eastern	David Campbell Bannerman, INTA	153 St Neots Road Hardwick, Cambridge CB23 7QJ david.campbellbannerman@europarl.europa.eu
East Midlands	Emma McClarkin, INTA	Ground Floor Suite, Three Crowns Yard,, High Street, Market Harborough Leicestershire, LE16 7AF emma.mcclarkin@europarl.europa.eu
London	Syed Kamall, INTA	3 Bridle Close, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2JW syed.kamall@europarl.europa.eu
North East	Jude Kirton-Darling, INTA	Labour Central, Kings Manor, Newcastle upon Tyne,, NE1 6PA jude.kirton-darling@europarl.europa.eu
North West	Sajjad Karim, INTA	North West Conservatives, 14b Wynford Square, West Ashton Street, Salford, M50 2SN sajjad.karim@europarl.europa.eu
Scotland	David Martin, INTA	Midlothian Innovation Centre Pentlandfield, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9RE david.martin@europarl.europa.eu
South West	William (the Earl of) Dartmouth, INTA	Lexdrum House, King Charles Business Park Heathfield, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 6UT william.dartmouth@europarl.europa.eu

Please remember to provide feedback on which MEPs you write to and send any replies to:

anne.montague@amnesty.org.uk

YOUTH GROUP ACTION



EU: DON'T PROFIT FROM TORTURE

Torture is abhorrent and the EU must urgently close loopholes that allow people to profit from torture. I call on the EU to take all necessary steps to ensure that torture equipment cannot be brought, sold or advertised within its borders or by its citizens. To stop torture we have to start now.

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