



Amnesty International
Reading Group
NEWSLETTER
Summer 2012

PROTECT THE HUMAN

We are ordinary people from across the world standing up for humanity and human rights. Our purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Next group meeting - Thursday 13TH September 2012 at 8pm at RISC – West Papua update
- Reading Pride – Saturday 8th September. If anyone would like to volunteer on our stall, please contact Ann McFarlane on ammcf@o2.co.uk
- **BIG NEWS - AI:UK's Kate Allen comes to Reading for the International Festival , Thursday 18th October – Keep this date free in your diaries. More details to follow**
- Classical music concert booked for Friday 30th November at Chantry House, Henley – tickets on sale from Peter at amnesty.reading@googlemail.com

GROUP NEWS IN BRIEF

- **WOMAD NEWS** - WOMAD organiser Sue Bingham says "Thanks to everyone (over 300 people) at the Womad festival who signed our petition to the Cuban authorities on Freedom of Expression, Assembly, Association & Movement and coloured in a bird for Cuba. We raised £144 and 10 people joined Amnesty at the stall. It was a great weekend – thanks to all the volunteers too who did a great job running the stall organised by AI Reading Group". Take a look at our facebook page for lots of photos of the fun.
- **SPONSOR OUR GROUP SECRETARY ANN IN HER KILIMANJARO CLIMB** - Our group secretary, Ann McFarlane, is climbing Kilimanjaro in October for her honeymoon and to raise money for Amnesty!! Do click through to her Just Giving page to make a donation – let's get her to the top!!!
<http://www.justgiving.com/Anne-McFarlane>
- **NEW TWITTER ACCOUNT** – Do you follow people or groups on Twitter?? Look for our group's new twitter feed on **@amnestyreading** We're called **AI:UK Reading Group**
- **NEW WEBSITE** – Take a look at our new website, as all the groups move onto this new format <http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/reading>

- **ANNUAL TOTALS** - At the AGM, our treasurer Peter Howe, was asked how much the Reading Group has raised for Amnesty over the last few years. Rounded to the nearest pound
 - 2011: £2146
 - 2010: £2431
 - 2009: £1898
 - 2008: £1083
 - 2007: £1802
- **Quiz night**



Reading Group's Quiz Night

On Wednesday 23rd May, the Reading Amnesty International Group held a Quiz Night - we raised over £200!! Thanks to all who worked to make this a brilliant evening, particularly Liz, Sean, Peter, Alex and Iona.

- **Thanks to Debbie** - After many years of being the group's Southern Africa co-ordinator, Debbie has decided to stand down. Debbie has worked so hard to keep the group up-to-date with important news, particularly with regard to Zimbabwe. Thanks Debbie, the group will miss your excellent commitment to human rights. Anyone fancy taking up this campaign for the group???

ACTIONS

Please click the link or scroll to the end of this document or follow the links for actions you can take to support issues that the Reading Group follows closely.

- **Cuba** – Protesters held without charge – Damas de Blanco
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR25/018/2012/en>
- **Russia** – action see below for Mamir Nematov who faces extradition and torture – please send by 14th September 2012
- **EGYPT** - Call for justice for the family of Mohamed Sayed Ibrahim

- **Russia** – TEXT ACTION to support Pussy Riot – we're so pleased that it's getting onto our national news
http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/blogs/sms-action-network/pussy-riot?utm_source=aiuk&utm_medium=Priorities&utm_campaign=IAR&utm_content=pussy_sms_priority

Don't forget to keep up to date with our group's news, frequently updated with photos and updates:

- Website = <http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/reading>
- facebook page = <http://www.facebook.com/groups/36991953109/>
- twitter = @amnestyreading

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL READING GROUP MEETINGS

All at RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading, RG1 4PS

MEETINGS: second Thursday of each month at 8pm. All are welcome.

CAMPAIGNS: We campaign on a wide range of human rights issues. We work Filep Karma, a prisoner of conscience in West Papua, on countries in Africa, South-East Asia, and particularly on human rights issues in Cuba, Russia, Burma, and Zimbabwe; for an end to the Death Penalty; to stop violence against women; on poverty; and on other issues and cases as they arise.

ALSO: We raise funds for Amnesty International, and can provide speakers about Amnesty and human rights issues for local organisations: contact our secretary Anne McFarlane, ammcf@o2.co.uk.

Amnesty Reading Newsletter editor Helen Ball, Tel: 07900 886 306
email: helenball03@yahoo.co.uk

Prosecutor General
Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika
Bolshaia Dmitrovka 15 A
Moscow 125993
Russian Federation

Dear Prosecutor General

Re: Mamir Nematov faces extradition and torture

I write concerning Mamir Nematov who faces a real risk of torture and other ill-treatment if extradited to Kyrgyzstan.

Mamir Nematov is an ethnic Uzbek who fled to the Russian Federation in August 2010 following violent clashes between ethnic Kyrgyz and ethnic Uzbeks in southern Kyrgyzstan. All ethnic Uzbeks fleeing the violence were granted temporary asylum by the Russian Federal Migration Service.

Your office had refused all extradition requests on the grounds that it was unsafe for ethnic Uzbeks to return. That is until 4 May, when your office upheld a request for Mamir Nematov's return on charges of murder and participation in mass disturbances. This despite the fact that his asylum request was still being processed, and that Uzbeks continue to be disproportionately targeted by security forces in southern Kyrgyzstan.

An appeal by Mamir Nematov's defence team against the extradition order was refused by the Supreme Court of the Russian Republic of Tatarstan on 25 June. This refusal ignored a decree issued by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation the previous week that reiterated Russia's obligations under human rights law for courts *not* to approve extradition requests where there is a well-founded fear that the person extradited might be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

Mamir Nematov's defence team believe the charges against him are fabricated and ethnically motivated. Amnesty International believes Mamir Nematov will be at serious risk of grave human rights violations, in particular incommunicado detention, torture or other ill-treatment and imprisonment in cruel, inhuman and degrading conditions following an unfair trial should he be extradited. Your office will be aware the Special Rapporteur on torture expressed concern in his February 2012 report on his visit to Kyrgyzstan that "serious human rights violations in the context of [these] investigations have continued unabated in recent months...".

The Russian Federation Supreme Court will hear Mamir Nematov's final appeal is on 7 August. Mamir Nematov maintains he played no part in the violence in June 2010 as he was in a refugee camp on the Uzbekistan border.

I ask you to rescind the extradition order granted by your office against Mamir Nematov.

I also call on you to honour and uphold the Russian Federation's obligation under international law, and your own Supreme Court's Decree Number 11 of 16 June 2012, not to return forcibly anyone to a country where they would be at risk of serious human rights violations.

I look forward to your immediate and constructive response to our requests.

Yours sincerely

cc Chair of the Supreme Court, Vyachslav Mikhailovich Lebedev
His Excellency Mr Alexander V Yakovenko, Embassy of the Russian Federation

Take Action: Call for justice for the family of Mohamed Sayed Ibrahim

Abdel Latif.

The 23 year old bakery employee and wedding decorator, Latif, was allegedly shot dead by the police while helping an injured man in North Giza , Imbaba on 29 January 2011. The police tried to bribe and pressurise the family into dropping the case.

They refused, along with other families of protestors in the Imbaba neighbourhood. Ministers of Justice and the Interior met the families and promised the detention of the accused police officers. The four police officers were put on trial in a criminal court by the Public Prosecutor in October 2011 for the premeditated murder of Latif and others but have been allowed bail and continue to work.

A delegation from Amnesty International and the Secretary General met the family and demanded justice for Mohamed Abdel Latif over a year ago. His father, Sayed Abdel Latif, told them, "What we want is justice for our children, for the blood of our children; we want justice and nothing more." The family was promised justice but despite many reminders and protests is still waiting. Lawyers for the family are concerned that the pressure exerted on family and witnesses such as being coerced into signing false statements may result in the acquittal of the officers.

Please take action and write to:

Minister of Justice Councillor Adel Abd al-Hameed Abdallah
Ministry of Justice
Lazoghly Square - Ministry of Justice
Building
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax No: +20 27958103
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior Mohamed Kamel Amr
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Masbero-Kornish El Nile St .
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax No: +20 25748822
Email: center@iscmi.gov.eg
Salutation: Your Excellency

You could include the following points in your letter:

- * Remind the PM that the Minister of Justice and the Minister of the Interior promised in June 2011 to bring the case to trial. This began in October 2011 and is still on-going.
- * To ask why the police officers involved in the case in a criminal court have been given bail and are still allowed to operate
- * To inquire into the means used by the police on the family and witnesses including coercion to sign false testimony
- * Fears that unreliable evidence may result in an unfair and partial trial contrary to Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Egypt is a signatory.