



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

6th June
Speaker from Syrian Non Violence Movement

4th July
Training/workshop
Afghan Women's Rights

1st August
Group Business Meeting

Letter Writing Evenings

An evening once a month to sit and write letters with fellow Amnesty members. These evenings are hosted at member's houses. All welcome, simply contact the host/hostess for details:

19th June
Host Emma
01273 232397

Monthly Collection

25th May
Contact Catherine : 07828 584430 to volunteer

Annual Street Collection

14th September
Brighton

Monthly Stall

22nd June
Action for our women rights in Afghanistan

3rd August
LGBT Rights
PRIDE

Stalls are in Sydney Street outside the Amnesty bookshop

Contact Jill 01273 621697

Campaign for Women's Rights in Afghanistan Group members meet Caroline Lucas mp



Group members Gwyneth, Emma, Peter, Jill, Jim and Madeline had a very successful meeting with Caroline Lucas mp at her Constituency Office in Middle Street on 10th May 2013.

Emma introduced us, and thanked Caroline Lucas for her time and support for AI B & H. She asked for her further support re the campaign for Afghan Women's rights. She reminded us that Afghanistan is said to be one of the most dangerous countries on earth for women to live.

Gwyneth set out the principle aims of the Afghan Women's Rights Campaign and stressed that the UK shares responsibilities in meeting these objectives.

Women should be fully and meaningfully represented in the Peace process.

To combat Violence against women.

To support women human rights defenders in Afghanistan As you can see from the picture, Caroline agreed to take the Purple Finger Pledge.

She also agreed to write to Baroness Warsi at the FCO Ministry, along the lines set out in the AIUK letter to MPs.

She agreed to become a "Champion" in the cause of Afghan Women's rights.

She was also keen to be invited to take part in creative campaigning around this campaign that Amnesty International Brighton and Hove's have planned for the Summer.

To get involved with this campaign please contact Gwyneth gwyneth.jones@ntlworld.com

Bring Shaker Aamer home—Close Guantanamo Global Weekend of Action

Brighton and Hove Amnesty members joined a Global Weekend of Action in solidarity with the hunger strikers and to call for the closure of Guantanamo.

On Saturday 18th May members of the local group dressed in orange boiler suits and asked members of the public to sign a petition to close Guantanamo and to return Shaker Aamer to his family in London. We collected over 200 signatures on the petition in two hours and were amazed and pleased at just how receptive members of the public were to this issue. It is the first time that I remember standing in the street asking people to sign an Amnesty petition where there were actually people coming over asking to sign and waiting their turn to do so! It just goes to show how aware people are about the human rights abuses in Guantanamo and the public support for it's closure. Let's hope that the American government take notice and that Obama keeps to his promises to close Guantanamo very soon.

Thank you to all the group members who volunteered and to everyone who supported us by signing the petition.

Emma

Over 200 people attended the demonstration in London on January 7th calling for **SHAKER AAMER'S** release and for the closure of Guantanamo and Bagram. On 14th February Shaker will have been in Guantanamo for 10 years, despite being cleared for release in 2007. It is now known that he has been moved to the punishment wing and is in poor health. Another British resident from Bournemouth is **AHMED BELHACHA** who has also been held in Guantanamo without charge or trial for over ten years. 171 prisoners remain in Guantanamo. In spite of the special relationship" with the US, Britain has failed to secure the release and return to the UK of these two prisoners. The British government's efforts to help close the illegal prisons at Guantanamo Bay and Bagram remain feeble.

There are now major concerns about the health of the prisoners,



Brighton and Hove Amnesty Activists in Sydney Street, Brighton

over 80 of whom have been on hunger strike for over 100 days. They are being force fed and denied independent medical treatment. Shaker has sent a message saying that he has been denied water and fears that him and others may soon be dead.

Look at the Brighton and Hove Amnesty Website for a full update on Shaker Aamer and an action to take:
www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton

WRITE TO WILLIAM HAGUE, FOREIGN SECRETARY, asking him to put pressure on the US government for the release of **SHAKER AAMER AND AHMED BELHACHA.**

Celia

The attached list provides names and details of Guantánamo detainees to whom messages of solidarity may be sent. These have been selected on the basis of receiving consent from their lawyers to do so.

Messages should be kept to simple messages of greeting and good will. Do not include political comments.

Only send non-religious cards, and avoid referring to religion in your message. For example: rather than writing "you are in our prayers", write "you are in our thoughts."

Write your message in simple English, unless specifically stated otherwise.

Address to which messages should be sent:

Detainee name and ISN number
Camp Delta
US Naval Guantánamo Bay,
Cuba
Washington DC 20355 , USA

Mike



Daily vigils in London

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Campaign Update

Victory for local people against Vedanta mine

In a landmark victory for indigenous rights in India, the Indian Supreme Court has handed the indigenous (adivasi) communities of the area the right to decide for themselves whether or not they want the intended mining project to go ahead.



A subsidiary of Vedanta Resources, a UK registered mining company, is seeking to mine for bauxite in the traditional lands of the Dongria Kondh community in Orissa, India, to supply its nearby refinery at Lanjigarh. However, the plans have faced local resistance. The 700-hectare open-cast mine will be located in the Niyamgiri Hills, upon which the Dongria Kondh people are dependent for their water, food, livelihoods and cultural identity. With the support of Amnesty International and other organisations, the indigenous communities of the area have been campaigning in India and abroad to ensure they have the final say on this mine.

The Supreme Court ruled that the gram sabhas (assemblies consisting of adult voters) of two villages, located near the proposed mine, would need to decide if the mine plans affected their religious and cultural rights, including their right to worship and if it conflicted with any individual or community claims on the land. They have been asked to share their decision within three months.

Amnesty International's Business and Human Rights Advisor, Paul Eagle, pointed out that it is 'crucial that women and marginal members in the communities are involved in the decision-making' and that all information about the proposed mine is in an accessible language. 'Once the adivasi communities have made their decision and communicated it to the authorities, it is essential that their decision is respected. We hope that the authorities and companies involved will allow the gram sabhas to reach their decision without interference'.

For more information, please visit <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=11775>.

Demand Justice for Hakamada Iwao

Take Action:

Hakamada Iwao is 77 years old. He has spent the majority of his life on death row, awaiting execution every day for a crime he claims he did not commit. New DNA evidence could reinforce his claims of innocence. Please help us to ask for a retrial for Hakamada.

The campaign for justice has become even more urgent because we are fearful that the new government, which swept to power in December 2012, will up the pace of executions. Three have already taken place this year, and the new Minister of Justice has publicly declared his support for the death penalty.

Please either write in your own words to the Minister of Justice, Sadakazu Tanigaki, and call for Hakamada's execution to be stayed or send the enclosed letter.

Emma



Brighton and Hove Amnesty members stand in solidarity with Hakamada Iwao. The messages, in Japanese, read 'End the Death Penalty' and 'In Solidarity'. This photo has been sent to Amnesty Japan to show support from around the world and help them to campaign for Hakamada to have a retrial.

BRIGHTON & HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS

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Campaign Co-ordinators:

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Prisoner of Conscience—MOHAMED SAYED IBRAHIM ABDEL LATIF—Celia Stubbs—01273 593833

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Amnesty Websites: international - www.amnesty.org AI UK -

www.amnesty.org.uk local group - www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton

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