

Shaker Aamer

Update and campaigning action



A few newspapers, including the Washington Post and The Independent, have reported that Shaker's release might be imminent.

Amnesty USA think that President Obama is committed to closing Guantanamo, but opposition from within Congress continues to be an issue. President Obama has promised to prioritise a review of Shaker's case. However, the nature of this review is not clear. Shaker is currently cleared for transfer only to Saudi Arabia, not the UK. If the reports of a release in June are true, and the review is not about whether he should be transferred to the UK, this could mean the US still intends to send him to Saudi Arabia.

Amnesty has produced a new campaign briefing for the Stop Torture campaign, which is due to arrive with groups this week. This includes a request for activists to write personalised letters to President Obama on Shaker's case (President Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500). The demands Amnesty is asking activists to include in letters are:

- Secure the release of Shaker Aamer and return him to the UK without delay, if he is not to be charged and brought to fair trial;
- Give Shaker Aamer immediate and regular access to independent medical assessments and care;
- Immediately investigate all allegations that Shaker Aamer has been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment and ensure that anyone found responsible is brought to justice.

The Save Shaker Aamer Campaign has raised more than £5000 to send a delegation of MPs to US, which is great news. This should be happening after the election. The SSAC are also organising a 14 hour vigil in Trafalgar Square on 16 May.

**GUANTANAMO SPONSORED CAGE EVENT AND VIGIL
SATURDAY 16th MAY
TRAFALGAR SQUARE – 8am – 10pm**

**Please join in during any part of the day
Assemble in front of the National Gallery**

British resident Shaker Aamer has been detained unlawfully in Guantanamo for 14 years. He is held in a steel cage in solitary confinement. His human rights are denied him.

On May 16th Becky one of Save Shaker Aamer supporters, will spend 14 hours in a "Guantanamo" cage, one hour for every year that Shaker has been wrongfully detained. Other Shaker Aamer activists will take part in the 14 hour protest vigil to raise funds to send a UK MPs delegation to Washington to campaign for Shaker Aamer's release. All monies raised will go towards meeting the cost of the Shaker Aamer Parliamentary Group delegation to Washington. While in the US the MPs will raise the case of Shaker, calling for his immediate release from Guantanamo and return to the UK.

To make a donation please contact ssac.contact@gmail.com.

**Mansoura women
Update on our group's adopted prisoners of conscience**



Egypt's highest court on 12 April overturned the conviction of university students Abrar Al-Anany and Menatalla Moustafa and teacher Yousra Elkhateeb. The decision by the Court of Cassation means that the women will now be retried.

The women still remain in detention as the court did not order their release, the family of Menatalla Moustafa confirmed to Amnesty International on 15 April.

"We are grateful to everyone who sent appeals ahead of the hearing. We will update you as soon as we hear when the retrial will begin, or if there is any other news."