
Amnesty International

GROUP CAMPAIGN UPDATE



Stop Torture Campaign / October 2014

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



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Local group's monthly mailing can be downloaded from:
www.amnesty.org.uk/groups

Amnesty International

GROUP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

STOP TORTURE - CAMPAIGN BACKGROUND

Amnesty International has been fighting torture for over 50 years and campaigned hard for the creation of the UN 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. 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 on individuals' cases

Victims and survivors of torture are at the heart of the campaign. We are seeking progress on their cases, standing in solidarity with them and their families and showing that people across the world are concerned about what happens to them. Each case also highlights systemic 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, 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. More information on Ali's case: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/ali>

Alfreda Disbarro: On 11 June, the Acting Chief Inspector of the Philippine Police Internal Affairs Service opened an investigation into the torture of Alfreda. We received information that this happened after receiving a letter from two Amnesty activists. More information on Alfreda's case: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/alfreda>

Claudia Medina: After seeing photos from Amnesty's global day of action Claudia said "I have seen that many people know about my case now, and this is formidable news. It allows me to share my story, to be seen and heard. I would like to thank Amnesty International for all the support you are giving me. God bless you all." More information on Claudia's case:

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

Moses Akatugba: The authorities have received a huge amount of letters, cards and emails from activists around the world. Because of this, the Delta State Board of Mercy visited Moses and 118 other death row inmates in June. The visit was part of the due process that the Governor must follow to exercise his constitutional powers to grant a pardon. This is an important step towards Moses's death sentence being commuted. After receiving many messages of support from Amnesty members, Moses said *"I didn't know the campaigners before, I have not seen them before, but I cried for help [and] they responded massively to save me. I didn't know that people still have such great love to their fellow human beings"*. More information on Moses' case: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/moses>

Dilorom Abdukadirova: After receiving your 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>

TAKING THE STOP TORTURE CAMPAIGN TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union (EU) is currently reviewing the law which prohibits trade in items used for torture, (Council Regulation 1236/2005). 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 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.

During this European parliament there will be a chance to strengthen the regulation to ensure that the EU is never complicit in the sale of torture items. The European Commission has come up with a proposal to amend the regulation, which 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 MEP committees, the Foreign Affairs and Trade committees, 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.

What are we asking for?

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

- 1) 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. 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 complicit in the trade in torture equipment. In the same way as the arms trade is currently regulated, we are calling for effective controls on companies brokering deals that could result in trade in goods banned under the regulation. We need to close this loophole.
- 2) Although many items are banned from sale, companies are still able to promote and market 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.

3) Attached to the main body of the regulation are lists and categories of equipment that are subject to the legislation. These lists are comprised of two types of equipment:

- 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 subject to a blanket ban;
- Secondly, there is a list of “controlled” equipment, which comprises of items that sometimes have legitimate uses, but can also clearly be used to commit or facilitate acts of torture, for example 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.

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. If we are to stop the trade in torture equipment then the EU must introduce a “catch all” clause. This would allow an additional safeguard to enable 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. In other similar areas, such as the trade in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, or for arms embargoes, similar “catch all” clauses are already in place. We want to bring the EU laws on torture goods in line with these existing measures.

ACTION 1:

Please write to your local Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). MEPs on the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET) and 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 AFET and INTA and their addresses in Annex 3 and a link to find all your other MEPs online.

Eleven UK MEPs are on the AFET and seven are on INTA. Please check (the list in Annex 3) if any of your MEPs is listed as members of these committees 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 (Annex 1 for members of AFET and INTA and Annex 2 for all other MEPs). Each UK region has between three and ten 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. If you can handwrite these letters and include why you, as a constituent, care, it will make your letters more effective.

Please let us know you have done this and send us any response you receive so we can use this information when meeting MEPs. Email feedback to:

lobbyfeedback@amnesty.org.uk

STOP TORTURE IN NIGERIA'S DETENTION CENTRES

Amnesty International has visited police stations and prisons throughout Nigeria for many years and documented hundreds of allegations of torture or ill-treatment in police or military custody. On 18 September, we launched the report *"Welcome to hell fire: torture and ill-treatment in Nigeria"*, which highlights how the Nigerian police and military routinely use torture as punishment or to extract information and 'confessions'. Findings from the report also show that many police sections in various states have 'torture chambers' and an 'Officer in Charge of torture' or 'O/C Torture'.

Moses Akatugba's case is typical of the problems of forced confessions perverting the criminal justice system. Thank you to everyone who has taken action on his case so far.

For this action, we are targeting the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) police detention centre in Awkuzu, where we know torture is taking place. Through this tactic, we want the detention centre to know that there is widespread awareness outside of Nigeria that torture is taking place in its premises, and pressure the authorities into taking concrete steps to end the use of torture.



SARS Awkuzu

"I was given a thorough beating. They took me to a place they called 'theatre'... They tied my hands behind my back and tied me with a rope while I was left hanging on a rod. They were pulling the robes from both sides"

Statement made by 'Okey', a former detainee in SARS Awkuzu.

Chinwe', another detainee at Awkuzu, told Amnesty International researchers that during his detention at least five people died every day due to torture, starvation or exhaustion.

Amnesty International is calling on SARS detention centre in Awzuku to:

- Stop the use of torture and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice;
- Release detainees or charge them with an internationally recognized crime;
- Allow access to families, lawyers and medical care.

To read the report *"Welcome to hell fire: torture and ill-treatment in Nigeria"* and a country briefing on torture in Nigeria go to: www.amnesty.org.uk/nigeriatorture

ACTION 2: Send a letter to the SARS detention centre in Awkuzu, Nigeria

Target name:

Head of Detention Facility

Address: SARS Headquarters, Awkuzu junction, Onitsha/Enugu Expressway, Awkuzu, Anambra State, Nigeria

Dear Sir,

I write to express my concern in relation to those detained in SARS Awkuzu. Amnesty International has documented cases where people have been tortured by police in SARS Awkuzu. Detainees have also been held without charge and denied access to a legal representative or a person of choice, all in violation of the Nigerian Constitution, as well as international human rights law standards.

I urge the police to therefore comply and:

- Stop the use of torture in SARS and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice;
- Release detainees or charge them with an internationally recognized crime;
- Allow access to families, lawyers and medical care.

Yours sincerely,

STOP TORTURE CAMPAIGN RESOURCES

Accompanying this mailing is a briefing, which gives an overview of the campaign.

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#.VBrguVc4MOE>

All activist groups should have received a Stop Torture campaign pack at the start of the campaign. You can order more copies of this pack by calling **01788 545 553** and quote the code STOPT01

To request a more in-depth briefing on the EU tools of Torture contact: activism@amnesty.org.uk or call 020 7033 1675.

Annex 1: Letter to MEPs ON the Foreign Affairs (AFET) or International Trade Committees (INTA)

Dear

Congratulations on your election in May to the European Parliament.

I am writing to you as the Foreign Affairs (AFET) and 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 Foreign Affairs or International Trade committees 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)

Annex 2: Letter to MEPs NOT ON the Foreign Affairs Committee or International Trade Committees

Dear

Congratulations on your election in May to the European parliament.

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.

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)

Annex 3: MEPs on the Foreign Affairs (AFET) and International Trade (INTA) committees by region

Please send the template letter from Annex 1 if the MEP is listed in the table below and the letter from Annex 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
Eastern	Richard Howitt, AFET	The Labour European Office Unit 3, Frohock House, 222 Mill Road, Cambridge . CB1 3NF richard.howitt@europarl.europa.eu
Eastern	Geoffrey Van Orden, AFET	Conservative Office 88 Rectory Lane, Chelmsford, Essex , CM1 1RF geoffrey.vanorden@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
London	Charles Tannock, AFET	1A Chelsea Manor Street, London , SW3 5RP charles.tannock@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
North West	Afzal Khan, AFET	European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, Altiero Spinelli 13G209, 1047 Brussels, Belgium afzal.khan@europarl.europa.eu
Scotland	Alyn Smith, AFET	TechCube, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL alyn.smith@europarl.europa.eu
Scotland	David Martin, AFET and INTA	Midlothian Innovation Centre Pentlandfield, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9RE david.martin@europarl.europa.eu
South East	Nirj Deva, AFET	96 Vine Lane, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 OBE nirj.deva@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
West Midlands	James Carver, AFET	james.carver@europarl.europa.eu
West Midlands	Neena Gill, AFET	14-16 Bristol Street Horsefair, Birmingham, B5 7AF neena.gill@europarl.europa.eu
Yorkshire and the Humber	Amjad Bashir, AFET	Altiero Spinelli 03E264, European Parliament Rue Wiertz, 1047 Brussels, Belgium amjad.bashir@europarl.europa.eu
Yorkshire and the Humber	Mike Hookem, AFET	European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, Altiero Spinelli 03F353, 1047 Brussels, Belgium mike.hookem@europarl.europa.eu

Please remember to provide feedback on which MEPs you write to and send any replies to:
lobbyfeedback@amnesty.org.uk