



# Amnesty International Reading Group NEWSLETTER

November 2013

## 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.*

### PREVIOUS EVENTS – AN EVENING WITH(OUT) FILEP KARMA

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013 saw a high profile event in UK as Reading Amnesty International Group drew attention to Filep's plight at a special meeting as part of Reading International Festival. Reading Amnesty Group have been campaigning for his freedom for over 10 years. Eighty people heard the political and legal



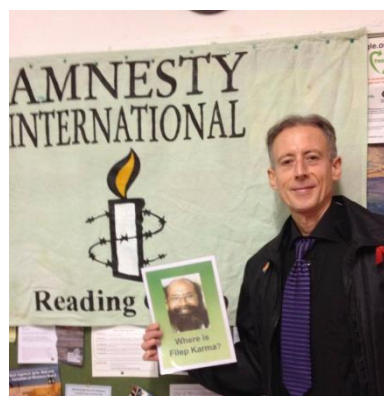
background to his story from human rights activist **Peter Tatchell**, international law expert **Melinda Janki** and from West Papuans themselves, including **Chief Benny Wenda**, **Chair of the Koteka Tribal Assembly**, joined

by the West Papuan **Lani Singers**. The audience then took practical actions to help Filep, signing a petition to the Indonesian Ambassador (who sent his representative to observe the meeting) and writing postcards to Filep, which we know help to keep him in good spirits. His daughter Audryne sent a short film thanking the people of Reading for their support. You can see it here: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cr\\_S5UvMtAY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cr_S5UvMtAY)

Some photos of the event are posted on the website: [www.freefilepkarma.org](http://www.freefilepkarma.org) and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/253959534694499/>

Please sign this petition for Filep's release:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/indonesian-president-susilo-bambang-yudhoyono-free-west-papua-political-prisoners-a-plea-from-the-daughter-of-filep-karma>



## NEWS

- **Group plan 2014** - We held our group planning meeting this month, so we have an interesting and varied plan of meetings and events lined up for 2014. I've attached it to this newsletter, so do come along and join in. You can also find it on our website. Please note – there may be changes as the year goes on.  
<https://www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/reading/our-group-plan-2014>
- **New Amnesty International Website**- Amnesty's new look website has lots of resources online for groups now. The monthly "**Groups News**" is now available to download. Take a look at November's issue and see how many times you can spot our group – or the Henley student group, which is run by our own Sue Bingham.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/groups-news-november-2013-0>

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **Next group meeting** – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Amnesty's annual **Write for Rights campaign** – send a greetings card to a human rights campaigner in need of your support. If you're not able to attend our meeting, then do write some cards at home. All the materials are online at Amnesty's website.  
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-rights-2013>
- **Caversham street collection** – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2014
- **Regional Conference** – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014, Oxford
- **Quiz Night** – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, The Warehouse, Reading – more info to follow in the next newsletter.

## 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.

- **Online petition to Cambodia Minister of Justice**  
**Yorm Bopha** – We were going to feature Yorm's case but have good news – she has been released on bail. Continue to support her case by following up-dates at  
<https://www2.amnesty.org.uk/blogs/urgent-action-network/yorm-bopha-released-bail>
- **Saudi Arabian man** – call on the authorities to halt the execution of **Mabruk bin Ali al-Sai'ari**. Please send this email as soon as possible, by end of December at the latest.
- **Adly al-Qazzaz** - Egyptian armed security forces arrested 67-year-old Adly al-Qazzaz at his home in Cairo, at 3 am on 24 October. A State Security Prosecutor is investigating accusations that he belongs to a "banned group". Amnesty International is concerned that Adly al-Qazzaz, who is in poor health, was arrested because his son is an aide to the deposed president, Mohamed Morsi. However, this is not mentioned in the attached letter since it is speculation (probably justified) but stating it in the letter may not help his case. According to the information available to Amnesty International, the security forces who arrested Adly al-Qazzaz did not show any warrant and were dressed in plain clothes. They took **Adly al-Qazzaz** to Moqattam Police Station and then to the Supreme State Security Prosecution Office in New Cairo where he was questioned over accusations that he belongs to a banned group, and has taken part in terrorist-related activities. The security forces then transferred Adly al-Qazzaz to the Tora Prison complex, south of Cairo. Adly al-Qazzaz was not allowed to inform his family and lawyer of his whereabouts for three days after his arrest.  
Adly al-Qazzaz's lawyer told Amnesty International that the Prosecutor did not present any incriminating evidence during the questioning to support the accusations against

Adly al-Qazzaz. Instead, the questioning focused on his political beliefs.

A medical report states that Adly al-Qazzaz suffers from heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure. He was also due for a knee-replacement operation and recently underwent an operation on his back. His family is concerned that the authorities are not giving him adequate medication for his diabetes and heart condition.

Please take this action by 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**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 –search for Reading Amnesty International – Town Group = <http://www.facebook.com/groups/187525074719402>
- twitter = @amnestyreading
- Our prisoner of conscience has a website where you can keep up-to-date with latest developments - [www.freefilepkarma.org](http://www.freefilepkarma.org)
- And a facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/253959534694499/>

**MEETINGS:** second Thursday of each month at 8pm. All are welcome. **All upstairs at RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading, RG1 4PS**

**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](mailto:ammcf@o2.co.uk). Amnesty Reading Newsletter editor Helen Ball- email: [helenball03@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helenball03@yahoo.co.uk)

***For emailing to the Saudi embassy [ukemb@mofa.gov.sa](mailto:ukemb@mofa.gov.sa) as soon as possible, and no later than the end of December***

Your Excellency

I would be grateful if you would pass on to your government my urgent request that they halt the execution of **Mabruk bin Ali al-Sai'ari**.

I would respectfully remind the Saudi authorities that international standards for fair trials, including the UN Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, hold that capital punishment may only be imposed after a fair trial in which defendants are provided with adequate legal assistance at all stages of the proceedings. According to my information, such legal assistance was not given to Ibrahim Hassan either during his pre-trial detention or during any of his three trials. I am also informed that the evidence against him was either insubstantial or self-contradictory.

Moreover, there are allegations that Mabruk bin Ali al-Sai'ari was severely tortured in an (unsuccessful) attempt to make him confess to the crime of which he was accused. I call on the Saudi authorities to open an immediate, impartial and independent investigation into these allegations.

I am also concerned about the second defendant in the case, **Said bin Aoun bin Abdullah al-Sai'ari**, who was acquitted of the murder but remains in prison.

Yours respectfully

Interim President

Adly Mahmoud Mansour

Office of the President

Al Ittihadia Palace

Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Fax: +202 2 391 1441

Your Excellency

**The arrest of Adly al-Qazzaz on 24 October 2013 at his home in Cairo**

I am writing to express my concern over the arrest of Mr Adly al-Qazzaz on 24 October by plain clothes armed security officials who showed no arrest warrants. He was taken to the Supreme State Security Prosecution Office in New Cairo for questioning over accusations that he belonged to a banned group and had taken part in terrorist activities. No evidence was offered to support these accusations. He was then transferred to the Tora prison complex.

I would urge you to release Mr Adly al-Qazzaz immediately unless he is charged with a criminal offence. He should then be tried in a civilian court with guarantees for a fair trial according to international standards (to which Egypt is a party) which include specified charges and full access to a lawyer.

The family of Mr Adly al-Qazzaz only learnt of his arrest three days after it had happened. Mr Adly al-Qazzaz has been denied access to his family and they are very concerned for his health since he needs medication for heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure. I would ask you to ensure that Mr Adly al-Qazzaz has access to his family and that the security authorities will provide appropriate medical care while he is in detention.

Yours respectfully

Minister of Defence

General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

Ministry of Defence

Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Fax: +202 2 290 6004

+202 2 291 6227

Dear General

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Yours respectfully

Public Prosecutor

Hesham Mohamed Zaki Barakat  
Office of the Public Prosecutor  
Supreme Court House, 1 "26 July" Road  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt  
Fax: +202 2 577 4716  
+202 2 575 7165

Dear Counsellor

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