



## CALL ON THE UK TO STOP THE TRADE IN TORTURE EQUIPMENT



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We hope you will feel inspired to take action on all of our campaigns but remind you that all actions are optional.

This mailing is also available to download at

[www.amnesty.org.uk/youth](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/youth)

# YOUTH GROUP ACTION

## IN A NUTSHELL

As a result of concerns raised by Amnesty International and others, the European Union (EU) introduced specific laws to restrict the trade in torture equipment in 2005. But there are loopholes (gaps in the law) that mean certain types of trade or certain categories of torture equipment continue to be traded. The EU is currently reviewing the law banning the trade in equipment used for torture and the death penalty and we have a unique opportunity to close these loopholes.

### Why now?

The European Union (EU) is currently reviewing the law which stops the trade in items used for torture. We asked youth groups to write to Members of European Parliament (MEPs) in March. It is now expected that MEPs will finalise recommendations for this review at the end of November 2015 (so if you haven't written or met with your MEP, there is still time). Now the campaign will start to shift focus to the individual European governments, including the UK Government, who will now also have to agree to the changes proposed by the European Parliament. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for this area of work. Following the decisions by the European Parliament in November, there will be a period of negotiation between EU Council of Ministers (UK and other EU member states), the EU Commission and MEPs and only when agreement is reached between the three institutions, the review of the EU Torture trade law will be complete.

Now is the time to call on the UK government to support our call to close the loopholes that allow people in the EU to profit from the trade in torture equipment.

### Heads Up! DSEI Arms Fair

From the 15-18 September the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) Arms Fair returns to London. At past DSEI Fairs, Amnesty has uncovered torture equipment being illegally advertised. At the last DSEI Fair in 2013 for example, Amnesty uncovered two companies advertising a variety of torture equipment, including electric shock batons and leg irons. Previous fairs have all seen a variety of illegal weapons including cluster bombs, leg irons and electric shock weapons advertised for sale.

A key loophole we wish to see closed in these laws relates to the ease by which companies can continue to promote market and advertise tools of torture at arms fairs within the EU.

The DSEI Arms Fair therefore gives us a great opportunity to pressure the UK Government to support our calls to close the loopholes in the EU tools of torture laws and to stop torture equipment being traded in the UK at DSEI and other UK defence and security exhibitions.

**Take action online** - in September we will launch a new online action targeting the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. You will find this action at

[www.amnesty.org.uk/armsfair](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/armsfair)

# YOUTH GROUP ACTION

## The technical bit! What are we asking for?

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

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Brokering</b></p> <p>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!</p> <p>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 involved in the trade in torture equipment. We are calling for effective controls on companies brokering deals that could result in goods banned under the regulation being traded. We need to close this loophole.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Advertising</b></p> <p>Although many items are banned from sale, companies are still able to promote and advertise 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.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Prohibited v Controlled equipment</b></p> <p>The regulation contains lists of equipment that the law applies to. These lists are comprised of two types of equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 completely banned.</li> <li>• Secondly, there is a list of “controlled” equipment, which comprises of items that sometimes have valid uses, but can also clearly be used to commit or facilitate acts of torture. An example of this is 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.</li> </ul> <p>The problem is that 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. Therefore, to stop the trade in torture equipment the EU must introduce a “catch all” clause. This would allow EU countries to immediately prohibit the trade in goods where it is clear that the items are likely being used for torture <u>even if they are not specifically listed under the regulation</u>.</p>

# YOUTH GROUP ACTION

## TAKE ACTION: Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills

Write to Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. Personal letters are the most powerful. We've enclosed sample letters but these are just a guide. If you can handwrite these letters and include why you, as a youth group care, it will make your letters more effective.

Please send your letters to us at: **Anne Montague, Community Organiser (Youth), Amnesty International UK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, EC2A 3EA. Or email them to: [anne.montague@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:anne.montague@amnesty.org.uk)**

**Deadline: End of autumn term**

### Get Creative

Remember the series of flashcards 'selling' fake torture equipment we told you about in March (examples below)? You can still order these cards from our mailing house (see Resources section). With your group brainstorm ways you could use these cards to creatively raise awareness of the issue in your school/college.



*Lethal injection drug*

- Need to make space on death row? Want the big day to go without a hitch? We have just the drug for you!
- Add this to the mix for a hassle-free execution. The prison service in Georgia, USA is a big fan.
- Stay one step ahead of the rules with our catalogue and check out our latest killer drugs.
- Delivered from outside the EU to any non-EU country.

Gift wrap available

Amnesty International is campaigning to close the loopholes in EU laws to restrict the trade in torture equipment. Find out more at [amnesty.org.uk/stoptorture](http://amnesty.org.uk/stoptorture)



**RESTRAINT CHAIR**

- Tired of your prisoners blocking your blows with their arms? Sick of them struggling during a beating?
- This high-quality chair offers full-body restraint to keep prisoners completely still while you 'question' them. No movement, no fidgeting, no obstruction.
- Comes in four easy-to-assemble parts.
- Delivered from outside the EU to any non-EU country.

20% OFF IF YOU ORDER TODAY!

Amnesty International is campaigning to close the loopholes in EU laws to restrict the trade in torture equipment. Find out more at [amnesty.org.uk/stoptorture](http://amnesty.org.uk/stoptorture)

**Important! These cards have a humorous side but, of course, still deal with serious issues. Please make sure they are appropriate for the age group you are working with.**

## YOUTH GROUP ACTION

### Further actions:

- **Take action online** - in September we will launch a new online action targeting the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. You will find this action at [www.amnesty.org.uk/armsfair](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/armsfair)
- **Write to your MEPs** – if you haven't done so already. Please contact us if you need another copy of the March mailing.
- **Read the report** - *Europe: Grasping the nettle: Ending Europe's trade in execution and torture technology*  
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur01/1632/2015/en/>

### Resources

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#.VBrguVc4M0E>

You can download the flashcards here:

[http://www.amnesty.org.uk/sites/default/files/student\\_groups\\_stop\\_torture\\_flash\\_cards.pdf](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/sites/default/files/student_groups_stop_torture_flash_cards.pdf)

You can also order them from our mailing house. Call **01788 545 553** and quote the code STOPT017

All activist groups should have received a Stop Torture campaign pack at the start of the campaign in May 2014. You can order more copies of this pack by calling the above number and quoting the code STOPT01.

# YOUTH GROUP ACTION

## TEMPLATE LETTER

Dear Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills,

I am a / We are members of an Amnesty International UK youth group at [insert school/college name]. I am/We are writing to urge you to close the loopholes in the EU laws that prohibit the trade in torture equipment. I/ We ask you to support Amnesty International's calls to strengthen these laws 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/we urge you to continue this tradition at the EU level.

Specifically I/we call on you to use your influence to ensure the final text of the amended law:

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.

Furthermore I urge you to ensure that torture equipment is not illegally traded in the UK and that anyone found responsible is held to account.

I look forward to hearing from you on how you are supporting this important work.

Yours sincerely,