



## **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*

#### **4th September**

Speaker from Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

#### **2nd October**

Guest speaker  
Lesley Burgess  
Philippines' country co ordinator

#### **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:  
September to be confirmed

#### **Monthly Collection**

18th October  
15th November  
Contact Julian  
julianwatmore@gmail.com  
07583334740

#### **Monthly Stall's**

6th September  
11am -1pm  
Sydney Street  
Contact Jill 01273 621697

#### **Annual Street Collection**

13th September  
Contact Emma 01273 232397  
Or Catherine 07759271399

#### **Write for Rights 2014**

6th December  
Friends Meeting House  
Ship Street

## **Brighton and Hove Annual Street Collection Saturday 13th September 2pm to 5pm Volunteers needed**



The collection this year will take place in Brighton on the afternoon of **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September (2pm – 5pm)** and we have 30 one hour slots available throughout the afternoon.

Our annual street collection is one of our main ways of raising funds for Amnesty's vital work throughout the year. In addition to sending money to Amnesty UK headquarters to support research and campaigning internationally we also use funds raised to increase awareness and campaigning in Brighton and Hove.

**If you can volunteer an hour of your time on Saturday 13th September to take part in our biggest annual fundraising event then please contact: Emma on 01273 232397 or Catherine on 07759271399 or email [brightonand-hoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonand-hoveai@googlemail.com)**

## A new Amnesty campaign: **STOP TORTURE**

Torture has written some of the bloodiest lines of human history. We can breathe a sigh of relief that devices such as the heretic's fork, the brazen bull and the Judas cradle are now no more than museum curios. Yet torture remains a tool used by many countries, albeit in a less outlandish and public form than medieval times. The use of water boarding at Guantánamo revived public awareness of state-authorized torture. This is the tip of the iceberg, however. Amnesty has found evidence of torture in 141 countries during the last five years. Clearly, this is 141 too many. The UN Convention Against Torture came into force in 1987; it defines torture as *"any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining ... a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind ..."*

It is important to note that the definition covers "physical or mental" torture. Many torturers use psychological techniques (e.g. forced nudity, sensory deprivation, mock executions and sleep deprivation), often in combination with horrific physical abuse such as forced drug administration, whipping and exposure to extreme temperatures. Amnesty has been campaigning against the practice of torture for more than 50 years. The new *Stop Torture* campaign focuses on achievable goals such as ensuring the presence of lawyers and doctors in places of detention. The campaign centres on five key countries: Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines and Uzbekistan. Within each country, campaigning will address survivors of torture and the accountability of the torturers.

You can find out more about how we can help at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/stoptorture>

*Michael  
Brighton and Hove group campaign co ordinator*

### **Afghanistan Women's Rights campaign update**

Currently we are in the initial stages of planning a live performance of "Even If We Lose Our Lives" scripted by Christine Bacon for Amnesty International. We have already made a recording of this for Radio Free Brighton in May (still available online here).

<http://www.mixcloud.com/RadioFreeBrighton/radio-free-brighton-brighton-and-hove-amnesty-play-reading/>

We also plan to get the Afghanistan Country Coordinator from Amnesty International UK to come to the event to give a talk after the dramatised reading; and to give members of the audience the opportunity to take part in a supportive photo-action.

At this stage we are confirming a suitable venue and date, so watch this space...

Meanwhile, the situation in Afghanistan is increasingly precarious, and women's human rights are as much in danger as ever. For further information on this campaign please check the AIUK website: .

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/Women's-rights-in-Afghanistan>

*Gwyneth  
Brighton and Hove group campaign co ordinator*



## **Campaigning against Torture**

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

Do you want to know more about the Stop Torture Campaign? Are you keen to develop and share your campaigning skills? Do you want to try out some new ones? Whether you have already run great activist events or want to learn more, you are warmly invited to this Stop Torture skill Share Day.

As well as giving you campaign information and skills we also want to ask for your ideas for effective actions to help achieve our aims in this campaign.

This one day event will provide you with an opportunity to:

- Find out more about the campaign and hear from experts on the issue
- Get creative with using film, theatre, actions, lobbying and more!
- Share your ideas for effective activism on this campaign
- Put your ideas into practice - try them out

#### **WHO IS IT FOR?**

Activists with experience of campaign planning as well as activists who are keen to develop these skills. We welcome local, student group members, trade union network members, country co-ordinators and other networks.

#### **WHEN AND WHERE?**

Human Rights Action Centre, London.  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30am – 5pm

#### **DOES IT COST?**

No - the event is completely free. Lunch will be provided.

#### **HOW DO I BOOK A PLACE?**

Please complete the attached form and send it back to us at [activism@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:activism@amnesty.org.uk) by 17 September 2014 **at the latest.**

## Take Action: **DISAPPEARANCE FEARS FOR MAN IN THAILAND**

A man associated with the "red-shirt" political movement in Thailand has been subjected to enforced disappearance and is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. While authorities have confirmed he is in military custody, his family and lawyers have not been able to contact him since he was arrested in July. Authorities have confirmed he is in military custody but have refused to provide any information about his whereabouts.

Please write in your own words  
or send the enclosed letter to:

You can also write to:

And please send a copy to the  
ambassador in London

**General Thanasak Patimaprakorn**  
Chief of the Armed Forces  
Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters  
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Email: [prforeign@gmail.com](mailto:prforeign@gmail.com)

General Watcharapol Prasanrajkit  
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Royal Thai Police Commissioner-  
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HE Mr Pasan Teeparak  
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## **BRIGHTON & HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS**

**Chair** – Emma [brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com) Tel: 01273 232397

**New Member Secretary:** Sue Tel: 07790 755921

**Group Secretary**—Catherine [brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com) 07759 271399

**Treasurer:** Luke [lukebeale@hotmail.com](mailto:lukebeale@hotmail.com)

**Newsletter editor:** - Emma Parker: Tel: 01273 232397

Please email any contributions for the newsletter to [brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com)

**Lanes collection organiser:** - Julian [julianwatmore@gmail.com](mailto:julianwatmore@gmail.com) 07583334740

**Web Site co-ordinator:** Michael Fisher - [michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com)

**Amnesty Stalls co-ordinator**—Jill Francis—01273 621697

## **Campaign Co-ordinators:**

**Afghanistan—Women's Rights**—Gwyneth [gwyneth.jones@ntlworld.com](mailto:gwyneth.jones@ntlworld.com)

**Prisoner of Conscience – The Displaced People of Tawargha (Libya)** Celia Stubbs—01273 593833

**Security and Human Rights**—Michael—[michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com)

**Arms Trade Treaty**—Luke [lukebeale@hotmail.com](mailto:lukebeale@hotmail.com)

**Stop Torture**—Michael Fisher - [michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com)

**My Body My Rights**—Catherine 07759 271399

**Tactical Campaigns**—Luke [lukebeale@hotmail.com](mailto:lukebeale@hotmail.com)

**Amnesty Websites:** international - [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org) AI UK -  
[www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk) local group - [www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton)

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See our photos on Flickr—

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/amnestybrighton/pool/>

**Amnesty UK Human Rights Centre** - Tel: 0207 0331500

