

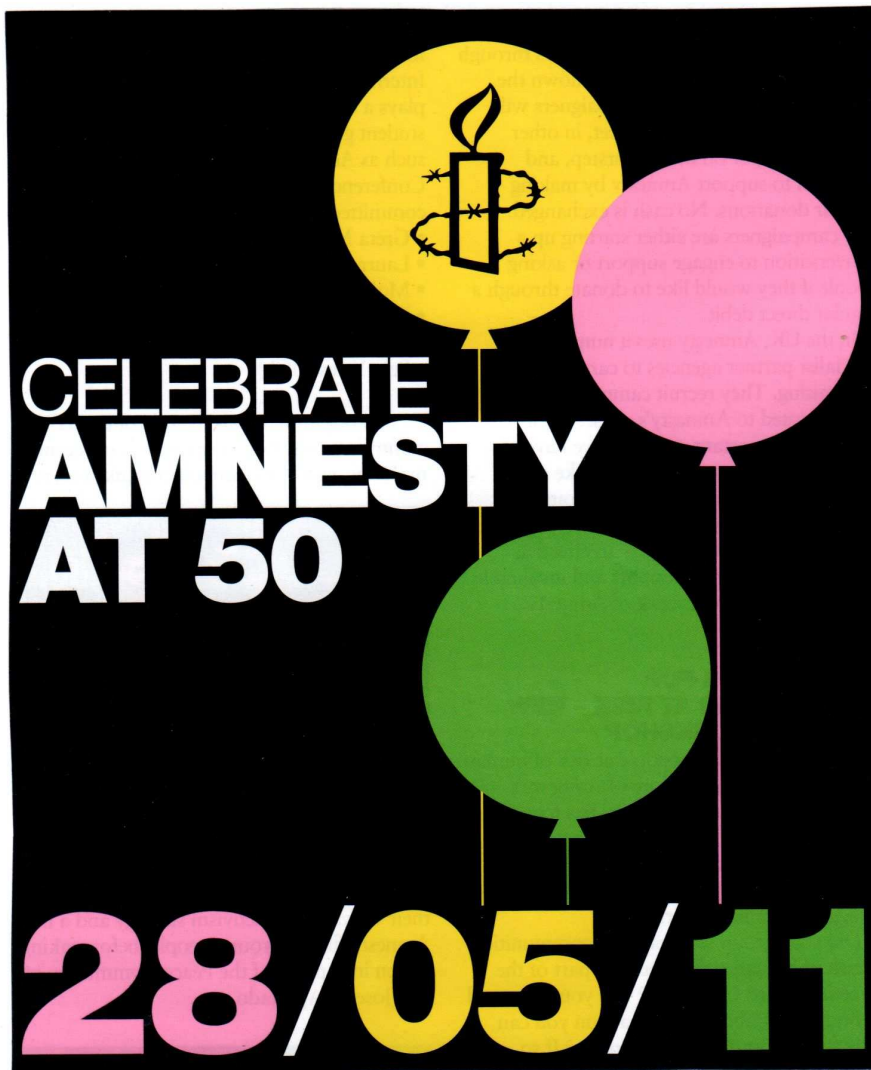


# **BOOK OF MEMORIES**

**Amnesty International**

**Southampton Group**

**1964 - 2011**



**The Southampton Group of Amnesty International is proud to have been in continuous existence for 47 of the 50 years of its parent organisation.**

**Some of the events recorded here will be remembered by longstanding members, a number of whom have supported the group for more than 30 years. We hope local people will find the book interesting, and perhaps even inspirational.**

**The book is dedicated to the individuals and ideals the Group has worked for over the years.**

**Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Amnesty International!**







# Amnesty International UK

## What happened to ...

### The Forgotten Prisoners

#### The beginning

Amnesty International grew from Peter Benenson's famous appeal for "The Forgotten Prisoners" published in The Observer on 28 May 1961. The appeal was produced in other papers around the world such as the New York Herald Tribune and Le Monde in Paris. Mr Benenson's idea immediately achieved wide international support. But whatever happened to the six original forgotten prisoners?

**Please Note:** Amnesty International never claims the credit for the release of any prisoner

#### Constantin Noica

"the philosopher from Romania who was sentenced to 25 year's imprisonment because while "rusticated" his friends and pupils continued to visit him, to listen to his talk on philosophy and literature".

**He was released**



#### Rev. Ashton Jones

"a leading figure in CORE Freedom Rides against the colour ban in the Southern States. Ashton Jones, a sixty-five year old Minister was repeatedly beaten up and three times imprisoned".

**He was freed**

#### Cardinal Mindszenty

"Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary had been under house arrest in the US Embassy for many years for opposing his communist government"

**Finally released**



### **Dr. Agostinho Neto**

"Dr. Neto was an Angolan poet and doctor who suffered revolting brutality at the hands of the ruling Portuguese authorities. In June 1960 in Portugal the political police marched into his house, had him flogged in front of his family and then dragged him away to prison without a trial for the "crime" of trying to improve health care for his country".

**He was subsequently placed under controlled house arrest from where he escaped. He went on to become the first President of Angola**



### **Archbishop Josef Beran**

"Archbishop Beran of Prague had survived two concentration camps during the Nazi occupation. But in 1948, he had been arrested and locked up again for delivering a sermon protesting about the new communist government which had seized power in a coup. In 1961, Beran had been imprisoned for 13 years".

**He was released and went on to become a Cardinal and a hero of Amnesty International. In 1967 he celebrated his freedom by lighting an Amnesty candle in Rome.**



### **Toni Ambatielos**

"Toni Ambatielos was a Greek communist who was imprisoned for his trade union activities.

**He was eventually freed – but quite some time after the appeal. His wife Betty lived in London.**







**Mabel Gittoes-Davies**  
**Founder of the**  
**Southampton Group**  
**of Amnesty International**  
**in 1964**



## EARLY DAYS OF THE SOUTHAMPTON GROUP

The Group was founded in March 1964 by Mrs Mabel-Gittoes Davies, a former member of the Executive Committee of the British Section of Amnesty.

Mabel had been in her youth a teacher of a revolutionary style of Swedish gymnastics designed primarily to allow women more freedom, and in her retirement she directed her formidable energies to those deprived of their liberty because of their convictions - prisoners of conscience. Mrs Gittoes-Davies, who lived her life according to her independent humanist principles, was no stranger to the loneliness of the outsider and the deprivations attendant upon that situation. This understanding allied to her penetrating and retentive mind made her especially suited to the kind of work done by Amnesty International groups in the sixties and seventies.

In those early years, meetings were held in the homes of individual members – a garden room in Highfield, a front room in Shirley. To begin with the Southampton group worked on behalf of as many as ten fully adopted prisoners simultaneously, as well as several investigation cases. Each prisoner was allocated to a member of the group whose responsibility it was to conduct a campaign on their behalf as well as writing to the prisoner if this were possible. Mabel made it her business to acquaint herself with every detail of the case so that the group's fortnightly meetings might be as productive of useful and imaginative ideas on the prisoner's behalf as possible.

Apart from the money that we had to raise to pay our contribution to headquarters for so large a number of prisoners, Mabel was tireless in her efforts to devise ways in which the group could raise money to send to individual prisoners and their families. In at least two African states the group paid for the education of our prisoner of conscience. Mabel herself worked on behalf of Pascal Ngakane, a South African doctor who was married to Albertini Luthuli, herself a doctor and daughter of Chief Luthuli the Nobel Prize winner. She was very proud that her efforts and those of a Swedish group to achieve the relief of the Ngakane family from harassment and oppression, were rewarded when they arrived safely in England in the mid-seventies.

If Mabel's infectious enthusiasm and dedication inspired us, then many more in the city were made aware of this "new organisation". Every year Mabel organised a celebration of Human Rights to which she invited many eminent people, including Lord Carrington. Such people, together with the moving statements of men and women who had themselves been imprisoned for their beliefs, did a great deal to convince large audiences of the need for and the worth of Amnesty.

Mabel died in 1985, but the group she founded continues her work. As membership grew, it became necessary to meet in a more spacious environment, and meetings were held in the Freemantle United Reformed Church, then in a church hall in St Mary's, and currently at Avenue St Andrews United Reformed Church.

Over the years Amnesty's campaigning developed from focusing only on individual prisoner cases, to encompass campaigns on themes and countries such as "Stop Violence Against Women", "Respect Refugees", and "Human Rights for China". Amnesty now campaigns on all 30 Articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, having decided some years ago to adopt economic and social rights into its mandate.

## **SOME SOUTHAMPTON GROUP PRISONER CASES FROM THE 1970s AND 1980's**

### **ARNOLD SPALIN – U.S.S.R.**

Adopted as a Prisoner of Conscience. A Seventh Day Adventist sentenced in 1979 to five years in labour camp for his religious activities. Charged with “dissemination of fabrications which defame the Soviet state” – a standard charge against Christians who refused to observe State restrictions on religious activity. He was released in 1983.

### **LEE SUNG-JAE – SOUTH KOREA**

A 52-year-old professor with a wife and six children, Lee was arrested in 1974 after being involved in political opposition, and charged with organising student demonstrations to overthrow the government. He was sentenced to life imprisonment, reduced in 1982 to 20 years under a presidential amnesty. An Amnesty mission to South Korea concluded his case had been fabricated and a confession extracted under torture.

### **MAHER SATTAM – SYRIA**

Arrested in 1980 with 37 other youths after student demonstrations. His whereabouts were unknown to his parents or to Amnesty. He was killed in 1984 in a prison massacre.

### **SEPIRIA MUKOMBE-MPAMBARA – RWANDA**

A Ugandan businessman arrested with his wife in December 1980 while trying to leave the country, possibly for his defection from President Obote's party and for standing in elections for the opposition. There was no charge or trial. He was released in 1982 and joined his wife in London, also visiting the Southampton Group.

### **MOHAMMED ABDUL DJALIL – INDONESIA**

One of 50,000 detained on a general charge of attempted “pro-communist” coup in 1968. His wife received financial support from the Southampton Group. He was released in an amnesty of political prisoners in 1980.

### **ASHRAF KHAN – SOUTH YEMEN**

Prominent lawyer arrested for political opposition to the left-wing government, and brutally treated in detention. Eventually came to England to Hull University, and visited the Southampton Group to express his thanks.

### **EDWARD MANYINGA TSHOMA – RHODESIA**

Detained in 1971 without charge or trial under the Law & Order Maintenance Act. The Group corresponded with him and with his family. He was adopted as a prisoner of conscience, and released in 1978.

### **PASCAL NGAKANE – SOUTH AFRICA**

He was a doctor married to Albertini Luthuli, herself a doctor and daughter of Chief Albert Luthuli the Nobel Prize winner. Mabel Gittoes-Davies, founder of the Southampton Group, was eventually partly instrumental in freeing them from harassment and they arrived in England in the mid 1970s.

### **EDUARDO BOBADILLO MORREROR – PERU**

A teacher and trade unionist arrested for organising a teachers' strike, Released in 1979.



# Card protest demands inquiry into teacher's disappearance

TOP Hampshire politicians and clergy have signed a massive Amnesty International card which will be delivered to the Mexican ambassador in London — whether he wants it or not.

Relentless human rights campaigners from the Southampton AI group are backing a national call for an inquiry into the disappearance of

primary school teacher Victor Pineda Henestrosa.

Bishop of Southampton the Right Rev John Perry has added his signature to the gigantic cardboard message along with MPs James Hill and John Denham.

The card is supporting a grand letter writing campaign to Mexican government officials — a tactic

By Clive Downton

which has proved successful for Amnesty in other parts of the world in the past.

Victor, a Zapoteco indigenous leader from Juchitan de Zaragoza, state of Oaxaca, was last seen being bundled into a van by a group of men,

some in uniform, 14 years ago.

He openly supported peasant farmers in their claims for land which they say were handed over by the authorities to powerful local landowners.

Southampton AI spokesperson Frances Darch said Mexican government officials had promised several inquiries into Victor's disappearance

but nothing had happened. "He is one of our 'forgotten' persons but in fact we never forget.

"He could well be dead but Amnesty International does not give up until it knows what has happened," she added.

Printed on the card is a touching poem, 'The Wait', written by Victor's daughter in 1989.

For 15 years the Group pursued the case of Victor Pineda Henestrosa. Despite many ingenious campaigning ideas, the full truth about his fate never came to light, and his family had to do their best to come to terms with that.



## Appealing to Mexico

**MEXICAN officials have pledged to pass on the concern of more than 200 city people campaigning for information about a man who 'disappeared' 14 years ago.**

A delegation from Southampton Amnesty International presented a card — signed by 200 people including both city MPs, the Anglican Bishop of Southampton and the Sheriff of Southampton — with the details of Victor Henestrosa to the Minister at the Mexican Embassy.

Victor was abducted at gunpoint in July 1978 by a group of armed men, one from Mexico's 11th Battalion. He had been a vociferous representative of peasant farmers in land reforms.

### DELUGE

A spokesman for the Embassy officials were responding to a deluge of letters calling for action on Victor's case.

Southampton Amnesty International is in contact with Victor's wife and children. A poem by his 15-year-old daughter on the father she has never met was included in the card.

SOUTHAMPTON ADVERTISER

30 JULY 1992



## WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT UN IDEALISM?

*Hardly a day goes by without us reading in our newspapers of atrocities committed by human beings to fellow human beings.*

*With the current situation in the former Yugoslavia we can no longer distance ourselves or refuse to face up, as we've so often refused with the situation on our own doorstep in Northern Ireland, to the fact that the ability to be cruel is within us all.*

*What idealism there was in 1945 as members of the UN drew up standards of behaviour which governments pledged to uphold, subsequently enshrined in the UN Declaration of Human Rights.*

*How many governments blissfully ignore these rights daily, or individual citizens think that anything goes if it is in one's interest?*

*It is with some concern that the Southampton Amnesty International Group heard of the negligible interest shown by statesmen, government officials and the media in the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.*

*It seems that unless Bill Clinton deigns to attend, John Major and other prominent world leaders will not attend, therefore the media are not interested.*

*I don't believe that we are all just interested in bad news. As children we got great delight from the good and the positive, and praise was the prime motivator to learning.*

*Can we not as adults tune into the child feelings which then bring smiles rather than tears?*

*Amnesty International members logically will be writing to their MPs urging them to encourage a British delegation of some standing to go to Vienna in June.*

*If our world leaders cannot take time to give a high profile to human rights, especially at this time, what hope is there for the future, and who can our children aspire to be like, other than the war lords and the bullies? Enough is enough. If readers wish to support our cause of upholding human rights, please telephone Southampton 860368*

Frances Darch,  
Southampton



JULY G.N.L.

## Emotional Appeal

That's what's needed to get your letters printed in the local rag, according to **Frances Darch** of the **Southampton Group**. She should know. Her latest letter to the *Southern Evening Echo* was printed in full, and we reproduce it here.

Reaction was heart-warming too. The letter brought several phone calls. One lady organized her church meeting to write letters and the Minister suggested they send a resolution from the meeting to their local MP. Since then patchwork cards and other materials have been despatched to them.

Southampton Group followed up their Forget-me-not mailing to eight local church support groups with cards too, so the religious lobby in Southampton is encouraging.

## Amnesty reason to celebrate

GREEK food, drink and music were provided at the AGM of the city's Amnesty International organisation to mark the release of a prisoner.

The group has campaigned on behalf of conscientious objector Michael Savvides jailed for four years because his religious beliefs - he is a Jehovah's Witness - prevents him from doing military service.

He is expected to be released just two years' in to his sentence after a letter-writing campaign helped by students from La Sante Union college.

At the AGM, member Kevin Fray gave a presentation on a Christian Human Rights' conference in Germany he attended where the Dalai Lama was the guest speaker.

Southampton  
Advertiser



# Mexican wave of protests

**CITY Human Rights campaigners are to turn up the heat on Mexico.**

For more than a year after they were promised an official investigation in to the suspicious disappearance of their adopted Prisoner of Conscience, they have heard nothing.

And they plan to distribute 500 'wanted' posters of their man - Victor Pineda Henestrosa - to Southampton supporters to try and have his face shown in every street across the city.

This week sees an international campaign by Amnesty International

By  
**Nick Dermody**

against 'Disappearances and Political Killings'.

Hundreds of supporters of Southampton's own AI group are being called up to help with a city version of the campaign to show the Mexican authorities people here have not forgotten Victor's case.

The government worker was sacked for taking the side of poor rural people under land reforms.

When he continued to help them informally he was dragged from his car by armed soldiers and has 'disappeared'.

Last year members for the Southampton group visited the Mexican Embassy in London with a giant card bearing Victor's picture.

## DELEGATION

The delegation also had a poem from his daughter Irma, now 18 and a message to the Mexican Ambassador signed by the Bishop of Southampton, the Sherriff and both city MPs.

The Ambassador's staff promised to press the authorities back home in Mexico - increasingly hailed for its economic upturn -

but have since sent no word.

"We are concerned at this case because Victor's detention has not been recognised by the Mexican authorities," said city AI co-ordinator Frances Darch.

■ *Southampton Amnesty International holds a Folk For Freedom concert at the Gantry, Blechynden Terrace, on Nov 21.*

Southampton  
Advertiser 21.10.93

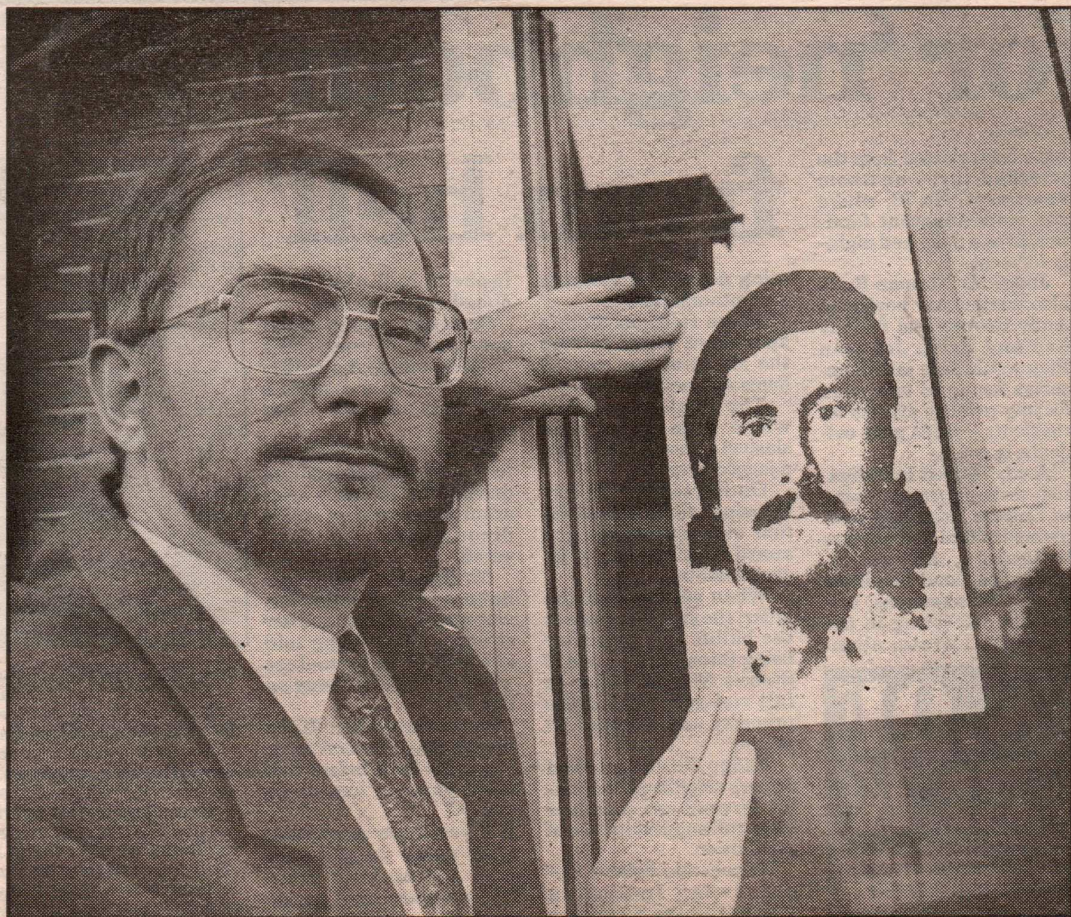
4 ADVERTISER, October 28, 1993

## Poster appeal to force Mexico inquiry

**A FACE** in the window haunts hundreds of city Human Rights activists.

Gareth Davies was one of the Amnesty International Southampton branch members who put up a poster of 'disappeared' Mexican land reformer Victor Pineda Henstrosa in their front room window.

The group was campaigning to get a response from Mexican embassy staff who promised to put pressure their own government for an investigation into Victor's case.





FRIDAY, JULY 1, 1994

# Global bid to solve Amnesty mystery

**PERSEVERING** South-ampton Amnesty International members are about to hit millions of television screens across the globe.

The determined campaigners have been chosen to record a three-minute video message to the Mexican authorities which will be shown in 18 Latin-American counties — plus the US and Canada.

On July 11 Univision, the largest Spanish speaking TV chain in the world, has agreed to broadcast a story about Victor Pineda Henestrosa who disappeared 16 years ago.

The persevering pen-pushers have been demanding to know what happened to the primary school teacher by bombarding Mexican officials with letters for a decade — they simply will not rest until they are told.

"Let us use this opportunity

**By Clive Downton**

to show the Mexican government and the world that we in Amnesty will not lie down and be quiet," said a spokesman.

Victor was last seen by his wife and daughter as he was bundled into a van by a group of men, some wearing uniforms in 1978.

It is thought his disappearance could be connected with the fact that he openly supported peasant farmers in their claims for land which they said was handed over by the authorities to powerful local landowners.

It is the first time Amnesty — which fights on behalf of prisoners of conscience and people who have been "disappeared" by their own governments — have been given the chance to reach so many people at once, and members are optimistic they will get a response.

## The Daily Echo

### The Wait

*It's years I've been waiting,  
longing for his return.  
My infancy is gone,  
and I've reached adolescence  
without carrying with me  
the voice of his experience.  
The years pass by slowly  
and he still has not returned.  
I know he will come back,  
I have that certainty.  
But when he does,  
will I be able to recognise him?  
Who can tell, I don't know,  
perhaps instinct  
will signal him out.  
He is my father  
and our blood  
will call us to one another.  
At times, just on occasions,  
I think that I won't see him again,  
and without wanting to,  
I lose hope,  
and instead begin to feel  
desire for vengeance.  
And yet,  
thinking of God...  
I believe that one day  
we will be united.  
I always ask:  
why is life like this?  
What did we do  
for us to suffer like this?  
And what blame do I have?  
What is this blame  
that we are both paying?*

**Poem by Irma Pineda Santiago**  
Age 15 daughter of Victor Pineda Henestrosa  
(written 1990)





# LOCAL

G.N.L.

**Southampton Group** have made steady progress on the local airwaves. In May and June they appeared on *Wiltshire Sound* talking about AI's Tibet Report and discussing children and human rights. The Group's work for their Mexican "disappearance" case was the subject of a picture story in the *Southern Daily Echo*.

## The Daily Echo

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1995

### Amnesty bid to find teacher in Mexico

DETERMINED human rights campaigners from Southampton may be on the verge of a breakthrough in their never-ending mission for information on a Mexican teacher.

City mayor, Councillor Mrs Margaret Singerman, has joined the Catholic Dean of Southampton and the Bishop of Southampton by putting put her name to a giant card which is on its way to London.

For years the Southampton branch of Amnesty International has called on Mexican authorities to tell them where Victor Pineda Henestrosa is, or what happened to him.

Victor, a primary school teacher who openly supported peasant farmers and their claim for disputed land, was last seen by his wife and daughter 16 years ago when he was taken away by armed soldiers.

A video appeal was beamed

across the country on television last year and that move was backed up with 10,000 postcards being sent to the Embassy in London.

Now Amnesty has received a number of communications from the Embassy and the Human Rights Commission in Mexico. The local group has even had replies from government ministers after they were sent personal letters.

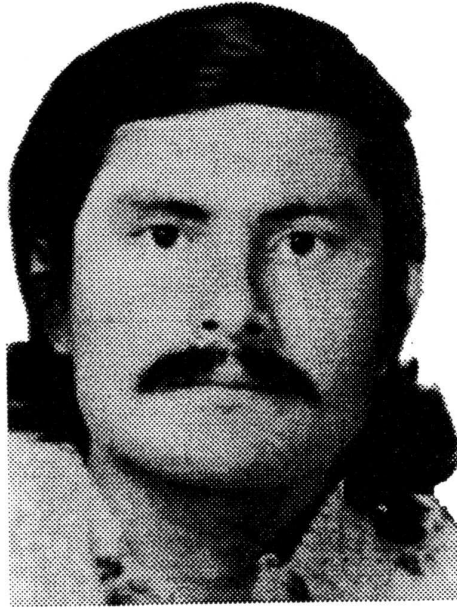
Southampton group member John Williams will present the card to the Mexican Embassy on July 11.

■ A ban on human rights pressure group Amnesty International advertising on radio was yesterday upheld as lawful in a High Court test case. Two judges ruled that broadcasting regulators were entitled to conclude that the organisation's objectives were "mainly political" and that it should be denied access to the UK's commercial airwaves.



► **HUMAN RIGHTS FIGHT:** John Williams (Amnesty) and Margaret Singerman join in the battle to find a missing Mexican teacher





**VICTOR PINEDA HENESTROSA**  
**Abducted by the Mexican Authorities**  
**11th July 1978**

A representative from the  
Mexican Embassy in London  
will attend the February Group meeting  
of Southampton City Amnesty International  
to discuss the case of Victor Pineda Henestrosa

*on*  
***Monday 10th February 1997***  
***at 7.30p.m.***

***The meeting will take place at***  
***the Parlour, Freemantle United Reformed Church***  
***Shirley Road, Southampton***

\*\*\*\*\*

It is extremely unusual for an Embassy official to visit a local  
Amnesty Group to discuss human rights violations,  
therefore we would like to ensure that as many people  
as possible attend.

Victor Pineda Henestrosa is the action file of the Southampton Group,  
we have tirelessly campaigned for many years  
on his behalf, supported in our work by  
thousands of people from all over  
the world who have also sent letters.

We know Governments read our letters and listen to  
what we say, we do make a difference.  
Please come to this special meeting so that we can show the  
Mexican Embassy that we will never give up until they  
accept responsibility for the disappearance of  
Victor Pineda Henestrosa



#### 24-hour Letter-Write

For many years the Southampton Group boosted its letter-writing activities with 24-hour Letter-Writing sessions, when appeals were written non-stop around the clock with support from the University of Southampton Students' Amnesty Group.

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS!

Radio Solent broadcast live from the 24 hour letter-write, held by the Southampton group, to mark Human Rights Day last 10th December. Esther Rantzen and Philip Schofield were unable to visit the write-in but sent their best wishes. James Hill M.P., Councillor Norman Best, the Mayor of Southampton, Councillor John Arnold and the M.E.P. for Hampshire Central did call in however. They all signed letters aimed at helping children from various parts of the world who are suffering human rights abuse. Over 400 letters were written during the 24 hours, the postage was phenomenal.

The United Nations has adopted the first universal international human rights treaty ever written for the protection of children. Member states must now ratify the convention before it can take effect.

The Prisoner of Conscience series which ran nightly from the end of November till Human Rights Day, received twice as many phone calls as last year. Amnesty received an average of eight hundred calls a night. Some callers were so stunned by the cases of governments abusing human rights that they cancelled holidays to the offending countries.



Amnesty International reports on world wide abuse were displayed in Moscow International Book Fair for the first time. People from all over the U.S.S.R. and many parts of Eastern Europe attended the fair.

In Eastern Europe, changes are happening at an incredible pace. In Slovenia a 70 year old ex-prisoner of conscience, for whose release we were campaigning until 1987, is now leading a 90 strong Amnesty group in his own town.

"We could always tell when international protests were taking place ... the food rations increased and the beatings inside the prisons were fewer ... letters from abroad were translated and passed around from cell to cell ... but when the letters stopped, the dirty food and the repression started again". From the statement of a released p.o.c.

If you would like to help the good news replace the bad news more often, phone [REDACTED].

## February 1990

A very young Aung San Suu Kyi was among the cases featured in the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Letter-Write in 1991.





Saturday, November 23, 1991 *Sout*

## ECHO LETTER

### Remember those still held as hostages

WE are all delighted this week to see the smiling face of Terry Waite on our TV screens and the front pages of our newspapers.

Pleased too, to read that Belinda Cheeseman's candlelit vigil in the Guildhall Square on December 19 will not only be a time of thanksgiving for Terry's release, but also a time to remember the remaining hostages in the Middle East.

Southampton's Amnesty International group has been invited to join in the vigil, and we are to have a picture of our hostage, whose disappearance has been under investigation by AI since 1978 when he was taken off the streets in Mexico by uniformed men.

He had previously lost his job for the government because he sided openly with the peasants in land disputes, and had continued to work for them informally.

Victor Henestrosa is one of thousands of unsung heroes among the disappeared; a father, brother, husband and cousin whose case will never reach the headlines, but for whom Amnesty International keeps the candle burning.

All those who have worked and prayed for Terry's release are invited now to turn their energy to help AI work for the release of the thousands of hostages and prisoners of conscience held all over the world.

In this, Amnesty's 30th anniversary year, we are thankful for the 38,000 case closures out of 40,000 cases worked on since 1961, but know the work will never be finished till governments accept their responsibility for the protection of human rights.

We all work and pray for the world that Terry Waite has given five years of his life for, a world of peace with justice.

Mrs FRANCES DARCH, Southampton Group Amnesty International.

# Amnesty is boosted by Waite

Echo  
25.11.91

By Clive Downton

A PLANNED marathon letter-write by Southampton human rights campaigners has been boosted by the words of freed hostage Terry Waite.

Amnesty International members will celebrate the organisation's 30th anniversary by spending as many hours writing letters to top foreign politicians to ask for the release of 30 prisoners of conscience.

Members were delighted to hear Terry Waite speak of their valuable work when he first arrived home.

As he stood on English soil in front of cameras for the first time in almost five years, it was plain for the world to see just how much receiving the John Bunyan postcard from a member of the public had meant to him.

He said: "That thought took me back to the marvellous work of agencies like Amnesty International and their letter

writing campaigns.

"And I would say never despise those small actions. Something, somewhere will get through to the people you are concerned about, as it got through to me."

Amnesty's regional organiser Frances Darch says the same can be achieved for many people who are wrongly held against their will in many countries.

"People can always do something little which will bring hope to prisoners of conscience all over the world," she said.

The group will start writing letters at the Freemantle United Reform Church, Southampton, at 8am on Saturday December 14th.

One of the people they are trying to free is the Burmese Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi. The event coincides with a concert by top folk singer and song writer Jay Turner.

ADVERTISER, 28 November, 1991 3

## Joy in Waite's words

TERRY WAITE'S first speech back on British soil was an unexpected blessing for the active Southampton branch of Amnesty International.

Within moments of stepping off the plane at RAF Lyneham, the liberated Church of England envoy made point of mentioning Amnesty's powerful letter-writing campaigns as a way of securing the release of those held in captivity.

The remark sparked a wave of interest in the efforts of the city's own branch - just as it is preparing a weekend letter-writing event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the humanitarian group.

"We could not have any better publicity and it shows that our letters have an effect on governments."

A 30-hour letter writing for Amnesty International at Freemantle United Reform Church, Shirley Road, runs from 8am on Saturday December 7. A concert featuring singer/songwriter Jay Turner and city band Cats Whiskers runs from 2.30-5pm.

Radio Solent covered this too.

**SOUTHAMPTON AI GROUP**  
present

**AN AFTERNOON OF FOLK MUSIC**

with

JOY TURNER - Singer & Songwriter & Support

**SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER**

**2.30PM - 5.00PM**

Tickets & information from Frances Darch

Phone: 0703-860368

**NOVEMBER 1991**

G.N.L.





WRITE ON: John Denham joins the write-a-thon

## Mass effort for a street child

THEY never knew him — but in a small church hall in Southampton, missing Brazilian street child Roberto Carlos da Costa was in the hearts and minds of many.

In a 24-hour letter-writing marathon, members and friends of Amnesty International's Southampton group remembered Roberto and hundreds more youngsters, who have disappeared in suspicious circumstances.

Many people are also said to have been the victims of political kill-

ings or torture at the hands of the country's security forces.

Supporters of the "write-a-thon" included Southampton mayor John Martin and MPs John Denham and James Hill, who joined in by penning protest letters to the Brazilian authorities to remind them the world was watching.

Mary Brown, of Southampton Amnesty, said: "It certainly makes them aware that people are looking at what they are doing and it might make them think twice."

## Amnesty in a red letter day

CITY Amnesty International campaigners are to 'write' wrongs as part of their activities to mark Human Rights Day.

The group is holding a 24-hour letter-write from tomorrow (Fri Dec 9) to highlight the plight of people who have 'disappeared' — have been killed for political reasons.

Southampton's two MPs, John Denham and James Hill, as well as the Mayor Councillor John Martin, are to call in to the event on Saturday to sign letters.

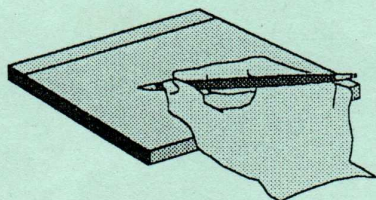
Volunteers begin writing at 6pm on Friday at Freemantle United Reformed Church, Shirley Road.

They are to campaign on behalf of a dozen cases of people who have 'disappeared' or been murdered for a political motive.

ADVERTISER, December 9, 1993 7

# 24Hr LetterWrite

from  
6pm Friday  
9th December 1994



AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL  
BRITISH SECTION

Southampton Group

at  
The Parlour  
United Reform Church  
Shirley Road

(between Malmesbury and Paynes Road)

*Please help us by giving two hours  
of your time to sign / write letters  
in support of Human Rights*





In 1993 the Letter-Write focussed on The Lives Behind the Lies Campaign – people “disappeared” by their governments. It was supported by the Mayor of Southampton, Cllr. John Martin and Mrs Martin.....





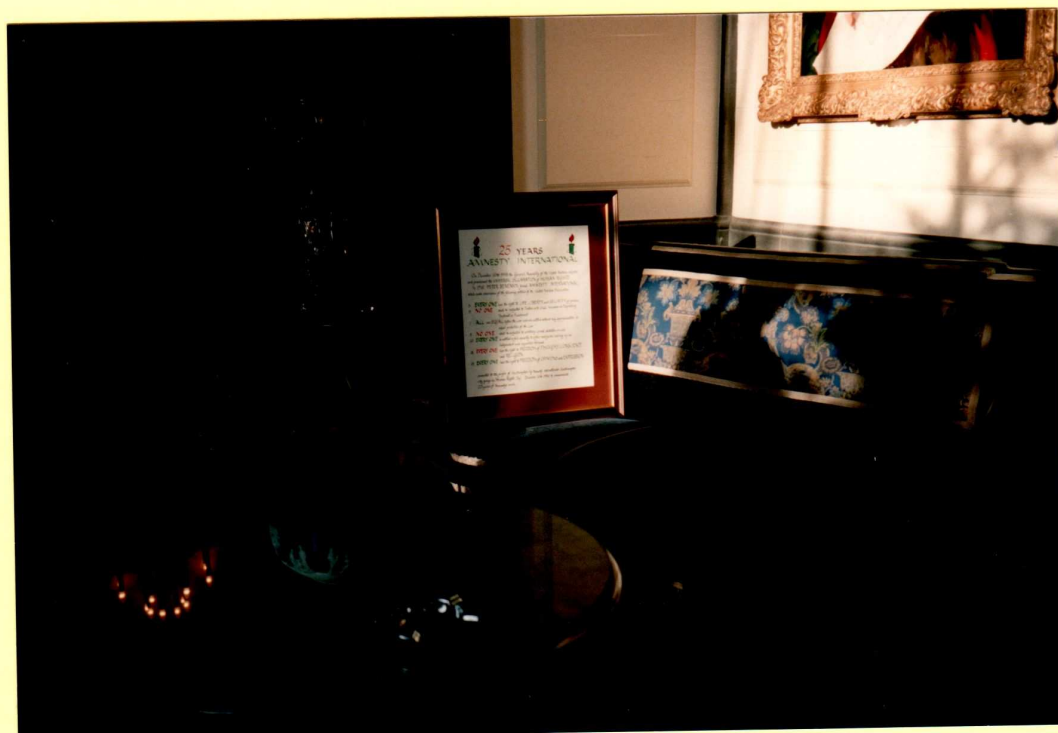
.....as well as by James Hill MP.







A framed version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was presented to the Mayor of Southampton for display in the Civic Centre, to mark 25 years of Amnesty International.





Human Rights in China have been a long-term interest of the Southampton Group



4<sup>th</sup> June 1990 was the first commemoration of the massacre in Tiananmen Square. Members of the group presented white flowers to Test MP James Hill, who expressed his support for the campaign to get the prisoners of conscience released.







TRIBUTE: Test MP James Hill is presented with white flowers by Southampton Amnesty International.

## MP backing for China protest

**SOUTHAMPTON** Test MP James Hill gave his backing to human rights campaigners today as they prepared to mark the anniversary of China's Tiananmen Square massacre.

Mr Hill was presented with a white flower — the country's symbol of mourning — as the group prepared to meet thousands of protesters at a rally in London's Chinatown tomorrow.

The crowd will include hundreds of members and supporters of the Chinese community who will carry on the call for democracy in China.

Amnesty's plea will be for information on thousands of unnamed prisoners it claims have been arrested since the massacre in Beijing a

**By Clive Downton**

year ago this Monday.

"Everyone I know was horrified at the action of the Chinese government at the time and at the way they tried to show there had not been a bloody massacre," said Mr Hill.

"It's quite right not to let people forget about it ... We have to show solidarity on such a terrible issue."

A spokesman for Amnesty International's Southampton group, Frances Darch, said: "We want to commemorate what happened last year and get the prisoners of conscience released.

"We have a list of 700 of them but there are thousands more."

Southern Evening Echo Friday, June 15, 1990

Edited by Annie Bullen



## Paperback pick

**Death In Beijing, Amnesty International, £4.50**

**One of Us by Hugo Young, Pan, £7.99**  
**What The Buddha Never Taught by Timothy Ward, Element Books, £6.95**

**In the Night Cafe, by Joyce Johnson, Flamingo, £3.99**

**Summer Soldier by Philip Williams with M S Power, Bloomsbury, £4.99**

**Fruity Passions, by Margaret Vaughan and Mary Hardiman-Jones, BBC books, £4.99**

WORLDWIDE rallies to mark the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre win Amnesty International's 'Death in Beijing' topical book of the week award.

Using dramatic eye-witness accounts from journalists, demonstrators and bystanders, as well as information released by the hardline Communist government, the organisation outlines its concerns over the appalling slaughter of last June.

Prisoner profiles and stunning pictures by brave freelance journalist Jonathan Annells leave no doubt as to the real fate of the doomed pro-democracy protesters. **Clive Downton.**





### JUNE 4TH?

Do you remember what happened on June 4th last year?

Please remember those who died in and around Tiananmen Square during the first week of June last year, and those who are still imprisoned for peacefully protesting their conscientiously held beliefs.

We, in Amnesty International, are wearing white buttonholes in remembrance. Please join us on June 4th and in the days that follow.

Frances Darch



June 1990

There can't be any stops left to pull out for the China Campaign on the banks of the Solent! The report of activities organised by Southampton Group for China day could fill an issue on its own! Fifty riders of all ages did the 27 mile sponsored bike ride through the New Forest and raised £1,000. Their presentation of white flowers to Southampton Test MP James Hill made the front page of their local paper. 12 members attended the Rally in Chinatown on the Tiananmen Square anniversary over-shadowed by huge blow-ups of photographs of Wang Dan and others. 'Death in Beijing' won 'Topical Book of the Week Award' in the local paper and was featured by Sherratt and Hughes in their shop display. Last of their monumental efforts was a barbecue with a Chinese flavour. The Chinese pupil of a teacher member of the group designed the invitations and forty people enjoyed the Chinese nosh. Prizes for the raffle included Ginseng Beer, Honeysuckle and Chrysanthemum crystals and 'all sorts of infusions to cure unpleasantnesses'! There was a serious side to the evening. "We gathered in the dusk around candlelit banners to hear a Chinese poetry-reading and tales from Denis Woodman who has travelled in China in the past." Tea and fortune cookies brought the evening to an Oriental conclusion.

The Groups' China T-shirts certainly got an airing! They're busy now thinking up ideas for the Sri Lanka Campaign! Anyone for cricket, they ask?

Now there's a good idea!

SEPTEMBER 1990







**SOUTHAMPTON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

**FORGET-ME-NOT PLANT SALE**

Above Bar/Pound St.  
**Saturday 18 May**  
 Blooming Spectacular  
 All proceeds from this stall will go towards effects to release prisoners of conscience in China

The Daily Echo

Friday, May 31, 1996

## Tiananmen remembered

A SOUTHAMPTON human rights group will remind shoppers of the Tiananmen Square massacre in China tomorrow by giving out white flowers in a city centre shop.

Members of the City Amnesty Group will remember those who died

seven years ago when they join forces with staff in The Body Shop.

Customers will be encouraged to sign letters demanding the release of political prisoner Tong Yi who was sentenced to hard labour for protesting against the Chinese regime.

The Daily Echo

Monday, June 3, 1996

NEWS FROM BRITAIN AND AROUND THE WORLD

# 24 HOURS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DAILY ECHO AND THE PRESS ASSOCIATION



► **REMEMBRANCE:** Three-year-old Karen Thomas helps mum, Christine, and John Kennedy hand out flowers.

### Southampton



SHOPPERS took time off from the hustle and bustle of city centre life to spend a quiet moment remembering the victims of the Tiananmen Square massacre in China.

Members of the City Amnesty International Group joined forces with staff from the Body Shop to hand out white flowers in memory of those who died seven years ago in a tragedy which shocked the world. A special display also brought home

the message of China's appalling track record on human rights. Protestors maintain that torture is widespread in police cells, prisons, detention centres and "re-education through labour camps" and is routinely used to extract confessions.



# Time to remember victims of persecution

CHURCHES are being asked to remember Chinese Christians persecuted for their faith this Easter.

Amnesty International in Southampton is asking church support groups to write to the Chinese authorities to lobby for the release of three Christians arrested and imprisoned for celebrating the festival last year.

The group is also hoping the believers arrested at sunrise on the Yi Jia Shan mountain, a traditional place of worship for Catholics, will be remembered at Easter morning services around the city.

The appeal to remember the Christians is part of a wider campaign by the Southampton Amnesty International group to highlight human rights abuses in China.

The group has written more than 100 letters to the Chinese authorities about individuals in the country and will be lobbying on behalf of more Chinese prisoners of conscience over the coming months.

On May Day, it will be highlighting the plight of Zhang Jingsheng, an industrial worker serving a prison sentence for promoting workers rights.

And on May 18 it will be using its annual Forget Me Not Day to focus on Tibetan nuns imprisoned and beaten for writing songs promoting Tibetan independence.

Echo 6.4.96

John Denham MP tied white ribbons on the Amnesty tree in Palmerston Park on May Day 1996 as a tribute to Chinese dissidents imprisoned for promoting workers' rights

Advertiser

## City's tribute

**SOUTHAMPTON** will pay its own tribute to famous prisoner of conscience Zhang Jingsheng who was at the forefront of China's 1989 pro-democracy movement.

The city's branch of Amnesty International will mark Zhang's struggle for workers' rights on Saturday as England celebrates the same cause for British workers during MayDay bank holiday.

City MP John Denham will tie a symbolic ribbon round the Amnesty tree in Palmerston Park at 2 pm.

The group hopes the public will sign a postcard, demanding the immediate and unconditional release of Zhang, who has been incarcerated since the Tiananmen Square massacre. Anyone wishing to attend can meet the group reps at 1.45 pm at Palmerston's statue.

The Daily Echo Tuesday, May 7, 1996



► **HUMAN RIGHTS:** Campaigners gathered in Southampton's Palmerston Park to watch Itchen MP John Denham tie a white ribbon on the Amnesty Tree. It was a symbolic gesture for a prisoner of conscience in China, Zhang Jingsheng, arrested for his part in the political reform rallies of the late 1980s. Surrounded by Southampton Amnesty International members, Mr Denham urged the public to sign postcards calling for Zhang's release.

Echo



## Street theatre atrocities too realistic



**MESSAGE:** Amnesty International's Southampton members act out their Burma campaign.

A STREET theatre to make Southampton shoppers aware of human rights atrocities in Burma hit close to home — when someone pleaded with one of the actors to stop striking one of his fellow thespians.

The member of the public who intervened in the street drama shouted: "Stop it, stop it."

The man, who was clearly upset by what he had witnessed, then disappeared back into the throng of Christmas shoppers, following reassuring words from the actors that it was just a street theatre.

The performance, staged by

members of Amnesty International's city and university branches, is part of an international campaign aimed at highlighting the plight of kidnap victims of Burma's military junta regime.

Southampton campaign co-ordinator Miss Christine Young said the Government Army kidnapped people and forced them to carry military equipment into the jungle, where they are fighting a war with minority tribes on the Thai border.

Many of the hijack victims never return, as they were tortured, killed or forced to walk over mine fields,

she added.

"We are doing the street theatre because we think it is an effective way of getting through to the public," she said. "Burma is one of the worst human rights violators in the world, but it gets no attention at all."

As part of their five-month campaign to highlight human rights conditions in Burma, the Southampton branches of Amnesty International have also contacted many different groups, including schools, church and environment groups, colleges and the Women's Institute.



# Celebration as South Korean man is freed

SOUTHAMPTON members of Amnesty International are celebrating success after helping a South Korean political prisoner to his first taste of freedom since 1971.

## Report by Clive Downton

Thirty-five men were released by President Roh Tae-Woo last year and the organisation believes one reason was the amount of critical mail he received from its Southampton East Asian Regional Action Network.

Members spend many evenings writing to the South Korean authorities asking them to release all their prisoners of conscience. One such man is 44-year-old post graduate student of sociology Soh Sung, who was featured in the Echo in January.

He was arrested in 1971 for spying and instigating student demonstrations against the conduct of the election of President Park Chung-hee, who was put into power for the third time. Another reason for his detention was for travelling to North Korea twice.

Soh Sung's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, a term which was reduced further after a presidential amnesty and several suicide attempts.

But he walked free a few weeks ago with 21 other detainees under an Independence Day amnesty. Soh Sung was the only prisoner of conscience included in the pardon.

Regional organiser Frances Darch said: "It's lovely to think that all the hard work and letter writing evenings may have helped to set him free."

"Some people think that if these instances are reported in local papers it does no good but I can assure them it does. The last Echo feature was sent to top South Korean

politicians and newspapers."

But she warned: "We should watch the situation carefully because Soh Sung could be re-arrested if any conditions of parole are broken."



FREE:  
Soh Sung.



DEDICATED TO THE  
FORGOTTEN PRISONERS  
5th MAY 1991  
PLANTED BY  
SOH SUNG  
PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE  
SOUTH KOREA  
1971-1990.  
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

国际特赦组织  
Zhang  
Jingsheng  
China



Soh Sung plants the tree in Palmerston Park





# Korea torture victim's quest

ADVERTISER, 2 May, 1991

Southern Evening Echo

1.5.91

## Political prisoner visits supporters

A FORMER South Korean political prisoner is to visit Southampton human rights campaigners, who pressed for his release.

Members of Amnesty International have praised the Echo for publishing an article which they say may well have helped Soh Sung taste freedom after 19 years behind bars.

The Southampton branch of the group's East Regional Action Network took on the task of publicising the plight of South Korean political prisoners at the beginning of 1990, and concentrated their efforts on former sociology student

Soh Sung.

Two stories followed in the Echo and a bombardment of mail was sent to key South Korean politicians and newspapers. The letters called for the release of prisoners of conscience.

Now 44, Soh Sung was finally set free under an Independence Day amnesty after being arrested in 1971.

Soh Sung will meet Southampton City Council leader Alan Whitehead and mayor Mary Key when he arrives this Sunday.

He will also give a talk at Southampton University's School of Education lecture theatre at 7.30pm.

**A TORTURE victim with 45 per cent burns to his face and body is visiting Southampton on a quest of thanks.**

And for members of the city's Amnesty International group the meeting is a rare opportunity to come face to face with one of the scores of prisoners of conscience they campaign for.

Korean student Soh Sung was in his mid twenties when he was sentenced to death by the South Korean government for visiting relatives in the Communist North.

That was 20 years ago. In the following two decades the sociology undergraduate suffered repeated torture sessions ordered by the capitalist regime considered as paranoid as its Marxist counterpart.

## Charity can-do!

A SMALL skip could turn into a barrel of money for a city firm's own charity.

But they need someone to give them the skip so they can start earning cash with a penny-a-can-recycling scheme.

Bosses at the training firm Seta Ltd say the hundred youngsters on their books get through scores of drink cans every day.

The idea is to collect the cans and donate them to the Alcan recycling scheme launching in the city on May 29 which pays a penny for a can handed over.

Anyone with a small skip or other container the youngsters could use should contact Gordon Merritt on Southampton 771908.

To preserve his dignity Soh, 44, used a Korean protest to show his defiance - he set himself alight.

In February last year he was released following an Amnesty International campaign supported by a 200-strong petition and scores of letters from the Southampton group.

On Sunday (May 5) he will be in the city to plant a Korean Fir 'forgotten prisoners tree', meet the Mayor and, as part of his European speaking tour, give a speech at the University.

During his visit Soh Sung will be staying at the Woodlands home of the woman who masterminded the Southampton branch campaign, Frances Darch.

"We're very excited. We write to people like Soh for years but never see them," said Mrs Darch.

The tree is still used for Amnesty 'occasions' such as the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary





Musical events have always been popular  
and successful events both for fundraising  
and campaigning

J.M.O. PRESENTS A NIGHT OF ROOTS ROCK REGGAE

**CALLING ALL DUBHEAD MASSIVE**

"EQUAL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE STAND FOR ALL"

# **RHYTHM OF RESISTANCE**

**SOUND SYSTEM**

LIVE INNA DUB REVOLUTIONARY STYLE

## **TALKING HEADS**

PORTSWOOD ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON

WEDNESDAY 26TH JULY 2000

DOORS OPEN 8.00 PM : GATE - £2

ALL PROCEEDS TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



"THE CONQUERING LION WILL BREAK EVERY CHAIN  
AND GIVE US THE VICTORY AGAIN AND AGAIN"



Artists and musicians are incredibly generous in donating their talents in support of Amnesty.



**Southampton Amnesty Group**  
invite you to a Christmas Program  
of music, readings and dance from  
the West Gallery Period  
by

# The Madding Crowd

**Southampton City Art Gallery**  
Saturday 4 January, 7.30pm

Tickets from NorthGuild Office: 01703 632601  
**£5.00 (£3.00 conc.)**







**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
40<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CONCERT  
FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE**

**St Michael's Church  
Bugle Street, Southampton**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2001  
at 7.30 pm**

*THE BRIDGEND MALE VOICE CHOIR*  
(conductor Gwynfor Humphreys)

*CHARLOTTE ELLETT, soprano*  
(Glyndebourne Festival Opera)

**Programme to include music by  
Gounod, Handel and Verdi**

**Tickets: £9.50 (Student conc. £7.50)**

**From Amnesty, Tel. 023 8066 7508**

**or from NorthGuild Ticket Office, Tel. 023 8063 2601**

**Also at the door**

**Disabled access**





In aid of Amnesty International

# Segalula

*presents*

## A Celebration in Song for International Women's Day

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at 7.30 pm**  
Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church  
The Avenue, Southampton

*Songs to inspire, empower, delight and amuse  
in vibrant unaccompanied harmony*

Refreshments

Stalls

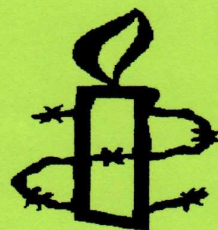
Disabled access

Tickets £5/£4 conc. Tel. 023 80 671434, or at the door





ARCORDA



plays for

# Amnesty International

Guest artist *Lucille Burns (flute)* joins Southampton's string orchestra *ARCORDA* (director *Gay Cullingford*), to present a concert in aid of "Protect the Human" week.

Featuring:

~ Bach's Suite in B minor for flute and strings

~ Adagio by Samuel Barber

and works by Handel, Mozart, Rutter, and Bartok

**At:** Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church,  
The Avenue, Southampton

**On:** Sat. Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm

**Tickets:** £6.50 (concessions £5.00) at the door  
or phone **023 80 671434**

REFRESHMENTS

DISABLED ACCESS

STALLS



# *Courtlye Musick.*

present

## 'Time to Pass with Goodly Sport'

Songs and instrumental music reflecting  
the vibrant Court of  
performed in costume on

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>  
at 7.30**

**St Michael's Church  
Southampton**

**Tickets £8 from Tourist Information  
Office, Civic Centre Road  
or on the door**

**In aid of Amnes**







---

John Denham MP and Amnesty Group chair John Kennedy  
at the Amnesty Tree in Palmerston Park, Southampton





# Chinese martyrs should be remembered

MANY people in Southampton and surrounding areas must have been thrilled to have the Chinese State Circus in Hoglands Park. The skill and hard work of the circus community was impressive and many families enjoyed the entertainment brought to the city.

However, for some of us, the date was associated with the anniversary of the very tragic scenes in China some seven years ago.

The City Amnesty International group has been remembering the victims of the Tiananman Square massacre in 1989 by asking the public to sign cards calling for the release of pro-democratic activists still suffering in China today.

On June 1 the group had a stall at the Body Shop and customers were given white flowers in remembrance of those dreadful events.

The shop continued to focus on China all week and we hope that many customers have been made aware of the very real human rights concerns in a country that is opening up to the West and with whom there are increasing exchanges like that of the circus.

Amnesty, of course, seeks only to highlight the human rights abuse and takes no position on the politics but the Chinese people must know that we will not forget how so many of the young students, workers and intellectuals who peacefully demonstrated in 1989 had to die for their country.

Amnesty International is running a campaign on China until October. With the coming of a change of authority in Hong Kong it is imperative that we remain vigilant.

Any readers who would like further information should telephone 0703 333556.

**FRANCES DARCH,**  
Press Officer,  
Amnesty International,  
Southampton.





**THE BISHOP OF SOUTHAMPTON**  
**The Right Reverend John Perry**

'Ham House' The Crescent Romsey SO51 7NG Tel: 01794-516005 Fax: 01794 830242

Director of the Bureau of Religious Affairs of the State Council  
Zhang Shengzuo Juzhang  
Guewuyuan Zongjiao Shiwuju  
Guowuyuan  
22 Xianmen Dajie  
Beikingshi 100017  
People's Republic of China.

31 January 1995

Dear Sir,

May I introduce myself as the Bishop of Southampton, in the Diocese of Winchester, England, and on behalf of the Anglican Church I send you warm greetings, especially as you celebrate your New Year today. Our Archbishop was most impressed when he visited your country last year.

I am writing to express my concern that at least 31 members of the Jesus Family from Shandong province are believed to be currently detained and are considered to be prisoners of conscience, held solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of religion. I urge you to release them immediately and unconditionally.

According to Amnesty International there have been continual reports about the harassment and repression of members of other religious groups in various parts of China during the past year. I therefore urge you to grant freedom of religion to all Christians in China as guaranteed by international human rights standards and in Article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (1982).

I remain yours respectfully,

**Rt Revd John Perry**  
**Bishop of Southampton**

c.c. Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
49-51 Portland Place, London, W1N 3AH.

## Amnesty spotlights plight of Christian group in China

SOUTHAMPTON Amnesty International is working to draw the attention of Christians to human rights abuse in China.

A group of churchgoers, called the Jesus Family, are being held in police custody at the Shandong province.

"They are a Protestant community who have been persecuted for peaceful religious activity," said spokeswoman Frances Darch.

"Our particular concern is for the

18 female members of this community who have been treated appallingly."

She is asking local churches to join a letter-writing campaign urging Chinese authorities to investigate the allegations of cruelty.

● The Amnesty group is holding a meeting at the United Reformed Church, in Shirley Road, on February 13 at 7.30pm to consider outreach work in the city, including local churches.





The Body Shop team in Amnesty's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sponsored Bike Ride, 1991



Caroline Lucas MEP cuts Amnesty's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday cake with group chair Richard Wimbury, 2001



Folk for Freedom was an annual happening on the Southampton music scene from 1991 to 2000. Most of the concerts took place at The Gantry Arts Centre, a venue which no longer exists but is fondly remembered. An enormous debt of gratitude is due to all the artists who performed free in aid of Amnesty. The events were a heady mix of music, campaigning, curry and chilli, and had a regular following.

Cat's Whiskers

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
FOLK  
CONCERT**

**Starring: Jay Turner  
Jim Reynolds  
Cats Whiskers**  
Sat 7th Dec. 2.30 - 5pm.  
Freemantle United  
Reformed Church,  
Shirley Road.  
**TICKETS £2.50**



## Folk galore

FOLK music, concerts and workshops invade the region with various events during the weekend.

Singers/songwriters Jay Turner and Jinski join forces for a concert at the Forest Arts Centre, New Milton, on Friday and at the Ashcroft Arts Centre, Fareham, on Saturday.

The duo will host an informal workshop at the New Milton centre Saturday morning and host a concert for the Amnesty International at Freemantle United Reformed Church, Shirley Road, Southampton, in the afternoon.

Joining them on the bill are Hampshire-based Cats Whiskers, Falkland Islander songwriter Rock Berntsen and Bristol-based singer Jim Reynolds.

Reynolds will then perform at the Village Folk Club, Coach and Horses, Titchfield, on Saturday evening while Strawhead take their music to the Tower Arts Centre, Winchester.

Squeezebox supremo John Kirkpatrick stops at the Fo'c'sle Folk Music Club, Joiners Arms, Southampton, on Friday.

Folk fans get a chance to exercise their vocal cords at a 'come-all-ye' at the Woolston Folk Club on Sunday.



Jim Reynolds



# Freedom in your music

**MUSIC to raise the consciousness of people on human Rights issues is to come to a city arts centre next month.**

And the event paves the way for the Prisoner of Conscience Week run by the Southampton Amnesty International group.

The Folk for Freedom concert at the Gantry alternative arts venue, Blechynden Terrace, stars right-on sing/song-writer Jay Turner.

The evening is part of his Breath of Life tour and features his song Writing for Freedom about the Amnesty's letter-writing campaigns to secure the release of political prisoners.

Then from October 18-25 the city branch of AI holds its Prisoner of Conscience Week focussing on the way children suffer at the hands of repressive regimes.

In particular, organisers plan to highlight the plight of the street children of South America who, regarded as 'vermin' by elements of society, are the victim of death squads.

Amnesty International meetings are held on the second Monday of every month. Ring Frances Darch on 860368.

ADVERTISER, 17 September, 1992

★ FOLK for Freedom is the title of a concert in aid of Amnesty International at Southampton's Gantry Arts Centre tomorrow night, 8pm. Jay Turner Band tops the bill with Bernard O'Neil and Martin Alcock (ex-Fairport Convention). Chris Leslie and Kevin Dempsey of Whippersnapper make guest appearances.

NEW FOREST POST, 1 October, 1992

Jay Turner, who most frequently topped the bill at Folk for Freedom, with organiser Frances Darch





Southampton Amnesty Group  
presents

# FOLK FOR FREEDOM '93

at the  
Gantry Arts Centre, Southampton

Sunday Nov 21st

1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

lunchtime with

Jay Turner Pat Shaw Julie Mathews

Afternoon Gig  
with

# The Albion Band

**Doors Open 12.30.**

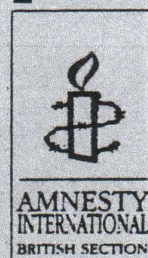
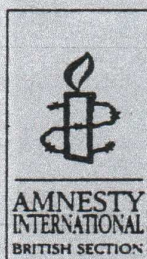
**Bar/Food**

**Tickets £5. cons. £4.**

**accessable**

**Tickets: F.Darch  
Gantry Box Office**

**0703 - 860368  
0703 - 229319**







AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL

Southampton Group

# Folk For Freedom

presents

## Jay Turner The Joyce Gang Show of Hands

at

The Gantry Arts Centre, Off Blechynden Terrace, Southampton.

on

Sunday 20th November 1994

1.00 - 4.00pm

Lunches / Bar / Snacks available

Disabled Access

Tickets £5.00 / £4.00 (Concession)

from

Frances Darch 0703 860368

The Gantry Box Office 0703 229319

Entertainments

MUSIC SCENE

# Freedom folk



THREE top acts are lined up for Southampton Amnesty International Group's fourth annual Folk for Freedom concert on Sunday.

Show of Hands (pictured left) Jay Turner and the Joyce Gang will play the Gantry Arts Centre off Blechynden Terrace from 1-4 pm. Doors open at 12 noon for the sale of lunches with an Indonesian flavour. There will be information on Amnesty's campaign for human rights in Indonesia as well as sales of Christmas cards and merchandise.

Tickets £5 (concessions £4) from Frances Darch on (0703) 860368 or the Gantry box office on (0703) 229319.



Jay Turner sings "Writing for Freedom", written by him specially for Amnesty.







SOUTHAMPTON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



*presents*

# Folk For Freedom '95

*A Weekend of Fun and Entertainment*

SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER, 8.00pm - 11.00pm

**CEILIDH NIGHT**

with

the Portsmouth based band STUBBLE

at

THE EAST POINT CENTRE LIMITED

Bursledon Road A3024 (off M27 Junction 8)



SUNDAY 26th NOVEMBER, 1.00pm - 4.00pm

**Folk For Freedom CONCERT 1995**

featuring

**QUIMANTU**

**THE RHYMERS**

**DARK LANTERN**

at

The Gantry Arts Centre

off Blechynden Terrace, Southampton

---

For information and tickets, please contact

FRANCES DARCH: 01703 - 860368

---



what's on

# Music for freedom

**T**HE Southampton group of Amnesty International has organised a weekend of entertainment for those attending its fifth annual Folk For Freedom event.

The weekend's activities will kick off with a ceilidh at the Eastpoint Centre tomorrow at 8pm. Portsmouth-based band Stubble provide the music and the caller will be Ian Kirby.

A lunchtime concert will be held at The Gantry in Southampton on Sunday. Doors open at noon for lunch and bar, when Amnesty goods and Christmas cards will be on sale.

Then Dark Lantern, comprising prize-winning professional guitarists Allan Greenwood and Samantha Holmes will be playing at 1pm.

Next up on stage will be The Rhymers, a relatively new band on the folk scene who play a mixture of original and traditional material.

Fiddle player Simon Swarbrick will be showing off the skills he learned from his uncle, ex-Fairport Convention member Dave Swarbrick.



■ **GUITARIST:** Samantha Holmes.

The afternoon will round off with Quimantu, who create the sound of the Andes using a variety of Latin American instruments.

Currently led by Sergio Avila and Vladimir Vega, who were exiled from Chile, the band's music focuses attention on those who will benefit from the Folk For Freedom event.

The organisation battles against human rights abuse and this year the Southampton group members are concentrating on the former Yugoslavia.

■ Tickets for each day cost £5 and are available from Frances Darch on 01703 860368.

## FOLK FOR FREEDOM 95

Featuring QUIMANTU  
THE RHYMERS DARK  
LANTERN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER  
26TH - 1.00pm-4.00pm

Doors open at 12.00 noon  
LUNCHES - BAR  
DISABLED ACCESS

GANTRY ARTS CENTRE  
off BLECHYNDEN  
TERRACE  
SOUTHAMPTON

Further information and  
tickets: £5 (£4 concessions)

GANTRY BOX OFFICE:  
01703-20769

FRANCES DARCH:  
01703-860368

Groups N: letter

The Southampton  
Advertiser

Entertainments **MUSIC** with Julian Vaccari

# Folk for freedom

**AMNESTY** International's  
Southampton group presents its  
fifth annual Folk for Freedom  
event this weekend.

On Saturday, there's a ceilidh night  
at Eastpoint Centre, Bursledon Road,  
at 8pm, with Portsmouth-based band  
Stubble.

And on Sunday there's the usual con-  
cert at The Gantry from 1-4 pm, with  
Dark Lantern (right), The Rhymers and  
the sound of the Andes from Quimantu. Doors  
open at 12 noon for lunches, bar, Amnesty goods  
and Christmas card sales.

Information about Amnesty's campaigns over the  
former Yugoslavia will be available, as well as other  
publicity and merchandising.

Tickets from Frances Darch on (01703) 860368.





## Entertainments

## MUSIC SCENE

# Folk festival for freedom

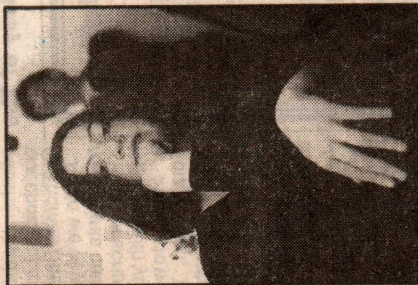
AMNESTY International's Southampton group presents its fifth annual Folk for Freedom event this weekend.

On Saturday, there's a ceilidh night at the Eastpoint Centre, Bursledon Road, at 8 pm, featuring Portsmouth-based band Stubble.

And on Sunday there's the usual concert at The Gantry from 1-4 pm, with Dark Lantern, The Rhyimers and the sound of the Andes from Quimantú. Doors open at 12 noon for lunches, bar, Amnesty goods and Christmas card sales.

Information about Amnesty's campaigns over the former Yugoslavia will be available, as well as other publicity and merchandising.

Tickets from Frances Darch on (01703) 860368.



• Dark Lantern appear at Folk for Freedom Southampton



A NIGERIAN political activist who won the support of the Bishop of Southampton and the city's mayor has been sentenced to death. Anger has spread across the city after poet and pacifist Ken Saro-Wiwa, 54, was yesterday sentenced to death by a "special tribunal" of the Nigerian government.

Bishop of Southampton, John Perry and mayor Margaret Slingerman in the past joined forces with the city's Amnesty International to campaign for Mr Saro-Wiwa's release. They wrote letters of support to the Nigerian who waged a campaign against environmental pollution. Mr Saro-Wiwa has been found guilty of a murder, supporters say he did not commit.

To join the campaign contact Francis Darch on Southampton 860368.

## Focus on plight of the refugees

SOUTHAMPTON campaigners for human rights have vowed to fight Government plans to bar asylum-seekers from Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Algeria.

The Government is expected to announce next week the countries are not run by oppressive regimes and their refugees claiming asylum in the UK should be sent back.

The city branch of Amnesty International are to hold a meeting to discuss the plight of refugees and will announce a

### Report from Annie Brown

campaign strategy if the Government goes ahead with the list.

Southampton campaigner Francis Darch said the list would mean the British Government breached the Geneva convention on refugees.

"The convention states that each case should be judged individually so if the government bars certain countries then it is not sticking by the agreement."

Francis claimed the Government

should be looking at the barrage of red tape refugees face when they apply for asylum and put an end to the long stretches spent in holding centres like Haslar in Gosport.

"These people are kept in detention centres for too long and that is an abuse of their rights," she added.

She said the countries highlighted were either in civil war or responsible for abuses of human rights.

"If these are the countries to be listed then amnesty will be very concerned about it, there is no doubt that many people are in danger in all of them."



SUN 24TH NOV AT 1.00PM-4.30PM

# Amnesty International Benefit



# Live!

## FOLK FOR FREEDOM

Southampton Amnesty International's sixth 'Folk for Freedom' event promises to be as entertaining, atmospheric and dynamic as usual. A sell-out each year, as artists give their time and talent for the cause of human rights, so book early for this very popular afternoon of folk music.

Brian McNeill (ex Battlefield Band) is breaking his journey between gigs and will appear mid line-up. Plus other artists and lots more.

Tickets: £6.00/£4.00 (concs)

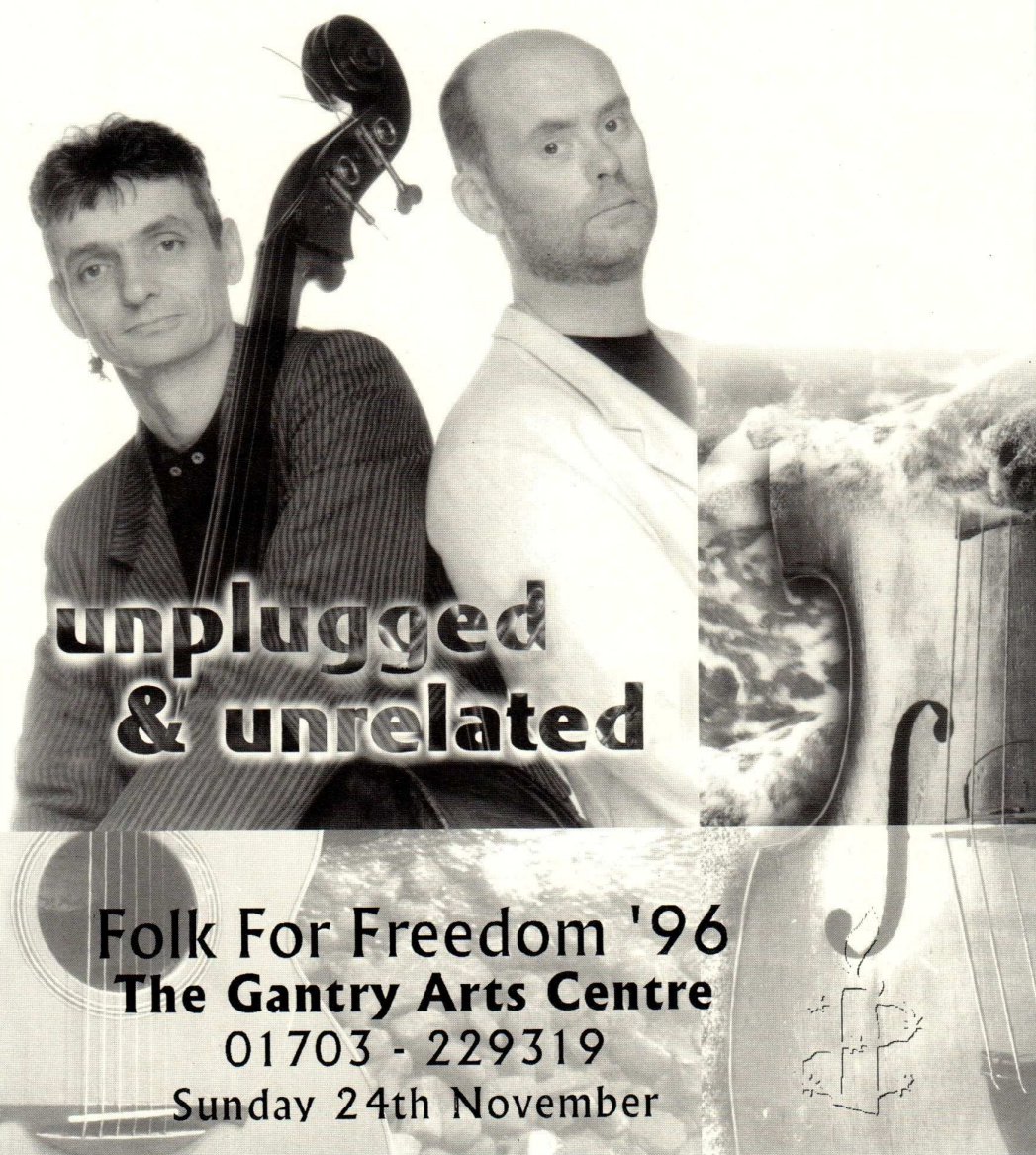
★ **SOUTHAMPTON Amnesty International** hosts **Folk For Freedom '96** on Sunday, 1-3 pm, at **The Gantry**.

First on will be Portsmouth-based **Clearys Clock**. They'll be followed by **Brian McNeill**, Scottish singer, songwriter and novelist and founder of the

**Battlefield Band**. Last on is Welsh duo **Huw and Tony Williams**, who opened for **Ralph McTell** on his **Silver Celebration** tour.

Tickets cost £6 (concessions £4). Ring **The Gantry** on (01703) 229319 or organiser **Frances Darch** on (01703) 860368.

# Huw & Tony Williams



## unplugged & unrelated

**Folk For Freedom '96**  
**The Gantry Arts Centre**  
01703 - 229319  
Sunday 24th November



# Amnesty concert sell-out expected

By Maria Croce

**S**OUTHAMPTON Amnesty International's sixth annual Folk For Freedom concert gets under way next Sunday afternoon and organisers are expecting another sell-out.

The event started out in a church hall six years ago then moved to its present base at The Gantry and has gone from strength to strength.

Doors open at noon with music from 1pm to 4.30pm featuring Welsh duo Huw and Tony Williams.

The afternoon kicks off with traditional Irish folk music from Portsmouth-based band Clearys Clock.

Next on the bill will be Brian McNeill

who will be travelling down from Scotland for the event. He got into Celtic music and formed The Battlefield Band in 1969, playing a variety of instruments and writing his own songs, mostly about Scotland's history.

In 1989 his first novel was published and he left the band to concentrate more on writing and solo projects. Now he tours with different musicians and has produced several albums.

The focus of the city human rights group's campaigning this autumn is torture around the world. There will be a street event at the Bargate the day before the concert.

Organiser Frances Darch said: "The bands give their time for free because they believe in Amnesty. It's our biggest fundraising event and it raises consciousness about our work without preaching. There's also the chance for people to buy items like Christmas cards."

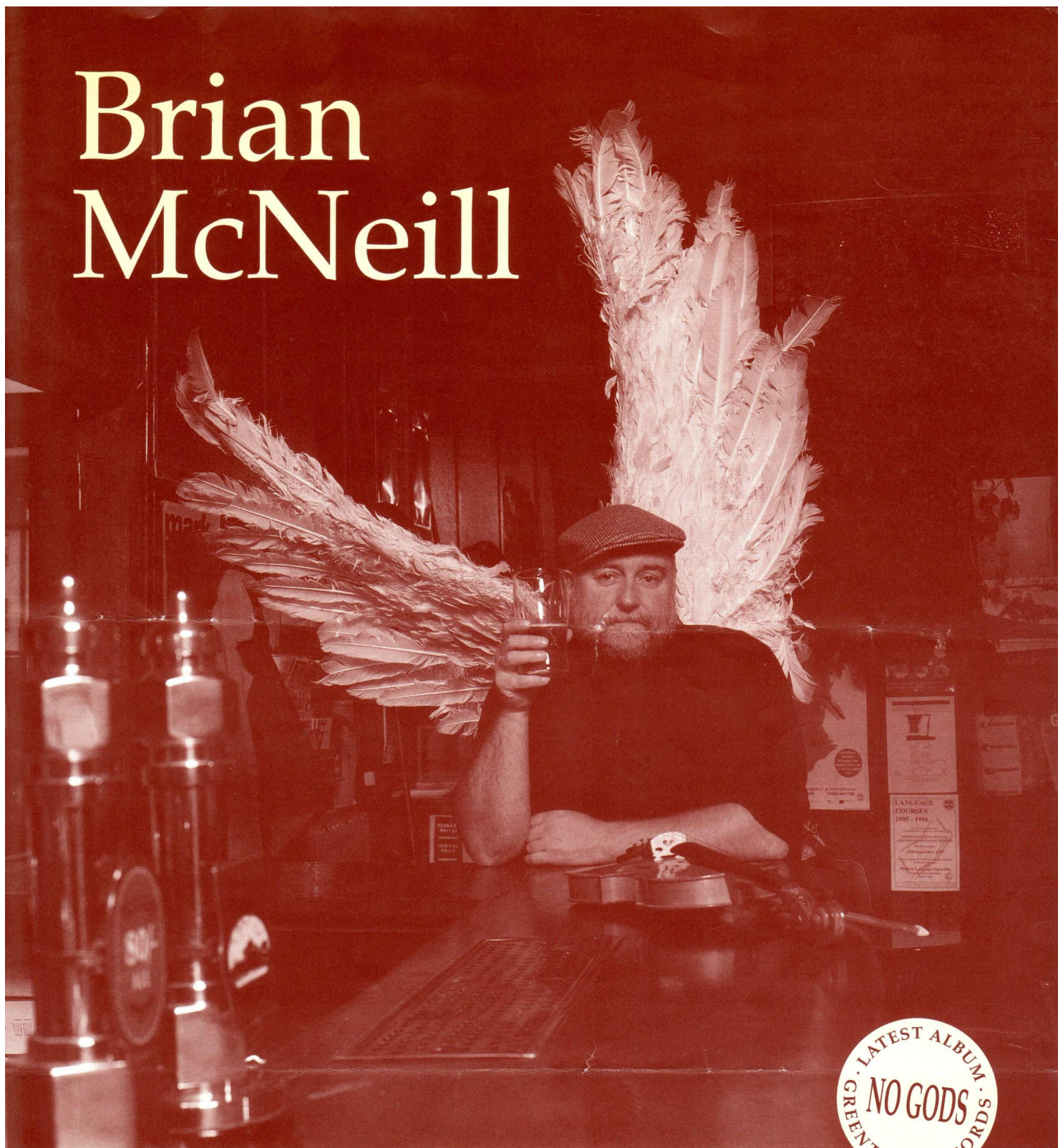


**FREEDOM FIGHTERS:** Huw and Tony Williams.

Friday, November 15, 1996



# Brian McNeill



**Folk For Freedom '96**

The Gantry Arts Centre

01703-229319

Sunday 24th November

1 - 4.30pm

represented by

**HIGH HOLD AGENCY**

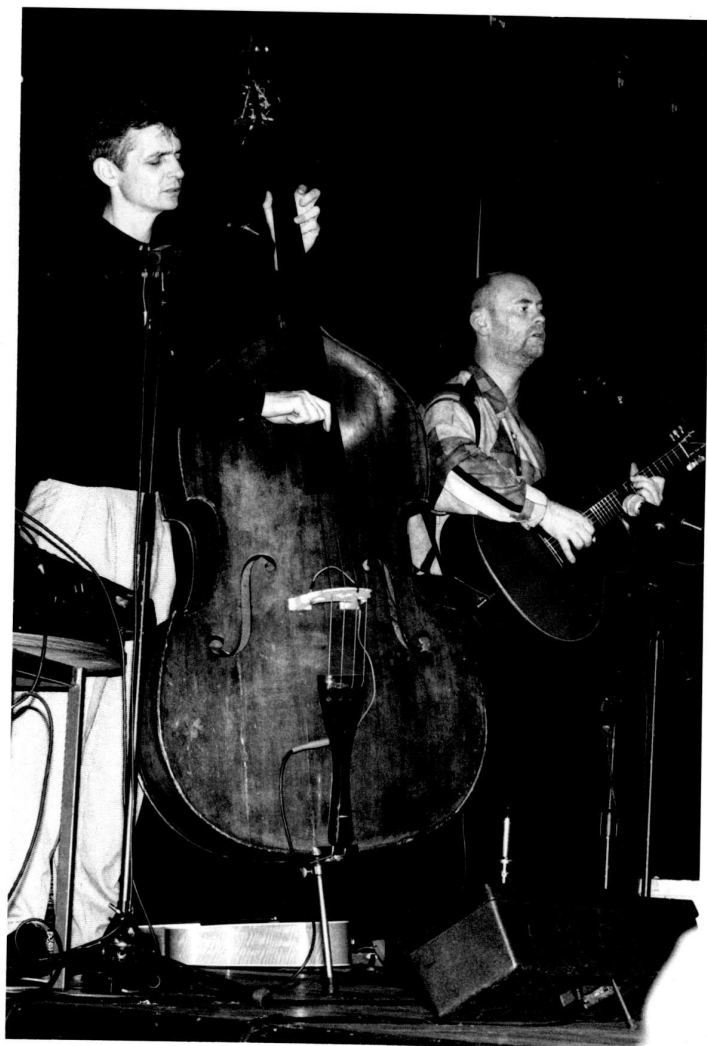
0191 370 1910



1996



Clearys Clock



#### FOLK FOR FREEDOM '96

The Gantry was packed to the brim on 24th November for this concert which was in aid of **Amnesty International**. **Brian Mc Neill** started the afternoon (in fact he had to go south-west to do a gig immediately afterwards) and his polished performance was definitely in context. His songs outlined oppression all over the world. **Clearys Clock** ably filled in the middle spot. **Huw & Tony Williams** were equally entertaining. They said that they had problems with the car, which we thought was all part of the act until the RAC man virtually interrupted their performance to get a signature! Reminds me a bit of *Jobsworth*. **Frances Darch** tells me that the concert raised over **£1000**.

Huw & Tony  
Williams



Southampton Amnesty International



# **Folk for Freedom '97**

featuring

**Chris While**

&

**Julie Matthews**

**Brian McNeill**

**Helen Watson**

**The Gantry Arts Centre**

off Blechynden Terrace  
Southampton

**Sunday 16th November**

1.00pm - 4.30pm

Doors open at 12.00 midday  
Lunches / Bar / Snacks available  
Disabled Access

FURTHER INFORMATION & TICKETS: £7 (£4-50 CONCESSIONS)

FRANCES DARCH: 01703 - 860368



1997

# Songs of freedom

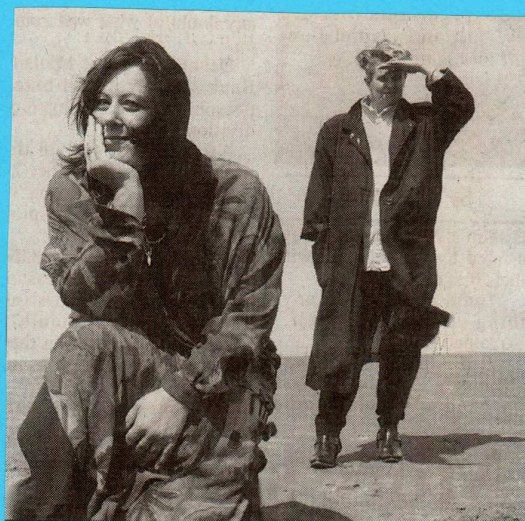
**SUNDAY** sees Southampton Amnesty International's seventh annual Folk for Freedom Event at the Gantry, Southampton.

Doors open at 12 noon for lunches and the bar, and the music starts at 1 pm with the Helen Watson Trio, followed by Brian McNeill.

Top of the bill are Chris While and Julie Matthews, members of the Albion Band who are making a name for themselves as a duo and songwriting partnership. Julie's songs have been covered by Barbara Dickson, Mary Black and Fairport Convention amongst others.

Tickets from the Gantry box office on (01703) 229319 or event organiser Frances Darch on (01703) 860368, priced £7 (concessions £4.50).

Chris While and Julie Matthews can also be seen at the Forest Arts Centre on Saturday. Box office: (01425) 612393.



Powerful females...Chris While and Julie Matthews who top the bill at Folk for Freedom

## *Freedom folk come back to Southampton*

A regular high point in Southampton's folk calendar, *Folk for Freedom* returns to the Gantry Arts Centre next Sunday (November 16th).

Sponsored by Amnesty International, the bill is topped by Chris While and Julie Matthews, the country's most powerful female folk duo.

Brian McNeill returns for

a second year, bringing his commitment to human rights and social justice to his performance.

Also on the bill is The Helen Watson Trio. In 1996 Helen was at The Gantry as a member of supergroup Daphne's Flight.

The show offers good music and an opportunity for involvement in Amnesty's campaigning activities.



Southampton Amnesty International

# FOLK FOR FREEDOM '98

at the Gantry Arts Centre Southampton  
Sunday 22nd November 1.00-4.30p.m.

## SZAPORA

folk-based music from Eastern and Middle Europe

## IAN BRUCE

Scottish singer song-writer, supported Steeleye Span

## TABACHE

Traditional Scottish and Irish music

Tickets £6 (cons £4) available from  
Gantry Box Office 01703-229319  
Amnesty International 01703-860368

Doors open midday for lunches and bar

Disabled access

SUN 22ND NOV AT 1.00PM

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**  
**FOLK FOR FREEDOM '98**

This is the eighth annual benefit gig for Amnesty International. Always a sell-out – a full afternoon entertainment with lunches, activities and merchandise available. Doors open at noon for 1.00pm-4.30pm concert.

Tickets: £6.00/£4.00 (concs)



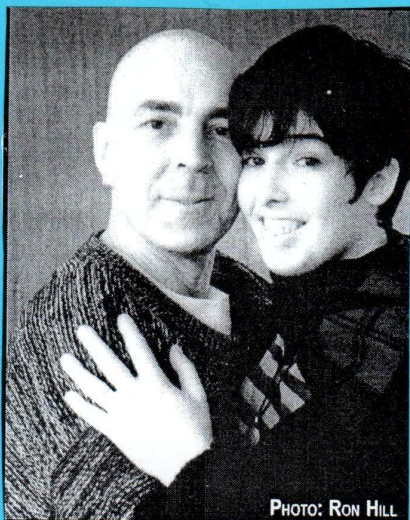


PHOTO: RON HILL

## CATH MUNDY AND JAY TURNER

Across the world and back again!

### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

#### *folk for freedom '99*

This will take place at The Gantry Arts Centre, Southampton on Sunday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>.

This is our 9<sup>th</sup> annual event which provides us with much of our necessary funding for the group's human rights work through the year. We are committed to ongoing work in China and in Central America - postage alone is very costly.

The artists give the time and talent free of charge, and this year we are fortunate in topping the bill with Huw & Tony Williams, one of the most popular folk duos in the U.K. Also appearing is Jay Turner who started Folk for Freedom with us in the church hall in Southampton. He will play for the first time for us with his wife, with whom he now lives in Australia. The gig is the culmination of the U.K. tour as "Mundy-Turner" which started with them receiving an award for their latest album on the day they flew to the U.K.

There will be the usual luscious lunches served from 12 midday and the concert will commence at 1pm and be over by 4.30pm. There will be a bar, a raffle and an opportunity to buy Amnesty Christmas cards and merchandise as well as take part in campaigning activities as wanted. This is an ideal way to spend a Sunday afternoon in November and you are advised to buy tickets in good time as "Folk for Freedom" is invariably a sell-out.

Tickets: £7 (£4.50 concessions) available from the Gantry Box Office or from Fran Darch on 860368.

*"The 'Folk for Freedom' Concerts were started in 1991 after Fran Darch, then President of the Southampton Amnesty group, met Jay at the Albion Day. Fran invited Jay to head a small bill at a draughty So'ton church.... the audience was 30 chilly but enthusiastic supporters. Now the annual concert attracts capacity crowds, and has regularly been attended by some of the most popular UK acoustic acts around, who give their services absolutely free in support of this worthy cause.*

*"We're both delighted and honoured to be playing at 'Folk for Freedom' 1999 - Jay for the first time since 1994, and Cath for the first time ever. Huw and Tony Williams are also on the bill, so it's set to be a great night. Phone Fran Darch (01703 860368) to book your seats, as they're sure to sell out fast."*

As for me, I'm just looking forward to seeing and hearing Cath and Jay again. I'll be going to see them at the Railway FC in Portsmouth in September, at the Woolston FC in Southampton in October and at the aforementioned Amnesty International Concert in November. Because, for me, they are too good to see just once! I strongly advise you to also catch them somewhere near you at the beginning of their tour because you're sure to want to see them again before they return to Aussieland!

**Sandy Satyanadhan**

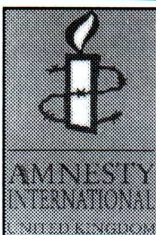
**PS.** Since writing this article, I caught up with Cath and Jay upon their arrival in England. It was then that they told me their latest news which had so excited and thrilled them.

Whilst they were stopping overnight in Tokyo on route to the UK, their manager Alison Pollard had attended the Hilton Hotel in Brisbane to represent them at the 14th Queensland Recording Association Sunnie Awards, as "High Life" had been nominated as a finalist in the Best Album Folk/Ethnic/Other category. On hearing the joyous outcome, and having received the award in their absence, their manager had then immediately telephoned their English hosts with the news. "On escaping customs-immigration at Heathrow, the first sight to greet our eyes was a jubilant Fran Darch waving a big sign saying "We won! Love Ali".

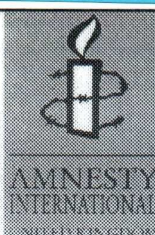
With Queensland being larger than the whole of Europe, this is a very prestigious award indeed! Congratulations, Cath and Jay, from all at FoT!

**Sandy**





Southampton  
Amnesty  
International



## Folk for Freedom 2000

The Gantry Arts Centre  
(off Blechynden Terrace)  
Sunday 12th November  
1.00 pm - 4.30 pm

featuring

**Chris While  
& Julie Matthews**



**Sieze The Day**



Doors open midday for bar, lunches, stalls etc.  
Disabled Access

Tickets £8 and £5 concs.

Gantry Box Office 023 8022 9319  
Amnesty International 023 8086 0368

### FINAL FOLK FOR FREEDOM

November 12th at the Gantry Arts Centre in Southampton sees the tenth and last "Folk For Freedom" concert organised by Frances Darch and the Southampton Amnesty International group.

This year Chris While & Julie Matthews top the bill supported by Sieze The Day. Doors are open at noon for the bar, the delicious lunches and the stalls. The concert itself is from 1pm till 4.30pm. Tickets are £8, and concessions £5. Gantry Box Office 023 8022 9319, Amnesty International 023 8086 0368.

Since its inception in 1991, "Folk For Freedom" has raised about £8,000 for human rights work around the world. Frances wishes to thank all those who have given consistent support, as well as the artists, group members and caterers. Frances feels that it is time to stop and look for new ways for the group to focus its fundraising activities. I am sure that you will wish to join me in thanking Frances and her team for the years of hard work.



Issue 85 Autumn 2000

**Folk For Freedom**

7



Sunday 29th  
October 2000  
2 - 4pm

All Ages  
Welcome!

In aid of  
Amnesty  
International



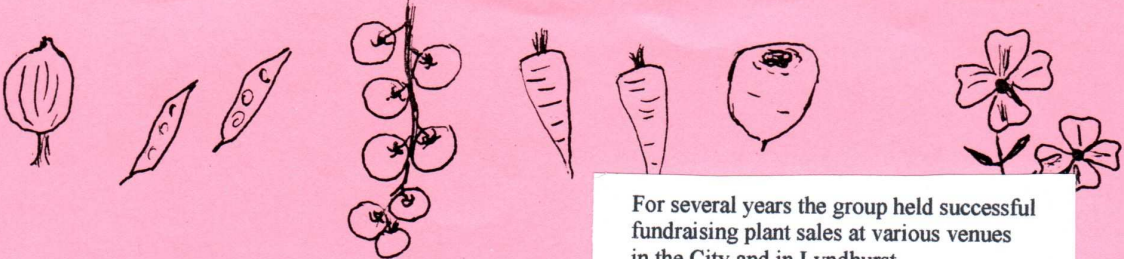
## Tales of Salt and Vinegar

an afternoon of music, puppets and storytelling  
presented by  
Michael O'Leary, Martin Bridle and Su Eaton

**Talking Heads**  
320 Portswood Road, Southampton

TICKETS: Adults: £2.50, Children: £1.00





For several years the group held successful fundraising plant sales at various venues in the City and in Lyndhurst



# **Amnesty International** *Southampton Group* **Plant Sale**

**Blooming Spectacular  
Horticultural Street Market  
Above Bar, Southampton.**

**Saturday 18 May 1996  
9.00am - 5.30pm**

**Proceeds In Aid Of Amnesty International's Work  
Worldwide For Human Rights**



*The Southampton Youth Jazz Orchestra*  
Directed by Daniel Mar-Molinero

in Association with

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

Presents

*Jazz for Justice*

Friday 20 March 1998

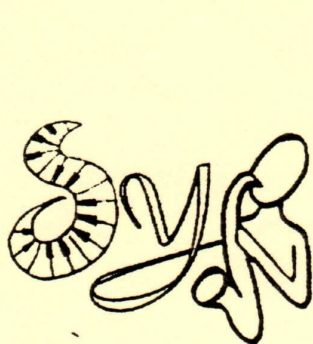
7.30pm - 9.50pm

Southampton City Art Gallery

Tickets £6.00 (£4 conc)

**NorthGuild Box Office**

**01703 - 632601**



**Jazz benefit for Amnesty**

A SELECTION of contemporary English and American jazz will be played at Southampton City Art Gallery for an Amnesty International benefit event. The newly-formed Southampton Youth Jazz Orchestra, directed by Daniel Mar-Molinero, will be performing on March 20 at 7.30pm, to raise awareness of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.



SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1995

## ISSUES

of the day



**The Daily Echo**

### Girls' message to brave mums

Atherley School girls have sent a Mother's Day message of support to women in Brazil who have risked their lives fighting to find their kidnapped children.



► **BY DESIGN:** Helen Aspinall, Vicky Angus and Katy Wells discuss their designs for cards and posters.

## Pupils support hunt for missing children

SOUTHAMPTON schoolgirls have sent a Mother's Day message of support to women in Brazil who have risked their lives fighting to find their kidnapped children.

The GCSE students from Atherley School in Hill Lane were inspired to write after a visit from local Amnesty International campaigner, Frances Darch.

And their school has now decided to become officially affiliated to the human rights organisation and pupils hope to "adopt" a particular prisoner's case.

The teenagers have sent Mothers Day

cards to the "Mothers of Acari"—a group of women whose sons and daughters were snatched by a group of armed men in 1990 from Rio de Janeiro.

The women have tirelessly campaigned for an investigation into the "disappearance" of their 11 children but their calls for help have been met by death threats and harassment from the military police.

Tragically in 1993 one of the mothers was killed days testifying about police involvement in the abductions.

Sue Saxby, head teacher of the girl's

year group said it was important for pupils to be aware of human rights abuses throughout the world.

"It's important as part of their education that they look outside the curriculum to life on the outside and make them realise there is something they can actually do to help," she said.

"It is important on Mothers Day to show these women that we care.

"The girls became gripped by the issue and it teaches them not to take our freedom of speech, movement and body and soul for granted."





Faith and inter-faith events alike celebrate the values represented by Amnesty International

Human Rights Day service in St Mary's Church, December 2004





The Daily Echo    **Saturday, December 9, 1995**

## Dozens unite for day of celebration

WORSHIPPERS of different faiths will descend on St Andrew's in Southampton tomorrow afternoon to celebrate Human Rights Day.

A weekend of events has been organised by Southampton Amnesty International to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

Among the multi-faith activities at the church hall, The Avenue, will be a display of dancing by girls from the Vedic Society and Hindu

temple. There will be food prepared by the Sikh Gurdwara Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib, the South Hampshire Jewish Reform Community and St Winifred's in Totton.

And readings from representatives of the Moslem, Sikh, Jewish, Christian and humanist beliefs — as well as the Atherley School.

"Is it the first time we have done anything like this," said Frances Darch for Southampton Amnesty.

"It is not a token thing — we hope to extend the knowledge of Amnesty's work through the city and introduce more people to it from different communities."

A 24-hour letter-writing campaign has also been organised which kicked-off yesterday.

Supporters, including the mayor of Southampton Margaret Singerman, are sending Christmas cards to prisoners of conscience.

The Amnesty International Southampton Group meet at 7.30pm, on the second Monday of every month in:

The Parlour of the United Reformed Church  
Shirley Road  
(between Malmesbury Road and Paynes Road)

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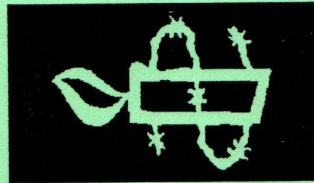
There is information available today about the group's activities, please help yourself or speak to someone wearing an Amnesty badge.

In the 50th Anniversary year of the United Nations  
**Amnesty International Southampton**  
*welcomes you to*

**A Celebration of Human Rights Day**  
with members of local faith communities and of its outreach network

**Sunday 10th December 1995**  
**3.00pm**

**Avenue St Andrews Hall**  
**Southampton**



*"The candle burns not for us, but for all those whom we failed to rescue from prison, who were shot on the way to prison, who were tortured, who were kidnapped, who 'disappeared'. That's what the candle is for..."*

*Peter Benenson, Founder, Amnesty International...*



## THE WAIT

It's years I've been waiting,  
 longing for his return.  
 My infancy is gone,  
 and I've reached adolescence  
 without carrying with me  
 the voice of his experience.  
 The years pass slowly  
 and he still has not returned.  
 I know he will come back,  
 I have that certainty.  
 But when he does,  
 will I be able to recognise him?  
 Who can tell, I don't know,  
 perhaps instinct  
 will signal him out.  
 He is my father  
 and our blood  
 will call us to one another.  
 At times, just on occasions,  
 I think that I won't see him again,  
 and without wanting to,  
 I lose hope,  
 and instead begin to feel  
 desire for vengeance.  
 And yet,  
 thinking of God...  
 I believe that one day  
 We will be united.  
 I always ask:  
 Why is life like this?  
 What did we do  
 for us to suffer like this?  
 What blame does he have?  
 And what blame do I have?  
 What is this blame  
 that we are both paying?

Poem by  
 Irma Pineda Santiago

Age 15, daughter of Victor Pineda  
 Henestrosa "disappeared" 1978.

Introduction: "Celebrate the Declaration of Human Rights" read by Francine Taylor, Chairperson, Southampton UN Association and Margaret Matthews, Convener, UN50 Committee.

Singer/Songwriter Jay Turner's "Cambodia" recalls for us some of the tragedies and triumphs of recent years...

A Humanist Perspective- presented by David Rothwell of South Hants Humanists.

A Jewish Perspective- a contribution from the South Hants Reformed Jewish Community.

"Judaism and Human Rights" by Jonathan Gorsky, Librarian at Yakar Educational Foundation- read by a pupil from The Atherley School, Southampton.

"The Hindu Tradition and Human Rights" by Ravi Nair, member of Amnesty

International Indian Section- read by a pupil from The Atherley School, Southampton.

A dance to Lord Krishna and a dance celebrating beauty by girls from the Vedic Society, Southampton- introduced by Vipula Patel.

"Sikhism and Human Rights" by Indarjit Singh of the Sikh Messenger- read by David Singh Roath of Gurdwara Guru Teg Bahadar Salib, Southampton.

"Remember those who are in prison" - presented by Bridget Munday of St Winfred's Church, Totton.

"Christianity and Human Rights" by Father Michael Evans, Chairperson of A.I.U.K.'s Religious Bodies Liaison Panel- read by a pupil from The Atherley School, Southampton.

"Islam and Human Rights" by Abdul Ali Hamid of The Muslim College, West London- read by Ally Suffe, Muslim member of A.I. Southampton.

Jay Turner's recording of "Cambodia" continues in hope...

"A Thought"- a reflection led by Mary Brown, Chairperson of Amnesty International, Southampton.

"Writing for Freedom"- Jay Turner's song written for Amnesty International (1991) reminds us to keep the candle burning...

A time to share our Refreshments and meet one another informally before returning to our separate communities to share a common concern for the rights of all. If you need any information from the groups represented here today please speak to them before they depart.

*Thank you for coming*



SOUTHAMPTON



APRIL - JUNE 1996

Welcome

to the

SOUTHAMPTON AMNESTY FREEDOM FESTIVAL

Central to the Festival is **FREEDOM**, a major exhibition of contemporary art in the Southampton City Art Gallery during April and May. It is a great privilege that Southampton is likely to be the only city in the south of England to host the **FREEDOM** exhibition. The local group of Amnesty International and the City Art Gallery have collaborated to produce a ten-week programme of music, film, poetry, exhibitions and discussion linked to the theme of freedom. So, for the first time, Southampton will be the centre of a challenging combination of art, human rights and education.

What lies behind this initiative? Nothing less than the struggle to free prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International - its 1.1 million members in 170 countries unite in campaigning for basic human rights. And it is a subject which has fired the imagination of the arts world: musicians, writers, actors and artists have rallied round to offer a variety of events with something for every taste.

The artists whose work appears in this exhibition have the freedom to give their time and commitment: Hwang Suk-yong, Ma Thida and Manuel Manriquez San Agustin, all practising artists, do not. They are in prisons across the world. They will be remembered at each event, and that is what this Festival is all about.

### Artists in Prison

If you would like to help these three artists, all of whom Amnesty International considers to be prisoners of conscience, please write polite letters to the authorities at the given addresses, asking for their immediate release.



**Hwang Suk-yong** is a well known writer, aged 52, whose best known work *Jangkilisan*, sold over 3 million copies. Founder of the Korean Nationalistic Artists Federation, he is serving a 7 year sentence in Kongju Prison in South Korea for making a public, but unofficial, visit to North Korea.

Write to:  
**Mr Kim Doo-hee**, Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Chungang-dong  
Kwacheon-myon, Shihung-gun  
Kyonggi Province  
Republic of Korea.



**Dr Ma Thida** is a doctor and short-story writer, aged 28, from Myanmar (formerly Burma). In 1993 she was sentenced to 20 years in prison for her activities in support of the country's opposition group, the National League for Democracy. She is in poor health, and has been kept in solitary confinement for the past year.

Write to:  
**General Than Shwe**, Chairman  
State Law & Order Restoration Council  
c/o Ministry of Defence  
Signal Pagoda Road, Yangon  
Union of Myanmar.



**Manuel Manriquez San Agustin** is a 43-year-old musician from the Otomí indigenous community in Mexico. He was sentenced to 24 years in 1993 on a murder charge based on a "signed confession", extracted under torture and written in Spanish which he did not understand. Two appeals have already been rejected.

Write to:  
**Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León**  
Presidente de la Republica  
Palacio Nacional  
06067 Mexico D.F.  
Mexico.



# EVENTS

Friday 26th April 7.30 pm

## FREEDOM CONCERT

Southampton City Art Gallery.  
Hampshire County Youth Choir, under the direction of Keith Smith, sing for Amnesty. During the interval the audience may view the **Freedom** art exhibition in adjoining galleries.  
Tickets £3.50 (£2.50 conc.) from NorthGuild Ticket Office: 01703 632601.

Saturday 11th May 7.30 pm

## rites of PASSAGE

Tudor Merchant's Hall, Westgate Street, Southampton.  
Renaissance and Medieval music performed by the lively and versatile group of four musicians known as Courtlye Musick. Their concert of music to celebrate the Ages of Man is enhanced by the costumes, the wealth of instruments and the fifteenth century setting. Interval refreshments.  
Tickets £6 (£4 conc.) from NorthGuild Ticket Office: 01703 632601.

Note: We regret that access to the hall is impossible for wheelchairs and difficult with limited mobility: please phone 01703 332513 for advice.

Friday 14th June 7.30 pm

## FREE AS THE WIND

Abbey United Reformed Church, Romsey.  
A light-hearted programme of classical music and jazz performed by the Southampton Brass Ensemble and The Regis Quartet. Interval refreshments. Event kindly arranged by the Romsey Amnesty Group.  
Tickets £5 (£3 conc.) from R Shaw, Chemist, 7 Market Place, Romsey: 01794 513193.

### Events organised by Southampton City Art Gallery

(information/bookings NorthGuild Ticket Office: 01703 632601)

Sunday 28th April 7.45 pm (Exhibition Tour 7.00 pm)

## SONGS OF VICTOR JARA

with Vladimir Vega. Tickets £5 (£3.50 conc.).

Friday 24th May 7.45 pm (Exhibition Tour 7.00 pm)

## MESSIAEN'S QUARTET FOR THE END OF TIME

with the Korkoran Ensemble, musicians from Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Tickets £7 (£6 conc.).

Friday 12th April 8.30 pm

## FROM SHELLEY TO SARO-WIWA

Talking Heads Theatre Bar, 320 Portswood Road, Southampton.  
Local poet Joan McGavin reads from her own and other work, supported by members of local theatre groups in an evening of poetry and prose on the subject of Freedom.  
Tickets £1 available on the door.

Thursday 2nd May 7.45 pm (doors and bar open from 7 pm)

## BEYOND RANGOON

(12) The Gantry Arts Centre, off Blechynden Terrace, Southampton.  
American doctor Laura Bowman (Patricia Arquette), holidaying in Burma, becomes caught up in election turmoil and the struggle for democracy. An introduction to the film will draw particular attention to the campaign by Amnesty International for the release of writer Dr Ma Thida.  
Tickets £3.50 (£2.50 conc.) from The Gantry Box Office: 01703 229319.



Courtlye Musick

# EVENTS

Tuesday 9th - Saturday 27th April

## HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

Southampton Central Library.

An Amnesty International exhibition depicting the widespread violations of human rights practised in China and Tibet. A major Amnesty International campaign on China is taking place in 1996. Admission free.

Monday 20th - Friday 31st May

## VICTIMS OF CONFLICT

Civic Centre Foyer, Southampton.

43 photographs by London photojournalist Theodore Liasi depicting the face and impact of war as it is being fought around the world in the 1990s. Features the conflicts in Afghanistan, Former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Mozambique, Angola, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Algeria and Kenya. Admission free.

Friday 19th April 7.30 pm

## REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Lecture Theatre, City Art Gallery, Southampton.

A panel of speakers who have worked on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers present their experiences, their concerns and their proposals, followed by questions and discussion with audience participation. Chair: John Denham MP.  
Details from Mary Brown: 01703 667508.

Admission free: Voluntary donations to Amnesty International.

Saturday 11th May

## CONFERENCE ON TORTURE

Boldwood Centre, University of Southampton.

The Conference is organised in conjunction with the Faculty of Law, and will consider medical and legal aspects of torture. It will be of interest to all those concerned with this critical aspect of human rights. Speakers will include Professor Nigel Rodley (UN Special Rapporteur on Torture), Helen Bamber and Duncan Forrest (Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture) and Professor Christine Chinkin (Dean of Law, University of Southampton).

Conference fee: £25 including lunch (conc. for students and unwaged).

Details and registration forms from John Williams, 9 Furzedown Road, Southampton SO17 1PN.

Tel. 01703 556521 (evenings). Closing date 29th April.

Wednesday 22nd May 7.45 pm

## BURMA: A LEGACY OF OPPRESSION

St Matthew's Hall, St Mary's Road, Southampton.

The military government of Burma (now known as Myanmar) has designated 1996 a "Year of Tourism" - but what chilling truths lie behind the glossy brochures? An illustrated talk by Kevin Fray, who visited the country towards the end of 1995.

7.15 for 7.45 pm.

Tickets £1 at the door.

## ART GALLERY GUIDED TOURS AND WORKSHOPS RELATING TO THE FREEDOM EXHIBITION

Details from Southampton City Art Gallery: 01703 632601.

## MUSIC

## POETRY/FILM



## Exhibitions and Events



April – May 1996



Above:  
**Keith Piper**, still from  
*Tagging the Other*, 1991

Above right:  
**Mona Hatoum**, stills from  
*So Much I Want To Say*, 1983

## Freedom An Amnesty International Exhibition

5 APRIL – 2 JUNE 1996

This exhibition has been created to deal with ideas of expressive freedom and to consider wider issues of freedom and its denial. The show is dedicated to three artists, Hwang Suk-yong, Ma Thida and Manuel Manríquez San Agustín, all of whom are prisoners of conscience. *Freedom* brings together a wide range of artistic attitudes and practices, and includes a video piece by recent Turner Prize nominee, Mona Hatoum, in which she is gagged by a man's hands as she attempts to communicate. Keith Piper's installation deals with the issue of tagging and surveillance from the perspective of the black British citizen. Mikey Cuddihy examines the notion of artistic freedom by creating paintings which utilize decorative forms not normally associated with more 'serious' art due to their traditionally feminine interpretation. The show also includes Oladele Bamgboye, Pavel Büchler, Avtarjeet Dhanjal, Willie Doherty, Rory Donaldson, Micky Donnelly, Brian Jenkins, Tracy Mackenna, Michael Mazière, John Newling, Jo Spence and Terry Dennett, Amanda Thesiger.

*Freedom* has been organised by Angela Kingston in association with Amnesty International.



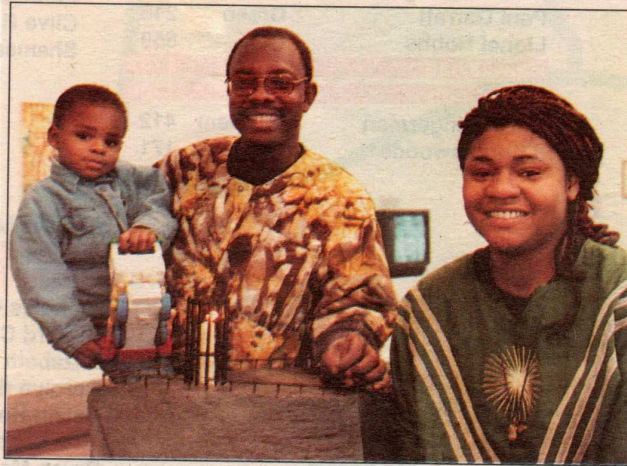


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Diana and Owens Wiwa at Southampton City Art Gallery  
to launch the Amnesty Freedom Festival, May 1996



## Saro Wiwa family at amnesty art launch



The brother and sister-in-law of executed Nigerian dissident, Ken Saro Wiwa, were guests of honour at the opening of an event designed to throw a spotlight on the plight of artists imprisoned or persecuted for their beliefs.

Diana Wiwa and her husband Owens, Ken Saro Wiwa's brother, also suffered persecution at the hands of the Nigerian security services. They were in Southampton as guests of the city's branch of the human rights organisation, Amnesty International, to launch the Freedom Art Exhibition - which highlights the link between freedom of expression and personal freedom - at the City Art Gallery. The exhibition, put on in collaboration with the City Council's City Arts division, runs until Sunday, June 2.

The exhibition launched over a month of Amnesty-organised music, art and literary events which is raising awareness of the struggle to free prisoners of conscience in 170 countries.

The Freedom Festival will focus on three artists serving long sentences for voicing opposition to their governments: novelist Ma Thida imprisoned for 20 years in Myanmar; Otomi musician, Manuel Manriquez San Agustin and South Korean writer, Hwang Suk-yong.

The exhibition includes works by Turner Prize shortlistees Mona Hatoum and Willie Doherty. Other artists represented include Pavel Buchler, Mikey Cuddihy, Keith Piper and Amanda Thesiger.



**SITTING** quietly in the Southampton City Art Gallery with Diana Wiwa, it is hard to believe this is a woman who has struggled.

As she gazes at paintings and sculptures in the Freedom art exhibition, her hand reaches out to stroke the head of her two-year-old son, who was born in turbulent times and named after his campaigning uncle. Her husband and fellow campaigner Owens stands nearby.

Nobody would guess this woman is only 24 years old or that she and her family are on the run from a brutal regime.

But she is married to the brother of executed environmentalist and political dissident Ken Saro Wiwa and has pledged to continue his fight for the Ogoni people.

"Over here, everyone says, 'Wow, a woman activist' and asks me how I cope. When your homeland is in trouble, it does not matter whether you are a man or a woman," she said.

Diana and her family have been seeking asylum ever since her brother-in-law's execution.

When she talks about his trial by a Government tribunal for murders his supporters claim he did not commit, her face is touched with sadness.

His death, on the day the Commonwealth Conference opened in New Zealand, provoked an international outcry against the human rights record of the Nigerian regime and the policies of Shell, the oil giant operating in Ogoniland.

"We felt Ken's trial was a trial of the Ogoni people and of the environmental campaign he launched against Shell," she said.

"If the government had enough proof of his guilt, they would have tried Ken in an open court."

"We hoped Shell as a responsible company would put pressure on the government for justice."

"It is strange coming to this coastal town and discovering there are people here who are rooting for us. That means a lot to me," she said.

Diana is now continuing his fight by urging people in the West to put pressure on Shell to speak out against the dictatorial regime.

She is also urging the company to bring to an end the pollution which she says is threatening the future of her people.

Ken Saro Wiwa founded the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni people in 1989 but for many people, he is just the Nigerian who was in the news.

"Consumers in the West have a great deal of power and if the Ogoni people are going to survive, we need their help."

"People over here would not recognise Shell as the

**FIGHTING** for justice comes naturally to the sister-in-law of executed Nigerian Ken Saro Wiwa. The rest of the world may have swept his death under the carpet but Diana Wiwa is not disheartened. Opening the Amnesty International Freedom Festival in Southampton renewed her hope that people in the West do have consciences. Charlotte Kemp reports.

same company if they saw the pollution we have to deal with from day to day.

"The hard thing is to keep up the international pressure. Just because Nigeria does not make the news does not mean anything has changed for the better."

"Coming to this coastal town and meeting people who are supporting us gives me hope," she said.

On the night her son was born, Diana was stopped at a military checkpoint, hit in the stomach with the butt of a gun and forced to swim in a polluted ditch.

"In the months before Ken was arrested, there were many roadblocks manned by the army in Ogoniland. When they saw me, I heard someone say I was one of the troublemakers and I was asked to get out of the car."



► **BRAVE FACES:** Diana Wiwa with husband Owens and son Kenule, named after the executed Nigerian environmentalist.

"It was not very difficult for them to see I was heavily pregnant but they didn't care."

Amazingly, her son arrived safely hours later and he was named Ken after his uncle.

"My brother-in-law was alive when our son was born but now, I am glad his name and the cause he fought for will live on."

"My son's new life gave us hope that we should still fight on for future generations."

"I never question what I am doing."

"When you are fighting for something you believe in, you do not need to question yourself," added Diana.

● The Freedom exhibition will run at the City Art Gallery until June 2. For more information, contact Mary Brown on 01703 667508.

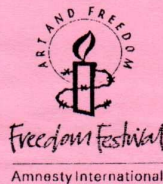
# Grim struggle of a brave mother



# Voices of freedom

YOUNG voices will sing for freedom at a concert organised by Southampton Amnesty International.

The Hampshire Youth Choir will take to the stage at the City Art Gallery today at 7.30pm. 496



## Freedom Concert

Hampshire County Youth Choir  
Director: Keith Smith

Programme includes Religious and Secular Part-songs  
from the 16th century to the present day and other music.

"Freedom" Art Exhibition open to the audience

Friday 26 April, 7.30pm  
Southampton City Art Gallery

Tickets from NorthGuild Box Office: 01703 632601  
£3.50 (£2.50 conc.)

Disabled Access

Amnesty International Benefit Event Supported By







# Courtlye Musick.



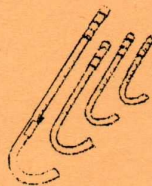
Present

Tudor Merchant's Hall  
Westgate Street, Southampton  
Saturday 11th May 7.30pm

## 'Rites of Passage'

Songs and instrumental music  
to celebrate the Ages of Man

Tickets £6 Concession £4  
from NorthGuild Ticket Office: 01703 632601  
(no wheelchair access)  
interval refreshments



in aid of  
Amnesty International



Early Music from the courts of Europe presented, in costume,  
upon a huge collection of authentic instruments.





Southampton City Group of  
Amnesty International  
Welcomes you to an evening  
of Poetry & Prose on the  
theme of Freedom.



Local Poet **Joan McGavin** reads her own work,  
accompanied by Lynda Edwards, Jenny McConnell,  
Edward Howson and Peter Phillips, with a variety of  
writing from Shelley to Saro-wiwa!

The evening will continue with Live Music.

**Talking Heads Theatre Bar**  
**320 Portswood Road, Southampton.**  
**Friday 12 April 1996, 8-30pm.**  
**Tickets £1-00 at the door**

**Disabled Access**

Amnesty International Benefit Event Supported By Talking Heads





# *Free As The Wind*

The Regis Quartet

&

Southampton Brass Ensemble

A Lighthearted Programme of Classical Music and Jazz

Celebrating the Theme of Freedom

Friday 14 June, 7.30pm

Abbey United Reformed Church, Romsey.

Tickets £5.00 (£3.00 conc.)

From R Shaw, Chemist, Market Place, Romsey

01794 513193 or at the door.

Interval Refreshments

Disabled Access

Amnesty International Benefit Event





## *Refugees and Asylum Seekers*

An open meeting organised by  
the Southampton Group of Amnesty International

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**Chair**

**John Denham MP**

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**Panel**

**Zahid Arain**

Citizens' Advice Bureau, Southampton.

**Audrey Atter**

National Coordinator, Association to Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID).

**Parvin Damani**

Multicultural Adviser, Southampton & South West Hampshire Health Commission.

**Richard Dunstan**

Refugee Officer, Amnesty International, UK Section.

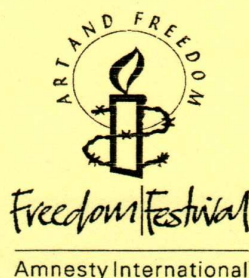
**Southampton City Art Gallery Lecture Theatre**  
**Friday 19 April, 7-30pm.**

Disabled Access

Admission FREE: Donations to Amnesty International

**Amnesty International Benefit Event**





# *Burma* *A Legacy Of Oppression*

**An Illustrated Talk By Kevin Fray**

**Wednesday 22 May, 1996, 7.45pm.**

(Tea/Coffee available from 7.15pm)

**St Matthew's Hall, St Marys Rd., Southampton.**

**Tickets £1.00 at the door.**

Disabled Access

**Amnesty International Benefit Event**





City March for Refugees: part of Amnesty's Respect Refugees Campaign, Oct. 1997











Campaign stall at Southampton Balloon Festival



Vigil for Victims of Torture  
outside Southampton Library. 2001

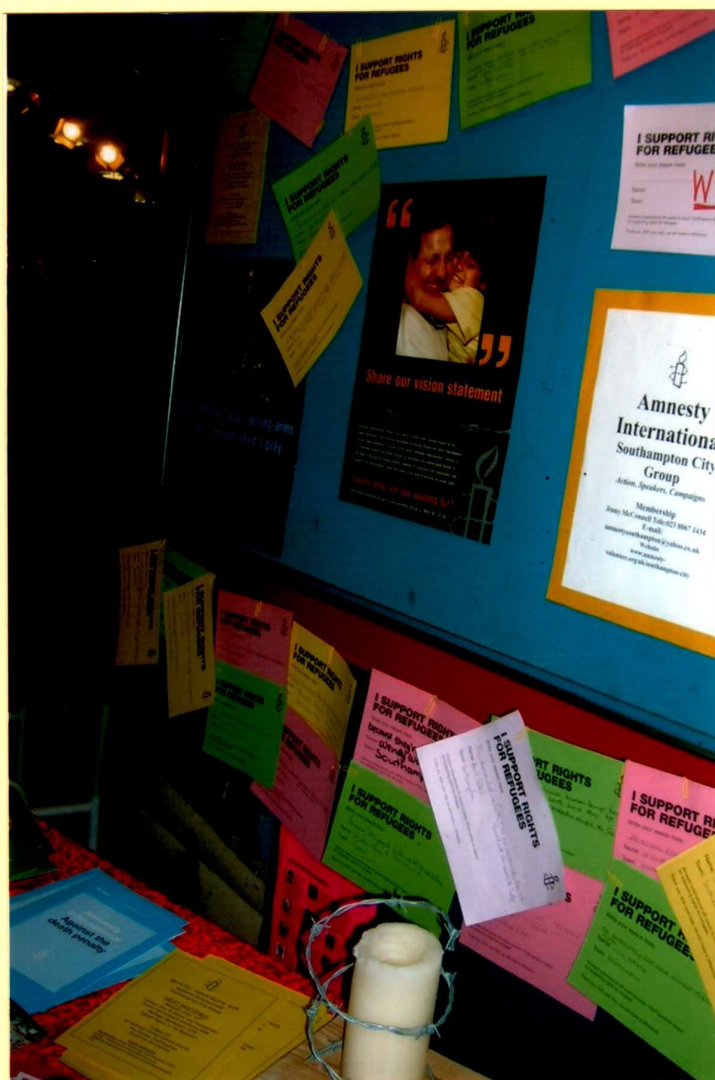
The Mayor of Southampton, Cllr Parvin Damani,  
signs up in support. March 2003







Refugee Week stall at the  
Nuffield Theatre, June 2005





# **Amnesty International 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

## **40 Roses for 40 Victims**

The Southampton Group of Amnesty International will be planting 40 bushes of "Charlie's Rose for Amnesty" in Mayfield Park, Weston, on Saturday 29 September 2001, from 12 midday to 4.00 pm.

Charlie Dimmock herself will be coming along to plant a rose, and we hope also to welcome the Bishop of Southampton, Alan Whitehead MP, the Mayor of Southampton Cllr Christine Kelly, Pauline Brandt of BBC South, artist and Holocaust survivor Vera Karoly, and local poet Joan McGavin who may be moved to verse by the occasion.

Roses have been donated by members, former members and supporters of the Southampton Group, and local organisations represented include Haslar Visitors' Group, the Refugee Centre, Avenue St Andrews Amnesty Group, Poole AI Group, a Wellington New Zealand AI Group, Freemantle United Reformed Church, and the Southampton Commons & Parks Protection Society.

Each rose will be dedicated to a victim of human rights abuse for whom the Southampton Group has worked over the years.

On completion of the planting, 40 birthday balloons will be released.

**Come and join us!**



Bishop Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Southampton, planted a rose in tribute to Dr Ma Thida, a jailed pro-democracy activist in Burma.



Environmental campaigners Roberto Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera, imprisoned in Mexico for protesting about rapacious logging, are remembered by group member Richard Green.





BBC South Newsreader Pauline Brandt planted a rose in memory of journalist Sinisa Glavasevic, one of thousands "disappeared" by Serb forces during the conflict in Former Yugoslavia in 1991.



Cllr. Carol Cunio, long-term member of the Southampton Group and recently Mayor of Southampton, plants her rose for Arnold Spalin, a prisoner of conscience held incommunicado and sent to a labour camp in the USSR for his religious beliefs.







Then Mayor of Southampton Cllr. Christine Kelly, remembered Orton Chirwa, Attorney General of Malawi and his wife Vera, imprisoned and tortured for standing up for justice.





The concert in Winchester Cathedral was one of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken by the Southampton Amnesty Group

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
Southampton Group**



**A CONCERT IN CELEBRATION OF  
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF  
THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL**

**Saturday 31st October 1998  
at 7.30 pm**

*SCHOLA CANTORUM OF OXFORD*  
(conductor Mark Shepherd)

*STEPHEN FARR (organ)*

<b>Parry:</b>	<b><i>I was glad</i></b>
<b>Britten:</b>	<b><i>Flower Songs</i></b>
<b>Hakim:</b>	<b><i>Variations on two themes</i></b>
<b>Rachmaninov:</b>	<b><i>Vespers</i></b>
<b>Bach:</b>	<b><i>Fantasia &amp; Fugue BWV 542</i></b>
<b>Vaughan Williams:</b>	<b><i>Mass In G Minor</i></b>

**Tickets: £15, £12 and £8  
from Music at Winchester, The Brooks Centre,  
Winchester SO23 8QY, Telephone (01962) 877977  
and at the door**

**Disabled access**





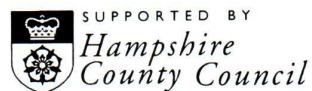
Amnesty International

Southampton Group

# Celebration Concert



Winchester Cathedral





## PROGRAMME

**INTRODUCTION: The Very Rev Michael Till, Dean of Winchester**  
**LIGHTING THE AMNESTY CANDLE: Vera Karoly**

Hubert Parry                      **Schola Cantorum of Oxford**                      *I was glad*

Naji Hakim                      **Stephen Farr    Organ**                      *Variations on Two Themes*

Sergei Rachmaninov                      **Schola Cantorum of Oxford**                      *Vespers*  
*O come and worship*  
*Praise the Lord, O my soul*  
*Blessed is the man*  
*Joyful light*  
*Now lettest thou depart*  
*Hail Mary*  
*Hexapsalmos*  
*O praise our God*

## INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

Benjamin Britten                      **Schola Cantorum of Oxford**                      *Flower Songs*  
*To Daffodils*  
*Succession of Four Sweet Months*  
*Evening Primrose*

Johann Sebastian Bach                      **Stephen Farr    Organ**                      *Fantasia & Fugue in G Minor*

Ralph Vaughan Williams                      **Schola Cantorum of Oxford**                      *Mass in G Minor*



## **FIFTY YEARS ON – THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

On 10th December 1948, the United Nations unveiled the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The kind of atrocities witnessed in the Second World War must never be allowed to recur in the post-war world - so member states pledged to promote "universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

The Declaration looked to "the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want". Everyone - *everyone* - has rights, the Declaration acknowledged - and these rights should be respected. With the horrors of Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia so fresh in our minds, we can hardly pretend to have reached the United Nations' brave new world. Half the world's governments still imprison people solely because of their beliefs, race, gender or ethnic origin. A third of governments still torture prisoners.

The UN Declaration of Human Rights has been called "the world's best-kept secret". But no longer. Throughout 1998, Amnesty International has been campaigning to expose that secret - to tell people around the world what their governments signed up to - and to make those governments sit up and listen. This concert is part of that campaign.

### **Signing up - to basic rights for everyone**

Amnesty is urging people to "Get up, Sign up" - to a simple pledge of personal support for the Universal Declaration. The campaign was launched on 10th December 1997 - Human Rights Day - and the huge volume of pledges collected worldwide will be presented to the United Nations in New York on Human Rights Day 1998.

Those pledges include the signatures of Aung San Suu Kyi - the Burmese Nobel Peace laureate who was the first to sign up to the campaign, Mary Robinson, the UN's own High Commissioner for Human Rights, Lech Walesa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, President Mandela and the entire South African football team. It has been signed by our own Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary, and by over 130 MPs and scores of other public figures. And, around the world, by over a million ordinary people - calling on their governments to do more to fulfil the bold commitments they made in the Universal Declaration to a brighter future for us all.

**You can join these people. Sign a pledge of support for Universal Human Rights, as laid out in the United Nations Declaration 50 years ago. Sign up in the interval tonight at the Amnesty stall in the Cathedral.**



# WAR SURVIVOR'S CONCERT MISSION

**A HOLOCAUST survivor who is now fighting for life against a deadly disease is to take centre-stage at a major human rights concert.**

Vera Karoly, from North Baddesley, came through the hell of 10 Nazi concentration camps, including Auschwitz and Belsen, and rebuilt her life to become a successful painter and artist.

□ By Danny Kemp

Now in another cruel blow Vera has been struck down by leukaemia – but she is determined to overcome her illness and light a symbolic candle at an Amnesty International Concert in Winchester Cathedral.

The event, on Saturday, October 31, is to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – a charter directly inspired by the death camps Vera endured and which claimed six million victims during the Second World War.

Vera, 69, will be honoured by the Dean of Winchester after stepping up to light the giant Amnesty candle at the start of the concert.

She said: "The concert will be an ordeal, but because it is such an honour I am looking forward to it. I am so tired because of my

illness but I am really, really thrilled about it. They say I will be the guest of honour.

Vera came to England after the war, during which she was deported from her homeland of Czechoslovakia and lost all her family.

She took up painting at the Southampton Institute and in 1987 produced her first major work, "After Auschwitz", now hanging in a London gallery. Since then her work has been exhibited in Romsey, throughout the South and in London.

But Vera was diagnosed with leukaemia three years ago and now faces a constant struggle against exhaustion and sickness.

"I have had such a hard life – and now this," she said. "The experience I went through in the war was so awful that I have never been

able to talk about it."

The Amnesty concert features music from internationally renowned choir Schola Cantorum of Oxford, performing for the first time in Winchester, and Stephen Farr, sub organist at Winchester College.

Guests will include Romsey MP Michael Colvin and Southampton Test MP Alan Whitehead.

● See next week's **EXTRA** for a special report on Vera Karoly's life.



'The experience I went through was so awful that I have never been able to talk

**ROMSEY'S**  
THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 1998



**HOLocaust: Survivor of Hitler's 'final solution' invited as special guest to a...**

# Concert of hope

A MAJOR human rights concert in Winchester Cathedral will feature a local survivor of the Holocaust as a special guest.

Vera Karoly, who came through the hell of 10 Nazi concentration camps, including Auschwitz and Belsen, will light a symbolic candle at the Amnesty International Concert on Saturday, October 31.

The event is to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - a charter directly inspired by the death camps Vera endured and which claimed six million victims during the Second World War.

Vera, 69, now a successful artist and musician living in North Baddesley, near Romsey, will be honoured by the Dean of Winchester after stepping up to light the giant Amnesty candle at the start of the concert.

The event features music from internationally renowned choir Schola Cantorum of Oxford, performing for the first time in Winchester, and Stephen Farr, sub organist at Winchester College.

Other guests will also include Romsey MP Michael Colvin and Southampton Test

**'The experience I went through in the war was so awful that I have never been able to talk about it' -  
VERA KAROLY**

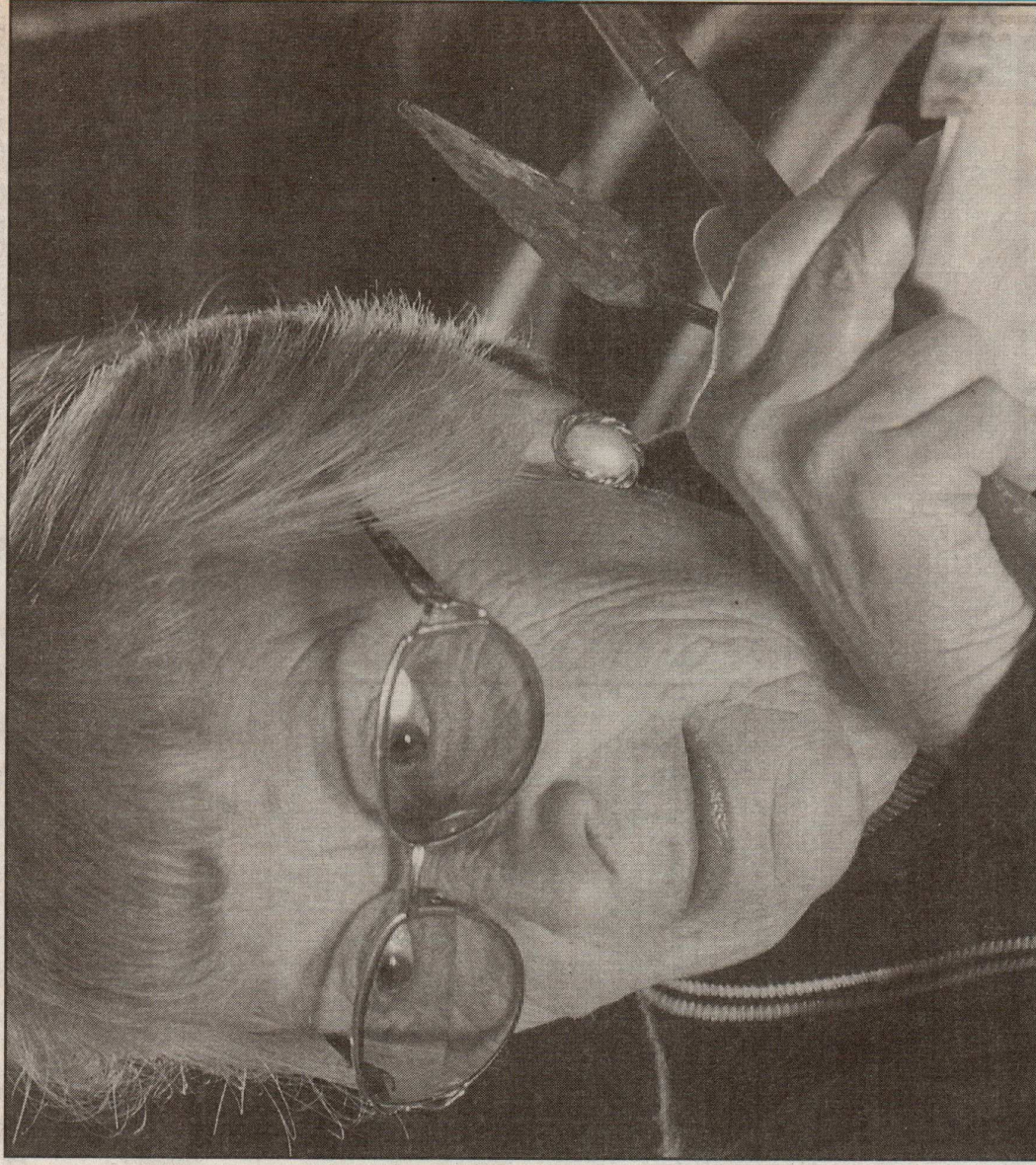
MP Alan Whitehead.

Frail Vera was diagnosed with leukaemia three years ago, and said: "The concert will be an ordeal, but because it is such an honour I am looking forward to it. I am so tired because of my illness but I am really, really thrilled about it. They say I will be the guest of honour."

She came to England after the war, during which she was deported from her homeland of Czechoslovakia and lost all her family.

She took up painting at the Southampton Institute and in 1987 produced her first major work, 'After Auschwitz', now hanging in a London gallery.

"The experience I went through in the war was so awful that I have never been able to talk about it," she said.



● Holocaust survivor Vera Karoly, the special guest of a major human rights concert to be held at Winchester Cathedral



## A candle for peace



● Vera Karoly lights the candle: "Everyone treated me like a queen," she says

# Tears for Holocaust survivor

HOLOCAUST survivor Vera Karoly had an emotional moment when she lit a symbolic candle for peace at a major human rights concert.

The North Baddesley artist had tears in her eyes as she stood by the Amnesty International candle, twice as tall as herself and twined with barbed wire, in Winchester Cathedral.

The 69-year-old was the special guest at the event to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Saturday.

Vera, who endured the horrors of Nazi death camps including Auschwitz and Belsen and is now a successful painter and sculptor, said: "It was a magnificent night, a fantastic concert."

"I have been treated so badly in my life and I have been ill recently, but on Saturday everyone treated me like a queen."

Nearly 400 people attended the concert, organised by the

Southampton Amnesty Group, which was introduced by The Dean of Winchester, The Very Rev Michael Till.

Music was provided by long-established choir Schola Cantorum of Oxford and organist Stephen Farr, while the programme included works by Rachmaninov, Britten and Vaughan Williams.

During the interval, audience members queued up to sign a promise to support human rights, which will be presented to the United Nations.

Southampton Amnesty Group chairman John Williams said: "We are delighted with the success of the concert."

"Vera insisted that it was a great privilege to have been invited to perform this ceremony, but most of those present felt that the privilege of seeing this courageous lady light the candle was entirely theirs."

## WHAT'S ON IN BRIEF...

A CONCERT in Winchester Cathedral on Saturday, in aid of Amnesty International, marks the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Holocaust survivor Vera Karoly from North Baddesley will light a giant Amnesty candle to launch the concert. The renowned Schola Cantorum of Oxford and organist Stephen Farr will perform works by Parry, Britten, Rachmaninov, Vaughan Williams, JS Bach and Hakim. Tickets at the door or on (01962) 877977.

29.10.98 NHB



# Auschwitz survivor shines a light on human rights

A Jewish woman who survived the holocaust will light the Amnesty candle at the start of a concert in Winchester Cathedral to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Born in Hungary, in the same year as Anne Frank, Vera Karoly came to this country after the war. She now lives in North Baddesley.

An accomplished musician, for many years she taught the guitar, but then fulfilled a long-held ambition to become an artist. She studied at Southampton Institute of Higher Education for 12 years

by Elizabeth Tenison

and took her diploma in Fine Art.

Unable to talk about the horrors she endured in the concentration camps, she was able to express her feelings in a painting, entitled *After Auschwitz*.

"What I saw, I didn't want to paint, so it's all symbolic," she explained.

Completing the painting gave Vera peace of mind.

The work now hangs in Manor House, a conference centre at Finchley. This pleases Vera, who is happy that people can see it.

As an artist, she has worked in oil, pastel and watercolour and also in wood.

However, for the past three years she has suffered from leukaemia, but is still able to paint.

"It is a very important part of my life," she said. "So much of me goes into each painting. I don't have time to be depressed. But I have to be in the mood. When you are depressed you can't paint."

Music has provided an inspiration for Vera's painting and she talks about the "rhythm and movement of colour," which is so magical when it is applied on canvas that she just loves doing it.

She said: "Music and painting are both part of my life, which is filled with music and colour. I count my blessings because I have

found peace of mind." Asked how she feels about taking part in the Universal Declaration celebration, Vera replied: "I am really pleased. It is a great honour. I hope it is well attended."

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted as a direct result of Nazi atrocities in the Second World War.

The Amnesty concert is being held in Winchester Cathedral on Saturday, October 31st, at 7.30pm.

Organised by Southampton Amnesty Group, it will open with the lighting of the candle by Vera Karoly. Taking part in the concert are the Schola Cantorum of Oxford and Stephen Farr, sub-organist at Winchester Cathedral.



Lighting the darkness... Vera Karoly FC52/79/34





Vera Karoly, Holocaust survivor and artist, lights the Amnesty candle at the concert to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The UDHR was adopted by the United Nations in the wake of the Holocaust and is the foundation of Amnesty's work.



# That's Entertainment

## Concert celebrates half a century of human rights

NEARLY 400 people attended a special concert in Winchester Cathedral on Saturday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The event, which was organised by the Southampton Group of Amnesty International, was introduced by the Dean of Winchester, the Rt Revd Michael Till, who paid tribute to Amnesty's role in promoting the 30 fundamental human rights set out in the Universal Declaration.

The United Nations adopted the Declaration in 1948 after the atrocities of the Second World War and member states promised to respect those rights which belong to us all, but which so many in the world still do not enjoy.

There was a poignant moment as Holocaust survivor Vera Karoly, from North Baddesley, lit the Amnesty candle, twice as tall as herself and symbolically twined with barbed wire.

Now an artist with many local exhibitions to her credit, Vera said it was a great privilege to have been invited to perform this ceremony, but most of those present felt that the privilege of seeing this courageous lady light the candle was entirely theirs.

Musically, the concert was a delight. Schola Cantorum of Oxford, a long-established choir that includes some of the country's most promising students of music, filled

the Cathedral with their remarkably mature and mostly unaccompanied renderings of music by Rachmaninov, Britten and Vaughan Williams, while Stephen Farr (Assistant Master of the Music at the Cathedral) gave a virtuoso solo performance on the organ.

During the interval, members of the audience queued to sign up to a promise to do their best to make human rights a reality throughout the world.

Their signatures, with millions of others, will be presented to the United Nations on December 10th, the anniversary of the Universal Declaration.

Southampton Amnesty Group chairman, John Williams, was delighted with the success of the concert, which he said had achieved its objective of making people more aware of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of their responsibility to ensure that governments improve on their record of the last 50 years in living up to the promises they made in 1948.

Mary Brown

A CELEBRATION concert in Winchester Cathedral organised by the Southampton Group of Amnesty International, marked the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was signed by members of the United Nations and unveiled on December 10th 1948.

Taking part in this special event were Schola Cantorum of Oxford, a chamber choir of 35 or so young singers, most of which are students at the colleges, and Stephen Farr, assistant master of music in the cathedral.

The Very Revd Michael Till, Dean of Winchester, gave an introduction at the outset and welcomed Hungarian-born Vera Karoly, a survivor of the Holocaust, who lit the Amnesty candle which remained alight throughout the evening, a poignant reminder of the violations witnessed by many.

Hubert Parry's commanding anthem, *I was glad*, uniting voices and organ, made a fine opening to the occasion, with massive sonorities of the first and last sections con-

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

tracting with the brief period of sensitive reflection. The splendid projections and beauty of tone quality from these young voices made considerable impact.

Stephen Farr, who contributed organ solos in each half of the programme, now chose Variation on Two Themes, by Naji Hakim.

Rachmaninov's 15 Movement *All Night Vigil* is considered to be his liturgical masterpiece. The first eight movements comprising *Vespers* were exquisitely sung.

Soloists from within the chorus infused their tone with commendable Slavic quality and succeeded in penetrating the vastness of the building admirably.

After the interval, three of Benjamin Britten's *Flower Songs*—*Succession of Four Sweet Months*, *Marsh Flowers*, and *Evening Primrose*—gave the singers an opportunity to show their expertise in unaccompanied music of a very different kind and the

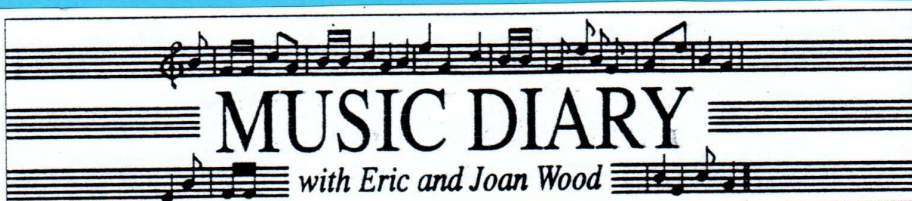
beautifully fresh response successfully reinforced the pictures invoked by the works of Herrick, Crabbe and Clare respectively.

Stephen Farr captured the improvisatory character of the Fantasia of Bach's great G minor Fantasia and Fugue BWV 542 arrestingly and went on to invest the future with considerable exuberance, completing a virtuoso account of this popular master-work.

The choir gave a memorable performance of considerable finesse of movements from the Mass in G Minor by Vaughan Williams. Throughout the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei the choir excelled in the sublime tone quality and choral balance.

Notable antiphonal effects were achieved during the Gloria but perhaps most sensitive of all in this moving account was Mr Shepherd's handling of the lyrical Benedictus and the sustained pleading Angus Dei.

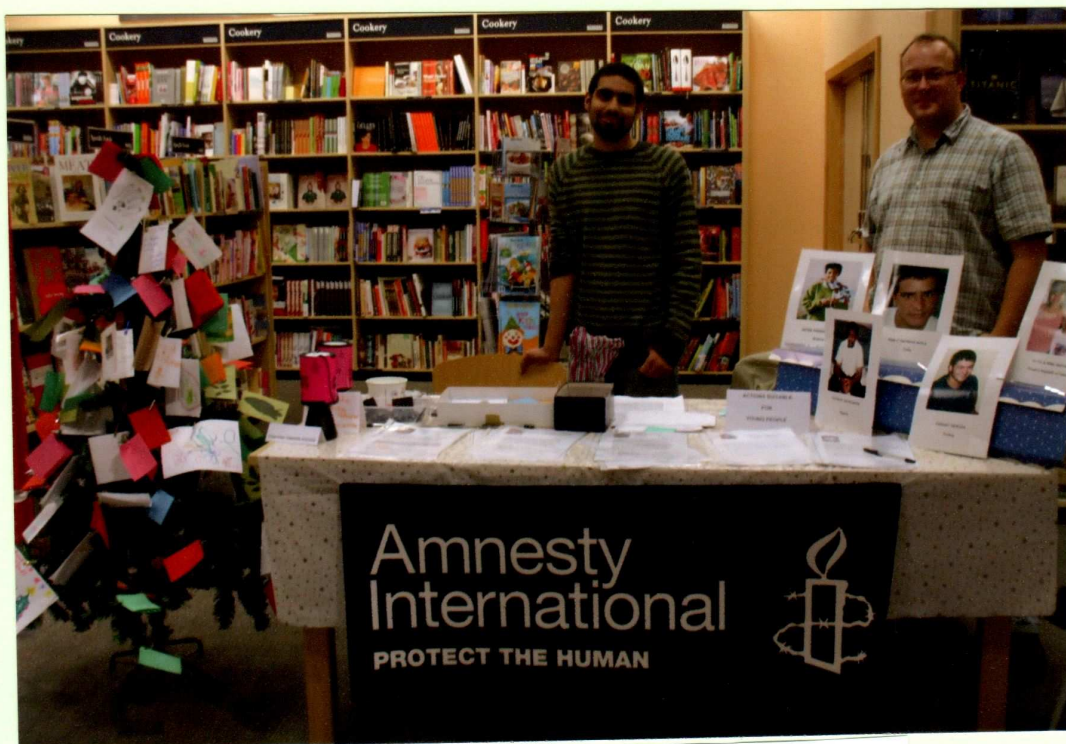
HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1998







Vigil for the people of Iraq just after the invasion by coalition forces.



A stall at Borders Bookshop for the annual Greetings Card Campaign, at which local people send messages of support to victims of human rights violations and their families.





A fundraising walk in the New Forest.



Wilf Mbanga visited a Group meeting in 2009 to describe his struggle as an editor in exile to print and circulate an independent newspaper in Zimbabwe.





Date 05 September  
2009

## Amnesty still on a mission

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### In my view ...



By  
**MARY BROWN,**  
Amnesty International  
Southampton Group

2009 marks the 30th anniversary of Amnesty International and trade unions working together to defend human rights, through Amnesty's Trade Union Network. Freedom of expression is a right we enjoy in this country, and probably appreciate too little. Our newspapers, radio reporters and television journalists are able to express views critical of the authorities without fear of victimisation or reprisal, but this is not so in many parts of the world.

One of the first acts of a repressive regime is to muzzle the press, so in many countries journalists are on the front line when they publish material deemed to be "treasonable", "hostile to the government", or "damaging to the reputation of our country abroad". For peacefully expressing their views, or reporting the truth to their readers, they can be subject to a range of human rights abuses including detention, kidnapping, torture, disappearance and arbitrary execution.

The National Union of Journalists campaigns closely with Amnesty on behalf of the many hundreds of journalists around the world whose courage has made them targets of government oppression. It has recently set up a fund to support six Gambian journalists who were convicted on charges of sedition and defamation on 6 August, after their newspaper criticised the way the President of Gambia spoke about a fellow journalist. They were sentenced to two years' imprisonment and a massive fine, and failure to pay could mean a 4-year extension to their prison sentence. Amnesty International regards these journalists as prisoners of

conscience, and is campaigning for their immediate release.

The human rights journalist Anna Politkovskaya was murdered after reporting on atrocities in Chechnya and criticising President Putin. In China, internet users and journalists are at risk of harassment and imprisonment for addressing politically sensitive topics. Around 30 journalists and 50 others are in prison for posting their views on the internet.

I recently saw the amazing film *Burma VJ* shot on the streets of Rangoon by a small group of video journalists who were hunted by the Burmese security forces as they filmed the peaceful demonstrations for democracy led by hundreds of monks, and the violent suppression that followed.

Independent journalism is impossible in Mugabe's Zimbabwe. Death threats and bombing of his newspaper premises forced editor Wilf Mbanga to leave the country and publish his weekly newspaper *The Zimbabwean* from exile. It is edited in London, printed in South Africa, and distributed clandestinely in Zimbabwe to allow the population access to a free and uncensored press. On 14 September the Southampton group of Amnesty International will be privileged to welcome Wilf Mbanga as guest speaker at its meeting, at 7.30pm in Avenue St. Andrews United Reformed Church. Interested visitors would be most welcome to join us.

Journalists standing up for the basic values of freedom, justice and equality deserve support from us all.





# SEND A MESSAGE OF HOPE

## CHINA HU JIA & ZENG JINYAN

### HUMAN RIGHTS FOR CHINA

Human rights defenders, prisoner of conscience



© Hu Jia and Zeng Jinyan

### IMPRISONMENT AND HOUSE ARREST FOR ACTIVISTS

Hu Jia, one of China's most prominent human rights defenders, was sentenced to three and a half years in prison in April 2008 for speaking out about the Chinese authorities' human rights record. His conviction on charges of 'subversion' followed several years of harassment. His wife, Zeng Jinyan, and their infant daughter are currently under house arrest. Hu Jia's sentence serves as a warning to others who dare to raise human rights concerns publicly.

### DETAILED CASE DESCRIPTION

Hu Jia was convicted of 'inciting subversion' and sentenced to three and a half years in prison on 18 March 2008. Evidence against him included internet articles and interviews with foreign media. Neither his wife, Zeng Jinyan, nor his father were allowed to attend his trial and his lawyers were given just three days to prepare his defence.

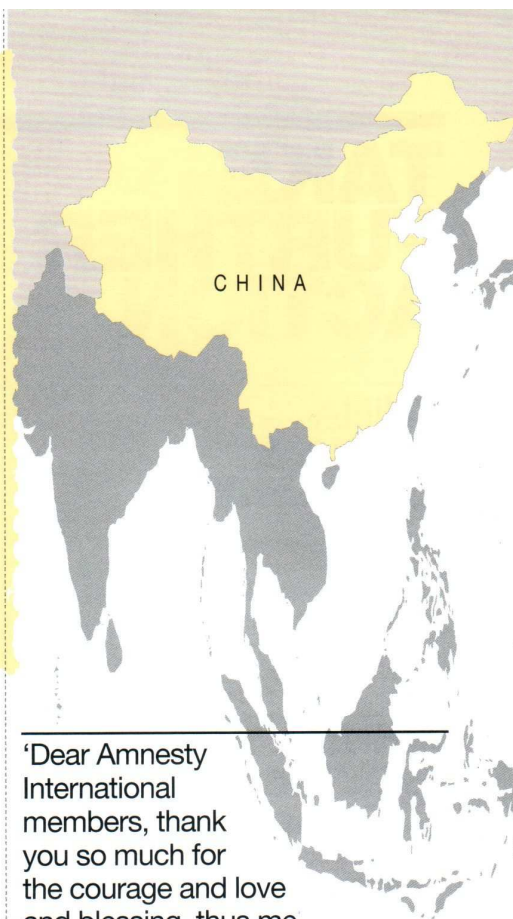
Hu Jia's outspoken activism has made him a frequent target for harassment by the Chinese authorities. Since 2004 he has been arbitrarily detained several times and in 2006 was held incommunicado for 41 days, after calling for the release of imprisoned human rights lawyer Chen Guangcheng. Following his release, both he and his wife were placed under near-continuous house arrest for 18 months, during which time their daughter, Hu Qianci, was born. She has lived under house arrest ever since.

As with Hu Jia, Zeng Jinyan's activism has brought her to the attention of the authorities. In 2007 she gained worldwide recognition after *TIME Magazine* named her one

of '100 People Who Shape Our World' for a blog she set up during Hu Jia's detention in 2006. She continued to maintain the blog, detailing the couples' day-to-day experiences as activists living in China, until the authorities cut her internet connection last year. Since then she has had intermittent access.

Zeng Jinyan and new daughter Hu Qianci have been held under house arrest since Hu Jia's arrest in December 2007. Police have warned Zeng several times that if she does not 'cooperate' or tries to talk to the media about Hu Jia's imprisonment, she too will be detained.

Hu Jia is in the early stages of sclerosis of the liver and needs daily medication for Hepatitis B. His application for medical parole was rejected in June 2008 and he was told that he would have to serve at least one-third of his sentence before he could re-apply. Since he protested about human rights violations in prison, his letters home to his family have been confiscated.



'Dear Amnesty International members, thank you so much for the courage and love and blessing, thus me and my family are no more alone!'

Zeng Jinyan

### GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN ACTION

1 November 2008-31 January 2009

NOTE: You might like to send cards to coincide with Hu Qianci's first birthday on 13 November 2008.

 Please send a **non-religious** card to:

**Hu Jia and Zeng Jinyan**  
Room 542, Block 76  
BOBO Freedom City  
Dong Guo Yuan  
Tongzhou Qu  
Beijing 101100  
People's Republic of China

**Postage zone** Rest of world

**Language** Chinese (Mandarin),  
English or your own language

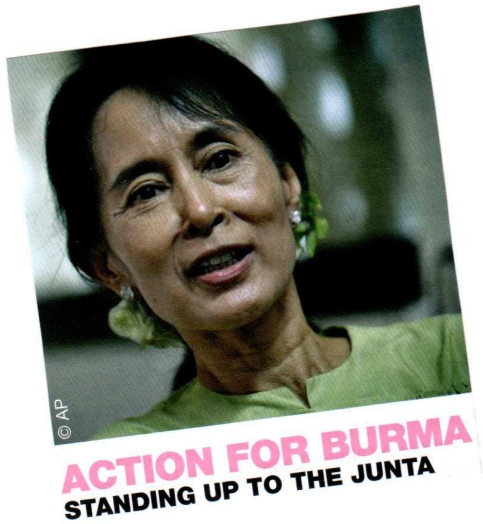
**Salutation** Dear Zeng Jinyan

**Suggested message** We are working for Hu Jia's release. Please take care of yourself and your baby.

This message in Mandarin is available at [www.amnesty.org.uk/huandzeng](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/huandzeng) to download, print and stick into your card.

**Important information** For the safety of the recipient, please do not include political comments in your message. You may put your name and address in the card.





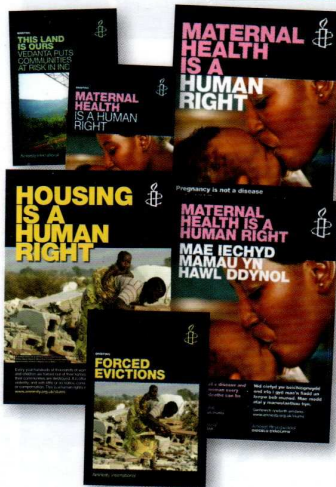
Some recent Amnesty campaigns

# 'NO RECOURSE' NO SAFETY

The UK Government failure to protect women from violence

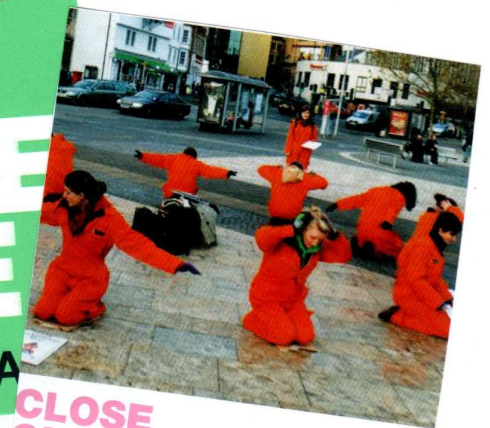


DEMAND DIGNITY



## SEND A MESSAGE OF HOPE

GREETINGS CARD CAMPA



CLOSE GUANTANAMO

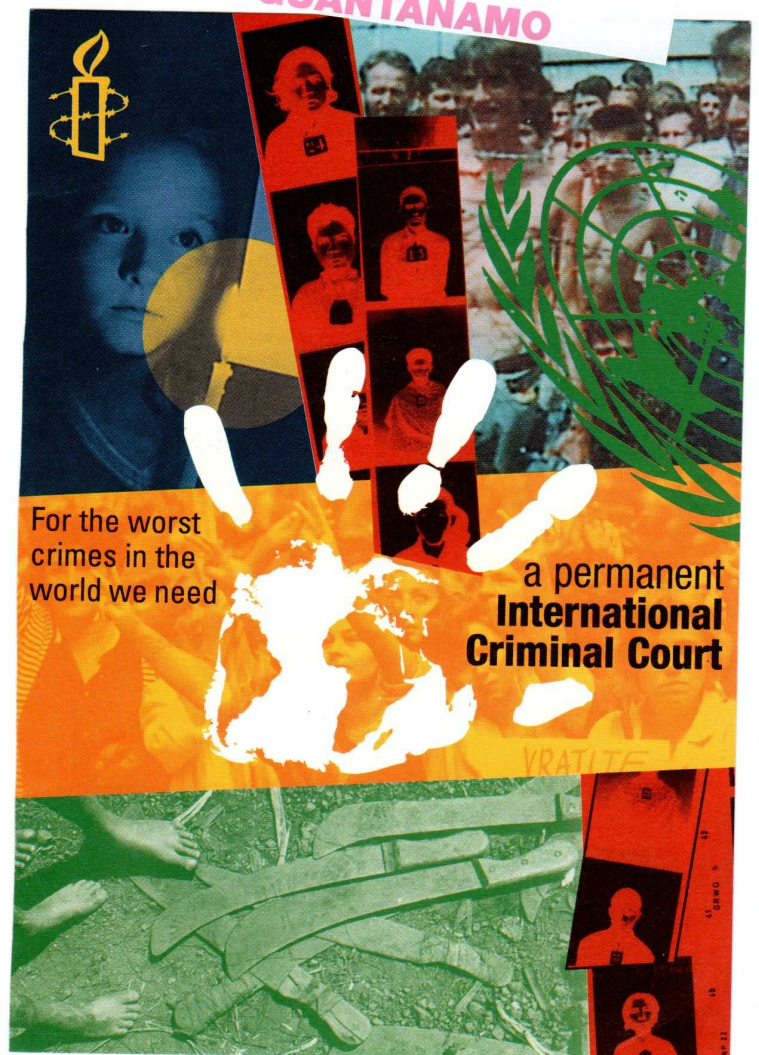
### ACTION FOR TROY DAVIS



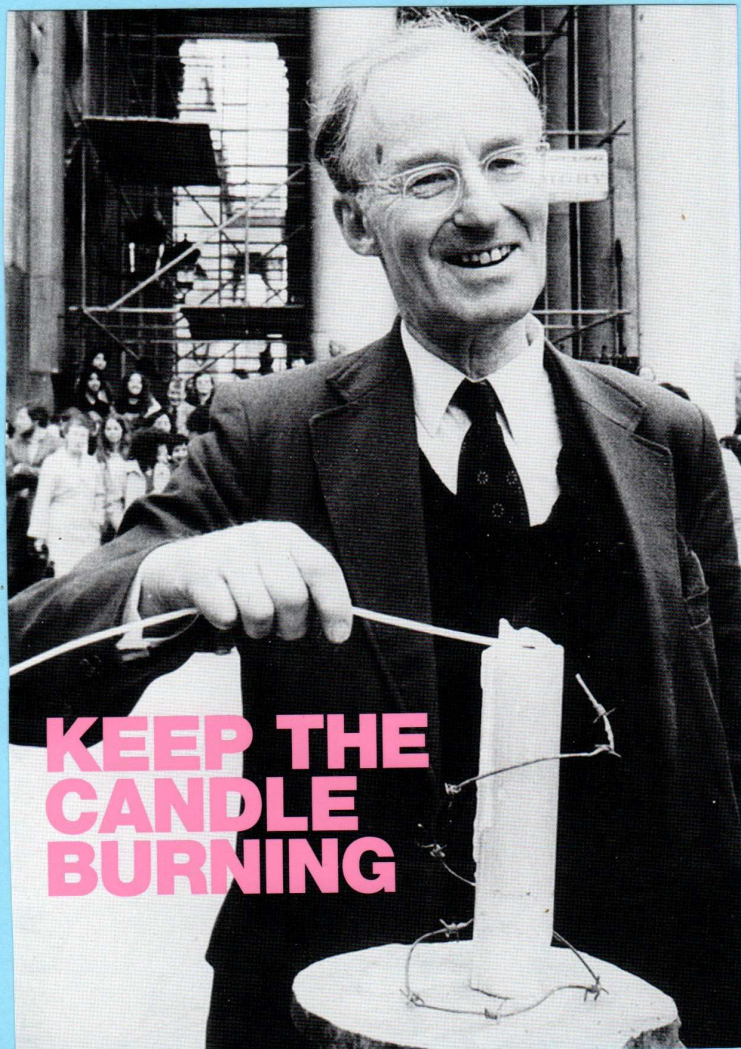
争取中国人权

## HUMAN RIGHTS FOR CHINA

Amnesty International







‘Only when the last prisoner of conscience has been freed, when the last torture chamber has been closed, when the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a reality for the world’s people, will our work be done.’

Peter Benenson, founder of  
Amnesty International