

# AMNESTY NEWS

[www.amnesty-volunteer.org/uk/southampton-](http://www.amnesty-volunteer.org/uk/southampton-)

November 2004



## SEND A MESSAGE OF HOPE

*The annual Greetings Card Campaign gets under way on 1st November. Ruth Dawson writes in Amnesty (the magazine of Amnesty International UK):*

Every year AI asks friends and supporters to send cards to victims of human rights violations. These cards are a great source of hope and encouragement to the recipients. The impression this international mail makes on police, prison staff and political authorities can help improve their condition and keep them safe.

Tens of thousands of people took part in last year's campaign and many of them told us what they thought of it. Comments were overwhelmingly positive and also gave us ideas on how to make it even better. This year we will have:

**One booklet:** A combined leaflet will contain all the cases rather than three separate lists. As before, the cases reflect a range of gender, geography, identity and type of human rights violation.

**Online campaign:** Those who use the web won't need to order printed materials at all. All the information you need will be on AI UK's website from 1st November. ([www.amnesty.org.uk/gcc/2004](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/gcc/2004))

**The information includes:** case stories and addresses; address labels to download for every case; updates on previous cases; answers to questions commonly asked about the campaign;

**Group Meeting  
Monday November 8th 2004**

**BUSINESS &  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

**TOM FYANS, AI UK**

**Avenue St Andrew's  
United Reformed Church  
The Avenue, Southampton  
(Use main Church entrance)**

**7.30pm**

**ALL WELCOME**

addresses and information for writing appeals to the relevant authorities on behalf of the people featured in the campaign and links to more information on how to take action on them.

The Greetings Card Campaign runs from 1st November 2004 to 31st January 2005

### **Southampton Group's Action:**

The Greeting Card information will be available at Group Meetings, particularly December 13th.

There will be a public "**Greetings Card**" writing event in the Marlands Centre on Saturday 11th December from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Further details on page 4.

**Please come along and sign a card.**

### **AI's VISION**

is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international standards.

### **AI's MISSION**

is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights.

### **AI's CORE VALUES**

remain those of: international solidarity, effective action for the individual victim, global coverage, the universality and indivisibility of human rights, impartiality and independence, and democracy and mutual respect.

## Worldwide appeal for September 2004

Krishna Khatri Chhetri, is thought to be held by security forces. He has reportedly been severely tortured and is at serious risk of being further tortured or even killed. His whereabouts are currently unknown.

Former vice-president of the All Nepal National Independent Student Union (Revolutionary), Krishna K.C. was reportedly arrested without warrant in Koteswar, Kathmandu, on 13 September 2003 by army personnel in civilian clothes. Even though the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) received reliable information in early 2004 that he was being held in Bairabnath army barracks and was in poor health, the army has repeatedly obstructed Supreme Court and NHRC attempts to locate Krishna K.C. and denies that he is in army detention.

Krishna K.C. may have been arrested because the authorities suspected him of being a supporter of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist), which has been declared a "terrorist organisation" by the government since peace talks and the ceasefire broke down on 27 August 2003.



**Send appeals on  
behalf of  
"disappeared"  
student leader**

The Student Union is seen as being ideologically close to the CPN (Maoist) and has also been banned by the government.

AI has recorded more than 300 cases of "disappearance" in Nepal since August 2003. There are frequent reports of the security forces obstructing the courts and the NHRC's investigation of these cases, signalling a growing culture of impunity for human rights abuses.

Krishna K.C.'s wife, Durga K.C. has organised a group of

relatives of the "disappeared" who staged a hunger strike in Kathmandu in June. "Our only demand of the government is to give us permission to meet our loved ones and make their whereabouts public", she said in a recent interview.

**Please write:** calling for Krishna Khatri Chhetri, also known as Krishna K.C., to be released unless he is charged with a recognizably criminal offence. Pending his release, calling for the authorities to grant him access to his family, make his whereabouts public, and guarantee his safety.

**Send appeals to:**

Chief of Army Staff (COAS)

Army Headquarters

Kathmandu

Nepal

### Letter writing guide

- \*Always be polite. This rule is essential and invariable. Your aim is to help, not to relieve your own feelings. Governments don't respond to abusive or condemnatory letters (however well deserved!)
- \*Always write your letters on the basis that the Government concerned is open to reason and discussion.
- \*It is important where possible to stress a country's reputation for moderation and justice, to show respect for its constitution and judicial procedures, and to demonstrate an understanding of current difficulties. This will give you more scope to point out ways in which the human rights situation can be improved.
- \*Follow strictly the instructions given by AI.
- \*Never use political jargon. Don't give the impression that you are writing because you are ideologically or politically opposed to the government in question. It is far more effective to stress that your concern for human rights is not politically based in any way, but in keeping with basic principles of international law.
- \*If appropriate, explain who you are and what you do. It shows your letter is genuine, and that people from varying walks of life are following events in the country concerned.

# Group News: October Group Meeting

Jenny McConnell, Chair, welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

The first section of the Meeting was devoted to Letter Writing.

Business section:

## 1) Subgroup Reports:

Chiran received five Urgent Actions. No new actions from Death Penalty or CASA.

## 2) Christmas Cards:

We now have a stock of AI Christmas Cards. They are available from Mary Brown (see Who's Who for telephone number), they will be available at all meetings leading up to Christmas. Cards will be sold at the card market on 6th November at Hythe (see page 4). Ideas of where else they might be sold to Mary please.

## 3) Greetings Card Campaign:

See information on page 1 and event details on page 4. Peter Henley, from BBC South Today Programme and the BBC Politics Show, hopes to attend the Card Signing Event.

## 4) Human Rights Day Service:

There will be a Human Rights Day Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 12th December at 10.30am. A Tree of Hope incorporating cards to women in Guatemala, Iraq and Sudan will be featured at this service. People of all faiths and no faith are welcome.

## 5) Regional Conference:

AIUK is making a bigger thing of these than usual, to be held in Salisbury on 4th December. Please contact Mary if interested.

## 6) AI Leaflets:

We have a new stock of leaflets, with some new designs. If anyone would like any to give out, take to events, pass to friends etc please contact Mary.

We also have a stock of school assembly packs on various themes which can be used by group members if they wish to talk to children about Am-

nesty. Please think about contacting your child's school, or if you are interested in speaking at schools please contact Jenny or Veronica.

## 7) Policy Packs:

We also have new policy packs on Arms Control, Death Penalty, Corporate Responsibility etc. Please contact Jenny or Mary if you are interested.

## 8) Women in Turkey:

Post cards available for Group Action on Solidarity with Women in Turkey.

## 9) Finances:

Giampaolo reported that we have £497 in the bank. We have received 12 annual subs to date.

## 10) Circulation of Amnesty News:

We need to check out the reach of Amnesty News, to other related Groups. Veronica will produce a list, please let us know if you think there are any Groups who would like to receive Amnesty News.

## 11) Publicity:

Veronica reported that we are now in the COUSIN directory.

## 12) Tin Rattle:

Members were reminded about the Tin Rattle on 16th October.

## 13) SEGALULA

Agreed that tickets for the event in March would be £5, concessions £4. For those interested we have a list of SEGALULA events.

## 14) United Nations Day:

Jenny will represent us at the UN Day Ceremony at the Civic Centre on 23rd October.

2004-2005 SOUTHAMPTON GROUP ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

NOW DUE

£10

Please contact Giampaolo D'Alessandro

**Southampton Group Who's Who:**

**Group Officers:**

Chair:

*Jenny McConnell*

Vice-Chair:

*Becky John*

Secretary:

*Mary Brown*

Treasurer:

*Giampaolo D'Alessandro*

Membership Secretary:

*Jenny McConnell*

Outreach:

*Veronica Tippets*

Press Officer:

*Mary Brown*

Parliamentary Officer:

*Frank Capocci*

News Letter Editor:

*John Williams*

**Subgroups:**

**CASA/Victor Pineda Henestrosa:**

*Richard Green*

*Frank Capocci*

**CHIRAN:**

*Judy Horton*

**Death Penalty:**

*Giampaolo D'Alessandro*

*John Williams*

**Refugees:**

*Jilly Cooke*

**Korea:**

*Avenue St Andrew's Church Group*

**Southampton University Link:**

*tbc*

**Greetings Cards Campaign**

Please bring Greeting Cards (religious or non religious) and plain envelopes to November and December meetings for use at the Marlands event.

Amnesty News

Is printed by

ACE Printing Services

89 Lodge Road , Southampton, SO14 6RH

Contact: Alan Scammell for all your printing needs:

023 8063 5808

**Diary:**

◆ **Saturday 6th November:** Christmas Card Market. St Johns Church Hall Hythe.

◆ **Monday 8th November:** Group Meeting. Business and Human Rights; Tom Fyans AI UK. Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church, The Avenue. All Welcome.

◆ **Saturday 4th December:** Southern Regional Conference. All day event in Salisbury (contact Mary Brown if interested)

◆ **Saturday 11th December:** Public "Greetings Card" signing in Marlands Centre. 10.00am to 4.00pm

**AMENSTY NEWS BY E-MAIL**

If you can receive Amnesty News electronically please let us know by e-mailing us at:

[amnestysouthampton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:amnestysouthampton@yahoo.co.uk)

**Highlights from AI's Web Page**

If you are interested in any of these topics and have access to the internet, dial up to:

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

**USA:** New report on "war on terror" calls for Bush and Kerry to tackle "made in America" torture

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** Systematic Rape and Torture of tens of thousands of women and girls leaves public health crisis.

**UK:** New survey shows diamond shops can't assure customers that stones are not conflict diamonds.

**UK:** Government must ensure protection and assistance for women and girls trafficked into sex trade.

**Zimbabwe:** New report reveals political manipulation of access to food.