

# AMNESTY NEWS

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

December 2004



## Business and Human Rights-Tom Fyans

Tom Fyans of AIUK spoke about Amnesty's Business and Human Rights Campaigning in 2005. He started by drawing our attention to the fact that October 9th was the 9th anniversary of the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Ogoni 9 in Nigeria. Tom noted that Shell as a company was arguably complicit in the executions.

In recent months a number of organisations including Christian Aid and Oxfam have produced reports which highlight the fact that corporate social responsibility is a peripheral activity and has little influence over a company's core business activities.

Until recently the emphasis has been on a voluntary approach by business. This is very much where AI's work started. However, things are not getting better, consequently AI is now calling for regulation.

Amnesty will be shortly releasing a report on Shell in Nigeria, where there have been some improvements, but still problems.

AI has also been involved in the issue of conflict diamonds, where again there is evidence that the voluntary approach is not working.

Currently there is work on developing the "UN Norms". These would be a code of conduct (based on UDHR) on labour rights, use of security and environmental protection. The potential strength is that they would be international and UN based. The CBI and

**Group Meeting  
Monday December 13th 2004**

**LETTERWRITING  
&  
MESSAGE OF HOPE  
&**

**SOCIAL EVENT  
Avenue St Andrew's  
United Reformed Church  
The Avenue, Southampton  
(Use main Church entrance)  
7.30pm  
ALL WELCOME**

the UK government are worried about the norms. They argue that HR are responsibility of governments not companies. However, the globalisation of the worlds economy has strengthened the case for regulation.

An other initiative has been CORE campaign. This would include mandatory reporting on HR; specify the Directors' duties and Foreign Direct Liability. This would give the right to communities to sue companies where they are based.

Finally, Tom highlighted the issues of Bhopal, which add weight to the argument for regulation. There have been 20,000 deaths over 20 years. Union Carbide/Dow Chemicals need to own up, clean up and pay up. 20 years on there has been no acceptance of responsibility.

### 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: THAILAND: More “disappearances” reported in the south

Mustasidin Maming, a mobile phone shop owner, and his assistant Wae-esor Masaeng, have not been seen since February. Eyewitnesses report that they were abducted at 4.10pm near Mustasidin’s shop in the market in Rangae Narathiwat. They were taken away by a group of men suspected to be linked to security forces, who were driving a red pick-up truck without licence plates.

Narathiwat is one of Thailand’s southernmost provinces, where authorities have declared martial law in some districts after violent unrest escalated at the beginning of the year. It is not known why Mustasidin Maming and Wae-esor Masaeng “disappeared”.

At least 10 people are suspected to have “disappeared” in 2003 and 2004 in the south of Thailand. Fears for the safety of those who are believed to have “disappeared” in the custody of the police or army have been heightened by



*Send appeals on behalf of  
the “disappeared” in  
South Thailand*

reports of torture and ill-treatment by army and police of detainees suspected of involvement in violent unrest.

**Please write:** expressing concern that Mustasidin Maming and Wae-esor Masaeng are suspected to have

“disappeared” after being abducted by members of security forces and urging that their whereabouts be made known and their well-being assured. Call on the authorities to independently investigate reports of all other “disappearances” in the south of Thailand; to clarify the whereabouts of those “disappeared”; and to suspend from active duty any member of the security forces suspected of involvement in “disappearances” pending the result of the investigation, and to bring any suspected perpetrators to justice.

**Send appeals to :**  
Prime Minister Thaksin  
Shinawatra,  
Office of the Prime Minister,  
Government House,  
Pitsanulok Road,  
Dusit,  
Bangkok 10300  
Thailand

### 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: November Group Meeting

Jenny McConnell, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business section:

## 1) Finances:

The Tin Rattle in Above Bar had raised £231.75. Thanks to everyone who "rattled a tin".

Our current balance was £689.89, it was agreed that £150 should be sent to AIUK.

A Tin Rattle will take place in Safeways Portswood on 4th & 5th February.

## 2) Human Rights Day Service:

John and Fran have been working with Steve Hall, the Vicar of St Mary's, to organise a Human Rights Day Service. This will occur at 10.30am on 12th December. People of all faiths and no faith are welcome.

## 3) Publicity:

Mary has an article in View Point and there has been a display in the Civic Centre.

## 4) Action of the Month:

This was on Sudan, asking MPs to ask Jack Straw about the specific actions the UK Government are taking.

## 5) Regional Conference:

To be held on 4th December in Salisbury, it will include workshops and information. The main topics will be "Violence Against Women" and "Armed Conflicts". Contact Mary (see Who's Who page 4, if interested)

## 6) New Publication:

AI are producing a new Newsletter "Amnesty International Action", full of easy to do activities.

## 7) Greetings Card Campaign:

NB there is lots of information on the AI web site.

Southampton Group will be running a public Card Signing in the Marlands on 11th December, please donate cards and envelopes for the event to Jenny or Becky (see Who's Who for contact details).

Frank agreed to provide the table. Becky has done a great deal of work organising this event and for MEP and local MP to attend.

A Rota was circulated.

## 8) Fundraising:

Mary to arrange local sale at her home on Saturday 27th November.

*Southampton AI Group*

*Send a message of Hope to an Individual at Risk*

*with*

*AIUK's Greetings Card Campaign*

*Join members of the Southampton Group at*

*The first floor of the*

*Marland's Centre*

*On Saturday 11th December*

*Between 10.00am and 4.00pm*

*Sign a Card*

**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*

- Diary:
- ◆ **Saturday 4th December:** Southern Region Conference. All day Event in Salisbury (contact Mary Brown, see Who's Who, if interested).
  - ◆ **Saturday 11th December:** Public "Greetings Card" signing in Marlands Centre (see page 3 for more details) 10.00am to 4.00pm
  - ◆ **Sunday 12th December:** Human Rights Day Service, St Mary's Church, Southampton. 10.30 am, including AI Card Signing. All Welcome
  - ◆ **Monday 13th December:** Group Meeting. Letter Write, Message of Hope, and Social Event (bring something to share). 7.30pm Avenue St Andrews United Reformed Church, The Avenue. All Welcome

**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/)**

**India: Clouds of Injustice: New AI report on the continuing human rights disaster in Bhopal.**

**Send a message of hope to an individual at risk with AIUK's greetings card campaign.**

**UK: Taser trialled by UK police revealed as potentially lethal and prone to abuse in new report.**

**25th Anniversary of the Secret Policeman's Ball**

**Group Annual Subscriptions  
£10**

**Now Due Please  
Contact Jenny or Giampaolo,  
see Who's Who above**

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