

# AMNESTY NEWS

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

July 2005



## Arms exports from UK and other G8 nations

On the eve of the G8 Foreign Ministers meeting (23-24 June) a new report reveals how G8 countries are still supplying military equipment, weapons and munitions to destinations where they contribute to gross violations of human rights.

G8 weapons have been exported to countries including Sudan, Myanmar (Burma), the Republic of Congo, Colombia and the Philippines.

The report calls for an international Arms Trade Treaty. G8 member states are undermining their commitments to poverty reduction, stability and human rights with irresponsible arms exports to some of the world's poorest and most conflict ridden countries, according to the Control Arms Campaign (AI, Oxfam and IANSA-the International Action Network on Small Arms).

Irene Khan (AI International General Secretary) says: "Each year hundreds of thousands of people are killed, tortured, raped and displaced through the misuse of arms. How can G8 commitments to end poverty and injustice be taken seriously if some of the very same governments are undermining peace and stability by deliber-

**Group Meeting**  
**Monday July 11th 2005**  
**Group AGM**  
**Plus**  
**Brian McDonald**  
**(LGBT Committee AIUK)**  
**"Sexual Orientation & Human Rights"**

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

ately approving arms transfers to repressive regimes, regions of extreme conflict or countries who can ill-afford them?". Examples include:

UK: from Jan 2003-June 2004 licensed arms to countries with serious human rights concerns, including Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Israel and Indonesia.

Canada: exported armoured vehicles and helicopters to Saudi Arabia and guns to Philippines.

France: exports to countries subject to European Union arms embargoes such as Burma and Sudan.

USA: exports to Pakistan, Nepal and Israel.

### 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: GERMANY: Detainee loses right to return home

Murat Kurnaz was arrested by Pakistani authorities in November 2001 and was transferred to US custody in Afghanistan. His family learnt that he was held in Guantanamo Bay in January 2002. He was born in Germany, to parents who had emigrated from Turkey in the 1970s. After his marriage in 2001, Murat Kurnaz became an increasingly devout Muslim and left his parents' home to go to Pakistan shortly after the 11 September 2001 attacks. His mother recalls him saying that he wanted to travel there "to see and live the Koran".

Murat Kurnaz alleges that, when detained in the US air base in Kandahar, he was held for days shackled with his arms above his head. He claims that a military officer pointed a loaded gun at his head, screaming at him to admit to being an al-Qa'ida associate. In Guantanamo, he alleges that, he has been taunted and sexually humili-



ated by young women while shackled to the floor.

Although born in Germany, he is not a German citizen, being the son of Turkish Gastarbeiter or guest-workers. Consequently the German authorities will not make representations on his behalf to the USA authorities. Even if released the German authorities have said that he will not be allowed to return to his family in Germany because he has been out of the country for more than six months and his indefinite residence

visa has lapsed. He could also be denied a visa to Germany because of new German immigration law which restricts access to Germany to anyone suspected of "terrorism".

Previously classified information suggests that the US and German authorities do not believe that there is a basis for holding him but AI fears he could be held in legal limbo indefinitely.

**Please write**, stating your opposition to Murat Kurnaz losing his legal status in Germany while imprisoned in Guantanamo and seeking assurances that if released he will be allowed to return to Germany.

### **Send appeals to:**

Herrn Thomas Rowekamp  
Der Senator für Inneres und Sport  
Contrescarpe 22/24  
28203 Bremen  
Germany

### 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: June Group Meeting

Jenny McConnell, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

During the first part of the meeting Jilly Cooke spoke about Refugee Week (20-26th June). Fliers for the "Pukaar" concert were handed out. The Group will have a table at the Concert. AI had sent information about Refugee Week. Jilly handed out "I support refugee" cards to sign. The Group then wrote letters to the local press and Alan Whitehead MP.

## Business:

**1. "Stop Violence Against Women"** Becky John spoke to this issue highlighting: an "Update on legislative changes in Turkey", a positive change for women; "European trafficking in human beings" action.

**2. CASA:** Urgent action information supplied by Becky John.

**3. Tony Austin of Isle of White Group:** had joined the meeting on a "fact finding mission". The I of W Group is 40 years old and had been chaired since its inception by Derek Stirman, who had recently retired, Tony is the new chair. The IofW Group is famous for its fund raising activities, including a recent 140K bequest. Fund raising includes an annual book fair, one off flag days, stalls at fairs and the work of very energetic members. The IofW group donated money to the new Human Rights Centre, where money was ring fenced to refurbish the Director's Office. Also active in campaigning, with 8 or 10 on the go at any time.

**4. Secretaries report: Mary Brown:** The monthly action, a letter to Iraq, focussing on the new constitution, the rights of women and the Death Penalty, was signed by all members. We have received the AI Report for the Group.

Dates for the diary include: Memorial Service for Peter Benenson on Thursday 7th July at 11.00 am in Church of St Martin's in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, London. Admission by admission card only.

9th 10th July in London AI Human Rights Centre "Sexual Rights Issues".

23rd July AI Human Rights Centre: "Speaker register for Schools: Training session".

**5. Finances:** At the event in Talking heads to launch the CD the Group were given the door money amounting to £275 (and more to come!).

Money was raised from the recent walk in the New Forest. We currently have £1047 in the bank, and it was agreed that we would send £300 to AIUK.

**6. CHINA:** Four actions, will focus in our October letter write session.

**7. Arms Control:** Working together with Stop Violence Against women, cards available to send to G8 delegates. Half way to 1,000,000 faces.

Possible future action on "Arms Destruction Day". Barbara Lupton has more information.

**8. Outreach:** Veronica had handed out information on the "Walk for Peace". She also suggested that Churches may be interested in lighting a Candle for Peter Benenson.

## Group AGM

July 11th 2005

### CALL FOR OFFICERS 2005-2006

Any member wishing to stand for any of the offices of the Group 2005-2006 (as listed in "Who's Who page 4) should contact Jenny McConnell on 8067 1434.

We are particularly looking for volunteers to take up the roles of Press Officer & Parliamentary Officer

You may also be interested in shadowing any other post for 12 months to gain some experience before making a final decision.

**Southampton Group Who's Who:**

**Group Officers:**

Chair:

*Jenny McConnell*

Vice-Chair:

*Becky John*

Secretary & Press:

*Mary Brown*

Treasurer:

*Giampaolo D'Alessandro*

Membership Secretary:

*Jenny McConnell*

Outreach:

*Veronica Tippets*

Parliamentary Officer:

*Frank Capocci*

News Letter Editor:

*John Williams*

**Subgroups:**

CASA/Victor Pineda Henestrosa:

*Frank Capocci*

CHINA:

*Judy Horton (023 8077 6198)*

Administration of Justice (Death Penalty):

*Giampaolo D'Alessandro*

*John Williams*

Refugees:

*Jilly Cooke*

Stop Violence Against Women:

*Becky John*

Business and Human Rights:

*Becky John*

Control Arms Campaign:

*Barbara Lupton*

Korea:

*Avenue St Andrew's Church Group*

**Fair Trade**

**Support Southampton's Fair Trade Shop**

**106 Shirley High St**

**(opposite Shirley Precinct)**

**Free parking in Vincent St Car park**

**Distinctive food, crafts and cloths from  
around the world**

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- Diary:
- ◆ **Saturday 2nd July:** "Make Poverty History" march in Southampton. Meet at Cenotaph at 11.30 am (Wear a white top if possible)
  - ◆ **Monday 11th July:** Group AGM plus speaker meeting: Brian McDonald of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Committee of AI UK): "Sexual Orientation & Human Rights: Challenges and Opportunities. Avenue St Andrews 7.30 pm. All welcome.
  - ◆ **Monday 12th September:** Group Meeting: "Friends of Maldives". Avenue St Andrews 7.30 pm. All welcome.
  - ◆ **Monday 10th October:** Group Meeting "Letter write focus on CHINA". Avenue St Andrews 7.30 pm. All welcome.
  - ◆ **Monday 14th November:** Group Meeting: Business & Human Rights. Avenue St Andrews 7.30 pm. All welcome.

**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/)**

**Iran:** Man sentenced to have eyes gouged out.

**Zimbabwe:** Amnesty rejects AU claim Zimbabwe violations are an "internal matter".

**War on Terror:** UK: AI steps up campaign against torture in "war on terror".

**Arms Exports:** G8 fails the victims of irresponsible arms exports. (see full report, highlights on page one)

**Asylum:** UK: New Amnesty report calls on government to reveal annual asylum detention figures.

**USA:** Expansion of Guantanamo camp condemned.

**Burma:** New report.