

# AMNESTY NEWS

www.amnesty-volunteer.org/uk/southampton-city

December 2007



## 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.

## The China Olympic Campaign, Ross Topley

NB Amnesty is not calling for a boycott, but for respect of Human Rights.

Some background statements:

### **The International Olympics Committee (IOC):**

Jacques Rogge, the President of the IOC stated "the IOC has said very clearly to the Chinese leadership that we want human rights to be respected during the Games. At the same time, the Chinese have said themselves that they believe the Olympic Games will accelerate social change in their country...It's not me saying that, it's themselves saying that and I believe that the Games will improve the situation and will be beneficial for the human rights in 2008," and that "the responsibility of the IOC is to fight for values...We do not have the expertise to judge the evolution of these different social changes. There are other organizations for that and we are listening to them."

In April 2001, Liu Jingmin, then Vice President of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Bid Committee sated "by allowing Beijing to host the Games you will help the development of Human Rights.

Liu Qui, then mayor of Beijing also pledged that by hosting the Games, the social progress and economic development in China would move forward, as would China's human rights situation.

**Group Meeting  
Monday December 10th 2007**

### **TRAFFICKING & SLAVERY**

**Speaker:  
Gemma WOLF  
Anti-Slavery International**

**Avenue St Andrew's  
United Reformed Church  
The Avenue, Southampton  
7.30 pm  
ALL WELCOME**

The Four target areas are:

### **The Death penalty**

China uses the DP to punish a wide range of crimes. A significant recent step has been the Supreme Court's decision to review all DP cases since January 2007. But this is not enough. AI condemns the use of public executions, lethal injection vans carried from town to town etc.

### **Fair Trials & prevention of Torture and Ill-treatment:**

The aim is to bring all forms of detention in line with HR Standards.

### **Protection of HR Defenders:**

HR defenders should be free to communicate with journalists, should not be subject to house arrest.

### **Freedom of Information and Expression:**

No arrests for internet use, no censorship of the internet.

# China Olympics Campaign

Amnesty is highlighting a number of cases during the China Olympics Campaign. Please read and write a letter to the Chinese Authorities, details at the end of the cases.

## Shi Tao

### Freedom of expression and information

Shi Tao is serving a ten-year prison sentence in China for sending an e-mail which included information on the government response to the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989. Shi Tao sent the e-mail to the US using his Yahoo account. The Chinese authorities accused him of “illegally providing state secrets to foreign entities”

### We are asking the Chinese authorities to:

- ◆ Free Shi Tao and others imprisoned for similar offences
- ◆ To ensure that no-one is arrested or tried for legitimate use of the internet.

## Bu Dongwei

### Fair trial and prevention of torture and ill-treatment

Bu Dongwei, also known as David Bu, was assigned to two-and-a-



half years “Re-education through Labour” on 19 June 2006 in connection with his activities as a member of the Falun Gong spiritual movement. He is detained at an undisclosed location, and AI considers him to be a prisoner of conscience. He is at serious risk of torture or ill-treatment.

### We are asking the Chinese authorities to:

- ◆ Abolish re-education through labour, enforced drug rehabilitation, custody and education
- ◆ Not to use these methods as a method of “cleaning up” the city.

## Ye Guozhu

### Protection of human rights defenders

Ye Guozhu was forcibly evicted when his home became part of a site for development in preparation for the Olympic Games. He was sentenced to four years’ imprisonment after he sought permission to organ-

ise a demonstration in Beijing with other victims of forced evictions in December 2004. AI considers him to be a prisoner of conscience. It has recently emerged that Ye has been tortured in detention, including being suspended from the ceiling by his arms and suffering beatings with electro-shock batons.

### We are asking the Chinese authorities to:

- ◆ Ensure human rights defenders are free to carry out peaceful activities, including highlighting issues relating to the hosting of the Olympics
- ◆ Free Ye Guozhu

Chinese authorities:

Wen Jiabao Guojia Zongli  
Prime Minister of the People’s  
Republic of China  
The State Council General Office  
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu,  
Beijingshi 100017  
People’s Republic of China

## 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.

# November Group

Jenny welcomed all to the meeting

## Chair's Report (Jenny):

- 1) Fliers and posters for December's meeting on Trafficking and Slavery for dissemination eg: UNA Group, Churches, Libraries, Clear, Visitors Group, City Council.
- 2) Waitrose Tin Rattle will be held on 26th April 2008
- 3) Names sort for 25th November card sale at University craft fair
- 4) Schools on Waterside want to get AI issues raised, Jenny to contact Fran
- 5) Jenny reminded people we had Christmas Cards for sale
- 6) Help required for December meeting, those

helping please arrive around 6.30 pm

## Finances (Giampaolo):

- 1) John to be third signature for cheques
- 2) £700 sent to AIUK
- 3) £872.20 balance

## Future Events:

- 1) Paul has booked his concert for June 15th at hanger Farm Centre

## Press:

- 1) Agreed to send Echo details of HR day and leaflet about next months event Trafficking and Slavery

## TRAFFICKING & SLAVERY

Speaker: Gemma Wolf

From Anti-Slavery International

Human Rights Day

MONDAY DECEMBER 10TH

At 7.30 pm

Avenue St Andrew's United reformed Church

The Avenue, Southampton

Entrance is Free

"Every year 2 million girls aged 5-15  
are introduced into the sex market"

**Southampton Group Who's Who:**

**Group Officers:**

Chair & Membership Secretary:

*Jenny McConnell*

Secretary :

*Mary Brown*

Treasurer:

*Giampaolo D'Alessandro*

Outreach and Parliamentary Officer:

*Veronica Tippets*

Press:

*Cheryll Pitt*

News Letter Editor:

*John Williams*

**Subgroups:**

Stop Violence Against Women:

*Jo Dixon*

Terrorism, Security and Human Rights

*John Williams*

Death Penalty:

*Giampaolo D'Alessandro*

Control Arms Campaign:

*Barbara Lupton*

Refugees:

*Jilly Cooke*

Central America:

*Paul Humphrey*

China & East Asia:

*Paul Humphrey & Anne Parry*

- Diary:
- ◆ **Monday 10th December:** Human Rights day
  - ◆ **Monday 10th December:** Group Meeting. "Trafficking and Slavery"; Speaker: Gemma Wolfes (see page 3) Avenue St Andrews, 7.30 pm. All welcome
  - ◆ **Monday 11th January:** 6th Anniversary of Guantanamo Bay.
  - ◆ **Monday 14th January:** Group Meeting. Avenue St Andrews. 7.30 pm. All Welcome
  - ◆ **Saturday 19th January:** Regional Conference, Swindon
  - ◆ **Monday 11th February:** Group meeting: Update and Letter Writing on Central America; and discussion of Group Planning Pack.



**10 Facts about CHINA**

**Fact 4**

**Torture**

Torture is widespread in the criminal justice system. Common methods are electric shocks, kicking, beating, deprivation of food and sleep and suspension by the arms. Allegations of torture are rarely investigated, despite a large number of deaths in custody.

**Issues from AI Web Page**  
**Check "www.amnesty.org.uk" for more details**

**Send a message of Hope:** Greetings Card Campaign. There will be details available at the December Meeting.

**UN decision on execution moratorium:** In a massive step toward the abolition of the death penalty worldwide the UN has called for a global moratorium on executions.

**Stop the mass arrests in Pakistan:** Since the imposition of emergency rule by General Musharraf hundreds have been arrested and arbitrarily detained.

**Still human, still here:** Acclaimed documentary maker Nick Broomfield examines the scandal of destitute refused asylum seekers in the UK. Watch the film and take action.

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