

AMNESTY NEWS

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

March 2008



About Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights for all.

Our supporters are outraged by human rights abuses but inspired by hope for a better world - so we work to improve human rights through campaigning and international solidarity.

We have more than 2.2 million members and subscribers in more than 150 countries and regions and we coordinate this support to act for justice on a wide range of issues.

You can help make a real difference by becoming a member or supporter of Amnesty International.

Is Amnesty International effective?

We have a record of real achievement.

We know this because the people we try to help tell us that our pressure has had an effect on their own lives and because at key times governments are persuaded to change their laws and practices.

Our international solidarity helps keep hope alive locally.

**Group Meeting
Monday March 10th 2008**

**Human Rights
In
Guatemala
Tony Campbell
(University of Southampton)**

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

How does Amnesty International carry out its work?

All our campaigning and research is fact based. Among the many activities we carry out, we:

- send experts to talk with victims
- observe trials
- interview local officials
- liaise with human rights activists
- monitor global and local media
- publish detailed reports
- inform the news media
- publicize our concerns in documents, leaflets, posters, advertisements, newsletters and websites

**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.

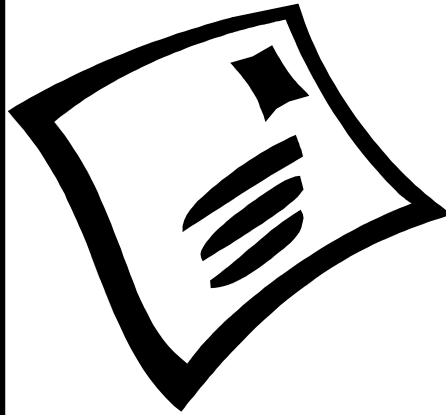
Take Action Against Rendition

Five years ago Abu Omar (also known as Usama Mostafa Hassan Nasr) an Egyptian national with Italian residency, was abducted from a Milan street. He was taken to a US military base in northern Italy and then flown, via another US base in Germany, to Cairo, where he was secretly detained for 14 months and allegedly tortured. He was released in April 2004 but re-arrested by the Egyptian authorities the next month, after telling his wife and friends in Milan about his ordeal. He was released in February 2007, but State Security officials have forbidden him to leave Alexandria in Egypt. He wants to return to Italy and would be prepared to stand trial if charges are brought against him.

Take Action:

Please write a polite letter to the Italian authorities expressing concern that Abu Omar was abducted in Milan on 17 February 2003 and taken to Egypt where he claims he was brutally tortured. Urge the Italian authorities to:

- ◆ Ask the US authorities to extradite those whom arrest war-



rants have been issued in connection with the abduction of Abu Omar;

- ◆ Acknowledge responsibility in the unlawful abduction, detention, expulsion and torture of Abu Omar and provide appropriate reparations to him and his family;
- ◆ Immediately return the right of residency in Italy to Abu Omar. If he is arrested

on his return, ensure that he is charged with a recognisable criminal offence, and tried promptly in accordance with international fair trial standards or released;

- ◆ Co-operate fully with international, regional and national investigations and judicial proceedings regarding the rendition and secret detention of Abu Omar and any other rendition cases;
- ◆ Press the government of Egypt to establish an independent and impartial investigation into allegations of torture or other ill-treatment and hold accountable anyone responsible;
- ◆ Ensure that all security agents operating in Italy, act with full respect for international human rights laws.

Send your appeal to:

Romano Prodi
Prime Minister
Palazzo Chigi
Piazza Colonna 370
00187 Rome

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.

February Group

Chair: Jenny welcomed all to the meeting and highlighted the key activities of the Southampton Group for new members; specifically the work we do on CASA, Death Penalty and China.

Secretary: Mary informed the meeting: About the Annual National Conference on 4th to 6th April in Nottingham. Rob and Paul expressed an interest, registration needed by end of February.

Monthly Action: On China involving lobbying UK Officials, a briefing letter was circulated.

Noted that this year was 60th Anniversary of Universal Declaration Of Human Rights.

Group Planning Pack: This year there are 4 priority areas: Stop Violence Against Women; HR in China; Poverty and HR; Terrorism, Security and HR.

The key Action programmes are: Refugees; Arms

Control; Death Penalty; Business and HR.

Key Regional/Country Campaigns: Central America; China and East Asia.

The details of the Group Responsibilities and named individuals are identified below.

Finances: Giampaolo informed the meeting that we have £841.54 in our account. £300 sent to AI, which means we have sent £1000 this year. The collection box at October Books netted £88.50.

Outreach: Veronica reminded the meeting International Woman's Day was 8th March.

The business meeting was followed by a letter write focussed on CASA.

Group responsibilities April 2008 - March 2009

Terrorism, Security & Human Rights - Giampaolo D' Alessandro (with John, Liam and Chris)

Poverty & Human Rights - Liam Holloway (with Jeanne)

Stop Violence against Women - not yet appointed (with Jilly and Diana)

Arms Controls - Chris Powles (with Liam)

Refugees - Jilly Cooke (with Jeanne)

Death Penalty - John Williams (with Giampaolo and Rob)

Business & Human Rights - Rob Atkinson

Human Rights for China - Anne Parry (with Paul and Jenny)

