



# Southampton Group

## AMNESTY NEWS

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

December 2009



### GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN

Listed below are the 6 cases which we will be concentrating on this year. You can find more details at [www.amnesty.org.uk/gcc](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/gcc)



#### '88 GENERATION STUDENTS - BURMA

Htay Kywe, Zaw Htet Ko Ko and Mie Mie - all part of the '88 Generation Students group - are currently serving long terms in prison for taking part in the demonstrations of 2007.



#### CHEN GUANGCHENG - CHINA

Legal adviser Chen Guangcheng, has been imprisoned for over four years for drawing attention to an illegal campaign of forced abortion and sterilisation affecting thousands of women in Shandong province, China.



#### THE PEACE COMMUNITY OF SAN JOSE DE APARTADÓ - COLOMBIA

In 1997 people living in villages in the municipality of Apartadó pledged not to be drawn into the 40-year-old conflict that has pitted the security forces and paramilitaries against guerrilla groups.



#### BIRTUKAN MIDEKSA - ETHIOPIA

Birtukan Mideksa was imprisoned in December 2008 is serving a life sentence. She was arrested solely for peacefully exercising her rights.



#### HAMDI MOHAMMED SHAHADEH AL-TA'MARI - ISRAEL/OPT

The Israeli military held Palestinian student Hamdi al-Ta' mari without charge from July to November 2008 - and have done so again since December 2008. At the time of his first arrest, Hamdi was only 15.



#### THE YAKYE AXA AND SAWHOYAMAXA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Yakye Axa and Sawhoyamaxa indigenous peoples in Paraguay are living in temporary homes beside a busy highway because the land they have inhabited for generations is now in the hands of private owners.

#### 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 and 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

# NOVEMBER MEETING

## GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

Thanks to all who came along and helped make the fantastic cards we'll be using at the Borders event



# ACTION OF THE MONTH

## BHOPAL - END 25 YEARS OF INJUSTICE



In December 1984 thousands of tonnes of deadly chemicals leaked from Union Carbide's pesticide plant in Bhopal, central India. Around half a million people were exposed. Around half a million people were exposed.

Between 7,000 and 10,000 people died in the immediate aftermath and a further 15,000 over the next 20 years. The factory site has still not been cleaned up, and more than 100,000 people continue to suffer from health problems.

In the run up to the 2 December 2009 - the 25th anniversary of the devastating leak - we'll be highlighting the ongoing human rights impacts of the 1984 leak and calling for an end to the injustice.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

Please read the background briefing ([http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc\\_19867.doc](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_19867.doc)) and then write to:

- the Prime Minister of India
- Dow Chemicals (Union Carbide is now a subsidiary of Dow)

You can download sample letters ([http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc\\_19866.doc](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_19866.doc)) as guidance, but please use your own words if possible.

### PLEASE POST YOUR LETTERS TO:

**India Prime Minister**  
Dr. Manmohan Singh  
Prime Minister of India  
Room No. 148 B  
South Block  
New Delhi 110 001  
India

**Dow's Chief Executive Officer**  
Andrew N. Liveris  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
The Dow Chemical Company  
2030 Dow Center  
Midland, Michigan  
48674  
USA

# GROUP NEWS



## **ACTION ON SHELL IN THE NIGER DELTA**

**Thursday 10th December - 7pm**

On 10th December we will be joining the Romsey group in an action at the Shell Station in Burgess Road as part of the Campaign to get Shell to “come clean in the Niger Delta”. This is a campaign that the Southampton group is also involved with, so it would be good if many of us could support the Romsey group.

[http://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions\\_details.asp?ActionID=618](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions_details.asp?ActionID=618)

[http://romsey.amnesty.org.uk/events\\_details.asp?CategoryID=2328&EventID=1831](http://romsey.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?CategoryID=2328&EventID=1831)

## **GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN**

We will be running the stall in Borders bookshop on the 5th/6th of December. Please come along and support the group.

## **DECEMBER MEETING**

The December meeting will be our usual Christmas social event so it would be great if everyone could bring along a small amount of party food to share.

## **NEXT GROUP MEETING**

Monday 14th December  
7.30pm

**Greetings Card writing  
and Christmas Social**  
**Please bring food to share**

Avenue St Andrew's  
United Reformed Church  
The Avenue, Southampton

**ALL WELCOME**

## **DIARY**

**Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th :**

Greetings Card Campaign at  
Borders Bookshops, Southampton

**Thursday 10th :** Human Rights Day

**Monday 14th :** Group Meeting

**Sunday 27th :** Anniversary of Hu Jia's  
arrest

# OCTOBER GROUP MEETING

## CHAIR

John Williams welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies from Kulbir, Jean & Mary.

## OTHER BUSINESS

The Quiz night was enjoyed by all and raised approximately £25.

Romsey group are organising an action at Burgess Road Shell station (see Group News).

John attended the recent UN flag raising event.

Valerie attended the mass lobby of MPs regarding SVAW/No recourse to public funds and met with Alan Whitehead.

Greetings Card Campaign. Cases were considered and the final selection of 6 was agreed.

Date for the diary - Segalula concert will be on the 20th March

Feedback from the Regional Conference.

## MAKING A SCENE

Creating cards and materials for the upcoming greetings card campaign

# 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.

# SOUTHAMPTON GROUP - WHO'S WHO

Group Officers		Subgroups
<b>Chair</b> John Williams	<b>Outreach and Parliamentary Officer</b> Veronica Tippetts	<b>Stop Violence Against Women</b> Trish McPherson
<b>Deputy Chair</b> Rob Atkinson	<b>Press</b> Cheryll Pitt	<b>China &amp; East Asia</b> Giampaolo D'Alessandro
<b>Secretary</b> Mary Brown	<b>Newsletter</b> Rob Atkinson	<b>Death Penalty</b> John Williams
<b>Membership Secretary</b> Kulbir Chahal		<b>Central America</b> Rapinder Kaur
<b>Treasurer</b> Giampaolo D'Alessandro		<b>Demand Dignity</b> Rob Atkinson