



Southampton Group **AMNESTY NEWS**

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

February 2010



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Unfortunately, the weather got the better of us in January and we were forced to cancel the group meeting.

Tom Davies from Amnesty UK who was due to speak to us on the subject of working for individuals at risk will hopefully be coming down later in the year instead.

There have been a number of other changes to the calendar for the rest of the year so please keep an eye out for a separate mailer/email.

GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN

Thanks to all who took part in the greetings card campaign both at the Borders stall and at the group meeting. Altogether, we sent almost 200 cards to our 6 chosen cases.



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

ACTION OF THE MONTH

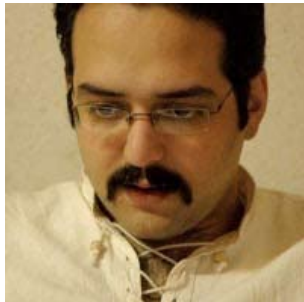
Disappeared Iranian music journalists at risk of torture

Music journalists Behrang Tonekaboni and Kayvan Farzin of Farhang va Ahang, a monthly music journal, were arrested at the journal's offices on 5 January.

Behrang called his family following his detention, but was not allowed to say where he was being held. He has asthma and a heart condition, and requires regular medication. Behrang's mother Lily Farhadpour, who is a journalist and a member of Iranian NGO Mothers for Peace was also arrested on 20 January.

The Iranian authorities have not revealed the whereabouts of any of the three individuals. The reasons for the arrests are unknown, although

it may be connected to the ongoing protests against the government in Iran, as the authorities have arrested many journalists, human rights defenders, and students.



Please send appeals to the Iranian Embassy in the UK

Dear Ambassador,

I am deeply concerned about the reasons for the arrests of Behrang Tonekaboni, Kayvan Farzin and Lily Farhadpour. I fear they have been subjected to enforced disappearance and I urge you to disclose their whereabouts.

I call on you to do everything in your power to release them immediately and unconditionally if they are only being held for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression and association.

Furthermore, I urge you to use your influence to ensure they are protected from torture or other ill-treatment and that they are granted immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers of their choice and to any necessary medical treatment.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

His Excellency Rasoul Movahedian - Ambassador
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
16 Prince's Gate
London SW7 1PT

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions_details.asp?ActionID=681

GROUP NEWS

Segalula

St Michael's Church
Bugle St Southampton

Saturday March 20th
7.30pm

TIN RATTLE

The next tin rattle will be at Waitrose in Portswood on the 8th May

Please put your name on the rota at the February meeting or give John a call.

WINCHESTER COLLEGE CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

This event is organised by the Winchester Amnesty group.

Thursday 11th February, 7pm

Winchester Music School, Culver Road, Winchester

Entry Free – Collection for Amnesty International

NEXT GROUP MEETING

Monday 8th February
7.30pm

Film made by Medecins sans Frontieres on sexual violence and its effects in Democratic Republic of Congo

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

ALL WELCOME

DIARY

Monday 8th : Group Meeting

Thursday 11th : Winchester College Concert

SHELL DEMO



Several local groups of Amnesty International held a protest at the Shell petrol garage on Burgess Road on Thursday 10th to coincide with Human Rights Day.

Activists from the Southampton, Romsey and University groups converged on the petrol station to highlight the damage Shell has done to communities in the Niger delta, where pollution, poverty and armed militias make life a misery.

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