



Southampton Group AMNESTY NEWS

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

If you would like more information about the Group or would like to take part in any activities please get in touch by e-mailing:

AmnestySouthampton@yahoo.co.uk

February 2020

Annual Membership Subscriptions now due.

The rate remains at £12 for the year.

NB Valerie Oswald has sent out email with relevant form

Details of some of the Actions taken at the January meeting

India: we signed a letter to Mrs Ruchi Ghanashyam, The Indian High Commissioner, about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. We noted that the Act recently passed by the Indian Parliament legitimises discrimination on the basis of religion and that it stands in clear violation of the Constitution of India and international human rights law. Specifically, we noted that the Act is exclusionary in its structure, since eligibility for irregular migrants and asylum-seekers to acquire Indian citizenship through naturalisation and registration is limited to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who entered India on or before 31 December 2014. Muslims from these countries are excluded, as are many other minority groups from neighbouring states, such as Tamils from Sri Lanka (the largest group of migrants), Ahmadiyyas from Pakistan, Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar, all of who are facing considerable persecution in their countries of origin.

We also noted that India has a proud history as a secular country that has welcomed refugees of all religions. And that the extent of protests by ordinary Indian citizens across the country confirmed their strength of feeling, and desire to maintain India's status as a secular and non-discriminatory society that provides a model for others in the region and globally.

Venezuela: we wrote to President Madura, expressing our grave concern about the policy of repression employed by his authorities.

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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

Cont from page 1

They have used harassment, intimidation and arbitrary detention in an attempt to deny the civil and political rights of opposition representatives and staff of the national assembly.

Columbia: We wrote to the President of Columbia to express our concern about the situation of forced confinement that the communities of Bojaya are currently experiencing. We are aware that the communities of Bojaya have suffered serious human rights violations throughout the years of conflict across Columbia.

We also expressed specific concern about the safety of Leyner Palacios a, a human rights defender from Bojaya who has received death threats. In addition on December 31, 2019, 300 members of the Autodefensas Gaitanistas (AGC) arrived in the community of Pogue and placed this and other communities under forced confinement.

January Business Meeting

Monthly Mailing: There is no monthly mailing in January

Treasurers Report: Please note the annual subs are due. The Hall has been booked to July.

Future cases: Dr Cardet our Cuban case has now come to an end as he has been released. A discussion followed about whether we should take on a future case and if so where from. Possibilities included Marielle FRANCO from Brazil. We also agreed to discuss the issue of a possible case from Israel with the coordinator.

Past Events: **Right for Writes at the Phoenix:** This was a very positive event, very well supported, in fact we ran out of the 64 sheets we had printed.

Human Rights Lecture: There was total agreement that this had been an excellent lecture delivered by Martyn Day. However, the turn out had been disappointing. Several possible reasons were suggested, the clash with the General Election, the poor weather, the time of the year and previous problems with ticketing. This latter issue had not been a particular issue this year.

We agreed that John would discuss alternatives for next years, the 10th, lecture with the University and bring ideas back to next meeting.

Future Events: Poster Display in Central Library from 17th to 29th February. See display box on page 3. This is a travelling exhibition. Mary will contact the Echo and NUJ

Future Group Meetings:

February: Child refugees, John Williams

March: Israel and Palestine, country coordinator

April: Soviet Union

May: Press freedom

June: Overview of new government's Human Rights Agenda

Refugee Week: Valerie to link with University Student Group to explore possible actions.

Poster Display

Disappeared Journalists in Eritrea

Central Library

17th to 29th February

HOME SECRETARY: REUNITE REFUGEE FAMILIES

Everyday family life is full of wonderful moments.
But some families are being forced apart

Home Office rules separating child refugees from
their parents aren't just restrictive-
they're deeply unfair.

But the Home Secretary has the opportunity to
change this.

Will you join thousands of others in asking her to do
the right thing?

Go to the Amnesty International web site to
SIGN THE PETITION

NEXT GROUP MEETING

Monday 10th February

Without My Family
(Summary of the recent report)

John Williams AI Soton

Avenue St Andrews United
Reformed Church

The Avenue Southampton

All Welcome
ALL WELCOME

DIARY

February:

Monday 10th: Group Meeting summary of the recent report "Without my Family. John Williams

17th -29th: Poster display of Eritrean disappeared writers, Central Library

March:

Sunday 8th: International Women's Day

Monday 9th: Group Meeting: Israel/ Occupied Palestine Territories.

April:

Monday 20th: Joint meeting with Romsey Group in Romsey URC Church Hall. HR in Russia

SOUTHAMPTON GROUP WHO'S WHO

Group Officers:

Chair: Giampaolo D'Alessandro

Secretary: Valerie Oswald

Treasurer: Gareth Davies

Outreach and Parliamentary Officer:
Veronica Tippetts

Newsletter: John Williams

Campaigning Activity:

People on the move
Protecting the space for human rights
defenders
Death Penalty
HR Act
Snoopers Charter
South Asia
China

Individual at Risk: Aster Fissehatsion
and Dawit Isaak, Eritea

Issues on the Web amnesty.org.uk Includes:

Climate change: Humanity is under threat from climate change

Dissenting Voices: Human rights defenders.

Illegal Occupation: Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Syria: Conflict and Human Rights.

LGBTQ Rights: LGBTQ equality

Children: Stand up for children's rights

Women: Women's human rights

NB the views expressed in this News Letter may not necessarily be those of Amnesty International. John Williams editor