

Newsletter: May 2024

Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



Dates for your diary	11/05/2024: Amnesty UK Feminist Network event 04/06/2024: 35th anniversary of Tiananmen crackdown - candlelit vigil/protest 15/06/2024 - 21/07/2024: Festival of Chichester 17/06/2024 23/06/2024: Refugee Week 22/06/2024: Amnesty UK AGM
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Dear writers

Local events

Summer Pumble (pub/ramble): planning has begun for the annual Pumble, exploring a 'Downs' route and a 'Coastal' route for 2024. We'll update with suggestions once my research is complete (it's a tough job etc. etc.)

Other events

Saturday 11/05/2024, Amnesty UK Feminist Network event, Human Rights Action Centre, London 12:00 - 20:00: to find out more about the Network and the event: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/events/aiuk-feminist-network-event-2024>

Tuesday 04/06/2024: candlelit vigil/protest led by AIUK activists together with other groups to mark the 35th anniversary of the June Fourth Tiananmen crackdown in China.

Saturday 15/06/2024 - Sunday 21/07/2024 Festival of Chichester: a month-long celebration of the arts with [a wide and varied programme](#), and including the following events of interest to those concerned with human rights:

- *Tuesday 25/06/2024, 19:00 [Underground history: Maggie Andrew. Political women](#)* - 15 campaigns fought by women over the last 150 years
- *Saturday 06/07/2024, 17:00 [The reality of living in Jerusalem in 2024](#)*: organised by the Society of Friends, the experiences of Nick Papadopulos as an ecumenical accompanier in Palestine and Israel
- *Friday 19/07/2024, 18:00 [A childhood journey to Belsen](#)*: Peter Lantos, deported from Hungary with his family in 1944.

Monday 17/06/2024 - Sunday 23/06/2024: Refugee Week. The theme for 2024 is "Our home". To keep an eye on local events in support of Refugee Week: <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/events/>

Saturday 22/06/2024: Amnesty International UK Section Annual General Meeting: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting>

06/05/2024 - 28/06/2024 Play the Amnesty Summer raffle: the [Amnesty Summer Raffle](#) is now open! In 2023, the Amnesty raffle proceeds totalled £188,278. Amnesty spent 65.6% of that on human rights work and raising further funds, 12.4% on prizes and 22% on running the raffles.

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

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Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

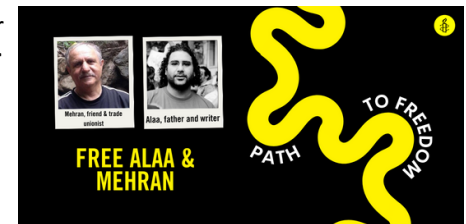
We have had no further communication from Amnesty since our last meeting/newsletter. I assume this means that Alaa was not granted a Presidential pardon at the end of Ramadan. Similarly, those of us who wrote to the Foreign Office asking them to take action on insisting that Alaa should receive consular visits, will have received the standard reply promising that they are raising his case but with few signs of success.

It was heartening to learn from his sister's reports that his prison conditions have improved somewhat. However, there is no indication of his pardon or release. Thanks to all of you for your efforts; perhaps we should take comfort that at least the Egyptian authorities know that he is not forgotten. If you can, please sign the online petition for Alaa and for Mehran, both British citizens imprisoned abroad

Action: The UK government must protect citizens unjustly imprisoned abroad

Right now, across the world, there are British nationals who are arbitrarily detained. Why? For exercising their basic human rights. Instead of protecting them and securing their release, **our government is letting them down by failing to do everything it can to reunite them with their families.**

These are real people with names – **Mehran Raof** and **Alaa Abdel Fattah**. Mehran is a trade unionist and a dear friend. Alaa is a writer, a son, and a father to a young boy. Both were arrested simply for championing human rights. Despite being unjustly imprisoned, they both remain dedicated to their commitment to justice. They and their families continue to campaign for their release in the hope of being reunited.



What you can do:

Please take action online to urge the government to protect its citizens imprisoned abroad, and secure their release:
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/protect-uk-nationals-arbitrarily-detained-abroad>

Action: Russian Federation - journalist Maria Ponomarenko

The Russian authorities are putting the health and life of journalist Maria Ponomarenko at risk due to her treatment, and the conditions in detention, including being held in solitary confinement, and not receiving adequate healthcare. Maria was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment, solely for exercising her right to freedom of expression, and must be released immediately and unconditionally



- Want to know more? <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur46/7964/2024/en/>
- Want to take action? <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/stop-inhumane-treatment-maria-ponomarenko-prison>

Want to do more?

Urgent Action Network

When you take action here, you do it as part of a movement of tens of thousands of people across the world, working together to raise our voices, demand justice and make change happen. Please do take action, in solidarity with individuals at risk everywhere:
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions>

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