

Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group

Dates for your diary	19/09/2024: Human Rights Law: bringing power to the powerless, London AND online 28/09/2024: Anti-Racism Network Conference, London 26/10/2024: Pumble, Fishbourne 07/12/2024: Amplify Human Rights Festival, London
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Dear writers

Local events

Saturday 26/10/2024 Pumble (Pub-ramble), Fishbourne. From Blackboys bus stop around Fishbourne Harbour, ending at the Bull's Head. 1h45m plus 10 mins back to bus stop. <https://www.bulls-head-fishbourne.co.uk/food-and-drink>

Other events

Thursday 19/09/2024, 18:00 Human Rights Law: bringing power to the powerless – Prof Clive Stafford Smith. This lecture is delivered both in person and online.

- It is part of the 2024 lecture series '[The UK's unwritten constitution: is it worth the paper it's \(not\) written on?](#)'
- This is hosted by [Gresham College](#) which has been providing free public education since 1597 and offers a wonderful archive of recorded lectures on a wide range of topics, including the law, politics, the arts and sciences, as well as an annual lecture series.

Saturday 28/09/2024, 13:00 Anti-Racism Network Conference 'Deconstructing power!' 13:00 – 17:00, London. This event features inspiring speakers from the human rights field, including:

- Alisha Thomas from 'Representation Matters'
- Imran Manzoor from 'Breaking the Silence'
- Ilyas Nagdee, author and Anti Racism campaigner
- Stacy Johnson, from 'Reverse Mentoring Practice'
- Zara Manoehoetoe from 'Kids of Colour'

Whether you're a student, professional, or simply curious about the dynamics of power, this event is perfect for anyone looking to gain a better understanding of how power operates in our society.

Book a ticket: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/deconstructing-power-tickets-950745043017>

Saturday 07/12/2024 Amplify Human Rights Festival, London will bring together the big names in human rights campaigning together with Amnesty activists and supporters. Watch this space!

People, Power, and Politics: Influencing Political Decision-Makers on Human Rights

After the recent election take this course to build your knowledge of human rights and British politics and learn key strategies to influence and advocate for human rights with your MP.

- [Link to the course](#)
- You can access all activist education resources and trainings on this page: [Activist Education](#)

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group

Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Coordinator

Alaa Abd El-Fattah Group Action

As the fifth anniversary of Alaa's unjust detention approaches, we have been asked to participate in a national campaign to raise awareness of his case with our new government and to engage their support for the ongoing campaign to achieve his release. This will take the form of a symbolic action involving 'keys of freedom.' **Please look out for further details which will be sent to you in a separate mailing very soon.** I hope you will try to support this action on behalf of Alaa, a British/Egyptian national, who has now been imprisoned since 29 September 2019 simply for voicing his peaceful opposition to the Egyptian regime.



- Also, if you haven't already, please take a moment to sign the 'Protect UK Nationals Arbitrarily Detained Abroad' petition so we can reach our goal of 12,500 signatures: [Sign Here](#)

Action: Badr Mohamed



I'd be very grateful if you are able to support an immediate urgent action on behalf of Badr Mohamed, aged 28, who has spent over four years arbitrarily detained in connection to the Ramsis Square protests which took place on 16 August 2013, when he was 17 years old. In January 2023, he was sentenced to an unjust five-year prison sentence following a grossly unfair trial. He is held in Badr 1 prison in cruel and inhuman conditions of detention amid extreme heat, lack of sufficient food. The Egyptian authorities must quash Badr Mohamed's sentence, immediately release him, and allow him to travel to Austria to be reunited with

his wife and daughter.

What you can do:

Please send to President Abdelfattah al-Sisi at p.spokesman@op.gov.eg

Your Excellency

I am writing to express my concern over the arbitrary detention of Badr Mohamed, who was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison on 12 January 2023 in connection to 2013 protests in Ramsis Square, following a grossly unfair trial in front of a terrorism circuit of the Cairo Criminal Court. He was denied the rights to adequate defence, to equality of arms, and to cross-examine witnesses against him and to call witnesses on his behalf. During the trial hearings, which commenced following his arrest in May 2020, Badr Mohamed was kept inside a glass cage where he could not fully observe, hear, or speak during proceedings. He was banned from communicating with his lawyer privately through the pretrial and trial phases.

Badr Mohamed is detained in Badr 1 prison, known for its cruel and inhuman detention conditions. He is only allowed short family visits once a month, which is far from enough time with his three-year-old daughter Amina and severely harms his mental health. He is held in a small, cramped cell with four other people. There is no fresh air in the cell and temperatures reach over 40°C in the summer. Badr Mohamed is allowed out of his cell between three and four times a week for less than an hour.

He and other detainees continue to complain about the failure of prison authorities to provide them with sufficient food and potable water. Detainees are forced to buy food from the prison canteen at their own expense. Prisoners are also subjected to camera surveillance and fluorescent lights round the clock, which causes severe pain and suffering and violates the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment. Authorities frequently ban books, letters, paper and pens. When they are allowed, books and letters take months to reach Badr Mohamed.

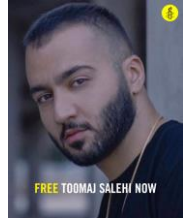
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I urge you to quash Badr Mohamed's unjust conviction and sentence, immediately release him from arbitrary detention, and allow him to travel abroad to be reunited with his family in Austria. Pending his release, he must be granted access to his family, lawyers and adequate healthcare and held in conditions that meet international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

Yours sincerely

Action: Iran – release Toomaj Salehi now

Iranian rapper, activist and hip-hop artist Toomaj Salehi has had his death sentence overturned, but still remains in prison. Join us in calling on Iranian authorities to free Toomaj now. Toomaj is a vocal supporter of the Woman Life Freedom protests, sparked after 22-year-old Mahsa Zhina Amini was killed after being arrested and beaten by Iranian authorities enforcing the country's abusive forced veiling laws. Through his music, Toomaj calls for freedom and an end to the violent repression of protestors by Iranian authorities. He has been in detention for over a year in connection with his music and posts on social media denouncing the unjust practices of the Iranian government.



- Link to take action online: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/free-toomaj>

Some good news! Aleksandra (Sasha) Skochilenko released!

Sasha peacefully protested the Russian invasion of Ukraine. She had been sentenced to 10 years in prison. Thank you to nearly 20,000 people including you who wrote to the Russian Embassy to help secure her immediate release.

On 1 August, in a swap deal brokered between Russia and Belarus on the one hand and Germany, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and the US on the other, the authorities in Moscow and Minsk pardoned, released and exiled 16 prisoners, including Russian activists and human rights defenders. Sasha was one of the people released. We share the relief and joy for the release of Sasha, and all the detained human rights defenders, activists and journalists who will soon be finally able to hug their loved ones. They should never have been behind bars - their prosecution was a grave injustice. We are grateful that the voices of the global and Russian human rights communities have been heard and that the freedom of these individuals has been brokered.



- Want to know more? <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/thank-you-demanding-sashas-release>

More good news! Prisoner pardons in Morocco

Omar Radi, Taoufik Bouachrine and Soulaïmane Raïssouni were among 2,278 people pardoned this week, according to Morocco's Ministry of Justice. The pardons were announced as Morocco prepares to celebrate its national holiday, marking the 25th anniversary of Mohammed VI's ascension to the throne.

- We have written in support of journalist Omar Radi previously. He was targeted by Israeli Pegasus software and subject to a smear campaign because of his criticism of the authorities, and had been sentenced to 6 years.

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>