



<b>Dates for your diary</b>	10/10/2024: World Day Against the Death Penalty 26/10/2024 11:00/11:15: Pumble, Fishbourne 22/11/2024: Amnesty Youth Conference, 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. **Meet at the Chichester Bus Station to catch the 11:00 bus; or meet at the Blackboys bus stop at 11:15.**

- We will need to book a table for lunch so please confirm with me ([dewickrobert9@gmail.com](mailto:dewickrobert9@gmail.com)) by Saturday 19/10/2024. You may prefer to meet us for lunch only; please also let me know, so we can organize a suitable sized table.
- <https://www.bulls-head-fishbourne.co.uk/food-and-drink>
- We will also review the weather forecast nearer the time and – in the event of poor weather – this may just be 'Pub' and no 'Ramble'!

## Other events

**Wednesday 02/10/2024** New [activist-led UN Network](#). This new Network aims to educate and inform about the UN human rights mechanisms and processes, to help activists make their campaigns more effective; and campaigns on specific issues related to human rights and the UN. The Network meets online on the first Wednesday of every month at 19:00: if you would like to join the Network or attend a meeting to find out more, contact [amnestyunnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:amnestyunnetwork@gmail.com)

**Tuesday 08/10/2024 1800 – 2200 The Death Penalty in the USA** – campaign workshop and film screening. This is a hybrid event (Human Rights Action Centre and online) to explore the controversial topic of the death penalty in the USA. The event begins with a workshop about how to get involved in the Amnesty Anti-Death Penalty Project's campaigning over the next year, what 'adopting a state' looks like and how to campaign for your state to take the next step towards true abolition. After the workshop will be a film screening of The Penalty (in person; may also be screened online subject to licensing). This event forms part of the launch of the new campaign (below)

- Book here, via [Eventbrite: The Death Penalty in the USA](#)

### **Thursday 10/10/2024: Anti Death Penalty Project: World Day Against The Death Penalty**

As many of you will be aware 10 October is the World Day Against the Death Penalty, a day that, each year, Amnesty aims to mark with events or new campaign launches.

- **What Amnesty want to do:** This year we want to contact the Governor of every US State that retains the death penalty with the aim of persuading them that the death penalty is wrong and to urge them to take the next step in abolishing it for good. We can show them that the death penalty is not a deterrent, we can cite the cases where innocent people have been sent to death row or even executed and we can talk about how the death penalty brutalises democratic and peaceful societies.
- **What Amnesty want us to do:** Whether you are an Amnesty local group, or an individual or a group of like-minded activists we want you to help us by 'adopting' a US state and then by writing (by mail or electronically) to the Governor, and if you are up for it, by continuing the dialogue with your adopted state Governor during the coming year.



- **If you would like to be involved**, please let the Committee know if you would like to share this campaign through the Newsletter, or if you would like our help supporting you. You can also attend the event on 08/10/2024 to find out more.

**Friday 22/11/2024, AIUK Youth Conference.** This is led and organised by the Children's Human Rights Network [AIUK Youth Conference \(amnesty.org.uk\)](https://www.amnesty.org.uk): if you know a school in the local area where there may be interest in attending, please contact me. Registration opens in September.

**Join the Country Co-ordinator Forum.** The Country Coordinator Forum is looking for new members to join the team. If you are interested in working in-depth on a country and supporting campaigning by Groups in the UK, please have a look at the list of countries seeking representation: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/jobs/activism>, where you can find details of the role and how to apply.

**Fund-raising concerts.** Whilst we plan for a concert to raise funds for Amnesty in 2025, we wanted to highlight a couple of concerts being performed by our Amnesty supporter and Committee member, Rebecca Grove, which may be of interest to you:

- 19/10/2024, 19:30 An event devoted to celebrating The Magic of Music [in aid of Save the Children](#). Venue is Christ Church, Chichester
- 25/10/2024. [The Last Friday of the Month Concert series](#), with the Luc family at St George's Whyke. This is a charity concert in memory of Anva Luc: the money raised will go equally to Sanctuary in Chichester and St Georges. Tickets are £10 online or £12 on the door.

Carry on writing!

*Bob Dewick, Amnesty*

Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

Keys of Freedom Action: Alaa Abd El-Fattah.

Thanks to those of you who responded promptly and artistically to the request for 'keys to freedom' in support of the ongoing campaign for Alaa. I received a very warm message of thanks from the Egypt Coordinator, Diana, who wrote:

*Thank you very much for engaging with the action and sending the lovely decorated keys from members of the Bognor & Chichester Group, much appreciated. They will be of great use in supporting the campaign, thank you*



For those of you who are national members and receive the *Amnesty* magazine, there is an article about Alaa by his sister and fellow human rights activist **Mona Seif** (Issue 222, Autumn 2024, pages 26-27)

Urgent Action: Egypt – Mahmoud Hussein

In addition to our support for Alaa, we have also been asked to respond to an urgent action appeal on behalf of **Mahmoud Hussein** who has already been unjustly detained for two years simply for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression by wearing a t-shirt protesting about the government's use of torture.



- If you want to read more about his case: [PROTESTER SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN JAIL \(amnesty.org.uk\)](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/protester-sentenced-to-three-years-in-jail)

What you can do

Please send the appeal below to President al-Sisi at [p.spokesman@op.gov.eg](mailto:p.spokesman@op.gov.eg), appealing for the immediate release of Mahmoud Hussein

Your Excellency

*I am writing to express my concern about the arbitrary detention of **Mahmoud Hussein** solely for wearing an anti-torture T-shirt. On 26 June 2014, he was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison by an Emergency State Security Court (ESSC). ESSC's proceedings are inherently unfair, including because their verdicts are not subject to appeal, only Your Excellency's ratification.*

**Mahmoud Hussein** was first arrested on 25 January 2014, in the aftermath of peaceful protests marking the third anniversary of the 25 January 2011 Revolution, for wearing a T-shirt with the slogan "A Nation without Torture" and a scarf with the "25 January Revolution" logo. He then spent two years in arbitrary pre-trial detention before being released on bail in 2016, following mobilization by activists and supporters. In 2018, he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in his absence. He was re-arrested on 30 August 2023 and ordered into pre-trial detention, pending his re-trial. On 23 April 2024, the Cairo Criminal Court ordered his release on bail, but authorities continued to detain him until 26 May 2024 before finally releasing him and allowing him to reunite with his loved ones. He was rearrested on 26 June 2024 following the court verdict. He is held at El Marg police station, where detainees are banned from family visits.



**Mahmoud Hussein's** physical and mental health have severely deteriorated during his time in custody. Amnesty International documented how following his arrest in 2014, he was subjected to torture and other-ill treatment including beatings and electric shocks. He has suffered from chronic health conditions requiring two hip replacement surgeries. In November 2023, he underwent an anal fistula surgery at Badr

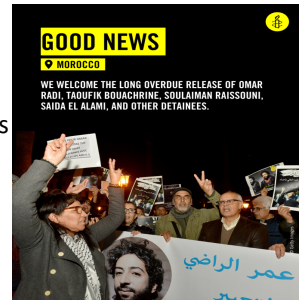
prison hospital. His family remains extremely concerned about his well-being as his health condition requires regular monitoring by specialized medical professionals.

**I urge you to quash Mahmoud Hussein's unjust conviction and sentence and immediately release him from arbitrary detention. Pending his release, he must be granted access to his family, lawyers and adequate healthcare and protected from torture and other ill-treatment, he must be held in conditions that meet international standards for the treatment of prisoners. Reports that he was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment upon his first arrest in 2014 must be effectively, independently and impartially investigated.**

Yours sincerely

### Urgent Action: Morocco - Nasser Zefzafi

We were delighted to share the **good news** last month about the release of over 2,200 prisoners in Morocco, as royal pardons to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mohammed VI's ascension to the throne. This included individuals for whom we had previously campaigned: journalists Omar Radi, Taoufik Bouachrine and Soulaymane Raissouni, and human rights activist Saida Alami.



However, many activists are still unjustly imprisoned in Morocco, including **Nasser Zefzafi**, sentenced in June 2018 to twenty years in prison for his peaceful campaigning and held in terrible conditions. Nasser featured in the 2022 Write for Rights campaign but sadly remains in prison.

- Please use this link to sign the [online petition](#) calling for his release.

### Amnesty Feminists: rise with Afghan women

Three years into the Taliban rule, the country remains a hotbed of unchecked and unabated human rights abuses, all with zero accountability.

- [Take action online](#): call on the UK Prime Minister to make Afghanistan a foreign policy priority and that the UK work with the international community to protect women's rights
- Read more: Amnesty Feminists are hosting a blog by Livia Amato, [Uniting for Change](#), that breaks down the complex recent history of Afghanistan.



Want to do more?

### Urgent Action Network

When you take action, 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>