



Dates for your diary	07/12/2024: Amnesty Amplify (London) 10/12/2024: Human Rights Day
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Dear writers

We enjoyed the annual Pumble from the Bull's Head, Fishbourne to Dell Quay and back – fortunately all clad in our hearty boots as there were plenty of muddy paths – and ending with lunch at the Bull's Head. The weather was kind and the company entertaining, and our thanks to Group Secretary Bob for organizing the pub and exploring the route on our behalf.



Local events

10/12/2024: Human Rights Day. We are currently planning for an event to work on the 2024 Write for Rights campaign, to take place around Human Rights Day. Look out for the November Newsletter with details of the event and venue and details of the campaign, if you would like to write to support this year's selected individuals at risk.

Other events

Monday 04/11/2024, evening: **online guest speaker, Pakistan.** Please get in touch with Steph and Monica at monicaatamnesty@gmail.com, stephatamnesty@gmail.com for a video call link.

Saturday 09/11/2024 12:00 – 16:00 AIUK Disabled People's Human Rights Network event. An afternoon event at the Human Rights Action Centre, London, and online. Follow this link to book a ticket: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/events/aiuk-disabled-peoples-human-rights-network-event>

Tuesday 19/11/2024, 19:30: Kent and Surrey Networks online guest speaker on Individuals at Risk: British Nationals detained abroad campaign, presented by Sena Atici. Please contact bognorandchichesteramnesty@outlook.com for a Teams link. This campaign includes Alaa Abdel Fattah and Mehran Raof <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/protect-uk-nationals-arbitrarily-detained-abroad>

Saturday 07/12/2024: Amnesty Amplify. This is Amnesty's new human rights festival. It is taking place in London at the Woolwich Works venue. Full programme will be released soon, and information about the event and booking a ticket can be done online <https://www.woolwich.works/events/amplify-human-rights-festival>



Amnesty International's Online Teacher Training Course will give you the expertise, resources and confidence to engage your students with human rights in your classroom. The course is free for PGCE students and anyone training to teach, and [applications are welcomed online](#) by 01/11/2024

Art and Protest: promoting human rights through creative expression. This [online course is open to all](#) and delves into the powerful role that art and creative expression play in promoting human rights and advocating for change.

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

Alaa Abd El-Fattah: Update and Urgent Action

On 28 September, Alaa's friends, family and supporters were bitterly disappointed to hear that Alaa, who has now completed five years in prison, had been told that he must serve a further two years in jail as the two years spent in pre-trial detention would not count towards his sentence. This decision directly contravenes Egyptian law and is totally unjust. He was imprisoned after a grossly unfair trial in which he was convicted of spreading false news after sharing a Facebook post about torture in Egypt.



Hunger Strike

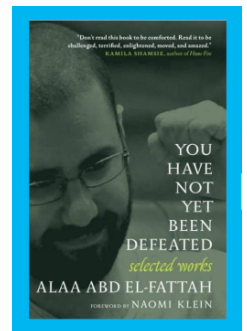
His mother, 68 year old **Laila Soueif**, a Maths professor at Cairo University, has declared that she will go on hunger strike until he is released. In an interview on the BBC Today programme on 22 October, she said that she expects the Foreign Secretary, **David Lammy**, to put pressure on the Egyptian government to release her son who holds joint Egyptian/UK citizenship.

Alaa named PEN Writer of Courage 2024

Meanwhile Alaa's courage in defending freedom of expression, despite great risk to his own safety and liberty, has been acknowledged by internationally acclaimed author, **Arundhati Roy**, who nominated Alaa to share her **PEN Pinter Prize 2024**. At a ceremony on 10 October 2024, **Arundhati Roy**, said: *'Why did I choose the jailed writer and blogger **Alaa Abd el-Fattah** as the Writer of Courage to share the PEN Pinter Prize with? For the same reason that Egyptian authorities have chosen to keep him in prison for two more years instead of releasing him last month. Because his voice is as beautiful as it is dangerous. Because his understanding of what we are facing today is as sharp as a dagger's edge.'*

22 October: Amnesty Online Book Event

On Tuesday 22 October, Amnesty hosted an online event to celebrate the publication of a new edition of Alaa's writings, *You Have Not Yet Been Defeated*. The book is a selection of his essays, social media posts and interviews from 2011 until the present. During the event, the audience heard extracts from the book read by Amnesty campaigners and Alaa's sister, Mona, who spoke very movingly about her family's long struggle to gain Alaa's release. She expressed disappointment that her own MP, David Lammy, who had been very supportive of campaigns on behalf of Alaa as Shadow Foreign Secretary had, so far, not taken any decisive action as Foreign Secretary to exert pressure on the Egyptian government to free Alaa. She made an eloquent and heartfelt plea to her audience to



'Take on Alaa's case as yours, as if he were your brother, your friend'

She urged us all to write to our own MPs asking them to contact the Foreign Secretary appealing for immediate action on behalf of a UK National who is unjustly detained and deserves our unqualified support.

Please respond to her plea by writing to your MP to request that s/he contact the Foreign Secretary to fulfil his pledge to exert pressure on the Egyptian government to release Alaa.

- Arundel & South Downs MP: Andrew Griffith, (andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk)
- Bognor & Littlehampton MP: Alison Griffiths (alison.griffiths.mp@parliament.uk)
- Chichester MP: Jess Brown-Fuller (jess.brownfuller.mp@parliament.uk)
- **Letters to House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA**

You might like to use the template message below or to use your own words.

Dear (MP's name) Please include your full postal address in your email/letter

*I am writing, as one of your constituents, to appeal to you to call upon the Foreign Secretary, **David Lammy**, to take urgent action to effect the release of **Alaa Abd el-Fattah**. **Alaa** is a joint UK/Egyptian national currently held in prison in Egypt solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.*

*On 22 September 2024, **Alaa Abdel Fattah** completed a five-year sentence imposed after a grossly unfair trial in which he had been convicted of 'spreading false news' simply for sharing a social media post about the use of torture in Egypt. However, Alaa's family have now been informed that Alaa must serve a further two years in prison, on the basis that the two years he spent in pre-trial detention before his verdict will not count. This directly contravenes Egyptian law.*

*His family, who have campaigned vigorously on his behalf, are now distraught at the prospect that his release has been postponed yet again. His mother, 68 year old **Laila Soueif**, a Maths professor at Cairo University, has declared that she will go on hunger strike until he is released. In an interview on the BBC Today programme on 22 October, she said that she expects the Foreign Secretary, **David Lammy**, to put pressure on the Egyptian government to release her son.*

*Alaa's sister, Mona, now resident in the UK, has **expressed disappointment that her own MP, David Lammy, who had been very supportive of campaigns on behalf of Alaa as Shadow Foreign Secretary had, so far, not taken any decisive action as Foreign Secretary to exert pressure on the Egyptian government to free Alaa.***

***Alaa Abd el-Fattah** is an internationally recognised writer whose 'courage in defending freedom of expression, in spite of great risk to his own safety and liberty,' has been acknowledged by prize-winning author, **Arundhati Roy**. She nominated Alaa as **Writer of Courage**, inviting him to share her **PEN Pinter Prize 2024** at a ceremony at the British Library on 10 October 2024.*

*I am sure you remember the delight which greeted news in 2022 of the release of another UK national, **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**, who had been held in unjust detention in Iran. Please take action in this case to call upon David Lammy to do his utmost to achieve a similar outcome for **Alaa Abd el-Fattah**.*

Whilst Alaa's family recognise the importance of Egypt as a trading partner and political ally in the crisis in the Middle East, they nevertheless expect the British Government to take firm action to challenge any abuse of the rights of British citizens by the Egyptian authorities. Surely human rights and essential freedoms must be a priority. Please remind the Foreign Secretary that this is the time for action not just words.

*I hope you will respond to my appeal and I look forward to hearing from you.
Yours sincerely*

Action: Abir Moussi, Tunisia

Please find below an urgent action appeal to President Kais Saied of Tunisia on behalf of **Abir Moussi**.

- We have been asked to write for her before (March 2024).
- On 5 August 2024 she was sentenced to two years in prison because of her criticism of the legislative electoral process.
- She is also facing a separate investigation because of exercising her rights to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly.





What you can do

Please find attached a template message to send to the President at contact@carthage.tn

Your Excellency,

*I write to you to urge you to immediately release **Abir Moussi** and drop all criminal charges against her as they are based solely on the exercise of her human rights. She has been sentenced to two years in prison under Decree-Law 2022-54 on cybercrimes.*

*On 5 August 2024, The Tunis Court of First Instance sentenced **Abir Moussi** to two years in prison based on public statements she had made in November 2022 and January 2023 criticizing the legislative electoral process under Decree-Law 54 following a complaint filed by the High Independent Authority for Elections (ISIE). **Abir Moussi** is also facing a separate investigation for exercising her rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression based on protests that she led or statements that she made.*

Criticism of the authorities is protected speech under Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to which Tunisia is a state party.

I urge you to immediately release Abir Moussi and drop all charges against her as they stem solely from her peaceful political activism. Pending her release, she must be granted regular access to her family, lawyers and adequate healthcare, and held in conditions that comply with international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

Yours sincerely

Action – Turkey must stop human rights violations in northwest Syria

Investigations by Amnesty International and other Human Rights groups have detailed serious rights violations by troops from Türkiye and militias supported by Türkiye in Syria. The situation is ongoing.

Residents in Afrin are enduring a wide range of violations, mostly at the hands of Syrian armed groups that have been equipped and armed by Türkiye. These violations include arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and confiscation of property and looting to which Türkiye's armed forces have turned a blind eye. Some of these groups, and Türkiyeish armed forces themselves, also have taken over schools, disrupting the education of thousands of children.

- **Link to video about the campaign:** <https://youtu.be/9RUTUnqexBw>

What you can do

Tell Türkiye they must end violations by pro-Türkiyeish armed groups, hold perpetrators accountable, and commit to helping Afrin residents rebuild their lives, including guaranteeing safe return of people forced to flee.

- This petition can be signed online: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/activist-actions/ccsmegsyria1-0>

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>