

# BANBURY AREA GROUP AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



[@BanburyAmnesty](https://www.instagram.com/BanburyAmnesty) [banburyamnesty](https://www.facebook.com/banburyamnesty)  
[www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/banbury](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/banbury)

NEWSLETTER 12  
SPRING 2025



We are ordinary people, who live in and around Banbury, who stand up for humanity and human rights. Our purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness and truth are denied.

We meet on the third Monday of each month except August. You are very welcome to join us. Sign up for email updates via the website.

As a global movement of over ten million people, Amnesty International is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation.

## Current Campaigns

### KEEP CAMPSFIELD CLOSED

We have decided to join the Keep Campsfield Closed campaign. Campsfield is an immigration detention centre located in Kidlington near Oxford and has detained people for 25 years before it was closed in 2018. In 2022 the Conservative Government announced it would reopen the facility and this has been confirmed by the new Labour administration, although the camp remains closed at present. There have been a number of hunger strikes, fires, disturbances and two suicides during the running of the camp. The campaign is focused on keeping the camp closed and urging the Government to move towards community based alternatives which uphold values of humanity and justice.

Further information on the campaign can be found on the [Keep Campsfield Closed](https://www.keepcampsfieldclosed.org) website.

A petition has been set up by a former detainee of the camp and you can sign it at [Change.org](https://www.change.org).



Photo: [Change.org](https://www.change.org) Keep Campsfield Closed petition webpage.

### INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

The Group has started a monthly action for Amnesty's Individuals At Risk active cases. Amnesty International began with one man's outrage and his courage to do something about individuals who were unjustly imprisoned. After learning of two Portuguese students imprisoned for simply raising a toast to freedom in 1961, British lawyer Peter Benenson published an article, "The Forgotten Prisoners" in the Observer newspaper. The article started a worldwide campaign and the formation of Amnesty International, so campaigning for individuals at risk has been at the heart of Amnesty's work from its inception.

By highlighting an individual's situation we work to raise

### SMALL ACTIONS WITH A BIG DIFFERENCE

awareness and bring about lasting, positive change.

It could be that we are calling for someone's release, a fair trial or an end to harassment. Whatever the aims for each different case, the motivation is always the same - to right a wrong.

The first two cases are from China, the first was a Uyghur musician who is currently serving a three year prison sentence for creating music and possessing books in the Uyghur language. The second case involves two activists who have been sentenced to prison for meeting with other activists in the #MeToo campaign.

You can find our more on the second case [here](#).



## Campaigning

### Write 4 Rights

Thanks to everyone who did a stint on our stall in Banbury's Lock 29 or came by to send messages of solidarity to the nine individual cases selected for the campaign.

There was a steady stream of visitors with people signing cards and online petitions, also some great conversations.

Our stall was very visible in the main thoroughfare between the car park and Lock 29's attractions.



### Palestinian Evening

Many thanks to everyone who came to our social/campaigning Palestinian Evening held in Bloxham at the end of November. The Arab dishes provided by Tahani, Zainab and Robert were superb, and author and journalist Matthew Teller delivered an incredibly insightful and involving illustrated talk about the situation (historic and current) in Gaza generally and about the first hand testimonies in his latest book "Daybreak in Gaza" (see [www.matthewteller.com/](http://www.matthewteller.com/); all profits go to Medical Aid for Palestinians).



We're immensely grateful to all of them. We also ended with a collective on-line action, calling for an immediate



ceasefire. Amnesty has since concluded that Israel has committed a series of genocidal acts against Palestinians in Gaza. You can send a message to Israel's Prime Minister calling for this to stop at [www.amnesty.org/en/petition/end-israels-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/end-israels-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza/).

## Forthcoming events

### Film Evening

The Oscar winning documentary "No Other Land" will be the subject of our next Film Night, at **7.30pm on 17 March** at Friends Meeting House, Horse Fair, Banbury OX16 0AH. Admission Free.

Made by a Palestinian-Israeli collective, it fearlessly explores the Palestinian experience on the West Bank. One reviewer has commented



that it shows how the camera can be "a weapon for truth and resistance".

For a recent five star review in the Guardian, see [www.theguardian.com/film/2024/sep/30/no-other-land-review-palestinian-israeli-documentary](http://www.theguardian.com/film/2024/sep/30/no-other-land-review-palestinian-israeli-documentary)

Also see the Official trailer <https://youtu.be/pl2IXKtlew>

### Meeting our MP

Our meeting with our new MP Sean Woodcock has been rescheduled. Together with our friends from the Chipping Norton Group, as both groups are in the new redrawn

constituency, we hope to address the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and the situation in the Middle East, encouraging him to put pressure on the Government to make a reality of its proclaimed support for human rights and the international rule of law.

**"INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE."**

Martin Luther King, African-American civil rights activist