

Dates for your diary	Saturday 21/06/2025, 19:30: Concert, Christ Church / Festival of Chichester Saturday 05/07 – Sunday 06/07/2025: Amplify Summit! University of Warwick
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Dear writers

Local events

We are sorry to hear recently of the death of **RYSZARD NOGAJEWSKI**, the first POC to be adopted by our Group. He was a member of the Polish trade union Solidarity and had been jailed for 4 years for distributing its leaflets. We adopted him in 1982 and wrote numerous letters on his behalf until he was freed in 1983. Many of us met him when he came to our 2002 Fishbourne event, held to celebrate our 25th anniversary, where he told his story and thanked our Group for our support.



The Group AGM took place on Tuesday 01/04/2025. All the existing committee had been approached and were willing to stand again; the committee was re-elected *en bloc* and looks forward to supporting you as Group members for the coming 12 months. Group members are encouraged to come along to one of our Zoom meetings to find out what we do; and if you are interested in steering a campaign on a topic that particularly interests you or just supporting the planning of future events: you would be most welcome!

Saturday 21/06/2025, 19:30: Aria and Song for Amnesty: an evening of operatic aria, classical and musical song. Join sopranos Rebecca Grove and Stephanie Peat for a Midsummer's evening of beautiful music, accompanied by Anthony Groves, as part of the Festival of Chichester 2025. Taking place at Christ Church, Chichester, there will be an interval of tea, coffee, cold drinks and light refreshments. Admission to the concert is free: we welcome cash donations, and all donations will go to Amnesty UK.

Other events

Thursday 08/05/2025; 18:30 – 20:00 (online): Social (In) Security: the devastating human rights impact of social security failures in the UK. This is the launch event for Amnesty UK's new report Social (In) Security, into the realities of social security in the UK.

- Book [online via Eventbrite](#)

Saturday 05/07 – Sunday 06/07/2025 Amplify Summit! This is the annual National Conference and AGM, taking place at the University of Warwick, bringing AIUK members and activists together to learn, connect, scrutinize, inspire and celebrate.

- Registration is now open: book [online / find more information via Eventbrite](#)

Disabled people's human rights network: you are invited to join this network, which brings together activists from all over the UK to claim their rights and fight for disabled people everywhere.

- Join online via the Amnesty website

Don't Prevent Rights, Protect them - an Introduction to the Government's Prevent Duty. Online course now available via Amnesty's Human Rights Academy. This short course on the Government's Prevent Duty will be enable you to understand what the Prevent duty is, the harms done to communities by Prevent, how it infringes on human rights, and understand what Amnesty has found as part of its research into Prevent.

- Follow the [course online via the Human Rights Academy website](#)

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

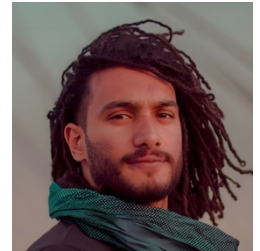
Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

Alaa Abd el-Fattah. Laila Soueif attended a Mother's Day Vigil opposite Downing Street on what was Day 180 of her hunger strike, with 25 of those days on partial (where she has taken a mere 300 calories a day). Friday 28 March also marked a month since a telephone call between Kier Starmer and President Sisi, but without news of the release of her son, Alaa Abd el-Fattah. 180 days also marks the same length of time since Alaa's sentence finished and he should have walked free. There was some hope that Alaa might be released as part of the annual Presidential pardons issued at the end of Ramadan, but this has not happened.



Some good news to share – Badr Mohamed released

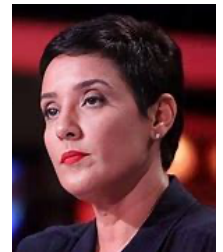
We are delighted to share the news that, on 25 February, **Badr Mohamed** was released from prison in Egypt, and reunited with his family. His release followed a decision by the Court of Cassation to accept his appeal, reducing his sentence from five years to a year in prison. Thank you for writing on behalf of Badr on a number of occasions, after he was sentenced in January 2023 in a grossly unfair trial, in connect to the Ramsis Square protests on 16 August 2023, when he was 17 years old.



Supporters around the world campaigned for Badr Mohamed's release by sending letters to the Egyptian authorities. Following his release, he and his wife conveyed this message to Amnesty International members and supporters: *"We sincerely thank Amnesty for supporting Badr's case and contributing to his release. Your advocacy played an important role in reuniting our family and ensuring his freedom. This support has made a real difference in his transition back to life outside prison and the life of our daughter Amina. We truly appreciate your commitment to human rights."*

Action: Tunisia - Sonia Dahmani, lawyer and media personality

Sonia has been arbitrarily detained since security forces arrested her from the Tunisian Bar Associations' office in Tunis on 11 May 2024. She is facing five separate legal proceedings, all stemming from the exercise of her right to freedom of expression. Sonia Dahmani is currently held in the Manouba prison in cruel and inhuman conditions including exposure to extreme cold and lack of access to basic necessities. In protest against her unjust imprisonment and inhumane treatment, she has now started a hunger strike.



What you can do

Please use this template message to appeal to **President of the Republic, Kais Saied** at contact@carthage.tn

Your Excellency,

I write to you to express my grave concern over the prolonged unjust imprisonment of Tunisian lawyer Sonia Dahmani. She is imprisoned for exercising her right to freedom of expression including publicly criticising conditions of detention in Tunisian prisons as well as the ill-treatment of refugees and migrants in the country.

Following her public comments during her regular appearances on television and radio shows, Tunisian authorities have initiated five separate legal proceedings against her. She was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in two cases. On 6 July 2024, the Tunis Court of First Instance sentenced Sonia Dahmani to a year in prison, reduced to eight months on appeal, for making an ironic comment during a TV show. On 24 October 2024, the same court sentenced her to an additional two years in prison in a separate case for highlighting

racist and discriminatory practices in Tunisia. Both convictions were based on the draconian Decree-Law 2022-54 on Cybercrimes. Sonia Dahmani has three other pending cases, all relating to the exercise of her right to freedom of expression.

Sonia Dahmani is enduring cruel and inhuman conditions of detention in prison. She faces extreme temperature fluctuations, with freezing cold during the winter due to a broken window. Prison authorities refuse to allow her family to bring warm clothing or food, leading to malnutrition and significant weight loss. She has developed serious health issues, including diabetes, back pain, swelling in the legs and high blood pressure. Sonia Dahmani is also denied adequate healthcare like clean clothing and medication, while being subjected to humiliating treatment by prison guards. For instance, on 20 August 2024, ahead of her trial hearing, authorities subjected her to a humiliating body search and forced nudity. Sonia Dahmani shares her cell with four other detainees, including toilet facilities with no privacy. Hygiene is very poor, with limited access to hot water and an infestation of rats and insects in her cell.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Sonia Dahmani, quash her unjust convictions and sentences and drop the baseless criminal investigations against her. Pending her release, she must be granted access to her family, lawyers and adequate healthcare and held in conditions that meet international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

Yours sincerely,

Action: Algeria – Mohamed Benhlime, whistleblower and anti-corruption activist

Mohamed Benhlime is a former military officer, whistleblower and anti-corruption activist who was forcibly returned to Algeria from Spain on 24 March 2022. He is serving a life sentence in the Blida military prison, stemming from the exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. He has complained to the court of torture and other ill-treatment, including sexual violence, prolonged solitary confinement and beatings at least six times since May 2022, most recently on 8 December 2024, but the Algerian authorities have not announced an investigation.



What you can do

Please use the template email message provided online by Amnesty Urgent Action, to write to the Algerian President, asking the authorities to quash his convictions and sentences, drop any further charges stemming from his exercise of human rights and release him immediately.

- <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/tortured-whistleblower-sentenced-life>

Want to do more?

The 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>