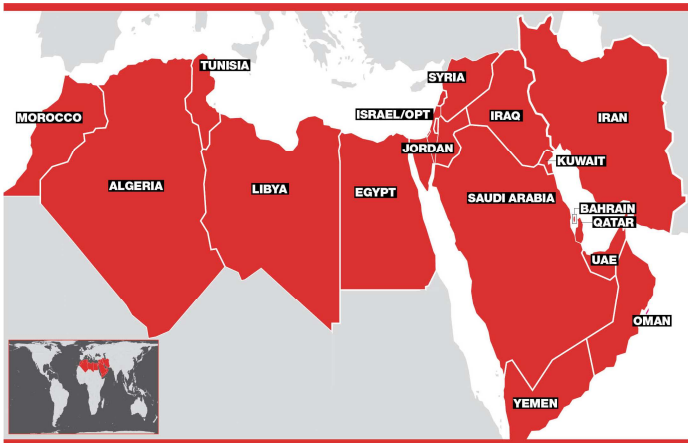




# CRISIS RESPONSE: MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Campaign Mailing

July 2011



The last mailing in April highlighted our crisis response work on the inspiring popular uprisings spreading across the Middle East and North Africa.

Since then, we have seen the people of the region continue to rise up against repression, poverty and corruption and demand genuine human rights change.

Predictably governments are desperate to cling onto power and they have increasingly resorted to severe repression and worsening violence against civilians. Huge numbers of peaceful protesters have been shot at by government forces, with many being killed. Thousands have been arrested and detained and we have heard harrowing accounts of people being tortured whilst in detention. Many have been tried by military courts in unfair proceedings and have been given harsh sentences for merely exercising their right to free expression and peaceful protest.

AIUK will continue to prioritise our crisis response work on the Middle East and North Africa, and we have chosen to focus our work on four priority countries: Libya, Syria, Egypt and Israel/ Occupied Palestinian Territories. However, as the situation develops, we will react to situations in all other countries in the region as necessary.

We will also focus on work on two particular thematic issues; women's rights and arms controls. Work on what longer term human rights reform looks like, what Amnesty is terming our 'Agenda for Change' for the region will also continue, looking particularly at Egypt where elections in September are looming. We will be producing some new materials on this area soon, so keep your eyes open for these. All the latest information is on [www.amnesty.org.uk/protest](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/protest)

## **AMNESTY UK'S THEMATIC FOCUSES:**

### *WOMENS RIGHTS:*

Women have played a major role in the protests that have been taking place across the Middle East and North Africa. They have joined and organised demonstrations alongside men and been integral to the movements that are redefining human rights across the region. Amnesty's vision is that women fully and meaningfully participate in all political processes; and for women's human rights to be promoted and protected. Amnesty International will be working with women's organizations in the region to ensure the exclusion of women ends

and that needs and views of women are made integral to the process of transition and change. For more information, please go to [www.amnesty.org.uk/women](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/women)

In April, we asked you to send urgent letters to the Egyptian embassy calling on them to ensure women are part of the rebuilding of Egypt. If you haven't yet taken this action, please go to our website [www.amnesty.org.uk/protest](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/protest) and take the action online and support women demanding an equal voice in shaping Egypt's future.

#### **ARMS CONTROL:**

The demonstrations and their subsequent violent crackdowns including the use of firearms against peaceful protesters, shows the need for strong international export controls to prevent weapons, munitions and related equipment from ending up in the hands of human rights abusers. For example a UK company based in Leicestershire may well have supplied Colonel Gaddafi's Libyan government forces with the armoured crowd vehicles used to crush protests. Such sales raise very serious questions about export licensing procedures here in the UK.

We are calling for a robust Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which will strengthen arms controls and help ensure that arms are not exported where there is a substantial risk that equipment will be used in human rights abuse. Campaigning in this area will step up over the coming months in the build up to the conclusion of negotiations at the UN in 2012. Keep up to date with the Control Arms campaign here: [www.amnesty.org.uk/arms](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/arms)

## **TAKE ACTION: EGYPTIAN ACCOUNTABILITY**

On 19 May, we launched a new report, '*Egypt Rises*' (MDE 12/027/2011) on the violent crackdown during Egypt's '25 January Revolution'. The report documents the heavy price paid by Egyptians who stood up to repression. Hundreds were killed and thousands more injured. Thousands were arbitrarily arrested, and many subjected to torture or other ill-treatment, including by the military.

During the next few months, we expect to see more trials of former government officials. Therefore our campaigning message at this time will focus on *accountability*. The Egyptian authorities must use this window to deliver truth, justice and reparation for the abuses of the past and we would like supporters to lobby the Egyptian authorities directly on this point.

## WHAT TO DO:

Please send letters to the leader of the Supreme Council and Prime Minister urging them to ensure that human rights violations committed during the uprising are investigated and ensure that those found responsible are brought to justice.

Use the letter below as a template and post, fax or email it to the following targets:

- Field Marshal Muhammad Tantawi, Leader, Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence, 23 Al Khalifa Al Ma'moun Street, Cairo, Egypt. Fax +202 2 291 6227. [mmc@afmic.gov.eg](mailto:mmc@afmic.gov.eg) | [mod@afmic.gov.eg](mailto:mod@afmic.gov.eg)
- Prime Minister Essam Sharaf, Magles El Shaab Street, Kasr El Aini Street, Cairo , Egypt. Fax +2027356449. [primemin@idsc.gov.eg](mailto:primemin@idsc.gov.eg)

Your Excellency,

I am writing to bring to your attention a recent Amnesty International report (*Egypt Rises: Killing, Detentions and Torture in the '25 January Revolution*) The report documents excessive use of force by the Egyptian security forces against protesters and prisoners during the '25 January Revolution'. It makes a number of key recommendations about how to address the human rights abuses that occurred during this time.

The events of the uprising are symptomatic of the impunity that prevailed under the 30-year-rule of President Hosni Mubarak. I am calling on you to protect the gains of the "25 January Revolution" by establishing the truth about abuses committed during the uprising; by bringing the perpetrators to justice; and by ensuring that victims of abuse and their families are given reparation. I call on you to:

**DISCLOSE THE TRUTH** about the abuses of the "25 January Revolution". I urge you to ensure that full, impartial and independent investigations are conducted into all human rights violations that took place, including those committed by the armed forces, and including the killings and torture of prisoners.

**ENSURE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE.** While I welcome the steps taken by the Egyptian authorities to hold accountable some of those accused of responsibility for serious human rights violations, I am concerned that many victims of the security forces' brutality and torture will not see their perpetrators held accountable. Those people responsible for torture or the excessive and arbitrary use of force in policing the demonstrations should be brought to justice.

**GIVE REPARATION** I call on you to ensure that adequate reparation is provided to victims of abuses in the "25 January Revolution" and their families, including compensation and medical treatment. In particular, I call on you to ensure that all injured are rehabilitated at the highest standard of medical treatment.

Combating impunity for human rights violations must be an immediate national priority, a crucial confidence-building measure that will allow Egyptians to regain trust in their national institutions.

Yours faithfully,

## PLACARDS

You can find our 'In Solidarity In Defiance' placards available to download from our website [www.amnesty.org.uk/protest](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/protest). We also have a limited number available in the office for you to borrow. Please contact the activism team if you would like to borrow these.

## NEW MATERIALS AVAILABLE SOON

### *FLYER*

A new information flyer will be available soon which will explain what Amnesty's vision for long term human rights reform in the region looks like. This material will be useful at stalls/events to help explain to people what Amnesty's "agenda for change" means.

You will be able to order this from TFS (call 01788 545553) in August quoting product code CCC076.

### *STICKERS*

Stickers reading 'In solidarity, In defiance' are available from TFS now. To order please quote product code CCC075.

There will also be t-shirts available to buy from the Amnesty shop soon. You can find out more about these by visiting the website [www.amnesty.org.uk/shop](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/shop)

## ADVICE FOR GROUPS:

Please remember if you are planning any events on MENA please check the Amnesty website for all the latest information as the situation is fast moving [www.amnesty.org.uk/protest](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/protest)

If you are doing any local media work on MENA and would like some advice or support, please contact the press team via Neil Durkin ([neil.durkin@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:neil.durkin@amnesty.org.uk))

## COUNTRY COORDINATORS:

Amnesty's activist network of Country Coordinators are available as a resource for groups. They can provide information on what is happening in specific countries, give talks, help answer your questions and support the work you are doing.

To contact the MENA Country Coordinators contact the Activism team or visit <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10864>

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

For all the latest campaign information visit our website [www.amnesty.org.uk/protest](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/protest)

### **ANY QUESTIONS?**

Contact the activism team on 0207 033 1675 or email [activism@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:activism@amnesty.org.uk)