

INSATS August/September (NR.5) ENGLISH SUMMARY

CALENDAR

- **September 21: Workshop on Amnesty's values**
- **September 28: International Abortion Rights Day**
- **October 8: Regional youth meetings in Stockholm and Gothenburg.**
- **October 10: International Day against the Death Penalty**
- **October 23-29: Justyna Wydrzyńska visits Sweden**
- **November 11 - 12: Activist Seminar & National Youth Meeting 2023**
- **November 29: Write for Rights campaign launch**
- **28/9 Open house*, theme: Abortion Rights Day**
- **26/10 Open house*, theme: International day against the death penalty**
- **30/11 Open house*, theme: Write for Rights**

* **Gothenburg, Stockholm and Malmö**

THE RIGHT TO ABORTION- SEPTEMBER 28

We encourage as many groups as possible to recognise International Safe Abortion Day on September 28th by organising demonstrations in the city, preferably with other organisations. The Swedish section has long worked for abortion rights around the world. Most recently with a focus on the US and Poland, where we more specifically supported Justyna Wydrzyńska.

A demonstration can be small or large. Anything from a couple of group members out on the streets raising awareness of the issue and the day to organising a larger event with other organisations and speakers. Choose the format that suits you.

Sign up below if you and your group want to be involved. Readings and materials (posters and flyers) can be found on the Activist Portal.

- **What?** Manifestation on International Abortion Rights Day
- **When?** September 28
- **How?** [Register here](#)

Please contact us if you have any questions!

Marianne Gyllenpistol, marianne.gyllenpistol@amnesty.se



Justyna Wydrzyńska, Photo: Karolina Jackowska

JUSTYNA VISITS SWEDEN

This autumn the Polish abortion rights activist Justyna Wydrzyńska, for whom many of us have worked for will visit Sweden. For a week between October 23-27, she will visit the following cities: **Malmö, Lund, Gothenburg** and finally **Stockholm**.

Her visit will be planned together with the Student Council and the student groups concerned. If you don't live near any of these cities, you can listen to her digitally sometime during the week.

Look out for more details in the next issue of Insats!

Marianne Gyllenpistol, marianne.gyllenpistol@amnesty.se

OCTOBER 10 – TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

The day against the death penalty takes place every year on October 10, and on this day, it is evident to march on our streets and take action against the death penalty!

Background

Amnesty International has been campaigning for the universal abolition of the death penalty for 40 years. The death penalty violates the most basic human right - the right to life. States should never execute their citizens, and the death penalty has no place in a modern legal system. This is Amnesty's fundamental position, and the basis of our work against the death penalty. In 2022, the number of documented executions increased by 53% compared to 2021, with 883 executions documented in 20 countries in 2022 (compared to 579 in 2021).

More information on the death penalty in the world can be found on the website where the Death Penalty Report 2022 can also be found in full.

In Iran, at least hundreds of people have been executed this year alone, including Swedish-Iranian Habib Chaab, so we continue to put pressure on Iran by continuing our tireless fight for Ahmadreza Djalali! This October 10 we are also taking action for Rocky Myers in the US.

Ahmadreza Djalali

Ahmadreza Djalali is a Swedish-Iranian doctor and researcher who was sentenced to death by Iran's Revolutionary Court in October 2017, and Amnesty has since acted and continues to act to stop the execution.

Djalali was arrested in Iran on 26 April 2016, accused of collaborating with the Israeli security services. Despite intensive interrogation, it took seven months after his arrest before he was allowed to see a lawyer. However, the lawyer was refused to represent Ahmadreza during his trial, where he was represented by a state-appointed defence lawyer. He was also forced to 'confess' to the crime on video camera, a recording of which was shown on Iranian television in December 2017. In October 2017, Ahmadreza was sentenced to death by Iran's Revolutionary Court for "corruption on earth" (efsad-e fel-arz). The defence was not allowed access to any documents or evidence during the trial. The verdict was confirmed by Iran's Supreme Court on 9 December 2018.

Since the verdict, several dates have been set for Djalali's execution, the latest of which was 21 May 2023, but it was not carried out. No evidence whatsoever has been presented to suggest that Ahmadreza has committed any crime, and his trial has fallen far short of international standards. We call for his death sentence to be cancelled and for his release. We are also very concerned about the reports of his severely deteriorating health, and call for his immediate access to medical care.

Take action:

- Send a letter to the Iranian Embassy in Sweden demanding that Djalali's execution be stopped and that he be reunited with his family. Embassy of Iran P.O. Box 6031 181 06 Lidingö, Sweden
- Also send an email to the Iranian Embassy in Stockholm at iranemb.sto@mfa.gov.ir
- Write solidarity greetings. Send them to: Amnesty International, Attn: Maja Åberg Box 4719 116 92 Stockholm, Sweden.
- Raise your voice on social media!



Rocky Myers

Rocky Myers grew up in New Jersey, USA. He is described by those who know him as soft and kind. He loves his siblings, children and grandchildren and they adore him. When he was 11 years old, he was diagnosed with an intellectual disability which makes it more difficult for him to understand and process information, as well as reading difficulties. One night in 1991, his life changed forever in the town of Decatur, Alabama.

An elderly white woman was murdered in a predominantly black neighbourhood. Rocky, who is black himself, lived across the street. Despite the lack of evidence linking him to the murder scene, except for a stolen video recorder belonging to the victim that Rocky claims he found abandoned on the street, Rocky was convicted of the crime.

Myers was convicted by an almost all-white jury that sentenced him to life in prison without parole. Despite the jury's call for life imprisonment, the judge overruled the decision and ordered the death penalty - Overturning a jury's decision in this way is now illegal in Alabama, but it is not applied retroactively to people already on death row, like Rocky. Key testimony against him was characterised by conflicting information and alleged police pressure. Due to ineffective legal representation and being abandoned by his lawyer after the verdict, Rocky missed deadlines for appeals. His execution could be scheduled at any time, and his only hope is for the Governor of Alabama to grant him clemency.

Urge the Governor of Alabama to pardon Rocky Myers. Take action:

- ★ Write to the Governor of Alabama. Demand that they use their authority to grant clemency to Rocky Myers and commute his death sentence. (Example of what you can write: I urge you to use your power as Governor of Alabama to grant clemency to Rocky Myers and commute his death sentence.) *Governor of Alabama Kay Ivey, Office of the Governor of Alabama, 600 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery AL 36130, USA.*
 - Email: info@governor.alabama.gov (Greetings, Dear Governor)
- ★ Send solidarity greetings on postcards with beautiful places on them to Rocky (keep messages short as he has difficulty reading).
 - Address: Rocky Myers, AIS 0000Z563 Holman Correctional Facility, M-44 Holman 3700 866 Ross Road Atmore, AL 36503 USA.

Please add your full address to ensure that the prison authorities allow Mr Rocky to receive his mail.

Karin Ledin Da Rosa, karin.darosa@amnesty.se

Maja Åberg, maja.aberg@amnesty.se

START PLANNING FOR WRITE FOR RIGHTS

It's almost time for Write for rights- Amnesty's annual global human rights campaign that mobilises thousands to create change! As usual we are campaigning in solidarity for people whose human rights have been violated in order to change their and others' situations around the world.

We haven't yet decided on the number of individual cases or finalised the material, but that doesn't stop you from starting to plan your action today! The Activist Portal has a Manual on Outreach Activism where you will find lots of tips and tricks, ranging from planning meetings, applying for police permits to attracting attention. Once you've started planning, don't forget to apply for an activity grant (via the activist portal) to cover the costs incurred in connection with your action.

The background

Write for Rights started 22 years ago in Poland when a group of friends collected millions of letters, tweets and signatures during a 24-hour letter-writing marathon and has grown to become the world's largest human rights campaign. Each year the campaign offers a lifeline to people around the world whose human rights are under attack for challenging inequality, discrimination, oppression and standing up for their rights! Together, Amnesty activists from around the world come together in a unified voice and global solidarity to challenge injustice. Every year, thousands of people around the world mobilise and organise themselves to write millions of letters, postcards, tweets and Facebook posts in support of those whose human rights are under threat.

If you have any questions about the campaign or want to discuss campaign ideas, please contact us!

Agneta Khan, agneta.khan@amnesty.se

Karin Ledin da Rosa, karin.darosa@amnesty.se

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

During the annual meeting on 6-7 May, it was decided that the districts will be phased out and that local associations will be introduced within Amnesty Sweden. The local associations that are formed will mostly be based on a municipality and be a form for local groups and activists to cooperate.

We are now in the first stage, which is to produce standard statutes, guides and set a good foundation for the local associations that are formed during the pilot activities. We are

evaluating and adjusting as we go along so that we can jointly find a working method that facilitates and lowers thresholds for activists and groups.

During the autumn, we will also make a survey of which districts, groups and activists who want to form local associations around the country, as well as who want to be included in the pilot activities.

In the Secretariat's ongoing work with local associations, there is also a focus group that currently consists of three activists from different parts of the country. Do you have thoughts and ideas you want to put forward? Then you have the opportunity to join the focus group. [Register your interest here](#) and we will contact you!

Nathalie Parra Jakupovic, nathalie.parra-jakupovic@amnesty.se

ACTIVIST SEMINAR 2023 – GET READY!



Activist seminar 2022, Photo: Amnesty

It is time for one of the highlights of the year, the activist seminar and national youth meeting. We gather to meet in the commitment we all feel for the fight for everyone's equal rights. This year's theme is **building an unstoppable movement!**

This year we are taking another step towards becoming an even more representative and united movement by synchronising the seminar entirely with the autumn National Youth Meeting. For this to succeed, the Youth Council and the Student Council will be part of the planning and together with the evaluation from last year we hope to organise an even better seminar. In order to welcome our English-speaking activists, parts of the programme will be held in English.

We will focus more on participation and conversation; the seminar will therefore include more workshops and opportunities for conversation. The schedule is not set yet, but this will be included:

- ★ **Engaging more** - how do we create even better local presence and visibility?
- ★ **Young people's voices** - lessons learnt from the youth and student movement and how do we become a stronger movement among young people?

- ★ **New values** - how can we create a safer, more inclusive and equal organisational culture?
- ★ **Plan of action 2024-2025** - what are our prioritised HR issues for the next 2 years?

When? November 11 - 12

Where? Globala gymnasiet, Stockholm

How? Register now! The deadline for registration is **October 1***

*OBS! Registration deadline for youth activists is October 10th. See separate registration forms below.

***The Swedish section is responsible for travelling and accommodation if you need it, please indicate this in your registration.**

***Registration for activists from labour and student groups (HERE).**

***Registration for youth activists (HERE).**

Hope to see you there!

Marianne Gyllenpistol, marianne.gyllenpistol@amnesty.se

TIME TO NOMINATE FOR THE ACTIVIST AWARDS

For this year's annual meeting, it was planned to award the activist prizes, but this has been postponed until the activist seminar in November. Before the annual meeting in 2016, the section established three prizes for activists and groups to highlight particularly strong human rights commitment. As 2023 will soon be over, the awards will be based on both 2022 and up to and including August 2023! Categories are:

- **Activity:** Best activity on one of the Section's prioritised human rights issues. A good activity focuses on impact, dissemination and engagement.
- **Most creative campaign idea:** The award recognises creative ideas to spread within the movement, to inspire new thinking and strong activism.
- **Fiery soul:** Awarded to an individual who has put their heart, soul and time into Amnesty. The award is not limited to a lifetime award.

A nomination should include the following:

- Name of the group/activist you wish to nominate.
- Description of the activity and/or the person's involvement
- A short justification as to why you think this particular activity/activist/group should be awarded the prize.

Make sure to submit your nomination to clara-nishani.holm@amnesty.se as soon as possible but no later than 1 October.

WORKSHOP ON AMNESTY'S VALUES

We are now taking big steps towards becoming a more inclusive, safe and equal organisation, and to do so we need a solid set of values to stand on. In this work, it is important to have as many perspectives as possible, so we welcome all activists, but encourage group secretaries, to participate in this work by coming to a digital workshop on our culture and values!

During the workshop, we will explore together the different building blocks that make up our culture and, above all, focus on what we should DO to live the culture that we jointly strive for. No preparatory work for the participants except that a few questions will be sent out before the workshop to get the opportunity to think.

The background

In Amnesty's work, the equal value of all people is a fundamental value. For us, it is important to ensure that this permeates the internal work and is complied with throughout the organisation, both in terms of employees and members. Within Amnesty, there are currently a number of scattered strategies and values to set the direction and ambition of the culture. However, there is no coherent framework that clarifies the whole and links it to our equality and anti-racist work. We therefore want to take the next step towards a common culture and clarify the work to keep our strategies together and bring them to life in order to create a safer and more inclusive organisational culture characterised by equality.

Registration, time and place

Digital workshop on **October 2 or October 5** at 18-20. Both workshops have the same structure, so sign up for one or both if you can, and you will be placed in the most suitable one based on the number of participants. Register no later than **September 19** via the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/DZ1XcRA79B>

More information and the meeting link will be sent out in good time before the workshop.

If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact:

Armina Etminan, Equality Strategist Amnesty Sweden

armina.etminan@amnesty.se

NEW PAGE FOR LOCAL GROUPS

We hope you all had a rewarding summer and are ready for the exciting challenges of the autumn. In the coming autumn term, we will be launching a new info page focusing on our fantastic local groups. This is part of our ongoing work to strengthen our local groups and increase co-operation between members across the country. The purpose of this page is simple: to make it even easier for our members and interested parties to find and engage with local groups in their neighbourhood.

What can you expect on the new info page?

- ★ **Local information:** The info page will summarise all our local groups, their meeting times and locations. This makes it easier than ever to join a local context that suits you.
- ★ **Focus areas:** Each group will present its specific focus areas and activities. This provides an opportunity to choose a group that works on issues you are passionate about.
- ★ **Contact person:** We will include the name and contact details of each locally responsible person. This way, members and interested parties can easily reach out and ask questions or express their interest.

To be part of this opportunity, please fill in a short form with information about your group. The form [can be found here](#). This is an entirely voluntary initiative, and no one is expected to participate unless they wish to. However, we strongly believe that this new resource can be useful both for those looking for a local group to join and for existing groups looking for new members.

We look forward to launching this new info page and hope that it will strengthen our community and help more people find their way to our local groups.

Mohammed Ryback, mohammed.ryback@amnesty.se

AN UPDATED ACTIVIST PORTAL

After listening to your feedback on the current Activist Portal, we are happy to announce that changes are coming. During the autumn, we will be making extensive improvements to the portal to make it more user-friendly and accessible to all our activists. We have noticed that many of you have felt that the existing layout and navigation have not been optimal. We are now working to address these challenges.

The updates you can expect include:

- ★ Improved layout and navigation for a smoother user experience.
- ★ Simple and intuitive design to facilitate engagement in campaigns and activities.
- ★ Opportunities for greater cohesion among our activists.

Stay tuned for future updates and don't hesitate to share your thoughts and feedback.

Mohammed Ryback, mohammed.ryback@amnesty.se

GLOBAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE FROM THE BOARD



From the left: Anna Johansson (our general secretary), Mehjar Azzouz (board member) and Tanvir Mansur (board member) at the international annual meeting, Global Assembly, August 3- 6 in Brussel. Photo: Amnesty

Our international annual meeting, the **Global Assembly**, is a way for us to discuss how we can continue to be the world's largest human rights organisation, as a globally relevant movement. This year the Assembly was held in Brussels during August 3-6, where the Swedish delegation consisted of Mehjar Azzouz, Anna Johansson (our Secretary General) and Tanvir Mansur (Board member). During the international annual meeting in 2022, it was decided that motions should only be submitted every other annual meeting, so this year we had no motions. This annual meeting focused on discussing and developing previous annual meeting decisions, trends within the organisation and the future of the organisation.

Major processes to **improve our organisation** has begun. Two major ones are a project to review how we can distribute funds more fairly globally ("Equitable distribution of funds" project) and another to review our global organisation and governance (the LUMEN project). Today we give a large part of our funds to the global movement, but we see a global benefit in increasing the distribution of funds and doing it in a different way. Distributing our financial resources more equally will ultimately lead to a more effective fight for human rights. The measures proposed include establishing a **new post-colonial narrative** about Amnesty's funding, with new concepts and new terminology that moves away from "donors" and "recipients". Discussions centred on decision-making processes, other sources of funding not currently used globally, and equitable funding principles. LUMEN is about reviewing our global organisational structure on several levels, for example with the objectives of simplifying governance processes, increasing **sustainability** and reducing climate footprint, and ensuring sustainable use of resources. We discussed how to take forward the project and challenges that exist today, such as the tension between working in global solidarity and being relevant locally.

We also discussed **youth activism** that must be strengthened in our movement and young people must be represented at all levels of the organisation – since young people are the root to our organisation. We discussed how the implementation of our global strategy is going, how to use digital activism, for example in places where we have had to shut down such as Hong Kong. Further we spoke about the link between democracy and human rights, our future work on migration where we will focus on a more structural level than before, the importance of fighting for racial justice and how we implement feminist leadership in our organisation.

We will always continue our human rights work. To all members, together we are a global movement. Together we must change to change the world. **Together we make a difference.**

Mehjar Azzouz, board member of the Swedish section



Pictures from Pride in Västerås, Malmö and Gothenburg this year. Photo: Amnesty

NEW EDITOR

My name is **Nishani** and I am the new editor of Insats. Please contact me directly if you have any thoughts, concerns or ideas as I would love to know what you think about Insats. Contact me at: clara-nishani.holm@amnesty.se

