



INSATS October (NR.6) ENGLISH SUMMARY

CALENDAR

- **September 28: International Abortion Rights Day**
- **28/9 Open house*, theme: Abortion Rights Day**
- **October 1: Regional youth meeting in Stockholm**
- **October 8: Regional youth meeting in Gothenburg**
- **October 10: International Day against the Death Penalty**
- **October 23-29: Justyna Wydrzyńska visits Sweden**
- **26/10 Open house*, theme: International day against the death penalty**
- **October 28: Digital group secretary course**
- **November 11 - 12: Activist Seminar 2023**
- **November 29: Write for Rights campaign launch**
- **30/11 Open house*, theme: Write for Rights**

*** Gothenburg, Stockholm and Malmö**

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2023



Ahmed Mansoor



Justyna Wydrzyńska



Maung Sawyeddollah



Uncle Pabai och Uncle Paul



This year we are campaigning for four people who fight for human rights in different ways. The campaign period is between November 6 and December 31. Though we recommend highlighting November 29 (International Day for Female human rights defenders) and December 10 (International Human Rights Day). Check out the activist portal that soon will be filled with material and more information about the people we've chosen for this campaign and register to get the material!

The cases:

Ahmed Mansoor

Ahmed Mansoor is a beloved father and husband. He is a poet, blogger and human rights defender. Prior to his arrest, Mr Mansoor was one of the few voices in the United Arab Emirates speaking out to the rest of the world about human rights violations in the country. He regularly raised concerns about imprisonment, torture and unfair trials of political dissidents. Now Mansoor is also locked up and held in isolation, even without access to a bed.

Amnesty is demanding that:

The United Arab Emirates immediately release Ahmed Mansoor.

Justyna Wydrzyńska

Justyna Wydrzyńska is one of the founders of the Abortion Dream Team, a Polish activist collective that works against the stigma of abortion and offers information and non-judgmental advice on safe abortion. Ms Wydrzyńska helped a woman access a safe abortion by sending

her own abortion pills to the woman in the post. The woman's partner was violent and unwanted pregnancy. It is a criminal offence in Poland to help a woman get access to an abortion unless the pregnancy is the result of incest or rape or if the pregnancy is a danger to the woman's life. Wydrzyńska has now been convicted of aiding and abortion, which means that a dangerous precedent has been created and that it is now even more difficult for those who are in need of safe abortion.

Amnesty demands that:

The prosecutor takes all possible steps to ensure that Justyna Wydrzyńska's unjust sentence is overturned.

Maung Sawyeddollah

Maung Sawyeddollah was 15 years old when Myanmar's military carried out a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya people. Facebook's algorithms intensified messages that helped fuel hatred of the Rohingya, contributing to the conditions that forced the group to flee Myanmar. Sawyeddollah and his family fled for their lives to the Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh. He and others from his community are calling on Meta (Facebook) to pay compensation for its role in the atrocities. Including by funding education programmes in Cox's Bazar.

Amnesty demands that:

Meta should immediately redress and compensate Sawyeddollah and the Rohingya people.

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul's ancestors have lived on the northernmost remote islands of Australia's Torres Strait for thousands of years. As indigenous people, they are deeply rooted to the land, sea and sky, and climate change threatens their entire way of life. If the islands become uninhabitable, they will be forced to cut ties with their past and leave their home. Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul have now turned to the legal system. They believe the Australian government has not taken enough action to prevent the damage caused by climate change, which is destroying their home and culture.

Amnesty is demanding that:

Australia take action on climate change

MATERIAL AND REGISTRATION

This year's material consists of A3 posters related to each case, information sheets on the cases, and postcards. Petition lists can be printed out via the activist portal. The Activist Portal will be filled with other materials related to the cases, such as videos, images, sample letters and other useful materials that can be used during your campaign.

To register and order materials for this year's campaign, [please use this form](#). Expect it to take at least two weeks to receive the materials from the time you order, so order your materials well in advance of your action!

If there is anything you are missing or anything you are wondering about, please contact me!

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

🧨 ACTIVIST SEMINAR 2023 – GET READY! 🧨

It's almost time again, this year's Activist Seminar!

The arrangement for this year is planned in consultation with the student council and the youth council as we completely merge the national youth meeting with the activist seminar to create a common and inclusive weekend together. We hope that you and/or someone from your group would like to participate on **11 - 12 November**! This year's theme is "**An unstoppable movement**", a detailed schedule will come soon. Here is a rough outline of the weekend's sessions:



★ **HR issues for the next two years:**

- The right to protest - what does freedom of expression look like in Sweden today?
- Refugee and migration work - focus on Europe
- Climate justice - a Nordic project "Just transition in Sápmi" on the green colonisation of Sápmi.

★ **Resilience - the importance of mental health**

★ **Activism through life - how to build bridges between young and old.**

★ **Power sharing and the path to a more activist-led organisation**

★ **Open space** - choose the theme you want to talk about - find like-minded people!

★ **International youth work** - how you can meet Amnesty activists in other countries?

★ **Speaker:** Imoleayo Michael from Nigeria - the 2021 Write for Freedom case tells his story in Stockholm.

Amnesty provides food throughout the weekend as well as travel and accommodation for those who need it. The food served is vegetarian.

Sign up already now, so that we can book travel and hotels for those who need it, [the last day for registration is October 1](#) so hurry and sign up before the seats run out!

Where:

Globala gymnasiet, Stockholm

When:

11-12 November

How:

Register today using the correct form below, **NO LATER THAN 1 October**.

[Registration for work and student groups](#), no later than 1 October

[Registration for youth activists](#), no later than 10 October

Please spread the word to all your Amnesty friends! Questions or concerns? Feel free to contact.

Hope to see you there!

Marianne Gyllenpistol, marianne.gyllenpistol@amnesty.se

DON'T FORGET TO NOMINATE FOR THE ACTIVIST AWARDS

If you know of an activist or activity that is worthy of recognition - nominate them as soon as possible as it is high time to nominate! Remember that nominations are valid throughout 2022 and until August 2023.

The categories are:

- ★ **GREAT CREATIVITY AWARD:** This award will recognise creative ideas to spread within the movement, to spread strong and innovative activism.
- ★ **GRAND ACTIVIST PRIZE:** This prize is awarded to the best activity within one of the section's prioritised human rights issues. Impact, engagement and dissemination is what a good activity focuses on!
- ★ **GREAT COMMITMENT AWARD:** Awarded to a person who has put their heart, time and soul into Amnesty. The award is a lifetime award.

The nomination should include:

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

Send your nomination to clara-nishani.holm@amnesty.se by 1 October.

OCTOBER 10 – TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY



The International Day against the Death Penalty occurs on 10 October every year and it is a natural day for us as a movement to stand up against the death penalty. This year we are campaigning for the Swedish-Iranian Ahmadreza Djalali and the American Rocky Myers, both of whom have been sentenced to the death penalty.

More information, posters, petition lists and a general information sheet on the death penalty can be printed out from [activist portal](#).

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about 10 October.

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

WEBINAR ON WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

On the occasion of the International Day against the Death Penalty, Amnesty's Health Group invites you to a webinar on the death penalty in the world.

The webinar is organised in cooperation with Amnesty's health groups in Denmark, Germany and Austria, and will be held in English.

Participants:

Lars-Åke Augustsson, Sweden: The death penalty in the US as part of the "culture war"

Siroos Mirzaei, Austria: The death penalty in Iran

Jacob Mertz, Denmark: Amnesty's health care groups' work against the death penalty, how and why?

Marianne Kastrup, Denmark: Psychiatric aspects of the death penalty.

Moderator: **Maja Åberg**, expert, Amnesty Sweden

Date: 10 October 2023

Time: 19.00-20.30

Location: Digital

A warm welcome!

Register by emailing
sofia.bachman@amnesty.se

TAKE ACTION FOR DR. GUBAD



Urgent actions are urgent cases where there is an immediate danger and it has been judged that multiple and rapid appeals can have a positive impact on the case. Some of these are listed [HERE](#), but there are more than we can list. Some amnesty groups are already getting flash appeals sent to them, often in a specific area such as the death penalty.

Dr Gubad who is imprisoned in Azerbaijan, his detention is based on false accusations and he suffers from severe health problems in prison. Dr Gubad's birthday was on 12 September. On the same day, Amnesty launched a birthday campaign calling for his release.

Dr Gubad's daughter, Zhala, has spent the last few years in Lund for her studies. She is keen to join this campaign. Below is a widow of the lightning strike and an appeal from Zhala:

"I'm Dr Gubad's child and a human rights lawyer. My father is unjustly detained, facing a life-threatening situation due to heart disease. Azerbaijani government has invaded our privacy, harassed me for my activism, even searched my brother's room in the USA. My mother was physically abused. Please help us save Dr Gubad!"

[**CLICK HERE to read more and to see the urgent action!**](#)

If you want to know more about Dr Gubad or get in touch with Zhala, please contact [**emma.olsson@amnesty.se**](mailto:emma.olsson@amnesty.se).

If there is a group that would like to have flash actions sent to them on a continuous basis, you are welcome to contact [**individfall@amnesty.se**](mailto:individfall@amnesty.se).

NEW IAR RESPONSIBLE

My name is Emma Olsson and since the beginning of August I have been responsible for the Swedish section's work with individuals and communities at risk or exposed to human rights violations (IAR).

Currently, 52 Amnesty groups work with and for 32 different individuals and communities. The groups work by writing letters to those in power, sending solidarity messages to rights holders and organising activities to highlight different situations. My role includes updating the groups if something happens to the individual they are working with, brainstorming ideas for activities and liaising with the IAR staff at our international secretariat regarding targets for our advocacy.

Some individuals, unfortunately, groups have had to work with for many years, while in other cases we have received good news that the individuals concerned are no longer at risk of human rights violations. It is always difficult to say how much of a difference each activity makes. What is certain is that our work gives the rights holders we work with courage and strength in difficult situations, and that there are examples of differences made to the actual situation. It is also important to highlight and educate people about the violations that take place in the world.

If you have tried to contact us during the summer but have not received a reply, please get in touch again! If you have any questions about an individual or community we work with, or if your group would like to start engaging in this way, please contact me through this email: indivdifall@amnesty.se

Emma Olsson

IAR responsible

emma.olsson@amnesty.se

JUSTYNA VISITS SWEDEN



We remind you that Polish abortion rights activist Justyna Wydrzyńska is coming to Sweden on 23-27 October. We are excited about her visit to Sweden, which is one of many countries she will visit in the autumn. She will also visit Spain, Iceland and South Korea. In Sweden, she will visit the following cities: Malmö, Lund, Gothenburg and Stockholm.

If you live in or near one of these cities, you can register your interest via the form below and receive updated information as soon as the schedule is finalised. Or maybe you would like to be involved in the planning of Justyna's visit to one of the cities?

[Fill in this form!](#)

Marianne Gyllenpistol, marianne.gyllenpistol@amnesty.se

RECRUITMENT FOR LOCAL GROUPS



Photo: Amnesty International Sweden

Autumn means new beginnings for many, which means a golden opportunity for all of us to recruit! Maybe you need more people to join your local group? The more of us there are, the more opportunity we have to make an impact.

Do you, your group or your district want to participate in the autumn recruitment drive?

Get in touch with Ellinor Chamoun at ellinor.chamoun@amnesty.se

THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S CORNER

From the climate demonstration in Stockholm

Photo: Hilda Forsell, Amnesty International Swede

At the end of August, activists, staff and members met to discuss the concept of 'People Power'. Amnesty defines People Power as the collective, inherent power of people acting together for human rights. We arrived at a number of common conclusions: It is important that Amnesty Sweden is a credible ally and partner that amplifies the voices of others in the fight for human rights. We also need to create more opportunities for members and activists to engage, feel ownership and exercise influence.

This week, Amnesty Sweden has participated in several different demonstrations. We have demonstrated against the information obligation for public employees, which would force teachers, health workers and social workers to report undocumented persons. We have demonstrated in favour of a new gender identity law that makes it easier for trans people to change their legal gender. We have demonstrated in favour of a rapid and fair climate transition that does not reinforce inequalities within and between countries.

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Amnesty Sweden has not initiated any of the demonstrations in which we have participated. We are simply practising being a credible ally and partner, who backs and supports others. Who are not always the most visible or at the forefront. Who participate on the terms and conditions of others.

This is how we strengthen the human rights movement in Sweden, together. And at the same time experience the inherent power of acting together for human rights. Simply put, Power to the People!

Anna Johansson

General Secretary at Amnesty Sweden

anna.johansson@amnesty.se



AS I SEE IT....



"I don't like it when people say 'youth are the future', because our relevance is not just in the distance – we are here now " my team colleague Alessandro declared in the introduction during this year's European Youth Meeting (EYM). Alessandro's statement highlights the relevance of youth activism and sets the stage for a closer look at what this activism entails and the opportunities it offers within Amnesty International.

Youth activism is a big part of the Swedish Amnesty movement. We mainly organize in high-school groups, represented on a national level by the national Youth Council, as well as in university groups, represented by the Student Council. Our activities range from film

screenings to protests, often in coordination with other youth and student-led organizations. Our reach even extends beyond Swedish borders as we actively collaborate with other Amnesty youth groups across Europe. A central driver for these collaborations is Amnesty's EYM. Once a year, this opportunity offers around 40 youth activists the chance to travel to a European country and engage in a week-long program filled with action-planning, skill-sharing and networking opportunities.

After joining 2022 as a participant in Poland and as an organizer this year in Italy, the EYM is very meaningful to me. It enabled me to connect with other youth activists and overall made me grow as a person, activist and leader. It exposed me to various perspectives, learning about fellow young people's fights for justice in their countries, the challenges they face and their resilience in not backing down. The EYM also provides a platform to openly discuss shared challenges. Youth activists talk about feeling alone and burned-out, experiences of being belittled and patronized due to their age and the dismissal of their perspectives and ideas. Feeling supported and connected are essential for activists to stay resilient and spaces like the EYM play a crucial role in strengthening this sense of community.

The youth networks that grow out of the EYM are impactful: an example of their potential is the European Border Action, an initiative by youth activists protesting European border violence. In 2022, it unfolded across more than 17 cities and was repeated on World Refugee Day in 2023. This February, the Swedish Student Council organized a national student gathering which ended with an abortion rights action that, through the help of the European Youth Network, took place across different European cities as a lead-up to International Women's Day. These examples illustrate what is possible when youth activists receive the platform, tools, trust and resources to organize and mobilize.

To sustain and amplify the impact of youth activism in Amnesty Sweden, we need to strengthen opportunities like the EYM and make them accessible to activists of all backgrounds and experience levels. We need to continue capacity-building initiatives, attentively listen to and center the needs of youth and student activists and empower them to take on leadership roles within our movement.

Maike Hansen

Student activist and member of the student council



5-10 September, youth activists from all over Europe met in Bologna, Italy for a week of international activism! The Swedish section was represented among both activists and leaders - hear more about this at the Activist Seminar!

On 25-27 August, youth activists from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland gathered in Stockholm to workshop a new proposal for Nordic youth cooperation and activism! The weekend was full of wise and inspiring thoughts, experience exchanges and ideas that resulted in a new way for Nordic youth activists to work together that you will soon see more of - stay tuned!

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

