

May/June 2008



AI News

Amnesty International Formby and Southport Group

Next Meetings: UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE, ALL MEETINGS 7:30PM FOR 7:45PM AT CLARENCE HIGH SCHOOL, WEST LANE, FORMBY.

Wednesday 18 June – letter writing

Wednesday 16 July – please let Emma know if you have any suggestions for this meeting (0151 293 8063).

Please come along and join us - all welcome. A membership form is at the bottom of the page.

Collection Dates:

The next collection is on Saturday 27 September in Crosby.

Please come along and support us!

Volunteers are required for all collection dates. Please contact Lou on 01704-540590 if you are able to help.

Formby street collection - 24 May 2008

The group collected over £420, about the same as last year, thus maintaining the big improvement over previous collections in Formby. Many thanks to all participants.



Annual General Meeting

This took place on 21 May. Following the meeting, the group's committee is unchanged and is as follows:

Chair: Emma Carrington
Treasurer: Lou Simans
Secretary and membership: Brian Plant
Publicity: John Kirby
Newsletter editor: Anna Williams

Membership Application Form

I would like to apply for membership of the Formby & Southport Amnesty International Group.

Name	Address	Telephone No.	Email address

Membership rates: Yearly £5.00; Family £8; unwaged and concessions £2.00 Runs from January – December 2008.

Please make cheques payable to Formby & Southport AI Group. (Do not send cash in post.)

Address: Brian Plant, 8 Channel Reach, Crosby, L23 6TA. Tel: 0151 924 7722

Please tick the box if you are willing to receive the Newsletter by e-mail. Please note this will help us to reduce our costs! Thank you.

E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR SECRETARY

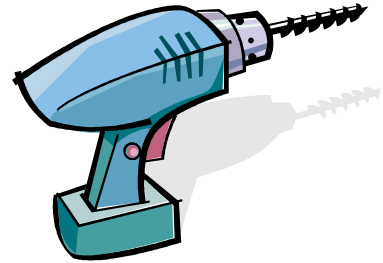
Any members with an e-mail address, who have not yet let Emma/ Brian know, please contact us on:

formby.amnesty@googlemail.com

It saves the Group unnecessary stamp money and it means you get the newsletter within seconds of completion AND in glorious technicolour! Thank you to those who have already made contact regarding e-mail addresses. It is much appreciated!

Flea market Old Christchurch, Waterloo 3 May 2008

Thanks to Graham, Phil, Kathy Emma, Liz and young Henry who manned our stall at Old Christchurch, Waterloo on Saturday 3 May. I'm sure young Henry's smiles at would-be purchasers helped us to make the sum of £81.00 for our morning's efforts!



Our next flea market will be on Saturday 6 September. Help will be required from 9.00am to set up, with doors opening at 10.00am. The whole thing finishes at midday.

We need DIY tools, also locks, hinges and any other DIY items you may have lurking in your shed! Children's toys, books, cds and dvds, and plants go well.

We do not require clothes and shoes as these do not sell.

If you are able to help, or if you have items that we could sell **please contact Kathy** on 01704 872458 or **Emma** 0151 293 8063.

OTHER NEWS:

Pens



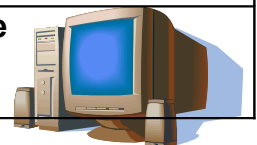
If you haven't been to the Group Meetings you may not know that we have some very stylish pens for sale. Personalised with Formby & Southport amnesty engraved on the side, these metallic blue pens are worth every penny of the £1.00 price!

If you would like a pen please ring **John or Sue** on 01704 567313

Fish & Chip supper evening

Due to the great success of these social evenings it is proposed to hold another fish & chip supper evening later in the year. Watch this space!

If you have not already visited **Mike Brandon's web site** <http://liverpoolamnesty.org.uk> this is an excellent source of information for Amnesty's local area news.



**INDIVIDUAL APPEAL
SAIDZHAKHON ZAINABITDINOV**

Uzbekistan, in Central Asia, has a grim reputation for the imprisonment, torture and murder of those who dissent in any way from President Karimov's dictatorial rule.

Saidzhakhon Zainabitdinov is Chair of a local human rights group and has often spoken out against the cruelties of Karimov's rule and, in May 2005, he provided an honest report on the Andijan massacre, in which security forces killed and wounded about 1,000 protestors. Since then he has been in jail.

Please write to President Karimov (address as below) - a rough outline is set out below but please feel free to put it in your own words.



**Islam A Karimov
President
Rezidentsia Prezidenta
ul. Uzbekistanskaia, 43
Tashkent 700163
Uzbekistan**

Dear President Karimov

SAIDZHAKHON ZAINABITDINOV

I am concerned that Mr Zainabitdinov was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment after a secret trial in January 2006; this violates Uzbekistan's international obligation to ensure free trials.

I would urge you to disclose the whereabouts of Mr Zainabitdinov and allow access to him by his relatives and his lawyers.

Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience and I support their demand for his immediate and unconditional release.

I would also like to support the call for an independent international investigation into reports that security forces fired indiscriminately at mainly peaceful demonstrators in Andizhan in May 2005.

I would finally urge you and your government to ensure that everyone, including human rights defenders, can peacefully exercise their right to freedom of expression in conformity with Article 19 of the ICCPR.

Yours sincerely

On 2 May Cyclone Nargis devastated Myanmar's Irrawaddy (Ayeyawady) Delta region. Tens of thousands were killed and over a million made homeless, without essential food, shelter or healthcare. The UN estimates that up to 2.5 million have been severely affected and urgently need relief to prevent more deaths and the spread of disease. A massive rehabilitation effort is needed in the months and even years ahead.

The Myanmar authorities maintain that they need no help in providing and distributing aid to victims. However, UN agencies and humanitarian organisations with expertise in natural disaster management say that a massive international relief effort was needed immediately after the cyclone, and what little aid is reaching victims now is nowhere near sufficient.

Amnesty International is also concerned that the Karen and other ethnic minorities living in the affected area may be discriminated against in the provision of relief aid. Widespread and systematic human rights violations against the Karen and other ethnic minorities in Myanmar have been well documented for decades.

Amnesty International fears that thousands more people will die from malnutrition, communicable diseases and exposure to the elements as a result of the Myanmar government's actions and omissions. In addition to the impact of this serious humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, there are wider regional implications, including on food security as the Irrawaddy Delta is a major rice-growing area, and displacement of people from Myanmar within the Southeast Asia Region.

Please write immediately to the Association of South East Asian Nations:

Dr Surin Pitsuwan
Secretary-General of ASEAN
ASEAN Secretariat
70A, Jalan Sisingamangaraja
Jakarta 12110
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 21 7398234, 7243504
Email: public@aseansec.org



Dear Secretary-General of ASEAN,

I am writing about the humanitarian and human rights crisis unfolding in Myanmar since Cyclone Nargis caused tens of thousands of deaths and devastated the Irrawaddy (Ayeyawady) Delta region. Up to 2.5 million people have been severely affected and made homeless without essential food, shelter or healthcare. Survivors and victims are not receiving the necessary relief, and it is feared that thousands more will die because of malnutrition, communicable diseases and exposure to the elements.

I welcome that ASEAN has formed an Emergency Rapid Assessment Team in response, and I am asking that ASEAN and the member states of ASEAN, collectively and individually, redouble efforts to use their influence and do their utmost to pressure and encourage the government of Myanmar to immediately end all obstructions placed in the way of international expert aid and assistance. A massive international relief effort is needed to get aid to those who are suffering hour by hour, to allow UN and NGO experts immediate unhindered access to the affected areas, in assisting the Myanmar authorities in protecting their people, and preventing this humanitarian and human rights crisis from deteriorating further. By deliberately blocking life-sustaining aid, the government of Myanmar may be violating the right of its population to life, and to adequate food and healthcare.

Some of the possible wider implications of this humanitarian and human rights crisis in Myanmar include rice shortages and massive displacement within the Southeast Asia region, which should be the concern of all ASEAN member states.

In signing the ASEAN Charter, all ASEAN member states undertook to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I hope you will give urgent consideration to these concerns.