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## News

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### April meeting report

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Our April meeting focussed on two of the group's ongoing campaigning work in North Africa.

#### Sudan

Firstly Linda gave an update of the situation in Sudan. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April marked the latest Global Day for Darfur, which this year highlighted the plight of children in Darfur. Of the 4 million people affected by the situation in the region, 1.8m are children, of whom 1 million have been displaced from their homes.

On the positive side, the UN has established primary schools in the refugee camps and 28% of the children now attend primary school, 46% of them girls. However there is no secondary schooling and many youths end up in armed gangs or as child soldiers.



African Union troops were finally deployed at the end of 2007 but they remain under-resourced and under-equipped so have little effect. The Sudanese government continues to arm the Janjawid militia with weapons supplied by China and a resolution seems a long way off.

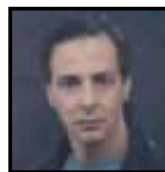
Amnesty is calling on the UN Security Council to insist that the Sudanese government immediately disarm the Janjawid militia, arrest them and prosecute them for the war crimes they are committing.

#### Algeria

Naomi then gave an update on Algeria. Amnesty's main focus for 2008 on the entire region is around the

response to the "war on terror." Many terror suspects face torture at the hands of government agencies, such as the military police (DRS) in Algeria.

Despite this, the UK continues to deport terror suspects to Jordan, Libya and Algeria on the basis of "diplomatic assurances" that torture will not be used. Amnesty believes that these are unreliable, unenforceable and undermine international agreements that prohibit torture.



We also continue to call for information about Djameleddine Fahassi, a journalist who "disappeared in Algeria in May 1995. We ending the meeting by signing cards for his wife and daughter Safia and Myriam.

### Planning meetings

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A reminder that as well as our monthly public meetings on the second Monday of the month, we also meet more informally on the fourth Monday of the month. This is at a member's house and is where we plan the campaigning activities of the group and agree the programme of meetings.

The next meeting on 28 April we look at the China campaign so if you would like to come along and get involved please [e-mail](#) for details of the venue.

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## Take Action

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### China Campaign

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Our next meeting in May will be on the China campaign. When China was awarded the Olympic Games, it promised to improve human rights. Time is now running out and China is failing to keep its promises. In fact the human rights situation is deteriorating because of the Olympics as China clamps down on human rights defenders and censorship of the internet.

To get involved with the campaign please come along to the next meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

For more details see the AIUK website at <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/china>

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### Call for a ban on cluster bombs

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2008 will see the conclusion of a new international treaty prohibiting the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions. Final treaty negotiations will take place in Dublin, Ireland, in May. The UK is supporting the treaty, but is attempting to negotiate loopholes for certain cluster weapons that it wished to keep. Such loopholes risk undermining the Treaty and exempting weapons that will still harm civilians.

Please write to your MP and the foreign secretary - further details are available on the [Amnesty UK website](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)

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## Next meetings

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Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Quaker Meeting House (downstairs meeting room), Charles Street, Cardiff city centre.

We now have a full programme of meetings planned through until the summer (see the website for details).

### May 12<sup>th</sup> 2008 China

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A look at human rights in China as we approach the Beijing Olympic Games

### June 9<sup>th</sup> 2008 Group AGM and Latest Issues

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Election of officers and brief AGM followed by a look at topical human rights issues

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## Contact Us

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If you would like to contact the Cardiff Group of Amnesty International please e-mail [amnesty.cardiff@btopenworld.com](mailto:amnesty.cardiff@btopenworld.com) or see our website at [www.amnestycardiff.org.uk](http://www.amnestycardiff.org.uk)