

TRUTH FOR GIULIO REGENI!

Amnesty International UK and University & College Union (UCU) campaigning together

BACKGROUND

Giulio Regeni, a post-graduate student at Cambridge University, disappeared on 25 January in Cairo, where he was researching independent trade unions for his PhD. On 3 February his body was found, bearing signs of severe torture which human rights groups say are the hallmarks of the Egyptian security forces. You can find out more about his case here: <http://appelli.amnesty.it/truth-for-giulio/>

The Egyptian government denies it had anything to do with his disappearance and murder. Yet what happened to Giulio was not an isolated incident. Amnesty International has exposed how Egypt's security services have 'disappeared' hundreds of people during the last year. For more information and a link to the full report:

www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/07/egypt-hundreds-disappeared-and-tortured-amid-wave-of-brutal-repression/

Amnesty International Italy established the Truth for Giulio campaign with the support of his parents. In Cambridge, hundreds have also taken part in protests or signed petitions in support of the campaign, bringing together the Amnesty City and Amnesty Student groups alongside college and other trade unions to create a truly City-wide campaign.

The University and College Union, which represents academics and professional staff across the UK in higher and further education, have adopted a policy to campaign for truth for Giulio and to expose human rights violations in Egypt, with a particular focus on enforced disappearances, and threats to academic freedom and freedom of expression. The Amnesty UK Student Action Network has also prioritised Giulio's case in their annual Write for Rights letter-writing campaign in November and December this year.

This Briefing sets out *practical* ways in which Amnesty UK's Student groups and UCU branches in university and college campuses can collaborate together to bring truth for Giulio and to hold the Egyptian authorities to account for wider human rights violations.

TAKE ACTION NOW

During the Write for Rights Campaign (November & December 2016), Amnesty Student groups and UCU branches are encouraged to:

1. Sign and promote on social media the Amnesty Italy Truth for Giulio online petition: <http://appelli.amnesty.it/truth-for-giulio/> use the hashtag #TruthforGiulio
2. Send a solidarity message to Giulio's family via the Amnesty Italy Office. You can find the address and can get guidance on suitable messages in Student Write for Rights Booklet and the Giulio case sheet which can be downloaded from www.amnesty.org.uk/write

CAMPUS CAMPAIGNS: TWO MONTHS OF ACTION: FEBRUARY 13 TO APRIL 13 2017

The Amnesty UK Student Action Network Committee and UCU representatives have agreed to promote two months of action on campuses across the country, bringing Amnesty student groups and UCU branches alongside the wider university and college communities.

This is a pre-briefing to notify you of plans. Participating UCU and Amnesty Student Groups will get a detailed campaign pack and resources ahead of the campaign launch.

We will launch the month of action at a joint evening event at the Human Rights Action Centre in London on **Monday 13 February** – a year since Giulio’s death and also the sixth anniversary of the Tahrir Square uprisings. This will be a public event so please **keep the date**. There will also be a public meeting in Cambridge. Details to follow.

Amnesty UK and the UCU have agreed to work together on the following two activities during the campus campaign:

1. a postcard signing-campaign calling for truth for Giulio and an end to enforced disappearances. The appeal will be addressed to the Egyptian authorities but will be returned to Amnesty UK for a later joint hand-in to the Embassy.
2. a collaborative photo action alongside a prominent landmark on your campus.
3. encourage your Student Union and other community unions to join in.

If there is not a partner UCU branch or Amnesty student group on your campus, we still encourage you to take action!

PRACTICALITIES

AIUK Student Groups can find out more, take action, and **pre-register for the campaign pack** at the AIUK Student Conference on 5 & 6 November. **We will also arrange for UCU branches to be able to register to get the campaign pack.**

UCU Branches can find details of their campus Amnesty group by checking your colleges’ directory of student societies. These are often online. You can find out whether there is a student group on your campus and get contact details via the Amnesty UK website:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/student-group-finder>

Amnesty UK’s community organiser (unions and workplaces), Shane Enright, for details:

shane.enright@amnesty.org.uk

Amnesty Student Groups can find out how to contact their local UCU branch by going to the following <https://www.ucu.org.uk/contacts> and putting their institution in the ‘Find your local contacts’ box.

Sign up for the campaign pack or find your local partner by contacting either of us:

Shane Enright Amnesty UK community organiser (unions and workplaces):

shane.enright@amnesty.org.uk

Rob Copeland, International Policy Officer at UCU: rcopeland@ucu.org.uk