



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

Remembering those experiencing injustice,

A time for contemplation.....

June 2020

“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners. And those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering.” Hebrews: 13:3

A special time is usually set aside in Bishop Alcock’s Chapel on the first Sunday of each month from 9.00 - 10.15am. Here we hold in mind or pray for the people whose cases are highlighted for the current month.

Though we cannot gather in person due to present circumstances, we invite you to remember the cases here and any others for whom you have a particular concern.

PALESTINE/ISRAEL: Arbitrary detention

Ubai Aboudi is the director of a prominent Palestinian NGO the Bisan Centre for Research and Development. He was due to attend the Third International Meeting for Science in Palestine in the USA in January. But on 13 November at about 03:00, at least 10 Israeli soldiers entered his home in Kufr Aqab and detained him in front of his wife and children. On 18 November, he was issued a four-month administrative detention order, which can be renewed indefinitely using secret evidence, meaning detainees cannot effectively challenge their detention.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Ubai Aboudi as he remains in detention, not knowing why – or when he might be released
- That the Israeli authorities either charge him with an internationally recognisable offence and set a date for a trial - or set him free
- That Israel ceases the use of administrative detention orders

UK: “Intimidation” of NHS whistleblowers

Hospital whistleblowers say they have been “intimidated” by senior managers for raising concerns about shortages of personal protective equipment. A BBC Newsnight investigation in mid-May featured some of the latest cases – including one anonymous doctor taken before a panel of senior managers and told “stop causing a fuss”. Others reported being accused of scaremongering by senior managers if they raised the issue, especially on social media. More than 100 healthcare workers have contacted WhistleblowersUK about the issue.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For NHS healthcare workers to be allowed to speak up about safety concerns without fear of being gagged or of losing their jobs
- That NHS managers will cease attempts to silence their legitimate concerns
- That all NHS hospitals adopt and apply the national integrated whistleblowing policy as required by NHS England

JORDAN: “Blasphemy” charges for teen refugee

Tujan al-Bukhaiti is a 17-year-old Yemeni refugee who has been charged with “blasphemy” and “insulting religious figures” over social media posts, including ones from her father which she had shared. As a result, she was banned from attending her school in December. She refused to delete the posts, citing her right to freedom of expression. The 17-year-old was questioned by police without her parents or a lawyer present. Her trial, in an adult court, began in January but has been postponed three times. She faces a month in jail if found guilty.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Tujan al-Bukhaiti as she awaits trial
- That the Jordanian authorities drop this case against a minor
- That the Jordanian authorities respect its residents’ right to freedom of expression

Good news from Russia!

Russian women’s and LGBTI rights activist Yulia Tsvetkova has been released from house arrest. She has been targeted by an overtly homophobic campaign since March 2019. The artist was put under house arrest accused of disseminating pornographic images, after sharing on social media body positive drawings of women’s bodies. Amnesty will continue to campaign for the charges against her to be dropped.

Sources for cases: Amnesty International UK, BBC

'I pray for all of us, oppressor and friend, that together we may succeed in building a better world, through human understanding and love, and that in doing so we may reduce the pain and suffering of all sentient beings.'

Dalai Lama XIV

"To clasp one's hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

Please take this sheet away with you and use it in prayer or meditation, and any action you feel and find possible.

Your local Amnesty group can be contacted at

www.amnestyelycity.org.uk

ELY AMNESTY NEWS

All of our forthcoming events and regular meetings have been postponed or cancelled until further notice due to the Coronavirus / COVID-19 outbreak.

If you are interested in what we normally do, or would like to find out ways that you can continue to support Amnesty from home, then please feel free to get in touch with us through the above website.