



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

**Remembering those experiencing injustice,
A time for contemplation.....**

August 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.

TURKEY: Amnesty activists convicted

Four human rights activists in Turkey have been found guilty of terrorism-related charges in a politically motivated trial cooked up in the wake of the 2016 abortive coup attempt against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Taner Kilic, former chair of Amnesty Turkey, was sentenced to more than six years in jail, while former Amnesty Turkey director Idil Eser and activists Ozlem Dalkiran and Gunal Kursun were given 25 months each. Seven other activists were acquitted. The Turkish state has criminalised the act of standing up for human rights. The convicted four have not been detained and Amnesty International plans to support them through their appeal.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the four activists as they continue to fight these bogus charges
- For Turkey to stop its campaign against human rights activists
- That the Turkish state will drop this case

CHINA: Arrests under controversial Hong Kong law

Within days of China introducing a new national security law, several activists in Hong Kong were arrested. Details of the law were not released until after it had been approved by Beijing. It criminalises secession, subversion and collusion with foreign forces, as well as curtailing protests and freedom of speech. Those found guilty could be sentenced to up to life imprisonment. For many, the law undermines the freedoms of Hong Kong's Basic Law, agreed when the territory returned to China from the UK in 1997, which help set it apart from China – freedoms such as free speech, the right to protest and an entirely independent judiciary.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Hong Kong's human rights defenders, now facing greater risks
- For those arrested in the first crackdown
- That China respect Hong Kong's freedoms

TANZANIA: Criminalising laughter

Comedian Idris Sultan is facing legal charges in Tanzania for offences linked to the ownership of a SIM card. The charges were brought after social media footage of him laughing at an old photo of the president John Magufuli wearing an oversized suit went viral. He was initially held on 17 May and bailed on 27 May. It is evident the Tanzanian authorities do not have a legitimate case against him and are harassing him because his humour offended them.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Idris Sultan as he awaits the legal outcome of these trumped-up charges
- For the Tanzanian authorities to drop the charges
- For Tanzania to respect its citizens' right to freedom of expression

Good news!

A judicial review in Belfast has quashed the warrant authorising police raids on the homes of investigative journalists Trevor Birney and Barry McCaffrey. They were arrested in connection with their documentary 'No Stone Unturned', which investigated the murder of six men in a bar in Loughinisland in 1994. No one has been brought to justice for the killings. Northern Ireland's Lord Chief Justice has set out guidance to prevent police from attempting to interfere with press freedom in the future.

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.amnestelycity.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.