



# AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

**August 2021**

**“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.*

## **USA: 27 years on death row**

A Black man accused of stabbing two women during a burglary, one of whom afterwards died, has just marked his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on death row in Alabama. Rocky Myers, who has an intellectual disability, has always denied the charge. No forensic evidence links him to the crime scene, the victims described a man wearing completely different clothes and key testimonies against him were tainted by inconsistencies and allegations of police pressure. He was convicted by a mostly white jury and the lead defence attorney had a public connection with the white supremacist group the Ku Klux Klan. The jury recommended he be sentenced to life without parole, but the judge overrode this and sentenced him to death. He missed the deadline to appeal after his post-conviction lawyer abandoned his case without notice.

Please hold in mind or pray for:

- The inconsistencies in his conviction to be examined
- The governor of Alabama to commute his sentence to life
- Rocky as he continues in his incarceration

## **Morocco: Journalist jailed after unfair trial**

Leading Moroccan investigative journalist Omar Radi has been sentenced to six years in prison in a trial marred by blatant breaches of due process. Omar is one of the founders of Le Desk, an independent news website, and his journalism focuses on politics - and corruption by the authorities. In July last year, he was charged with “harming the internal and external security of Morocco” after accepting funding for a journalism fellowship. He was also accused of raping a former colleague, which he denied, and the allegation should have been properly investigated, which it was not. He and his legal team were denied the right to provide a proper defence, denied the chance to see the evidence against him and all requests to call defence witnesses were also denied.

Please hold in mind or pray for:

- Omar Radi as he begins his sentence after a year held in solitary confinement
- The Moroccan authorities to quash his conviction and allow him a fair retrial
- The Moroccan authorities to stop trying to muzzle the free press

## **Ethiopia: Arbitrary arrest of Tigrayan activists**

Hundreds of journalists and activists and others remain in custody following the recapture by Ethiopian forces of the Tigray region's capital Mekelle from the Tigray People's Liberation Front. The arrests appear ethnically motivated, according to witnesses who have since been released. Fourteen of them have described to Amnesty the targeting of Tigrayan businesses and the checking of Ethiopian ID cards, which have to identify the ethnicity of the holder, prior to the arrests. Ethiopian law requires police to present detainees to court within 48 hours of arrest to review the grounds of that arrest. This is seen as a safeguard against torture and enforced disappearance. Instead the whereabouts of hundreds of detainees remains unknown.

Please hold in mind or pray for:

- All the people caught up in these arrests and their anxious families
- The Ethiopian authorities to enforce their own law and either produce the detainees at court and explain the grounds of their arrest or to release them all

### **Good News!**

One of the most prominent faces of the 2011 revolution in Egypt has been released from jail. Esraa Abdel Fattah, 43, is an activist and journalist who has spent almost two years in detention after being arrested in 2019. The Nobel Peace Prize nominee was charged with "spreading false news" and collaboration with a terrorist group. She alleged torture while in prison and went on hunger strike in protest. Her case attracted international condemnation.

**Sources for cases:** Amnesty International

'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 keep this sheet to hand 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](http://www.amnestyelycity.org.uk)

## ELY AMNESTY NEWS

We are cautiously meeting in person rather than on Zoom for our next monthly planning meeting. It will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 3 August 2021 in St Peter's House, Broad Street, Ely, CB7 4AH. We hope to hold our September meeting there on 7 September. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Join us for a relaxed afternoon of country/rock on Saturday 14 August, when local artists Little Band in the Corner, Matt Everett, Kill Me Kate and The Fabs will come together in a fund-raiser for Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust. The concert will be held in the lovely gardens of Haddenham Arts Centre. Music will start at 3.30pm and continue until 7.00. The café will be open and has a fully licenced bar. You can book a cream tea in advance (£5 each/£8 for two) direct from Haddenham Arts Centre or bring your own picnic (no glasses or bottles please). Tickets are available in person from Haddenham Arts Centre and Burrows Newsagents, 1a High Street, Ely or <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/515642>. Advance adult tickets are £12 and accompanied under 16s £6. On the gate, if available, £15/£8.