



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

July 2022

“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

Once again, a special time has been set aside in Bishop Alcock's Chapel between the two morning services on the first Sunday of each month from 9.00am to 10.15am. Here we can hold in mind or pray for the people whose cases are highlighted for the current month. This meditation is open to those of all faiths and none.

Malawi: Abductions and murder

People with albinism are constantly at risk of being attacked and killed in Malawi, with their body parts sold for ritual purposes. And children are particularly at risk. Last year 20-year-old Ian Muhamba disappeared and his buried remains were later discovered with body parts missing; in January Saidi Dyton, 26, was abducted and killed; in February a 12-year-old girl narrowly survived abduction after two assailants broke into her home. The bones of people with albinism are sold to practitioners of traditional medicine in Malawi and Mozambique for use in charms associated with wealth and good luck. The safety of people with albinism is further jeopardised by the failure of the authorities to prevent attacks and investigate past abductions and killings.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Malawi authorities to protect people with albinism from violence
- For the Malawi authorities to investigate past abductions, killings and other attacks
- For those believed to be responsible to be tried fairly and, if found guilty, for their punishment to match the gravity of the offence

Saudi Arabia: Arbitrary travel bans

Raif Badawi – a blogger and activist whose case we often wrote about during his 10-year prison sentence – has been released from jail. However, the Saudi authorities issued him with a 10-year travel ban, preventing him from seeing his wife and children who live abroad. This is not unusual – Amnesty International’s Let Them Fly campaign documents the cases of 30 Saudi Arabian activists, writers and journalists, sentenced after grossly unfair trials, who have been slapped with travel bans as soon as they complete their sentences. A further 39 cases target relatives of activists. The authorities use these travel bans as a tool to punish and control activists, writers and journalists by locking them in the country – or, if abroad, by preventing them from coming home and banning their families in Saudi Arabia from travelling overseas to visit them.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Saudi authorities to lift all arbitrary travel bans
- For Saudi Arabia to stop using this vindictive practice
- For Saudi Arabia to start respecting the rights of freedom of expression and movement and to a family life

Poland: Abortion rights

In 2020, a woman visited Justyna Wydrzynska in a terrible state. Her violent, abusive husband was preventing her from having an abortion. Justyna is a doula – who helps women through pregnancy – and a founder member of Abortion Dream Team, a collective that offers advice on how to get a safe abortion by following World Health Organisation guidance. Poland has one of the most restrictive abortion laws in Europe, only permitting it in cases of rape or incest or if the life of a woman is at risk. It is a crime for a person or doctor to assist an abortion, but not for a woman to perform her own abortion or be in possession of abortion pills. Justyna supported the woman to access abortion pills. Now, for the first time in Europe, an activist is being prosecuted for aiding an abortion.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Polish authorities to drop all the charges against Justyna
- For Poland to refrain from persecuting activists campaigning for sexual and reproductive rights
- For abortion to be decriminalised in Poland

Good news!

Success at last for the Project for the Registration of Children of British Citizens. After a long-running battle, the UK government says it will waive the £1,012 child citizenship fee for parents and guardians who cannot meet the fee and allow a total exemption of the fee for all children looked after by a local authority. It follows decisions first by the High Court and later the Court of Appeal which said the government had failed to consider the best interests of children. Currently the administrative processing cost is £416, meaning the Home Office receives a profit of £596 for each transaction.

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

ELY AMNESTY NEWS

Our monthly planning meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. We are now meeting cautiously in person. The next two meetings will be held from 7pm on 5 July and 2nd August in St Peter's House, Broad Street, Ely, CB7 4AH. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Rocking for Amnesty Returns! Amnesty International Ely City Group and Haddenham Art Centre are delighted to announce that, following last year's successful concert, there will be another relaxed afternoon of country/rock in the gardens of Haddenham Arts Centre on Saturday 13 August from 3.00pm until 6.30.

The café will be open and has a fully licensed bar. You can book a cream tea in advance direct from Haddenham Arts Centre or bring your own picnic (no glasses or bottles please). Advance adult tickets are £12 and accompanied under 16s £6. On the gate, if available, £15 adult/£8 under 16s.

Tickets will be available from HAC from 1st July, Burrows Newsagents from 10th July or <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/549691>.