



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

February 2025

“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 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.

Morocco: Peaceful activist jailed

Nasser Zefzafi is one of the key figures of the Moroccan protest movement known as Hirak El-Rif which erupted in 2017 in his hometown Al Hoceima. Nasser took to the streets like many in the region who had had enough of poor healthcare, education and employment opportunities. He was arrested in May 2017. In June 2018, he was sentenced by a Casablanca court to 20 years in prison for his peaceful activism. His health has been deteriorating since and the authorities are denying him the medical care he needs. Nasser Zefzafi's case will be a particular focus for the Ely Amnesty group's campaigning this year

Please hold in mind or pray:

- That the Moroccan authorities will immediately and unconditionally release Nasser Zefzafi and drop all charges against him
- That they will conduct an effective, independent and transparent investigation into his detention conditions, medical neglect and ill-treatment in prison
- That they will release all those imprisoned as part of the Hiral El Rif Movement for peacefully exercising their human rights

Cameroon: Human rights defender targeted

Alice Nkom is a lawyer whose human rights NGO Redhac was suspended by the Cameroonian authorities in December, alongside three other civil society organisations. The 80-year-old has been accused of money laundering and funding terror groups, which she denies. She believes she has been targeted because of her long-term legal advocacy with the LGBT community – men and women found guilty of homosexual sex can be sentenced to up to five years in prison in Cameroon. Alice argues freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation should be a fundamental right for all.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Cameroonian authorities to immediately end the misuse of the justice system to target Alice Nkom
- For them to reinstate the status of all the affected civil society organisations and allow them to resume their activities
- For Cameroon to decriminalise homosexuality

Israel/Gaza: Ceasefire deal

After 15 months of war which began with a brutal attack on Israel by Hamas and ended with much of the Gaza Strip levelled by Israel, a ceasefire came into effect in mid-January. Three Israeli women hostages and 90 Palestinians were the first to be freed to return to their families. Aid lorries began entering Gaza within 15 minutes of the ceasefire coming into effect but the need is enormous. The UN estimates 60% of the structure across Gaza had been damaged or destroyed. The region remains fragile.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the ceasefire deal to hold
- For the hostages and prisoners returning after months or years of imprisonment
- For long-lasting peace in Israel/Gaza, putting the interests of all its citizens first

Good news: Angolan activist freed from jail

Neth Nahara has been released after spending more than a year in arbitrary imprisonment in Angola. She was arrested at her home in August 2023 after broadcasting a TikTok video criticising President Lourenco. During her time in custody she was denied vital HiV medication, causing her health to deteriorate significantly and requiring hospitalisation. Thousands of supporters demanded her release during our annual Write for Rights campaign last year. Now she – and four other Angolan activists – are free.

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.. Our next two meetings will be held from 7pm on 4 February and 4 March in St Peter's House, Broad Street, Ely, CB7 4AH. Anyone interested in attending to find out more or join our group would be very welcome.