



# AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

**April 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.*

## **Venezuela: Prisoners of conscience**

At least four human rights defenders have been arbitrarily detained for defending rights in Venezuela between 2021 and 2024. They should be released as a matter of urgency. Javier Tarazona is the director of the NGO FundaRedes, which monitors human rights abuses; lawyer Rocío San Miguel is president of a civil society organisation and received a shoulder fracture during her arrest which is in urgent need of treatment; journalist Carlos Julio Rojas was detained for raising concerns about problems in his community; lawyer Kennedy Tejeda was detained after inquiring about the whereabouts of two allegedly arrested men. All have been denied trusted legal defence, denied medical care and some report being tortured.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For their immediate and unconditional release
- For their right to receive medical care and enjoy fair trial guarantees for as long as they are in detention
- For all other victims of arbitrary detention in Venezuela

## **Jordan: Jailed for criticising the government**

Maths professor and political activist Ayman Sanduka was sentenced to five years in prison on 7 January for “incitement to oppose the political regime”. He had written a Facebook post addressed to the King of Jordan in October 2023 criticising the country’s diplomatic relations with Israel. Ayman’s detention stems solely for his legitimate exercise of his right to freedom of expression. This violates the country’s obligations under international law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Ayman Sanduka to be immediately and unconditionally released
- Pending his release, that he will be protected from torture and other cruel and degrading treatment and that he has access to adequate medical care

## **Kazakhstan: Prosecuted for satire**

Temirlan Ensebek is a blogger, author and creator of the satirical Instagram account Qaznews24. In January, he was arrested and charged under article 174 of Kazakhstan's criminal code with vague accusations of "inciting inter-ethnic discord" after posting the song "Yo Russians". This has circulated for more than 20 years and does contain offensive lyrics. However, as it was banned after his arrest and his activism and satirical publications have been critical of the Kazakhstani government, his prosecution appears politically motivated. This is not the first time the authorities have used article 174 to silence dissent.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Temirlan Ensebek to be immediately and unconditionally released
- For all charges against him to be dropped
- For his right to continue his satirical activities without undue restrictions to be guaranteed

### **Good news: Egyptian prisoner freed**

Badr Mohamed was released from prison on 25 February after Egypt's Court of Cassation accepted his appeal and reduced his sentence from five years to one year in prison. His case has been highlighted by Ely Amnesty International since he was jailed after a grossly unfair trial in connection with the Ramsis Square protests in 2013. He was 17 years old at the time of the protests. He and his wife thanked Amnesty supporters saying: "Your advocacy played an important role in reuniting our family and ensuring his freedom."

**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**

Our monthly planning meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next two meetings will be held from 7pm on 1 April and 6 May 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.

Our next event is the first in our annual Amnesty Talks which will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 15 April in the Ely Methodist Church, CB6 1AD. Philippa Griesbach from Amnesty International will be speaking on "Life Behind the Iron Curtain: A Childhood in East Germany". Free to attend, with retiring donation for Amnesty.