



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

May 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.

Paraguay: Environmental defender detained

Vidal Brítez Alcaraz is president of the Santa María's Association of Yerba Mate Producers in Paso Yobái. He has played a critical role in fighting for healthy food and denouncing the environmental pollution from mining activities in the region, where 'the use of mercury and cyanide is causing serious environmental impacts.' In January tension between *mate* producers and pro-mining factions led to a fracas and criminal charges against six members of the YPA, including Vidal, who was not present at the scene. Vidal Brítez was arrested on 26 March and held in detention.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Paraguayan authorities to drop all charges against Vidal and respect his human right to peaceful protest
- For Vidal to be given access to adequate healthcare, given his asthma condition
- For the authorities to ensure that local *mate* producers are protected from the environmental degradation that affects their crops

Mozambique: Designer seriously injured

Alcina Nhaume is a young designer. She has her own atelier and was doing her bachelor's in design at the Higher Institute of Arts and Culture. She took care of her father and managed their household. On 5 March she was shot in the face in her atelier in Maputo when security forces opened fire on protestors. A bullet pierced a metal barrier and struck her in the face. According to her doctors, Alcina will never speak again, nor eat normally, unless she undergoes specialised surgery abroad.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Alcina to receive the surgery she requires
- For the authorities to investigate her shooting and hold the perpetrators to account
- For the authorities to cease using live ammunition to suppress protests, as over 700 people have been shot since 21 October in the violent post-election crackdown.

Hungary: LGBTI rights under threat

Since 2010, Hungary has witnessed a marked deterioration in the rights and freedoms of its LGBTI community. In 2021 the 'Propaganda Law' (Act LXXIX) severely restricted the depiction of LGBTI identities in public life, including in educational materials, media, and advertisements. The law was passed under the pretext of protecting children from content considered harmful to their 'moral development.' It has led to the widespread censorship of books, films, and other public resources featuring LGBTI themes. In March 2025 a new law was passed banning Pride Marches.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the authorities to allow Budapest Pride to march freely as they have done for 29 years
- For Hungary to respect the rights of its LGBTI community, and rescind laws that stigmatise and discriminate against LGBTI individuals

Good news!

In February 2025 Turkish protesters Mücella Yapıcı, Hakan Altınay and Yiğit Ekmekçi were finally acquitted. Over the course of more than seven years, prosecuting authorities repeatedly failed to provide credible evidence to substantiate the baseless charges laid against them. In April 2022 they had been convicted of 'attempting to overthrow the government' for their alleged role in the 2013 Gezi Park protests and sentenced to 18-year prison sentences. However, Osman Kavala remains in prison, serving a life sentence, despite two binding European Court of Human Rights judgments calling on him to be freed. Can Atalay remains behind bars despite two equally binding Turkish Constitutional Court rulings which remain unimplemented, as do Çiğdem Mater, Tayfun Kahraman and Mine Özerden.

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 6 May and 3 June 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 'A Conversation with Marina Burrell' which will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 20 May in the Ely Methodist Church Hall, CB6 1AD. Marina was born and educated in Russia and is co-founder of Cambridge Russian-Speaking Society. She will talk about and answer questions on human rights in Russia, resistance and its consequences and Putin's false historical claims for invading Ukraine. So come along with your questions! Free to attend, with retiring donations for Amnesty.