



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

September 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.

Afghanistan: Journalist jailed

Journalist Hamid Farhadi has been working with *Etilaatroz*, an independent newspaper operating in exile. For the past three years, his reporting included news about restrictions imposed by Taliban authorities on women and girls. It is believed that his recent articles about the ban on girl's education were the reason for his arbitrary arrest and detention on 3 September 2024. He was unjustly presented to the Taliban court three times and then, on 19 September in absence of a defence lawyer, the court accused him of spreading propaganda against the Taliban and sentenced him to two years in prison. On 28 March 2025, without explanation, he was transferred to Bagram prison. His family are allowed a half-hour visit per month in the presence of a Taliban soldier through a glass window.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Hamid Farhadi, whose arbitrary detention and lack of legal representation are a clear violation of his rights to freedom of expression and fair trial as guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Afghanistan is a state party
- For the authorities to ensure that, pending Hamid's release, he has access to adequate healthcare, legal representation and family visits

Palestine: Journalists killed

On 10 August the Israeli authorities announced that they had targeted and killed award-winning Palestinian journalist Anas Al-Sharif, as well as journalists Mohammed Qreiqeh and Moamen Aliwa, plus cameramen Ibrahim Zaher and Mohammed Noufal. According to PEN International's research, since 7 October 2023 at least 23 writers – excluding artists and cultural workers – have been killed by Israeli bombardment. Israel has also been responsible for the deaths of at least 184 journalists and media workers.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the international community to support swift, independent, and transparent investigations into the killings of all writers and journalists targeted for their reporting in Gaza and across the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)
- For an immediate and permanent end to the conflict

Georgia: Journalist at risk of going blind

Mzia Amaglobeli co-founded two independent award-winning online news sites, the platform *Netgazeti* and newspaper *Batumelebi*, which report on human rights violations in Georgia, as well as cases of corruption. On 12 January 2025 she was arrested after an altercation during a peaceful protest, when she slapped the police chief. She was detained on remand, followed by an unfair trial where the court refused to admit much of her defence evidence. On 11 August she was sentenced to two years in prison on charges of 'resistance, threat, or violence against a public official' under Article 353 of Georgia's Criminal Code. Mzia suffers from a degenerative eye condition, and recent medical examinations show a rapid decline in her vision. Her right eye has declined to 10% functionality and her left eye is almost completely blind. Repeated requests to transfer her to a specialist ophthalmology clinic have been declined.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the authorities to allow Mzia immediate access to necessary treatment
- For the authorities to impartially investigate the Bautmi police chief and other officers who subjected Mzia Amaglobeli and other protesters to threats, verbal and physical abuse, ill-treatment, and arbitrary arrest.
- For the Georgian authorities to abide by their national and international obligations and to fully uphold fundamental rights.

Good news

Ghanaian journalist Godwin Asediba has won the 2025 BBC News Komla Dumor Award. The 29-year-old often focuses on human-interest stories aiming to expose injustice and amplify the voices of marginalised communities. The award, now a decade old, was created to honour Dumor, a Ghanaian journalist and presenter for BBC World News, who died suddenly aged 41 in 2014. He had worked tirelessly to bring a more nuanced narrative of Africa to the world. "Komla's legacy reminds us that African stories deserve to be told with depth, dignity and a fearless commitment to truth," Asediba said.

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 2 September and 7 October 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.

We have been invited to contribute a flower arrangement to ‘Harvest of the Mind’ a flower festival being held in Church of St-Peter-in-Ely, Broad Street on 26 and 27 September from 10am to 5pm. Tickets £5 on the door. Pop in, enjoy the flowers and take action for Nasser Zefzafi, a Moroccan prisoner of conscience.