



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

November 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.

Tunisia: lawyer arbitrarily detained

Ahmed Souab, a 68-year-old lawyer and human rights defender, has been arbitrarily detained since 21 April 2025 for his work defending victims of human rights violations and the legitimate exercise of his right to freedom of expression. He now faces trial based on unfounded terrorism charges solely for comments he made criticising the lack of due process and violations of fair trial rights in the so-called 'conspiracy case' trial, in which he represents several defendants. Authorities held him for 48 hours, denying access to his lawyer and family, and later ordered his pre-trial detention. His trial is scheduled to start on 31 October 2025.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Tunisian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ahmed Souab and drop all charges against him
- For the Tunisian authorities to end the misuse of counter-terrorism legislations to target peaceful critics and human rights defenders.

United States: inhumane conditions for immigration detainees

The Everglades Detention Facility, also known as 'Alligator Alcatraz', opened in July 2025, with the capacity to detain around 3000 people. Mere days after opening, reports of the facility's appalling conditions emerged, including: inadequate access to clean water, hygiene supplies, and proper sanitation; lack of adequate medical care, despite housing individuals with chronic illnesses and urgent health needs; minimal access to lawyers and legal information, undermining the ability of individuals to challenge their detention. Enhanced enforcement and detention as part of the Trump administration's plans to remove at least one million individuals from the US in 2025 are resulting in deteriorating detention conditions countrywide. In 2025 20 people have died in ICE custody to date.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the US to only detain individuals when it is clearly prescribed by law and strictly justified by a legitimate purpose that is necessary, proportionate and non-discriminatory
- For the US to ensure that conditions of detention meet international human rights law and standards

China: Student targeted for activism abroad

Zhang Yadi, also known as Tara, went missing in Yunnan Province on 31 July. She had returned home after graduating from university in Paris. She had been awarded a scholarship to pursue a Master's degree in anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, starting in September. According to reports, she is now being held incommunicado at the Changsha State Security Bureau Detention Center because of her peaceful human rights advocacy abroad.

Please hold in mind or pray

- For the authorities to release Zhang Yadi immediately and unconditionally
- Pending her release, for the authorities to ensure that she is not subject to torture or other ill-treatment and that she has regular, unrestricted access to her family and lawyers of her or their choosing

Good news

Unusually, we can report on several good news items this month!

- Egyptian writer and human rights activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah, who has featured in a couple of our prayer sheets, was granted a presidential pardon in September after serving six years in jail.
- On 8 September a Polish court found that five people who were facing up to five years in prison for feeding, warming, and transporting people stranded in the forest on the Polish-Belarusian border acted lawfully. However, this ruling may not be final.
- Osman Kavala has been awarded the Goethe Medal, one of Germany's most prestigious state honours. He is serving a life sentence in Türkiye on charges widely viewed as politically motivated and condemned by the European Court of Human Rights.

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.amnestycity.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 November and 2 December 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.

Take part in Amnesty International’s annual Write for Rights campaign by signing cards in support of prisoners of conscience after the morning service, in the Lady Chapel, Ely Cathedral, on Sunday 16 November between 12.00 and 13.00. Your support does make a difference.