



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

January 2026

“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.

Algeria: Poet faces death penalty

In November Algerian poet Mohamed Tadjadit won the Index on Censorship Freedom of Expression Award. Tadjadit has dedicated his life (and freedom) to challenging oppression. Known as 'the poet of the Hirak,' he became an emblematic figure of peaceful resistance in Algeria. Since 2019 Mohamed has faced at least seven cases for his peaceful activism. And he has now been imprisoned since January 2025. On 11 November he was convicted of 'glorifying terrorism' and 'using communication technologies to support terrorist organisations' and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. An appeal trial date is pending. In a third separate case, Tadjadit and 12 other activists face charges that could carry the death penalty.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the immediate and unconditional release of Mohamed Tadjadit, along with his 12 co-defendants
- For the Algerian authorities to cease misusing the criminal justice system to suppress peaceful dissent

USA: Protester imprisoned without trial

Leqaa Kordia is a 32-year-old Muslim Palestinian US resident who was detained by US Immigration in March after she participated in several peaceful protests advocating against Israel's genocide in Gaza. She has lost approximately 175 family members since the genocide began. She is being held in a detention facility in Texas far from her attorney and family.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Lequaa's immediate release from arbitrary detention
- For her religious dietary and clothing restrictions to be respected
- For the US authorities to stop targeting peaceful protestors and threatening their immigration status

Iran: Kurdish woman activist sentenced to death

Humanitarian worker and civil society activist Pakhshan Azizi, from Iran's oppressed Kurdish ethnic minority, is at risk of execution following a grossly unfair trial by a Revolutionary Court in Tehran. On 4 August 2023 Ministry of Intelligence agents arbitrarily arrested Pakhshan Azizi from her family home, transferred her to Evin prison and held her in solitary confinement for five months without access to her family or a lawyer. Informed sources say that she was subjected to torture, including gender-based violence. In July 2024, she was sentenced to death for 'armed rebellion against the state' despite being solely engaged in peaceful humanitarian and human rights activities, including assisting displaced women and children in north-east Syria. Her allegations of torture and other ill-treatment were never investigated. In January 2025 the Supreme Court upheld her conviction and death sentence. Her request for judicial review was subsequently rejected by Branch Nine of the Supreme Court.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Pakhshan Azizi
- For the Iranian authorities to halt any plans to execute Pakhshan Azizi, quash her conviction and death sentence and release her immediately and unconditionally
- For the authorities to ensure that, pending her release, she is protected from further torture and other ill-treatment

Good news

In December 2025 Belarus freed 123 prisoners, including prominent opposition activist Maria Kolesnikova, after the US agreed to lift sanctions on the country. Nobel Peace prize winner Ales Bialiastki was also among those released. Kolesnikova has been in prison since 2020, much of the time in isolation. She said, "It's a huge happiness to see the first sunset of my freedom, such amazing beauty."

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. There will be *no* meeting in January. We will be meeting on 3 February to plan our activities for 2026 and would warmly welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

We will be holding a fundraising coffee morning in the Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 10 January from 10am to 12noon. Do join us for coffee/tea, cake and scones. There will also be cake and bric-a-brac stalls.