



# AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

**March 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.*

## **Türkiye – Human Rights Defender retained in jail**

Osman Kavala is a businessman, activist and philanthropist who has supported numerous civil society organisations in Türkiye since the early 1990s. He was arbitrarily detained in 2017 and – despite a complete failure by prosecuting authorities to provide any evidence to substantiate the baseless charges laid against him – sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Despite two binding European Court of Human Rights judgments calling on him to be freed, Türkiye’s highest court upheld his sentence in 2023. Türkiye now faces a painfully slow infringement procedure for its failure to comply with the ECtHR judgment. In the meantime, Osman Kavala is in solitary detention. ‘In prison, one learns time differently. I try to anchor hope not to calendar page but to principles.’

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Osman Kavala and his family
- For the Turkish government and courts to immediately release Osman Kavala
- For the Council of Europe to take significant action against Türkiye

## **USA – Asylum seeker denied essential medication**

On 26 November 2025 artist and human rights activist Denis Cabrera Rodríguez, a Cuban man seeking asylum, was detained by US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), despite having a pending asylum claim. He is currently detained in Florida. Denis lives with Type 1 Diabetes and is dependent on an insulin pump. ICE is refusing to allow him to have his pump in detention. His health is rapidly deteriorating, potentially leading to permanent damage or death.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For ICE to immediately release Denis from detention
- In the meantime, for ICE to ensure that authorities provide him with adequate health care

## **Iran – Kurdish activists face death penalty**

Pakhshan Azizi, a humanitarian aid worker, is being punished just for helping women and children displaced by ISIS. Verisheh Moradi, a member of the East Kurdistan Free Woman Society, is facing the death penalty following a grossly unfair trial. Since their arrests in August 2023, both have revealed being tortured and otherwise ill-treated, including gender-based violence, and held in solitary confinement. Both are at grave risk of execution. In 2023 alone, the Iranian authorities executed at least 853 people, and that figure is likely to have increased.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Iranian authorities to halt the executions of Pakhshan Azizi and Verisheh Moradi and release them immediately
- For the Iranian authorities to protect them from torture and other ill-treatment and grant them adequate health care
- For the Iranian authorities to immediately stop all executions, with the goal of ending the death penalty

### **Good news**

Since 2018 Seán Binder has faced an unfair prosecution in Greece due to his work as a trained volunteer rescuer helping refugees and migrants on the island of Lesbos. He was arrested in August 2018 and spent more than 100 days in detention before being released on bail in December 2018. On 15 January Seán and 23 co-defendants were finally cleared of all charges. Seán said, 'Today, it was made clear, as it should always have been, that providing life-saving humanitarian assistance is an obligation, not a crime.'

**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 3 March and 7 April 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 17 March in the Ely Methodist Church, CB6 1AD. Brian Walker's talk is entitled "I Thought No One Would Care: Identity, (Mis)Recognition and the Windrush Scandal". Free to attend, with retiring donation for Amnesty.