



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

April 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.

Tunisia: Human rights activist jailed and fined

Saadia Mosbah has long been an advocate for sub-Saharan migrants in Tunisia and leads the anti-racism group Mnemty. The 66-year-old was arrested in March 2024 as part of President Kais Saied's campaign targeting civil and human rights organisations. According to Amnesty International, there has been a sharp decline in civil liberties in Tunisia since President Saied came to power in 2019. In April, Saadia was jailed for eight years and fined £26,000 after being charged with money laundering. Her lawyers, who had argued she was innocent, described the verdict as a "major shock" and plan to appeal against it.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Saadia to be immediately and unconditionally released
- For President Saied to cease his attempt to dismantle Tunisia's civil society

Hong Kongers: Targeted in the UK

People in Hong Kong and even those who have migrated to live in the UK are facing repression by the Chinese authorities. Since 2023, the Hong Kong government has put £100,000 bounties on the heads of 19 overseas activists. The following year, a manager at the region's trade office in London and a former UK Border officer were charged with unlawfully spying on Hong Kong activists. These incidents show the crackdown against Hong Kongers living in the UK is very real. The UK is home to the largest Hong Kong diaspora.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Hong Kongers targeted by the Chinese authorities for using their human right to freedom of expression
- For the UK government to take seriously this threat to British-based Hong Kongers by the Chinese government and to give them the protection they need
- For the Chinese authorities to cease the targeting of its citizens for exercising their right to freedom of expression

Russia: Jailed for reading poetry in public

Reading poetry out loud in President Vladimir Putin's Russia is a very dangerous activity. Artyom Kamardin, Yegor Shtovba and Nikolai Dayneko were arrested three days after they read their anti-war poems in front of the statue of poet Vladimir Mayakovsky in Moscow in 2022. Artyom Kamardin was reportedly subjected to torture, including sexualised violence, during his arrest. They were charged with "incitement of hatred done as an organised group" and "public calls to actions directed against the state security". They are each serving long sentences in prison. They are prisoners of conscience, imprisoned solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Russian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Artyom Kamardin, Yegor Shtovba and Nikolai Dayneko and quash their convictions
- That the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment will be promptly, independently and effectively investigated
- That the authorities will cease targeting its citizens for exercising their right to freedom of expression

Good news from Eritrea

A well-known Eritrean satirical cartoonist has been freed from prison after spending 15 years in detention without charge. Biniam Solomon, now in his early 60s, was arrested in 2011 but was never tried. The reasons for his imprisonment were not made clear. Known by his pen name Cobra, Biniam gained fame for his critical and witty cartoons tackling political and social issues. The authorities have not said why he was set free, but it is the latest in a string of similar releases. Thousands of Eritreans remain detained without trial.

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 7 April and 5 May 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 second of our annual Amnesty Talks which will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 21 April in the Ely Methodist Church, CB6 1AD. Matt Mahmoudi's talk is provisionally entitled "*Modern technology, 'miracle' or 'monster' in regard to protecting vulnerable peoples?*" Free to attend, with retiring donation for Amnesty.