



# AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

**May 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.*

## **Hostilities in the Middle East**

Amnesty International has issued an urgent call for all parties to protect civilians and end all unlawful attacks such as deliberate, indiscriminate or disproportionate strikes on civilian infrastructure. Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International, said: “Civilians should not pay the price for the unlawful and reckless acts by parties to the conflict, ravaging the principles of humanity and distinction at the heart of international humanitarian law and threatening the very foundations of international peace and security.”

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the international community to intensify diplomatic efforts to prevent further military escalation, avert additional civilian harm and halt further crimes against international law
- For all those who have lost their lives, those who have been forced to leave their homes and those who face an uncertain and precarious future

## **Egypt: Held because of brother's activism**

Oqba Hashad has been held in pre-trial detention for seven years simply because of his brother Amr Hashad's human rights activism. He now faces trial on bogus terrorism-related charges that could result in life imprisonment. In November 2025 after years of sustained supporter mobilisation, Egyptian authorities finally allowed him to receive a replacement for his broken prosthetic leg after denying him it for over three years.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Egyptian authorities to release Oqba Hashad immediately and unconditionally
- For the Egyptian authorities to drop all charges against him, as he is being detained solely due to his brother's activism
- Pending his release, that he be granted regular access to his family, legal representation and adequate medical care

## **Israel: Palestinian doctor held in arbitrary detention without charge**

Dr Hussam Abu Safiya, a paediatrician and the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in the occupied Gaza Strip, was arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared by Israeli forces on 27 December 2024. He had been a prominent voice for Gaza's decimated healthcare sector, despite the killing of his son in October. The UN is calling for his unconditional release, saying that he has been subject to 'torture and other cruel and degrading treatment'. His health condition is 'dire'.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Israeli authorities to immediately release Dr Hussam Abu Safiya and all other health workers who have been arbitrarily detained
- Pending his release, that he is protected from all forms of torture and ill-treatment, and is granted adequate medical care

### **Good news**

After eight years of relentless campaigning, justice has finally been served. The masterminds behind the murder of Brazilian human rights defender Marielle Franco, her driver Anderson Gomes and the attempted murder of her aide Fernanda Chaves have been sentenced to 76 years in prison with fines and compensation to be paid to the families and survivors. Two military police officers and the former secretary of the Civil Police of the state of Rio Janeiro were also convicted.

**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 5 May and 2 June 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 will be a special screening of the documentary 'She is in Jail' following the imprisonment of Chow Hang Tung, Hong Kong barrister, labour activist and human rights defender held since 2021. It will be shown at 7pm on Tuesday 19 May in the Ely Methodist Church, CB6 1AD. Free to attend, with a retiring donation for Amnesty. Registration on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) required or email us on [info@amnestyely.co.uk](mailto:info@amnestyely.co.uk).