



# AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

**June 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.*

## **Bangladesh: Authorities target journalists**

Two Ekattor Television journalists have been charged by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, reportedly in relation to a "misleading" report on the deadly crackdown on protests in Shapla Square 13 years ago. Farzana Rupa and Mozammel Haque are already in detention in relation to their reporting of protests in July 2024. Their arrest in a case related to crimes against humanity is "an affront to fundamental principles of press freedom and sets a dangerous precedent that threatens the right of all journalists to report without fear of retaliation", said Amnesty's South Asian regional director, Smriti Singh.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Bangladesh authorities to immediately drop all charges against Farzana Rupa and Mozammel Haque
- For the Bangladesh authorities to respect and protect the right of all its citizens, including journalists, to freedom of expression

## **Iran: Silencing dissent with the death penalty**

The number of people executed by the Iranian authorities has surged since the USA and Israel first attacked the country on 28 February. The UN says it's verified the execution of at least 32 political prisoners since then. They include 29-year-old shop owner Mehrab Abdollahzadeh, who was arrested in 2022 for his role in nationwide protests that followed the death of a young woman in custody and Sasan Azadvar, a 21-year-old karate champion, who participated in the protests in January. Last year, Iran carried out 2,159 executions, the highest number since 1981, with the majority convicted of murder or drugs-related offences. Now the UN is warning the Iranian authorities are increasingly using the death penalty to silence political dissent.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- That the Iranian authorities will free its political prisoners and prisoners of conscience
- For the Iranian authorities to cease its use of the death penalty

## **Hong Kong: Prisoners of conscience**

Chow Hang-tung and Lee Cheuk-yan are among the members of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China who were charged with “inciting subversion of state power” under the Beijing-imposed National Security Law in September 2021. They have both been held in pre-trial detention ever since and denied bail, designated prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International. The authorities claim the annual Tiananmen vigil organised by the Hong Kong Alliance since 1990 was evidence of the group “endangering national security”. If convicted, they could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison. The pair’s trial resumed in May.

Please hold in mind or pray

- For Chow Hang-tung and Lee Cheuk-yan and all other Hong Kong activists, incarcerated simply for exercising their human right to peacefully organise a vigil
- For the Chow Hang-tung and Lee Cheuk-yan to be immediately and unconditionally freed
- For the Hong Kong authorities to cease using the mainland Chinese-imposed National Security Law to target civil society groups, journalists, political activists and academics

### **Good news**

Tommy Olsen, founder of the Aegean Boat Report, has spent years documenting pushbacks and human rights violations against refugees and migrants at Europe’s borders. He was arrested in Norway in March 2026 under a European Arrest Warrant issued by Greece in connection with this work. On 15 May, a court in Norway confirmed that the actions for which he was prosecuted in Greece are not punishable under Norwegian law and that the charges represent “a real risk of violation of his freedom of expression”. However, the arrest warrant against him remains active, restricting his freedom of movement.

**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 2 June and 7 July 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.

To mark Refugee Week 15-21 June, the Ely Amnesty group is combining with the Ely Refugee Resettlement Campaign to highlight powerful stories by and about refugees on the shelves in Ely Library and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Refugee Convention. When you visit the library, please do stop and have a look at our display.