



# AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

**August 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.*

## **Chile: Forced adoption unit disbanded**

A unit established to remedy illegal adoptions has been disbanded by Chile's new government, marking a significant regression in the country's human rights efforts. The Search Unit for Origins and Family Members of Individuals Affected by Illegal, Forced or Irregular Adoptions was set up in February by the previous government. During the 1970s and 80s, thousands of Chilean babies were illegally kidnapped, trafficked and adopted. The practice was widespread during the rule of General Augusto Pinochet. The unit was intended to address one of the most painful chapters in the country's recent history, with provisions for documentary searches, genetic analysis, coordination with consulates and embassies, and facilitation of family reunification.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For victims of illegal adoptions, who continue to wait for any resolution to their cases
- For the immediate re-introduction of the unit to resume its work, as mandated by Chile's Public Sector Adjustment Law 2026

## **Morocco: Human rights defender jailed**

Moroccan human rights defender and blogger Saida El Alami is serving an unjust three-year prison sentence solely for exercising her rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. On 1 July 2025, plain-clothes police officers arrested her in Casablanca after she live-streamed a protest concerning deaths in custody. She was sentenced to three years in prison and a fine of 20.000 dirhams for social media posts and public statements criticising the authorities and exposing alleged corruption and human rights violations, upheld on appeal. She has been subject to ill-treatment while in prison and her family report she has developed diabetes and high blood pressure, has lost more than 20 kilograms (3 stone 2 pounds) in weight, and has difficulties walking.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Moroccan authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Saida El Alami and quash her conviction
- Pending this, for her to have access to adequate healthcare, provided in line with medical ethics, and to regular access to her family and law

## **Israel: Fears mount for Palestinian doctor**

A lawyer who visited paediatrician Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya in early July has reported there is an imminent threat to his life as a result of the torture he has been suffering while in Israeli custody. The director of Kamal Adwan hospital in Gaza City has been arbitrarily detained in Israeli jails for more than 18 months, without charge or trial, since 27 December 2024, when he was arrested while on duty. According to the lawyer, who was employed by Physicians for Human Rights Israel, severe injuries were visible on his body, head and face, and Hussam struggled to breathe and speak during their meeting. Physicians for Human Rights Israel says at least 104 Palestinian people have died in the facility he is being held in since October 2023.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the release of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya and all other Palestinians, including health workers, forcibly disappeared and arbitrarily detained by Israel
- Pending his release, for his protection from all forms of torture and other ill-treatment, including coercion, and for him to be granted access to adequate medical care while in detention

### **Good news**

The Hungarian authorities have dropped all criminal charges against Géza Buzás-Hábel, a human rights defender and Roma gay man who helped organise the 2025 Pécs Pride march. He had faced prosecution under restrictive legislation targeting LGBTI rights and freedom of expression in Hungary. Pécs' Pride march is the only one held outside Budapest. Géza thanked the more than 88,000 people around the world who took part in action in support of his case, saying: "We cannot give into fear and let anyone take away our rights."

**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 4 August and 1 September 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.

Ely Pride will be held on 8 August 10.00-22.00 in Amherst Field, Bridge Road, Ely CB7 4DY by Ely Railway Station. We will have a stall there from 10.00-5.00. Do come and visit us.