



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

September 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.

China: A life sentence for defending human rights

Ilham Tohti was an economics professor from the Uyghur community, a largely Muslim ethnic group from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. He worked tirelessly to build bridges between ethnic communities in China. He always opposed violence in his writing and lectures and sought to encourage cooperation and understanding. In January 2014, he was taken from his home in Beijing by police. In September he was given a life sentence – supposedly for stirring up ethnic hatred. On 20 August 2026 the European Parliament awarded Ilham Tohti its prestigious annual prize for the defence of human rights.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Ilham Tohti in his continued imprisonment and for his family
- For the Chinese authorities to release the human rights defender immediately and unconditionally
- For the Chinese authorities to cease practices which discriminate against ethnic minorities

Azerbaijan: Reporter sentenced to eight years in prison

Nargiz Absalamova is an investigative reporter at Abzas Media which has been covering alleged national political corruption and environmental scandals. Between November 2023 and January 2024 Nargiz and six colleagues were arbitrarily arrested. Multiple charges were brought against them and all are now serving between seven and nine year sentences in a remote penitentiary. Nargiz suffers from sinusitis which now causes her severe headaches and shortness of breath but has been denied access to medical care.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Nargiz and all those journalists held solely for doing their jobs
- For the authorities to provide all prisoners with healthcare and freedom from degrading treatment or punishment
- For the Azerbaijan authorities to cease using the criminal justice system to target journalists and dissenting voices

Georgia: Actor sentenced for peaceful protest

Actor Andro Chichinadze is a well-known public figure in Georgia and an outspoken government critic. Like many others, he participated in Georgia's overwhelmingly peaceful pro-European protests in November and December 2024. Along with 18 others Andro was arrested in December 2024, charged with 'group violence', later downgraded to 'group public disturbance', and sentenced to two years in prison. Nothing links the detainees together as a group and there is no evidence of Andro causing any harm.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Andro Chichinadze who, in July, spent his 30th birthday behind bars away from his young son simply for expressing his beliefs
- For the Georgian authorities to quash Andro's unfair conviction and release him and his fellow detainees pending a fair retrial
- For the Georgian authorities to cease misusing the criminal justice system to suppress dissent

Good news

In August Myanmar's detained democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi was allowed to meet a delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the first confirmed outside contact with her since a letter to her son two and a half years ago. She was detained in 2021 after armed forces deposed her government and sentenced to 33 years in jail. In April 2026 she was moved to house arrest.

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 1 September and 6 October 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 annual Ben Jupp Lecture will be held on Sunday 27 September at 5.30pm in Ely Cathedral. Come and hear Anoosheh Ashoori, a British-Iranian retired engineer arbitrarily detained in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison from August 2017 to March 2022. Free admission. Retiring collection for Amnesty International.