AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

November 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.

Vietnam: Jailed activist in poor health

Cấn Thị Thêu became a leading figure in the Vietnamese land rights movement in 2010 when her family's land was confiscated by the authorities. Aided by her husband and two sons Thêu built a 50,000-strong social media following reporting on land grabs and forced evictions up and down the country. In 2020, after she exposed a police raid on a village which resulted in the death of an 84-year-old village leader, she and her family were arrested and sentenced to eight years in prison. All have been ill-treated but Thêu is in need of urgent hospital care which she is being denied.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Cấn Thị Thêu, as she is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for exercising her human right to freedom of expression
- Pending her release, for the prison authorities to protect her and her family from ill-treatment and provide access to adequate healthcare.

Greece: refugee status revoked

Javed Aslam has lived in Greece for nearly 30 years and is a well-known human rights defender, advocating for migrant and labour rights. He has established strong community and family ties in Greece. Since 2007, he has faced periodic targeting by Pakistani authorities calling for his extradition. Nevertheless, Javed Aslam was finally recognised as a refugee in Greece in 2021. In March 2026, his protection status was terminated, as Greek authorities argued that the circumstances in Pakistan had changed for him, and he no longer required protection.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Greek authorities to consider the ongoing human rights concerns in Pakistan and Javed’s long-term residence in Greece
- For the authorities to restore his international protection status and immediately halt any deportation proceedings.

Russia: Poets declared prisoners of conscience

On 25 September 2022 anti-war poetry readings were held in Moscow's Mayakovskaya Square. Three days later Artyom Kamardin, Yegor Shtovba and Nikolai Dayneko were detained on remand as suspects in a criminal case of 'incitement of hatred and enmity with a threat to use violence'. Artyom was reportedly subjected to torture, including sexualised violence. In December 2023 Artyom Kamardin and Yegor Shtovba were sentenced to seven and five and a half years' imprisonment, respectively. Nikolai Dayneko, who entered a guilty plea, was sentenced to four years in a penal colony in May 2023. Their sentences were later upheld on appeal.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Russian authorities to immediately release all three poets, whom Amnesty recognise as prisoners of conscience for exercising their right to freedom of expression, and quash their convictions
- For allegations of torture and other ill-treatment to be independently and impartially investigated.

Good news

Three Egyptian security officials have been convicted in absentia by a Rome court over the kidnapping of Italian student Giulio Regini. On 28 September they were sentenced to 10 years in prison. Giulio was studying for a doctorate at Cambridge University when he went missing on a research trip to Egypt in 2016. Days later his mutilated body was found in a ditch. His family and supporters around the world have campaigned for justice.

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 meeting will be held from 7pm on 3 November 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.

On 13 November at 7.30 we will be holding an evening of British author Harold Pinter's darkly witty dramas. *Trifecta of Tyranny* will be staged by Gravitas Box Company at the Methodist Church, Ely CB6 1AD. For more details see http://www.amnestyelycity.org.uk or email: info@amnestyely.org.uk

Take part in Amnesty International's annual Write for Rights campaign by signing cards in support of prisoners of conscience after the morning service, in the Lady Chapel, Ely Cathedral, on Sunday 15 November between 12.00 and 13.00. Your support does make a difference.