



**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WARRINGTON GROUP
NEWS SHEET MAY 2016**

Diary Date

Thursday 19th May 2016 – 7.30 to 9.30

Group Meeting - Nora Street Community House, 15-17 Nora Street, Howley, WA1 2JG



Saturday 28th May



Town Centre Stall – 10.30am to 2.00 pm
Help us celebrate Amnesty's birthday - birthday cake, balloons and campaign action.

Culcheth Community Day - Postponed

New Date Saturday 9th July - 12 noon to 4 pm

Culcheth Council decided to move the event to 9th July due to the state of the field after a period of rain had caused fears that vehicles would not be able to access the field safely!

INDIVIDUAL AT RISK- BURKINA FASO



Girls in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone are standing up and saying no to child marriage. Many very young girls are

forced to marry men old enough to be their grandfather.

Thousands of girls as young as 11 are being denied their basic human rights. They are being robbed of an education. They aren't getting a say in what happens to their bodies. They're starting a revolution against child marriage. Maria ran away from her husband and is living with her family again – but thousands of young girls just like her are at risk. Young girls are realising human rights aren't just for boys. They're getting the chance to finish school and have some choice in how their lives will turn out. Momentum is growing.

Group Webpage

Gill has now set up a group web page. She will keep adding events, meetings and newsletters to the page.

Finances



Received since last meeting
£10 donation
£195.42 raised on 16th April.

We now have £539.38 in the account.

People on the move

A letter for 'people on the move' in Greece and Macedonia was sent on behalf of the group to President of the European Council Donald Tusk & UK Immigration Minister James Brokenshire calling for:

- asylum-seekers from Greece to be accepted
- people to be relocated without applying restrictive selection criteria,
- family reunification to be facilitated
- asylum-seekers to be allowed to obtain visas from member states' representations in Greece for onward legal travel;
- Support for an effective relief programme to ease the pressure on Greece
- End discriminatory border practices
- support countries along the Western Balkans route,
- refugees and asylum seekers to be given access to asylum procedures and adequate reception conditions;
- Open up more safe and legal routes for people in need of international protection to ensure refugees do not need to embark on dangerous sea crossings to reach protection in Europe

GOOD NEWS

The good news that Phyo Phyo Aung from Myanmar has been released. No more appeals needed!



CONTACT: Evelyn Kinsella, 39 Beechways, Appleton, WA4 5ER. Tel: 268871

Email: benkin64@talktalk.net @AmnestyWarrngtn www.facebook.com/AmnestyWarrington



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WARRINGTON GROUP
 NEWS SHEET MAY 2016

NEWS from Israel & the Palestinian Authority

Jerusalem bus bombing



Amnesty International has stated that deliberate attacks on civilians can never be justified and Hamas must condemn attacks on civilians following the Jerusalem bus bombing on 18th April. 20 people were wounded. According to Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, Abd al-Hamid Abu Srour, a 19-year-old Palestinian man from Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem was identified as the attacker.

Tens of thousands still displaced in Gaza

Some 75,000 Palestinians in Gaza, half of them children, remain displaced after their homes were destroyed during Israel's assault in July and August 2014



Nearly 500,000 people, more than one in four of Gaza's 1.8 million residents,

were displaced during the onslaught that killed more than 2,200 Palestinians, including more than 550 children. Approximately 100,000 remained without shelter by the time a ceasefire was declared on 26 August 2014. **An estimated 18,000 homes were rendered uninhabitable as a result of the 51-day onslaught and only 3,000 have been rebuilt.**

ALBERT WOODFOX



Albert Woodfox, released after 43 years in solitary confinement, is leading a group

campaigning to end solitary confinement in US prisons.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Members sent letters on the use of child labour and the dreadful unsafe working **conditions in cobalt mines.**

The DRC is the most important source of cobalt in the world. This mineral is used in the lithium-ion batteries that power electronic devices such as laptops and smartphones.



This precious mineral comes from mines where most of the workers spend long hours every day working with cobalt without the most basic of protective equipment, such as gloves, work clothes or facemasks to protect them from lung or skin disease. The

miners are at a high risk of fatal accidents. Many children are employed. UNICEF estimated in 2014 that approx.. 40,000 boys and girls work in all the mines across southern DRC, many of them involved in cobalt mining. The children work for up to 12 hours a day in the mines, carrying heavy loads, to earn between one and two dollars a day.

Atena Farghaddani Released

Iranian activist and painter, is free. Atena was



found guilty of 'spreading propaganda against the system' and 'insulting

members of parliament through paintings'. She was a prisoner of conscience, punished for peacefully expressing her opinion.

It isn't all good news. Atena could be sent back to prison at any time in the next 4 years as her sentence was suspended not dismissed. The Authorities want to make sure she doesn't speak out for human rights and challenge the authorities in the immediate future.



Please email the attached short message to the Iranian Embassy in

London.

CONTACT: Evelyn Kinsella, 39 Beechways, Appleton, WA4 5ER. Tel: 268871

Email: benkin64@talktalk.net @AmnestyWarrngtn www.facebook.com/AmnestyWarrington