



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WARRINGTON GROUP
NEWS SHEET August 2016

Diary Date

No Meeting in August

NEXT GROUP MEETING

Thursday 15th September 2016 – 7.30 to 9.30

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

INDIVIDUAL AT RISK-

Saudi Arabia: Ashraf Fayadh – poet & prisoner of conscience



The 35-year-old Palestinian poet living in Saudi Arabia, was arrested in August 2013 for promoting atheism and blasphemous ideas among young people.

He was released but rearrested in January 2014 and charged with spreading atheist thought via his poetry. The court sentenced him to four years in prison and 800 lashes but later the appeal court sentenced him to death. Finally his death sentence was overturned and he was given a prison sentence of 8 years plus 800 lashes. He was denied access to a lawyer throughout his detention and trial. **He is a prisoner of conscience.**



NEXT FUND RAISING COLLECTION

Saturday 1st October
Forge Precinct Stockton Heath

FINANCES



After sending £472 to AIUK last month we have £218.20 in the account including this month's receipts totalling £84.37

£17.37 Croft carnival

£15 Plants sold by Jo,

£52 Plants sold from Gill's house



Plant sale @Gill's

JULY MONTHLY GROUP ACTION

Members signed a letter to the governor of Bahia state, Brazil, on behalf of Jorge Lázaro.

In January 2008 Jorge's son, Ricardo dos Santos, was shot and killed by passing motor cyclists whilst playing football. In 2011 four military police officers were charged with the killing but no one has yet been brought to trial.

In March 2013 Jorge's son Enio, aged 19, was abducted and killed: no one has been arrested for this crime. Jorge's search for justice for his sons has led the family to be targeted and after being moved several times to different safe houses the family are now in hiding. Unfortunately many people of black heritage are at risk of racial attacks in Brazil.

Send a letter to the Brazilian Embassy in London appealing for help for Jorge and his family

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Through Young Eyes'

Thanks to Christian Aid on 4th August people in Warrington were able to see this moving exhibition of drawings by young people living through the 2014 attack on Gaza. A series of drawings by Palestinian teenagers who lived through last year's Israel-Gaza conflict, will be exhibited at London's P21 gallery, from 7-22 August as part of *Gaza on Gaza*, a wider exhibition of work by Palestinian artists.



"My eyes tell you about a dream that overcame the fence" Credit: Soliman Shaheen, 15 years

The 51 day conflict claimed over 1,500 civilian lives and displaced 500,000 people from their homes. The UN estimates that nearly 400,000 children require some form of mental health support to cope with the events they witnessed or experienced over the summer of 2014.

The young artists participated in a project run by Christian Aid partner Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA), an organisation which provides therapeutic activities for children and young people. After the ceasefire the teenagers, supervised by CFTA, went out to shelters to meet other children and listen to their stories. These stories and discussions, their own experiences and what they heard on the news and from within their communities, inspired the illustrations on display.

INDONESIA

In the middle of the night on 27th JULY, 4 Indonesian men were executed by firing squad after unfair trials – some of them reporting torture by the police, forced confessions, being framed for the crime. Another 14 were served execution notices on 'execution island'. All of the prisoners have been charged with drug-related crimes after unfair trials, and some of them have active appeals for clemency pending.

URGENT

To sign the petition which could help to save the lives of these 14 men visit

www.amnesty.org.uk/action

- ✓ Stop the executions in Indonesia
- ✓

LETTERS SENT THIS MONTH BY MEETING MEMBERS

Central America

To the President of Guatemala concerned that the offices of **Impunity Watch** have been raided.

Our new Individuals at Risk File - El Salvador:

To the Minister of Justice asking for Teodora to be released or her sentence reduced.

Children's network.

On behalf of a group of Roma families in Italy who have been forcibly evicted and are now living in terrible conditions on the site of a disused factory.

West Africa. The Gambia

To the president expressing concern at the restrictions on press freedom ahead of the elections in December.

A Solidarity card was sent to the leader of the group of opposition politicians.

Israel & the Occupied Territories

On behalf of Mohammad Faisal Abu Sakha who has had his administrative detention renewed for another six months.