



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WARRINGTON GROUP
NEWS SHEET JULY 2016

Diary Date

Thursday 21st July 2016 – 7.30 to 9.30

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

REMINDER – SATURDAY 9TH JULY
Culcheth Community Day 12 noon to 4 pm

This event is not only an enjoyable afternoon out but a chance to support Warrington Amnesty Group. We hope to sell plants, have children's game and a petition in support of the Human Rights Act and also an appeal to the Israeli authorities to allow the farmers of the Palestinian village of Jayyous access to their land, crops and animals.

INDIVIDUAL AT RISK-

ZIMBABWE: Itai Dzamara
Pro-democracy activist



Activist and journalist Itai Dzamara was abducted while having his hair cut in March 2015. He hasn't been seen since. Two days earlier, Itai addressed a rally organised by the opposition Movement for Democratic Change in Harare, calling for mass action against the deteriorating economic conditions in Zimbabwe. He is leader of the pro-democracy protest group 'Occupy Africa Unity Square' and he led several demonstrations against President Robert Mugabe calling on him to resign to pave the way for fresh elections.

FINANCES

Our balance to date is £605.83

Members agreed to send our £72 affiliation fee and also £200 to AIUK and £200 to Amnesty's UK Aid Match Project to end FGM and forced marriage in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone.

JUNE MONTHLY GROUP ACTION

Group members signed a letter urging the Tunisian government to repeal Article 230 of the Penal Code criminalising consensual same-sex sexual activity.


This law puts LGBTI people at risk of arrest and prosecution. Many LGBTI people are afraid to report the violence and harassment they are subjected to because they fear that they will be arrested and prosecuted. This creates a permissive environment for homophobic and transphobic hate crimes and provides little protection from harassment and intimidation. Many LGBTI people prefer to hide their gender identity and sexual orientation from their families and communities to avoid the risk of abuse and exploitation.

CROFT VILLAGE CARNIVAL

Warrington Amnesty group had an information stall at Croft Carnival on Saturday 2nd July. Although the day was wet and windy Sue and Jo braved the elements and had a successful day publicising Amnesty's policy on The Human Rights Act and Refugees.



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El Salvador



Maria Teresa Rivera is the Salvadoran woman accused of having an abortion and sentenced to a 40 year prison sentence after suffering a miscarriage. She was recently released from prison after a Judge held that there was insufficient evidence against her. A solidarity card was sent on behalf of the group wishing her all the best for the future and a speedy recovery from her ordeal.

Egypt.

Ibrahim Halawa has been held in prison in Egypt for three years and says he and other inmates have been tortured.



On 16 August 2013, **Ibrahim Halawa** was just 17 years old when he went with his three sisters to a protest in Cairo after security forces violently dispersed two sit-ins in Cairo and other protests across Egypt killing 1,000 people in one single day on 14 August.

They took refuge in a nearby mosque when the protest turned violent. At least 97 people were killed as a result of reckless use of force by the Egyptian security forces. On 17 August, Ibrahim was arrested and he is still in prison over 2 years later.

Amnesty researchers present at the time of the protests have established that there is no way that he could have fired at the security forces as the Egyptian authorities allege. Ibrahim and his sisters were locked in the inner part of the mosque where they fled to try and escape the security forces.

Saudi Arabia



Ali al-Nimr, Dawoud Hussain al-Marhoon and Abdullah Hasan al-Zaher.

These three young men were tortured to get them to confess and are now under imminent danger of execution.

When UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon meets Prince Mohammed bin Salman he will ask him to intervene to stop their executions.

This year the Saudi authorities have already executed at least two people who were arrested as children.

Mexico



Human rights defender **Ildelfonso Zamora**. He was imprisoned 19 months ago on trumped up charges. For over 20 years, he has opposed illegal logging in his community. In 2007 a group of loggers killed his son, Aldo. A federal judge ruled in his favour but as yet he has not been released.

Please send the attached letter to the Mexican embassy in London



At Risk Case File (for long term work)

We have opted to work on the case of Teodora del Carmen Vasquez in El Salvador. She was convicted in 2008 under charges of 'aggravated homicide' and sentenced to 30 years in prison after suffering a still-birth at work.