



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WARRINGTON GROUP
 NEWS SHEET SEPTEMBER 2016

Diary Date

NEXT GROUP MEETING

Thursday 15th September 2016 – 7.30 to 9.30

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

Sat.1st October - Between 9am and 4pm

Warrington Group Collection
 Forge Precinct Stockton Heath



SPEAK OUR AGAINST HATE CRIMES



In recent months, reports of hate crimes in the UK have increased. We are now seeing racism and xenophobia on the rise on our streets across the country. Racist slogans on t-shirts, vandalism and sometimes violence often fuelled by years of hostile rhetoric coupled with divisive campaigns and newspaper comment. Our local leaders must condemn these actions and support people in our communities to keep them safe and welcome. **Tell your councillor to speak out against acts of racism, xenophobia and hate crimes.**

National Refugees Welcome march – London

The Refugees Welcome march in London is taking place on **September 17th**, two days before a major United Nations meeting in New York. Amnesty's priority for September is to make the national Refugees Welcome march as large and vibrant as possible. Please try to attend if you can!

Individual at Risk – BRAZIL

Family torn apart by culture of violence



In 2008, Jorge's eldest son, Ricardo Mattos, was shot

dead by military police while playing football with friends. In 2013, Enio, Jorge's younger son, was abducted and killed. On 10 July, a third of Jorge's sons, 18-year-old Denilson, was shot whilst walking home but luckily he survived and is recovering. No one has been brought to trial for their deaths. Violent acts targeting young black men are all-too common. Witnesses are afraid to give testimony. The family have been persecuted rather than supported, The Brazilian authorities gave them accommodation to protect them in the aftermath, yet they separated the family making it difficult for Jorge to keep his family safe.

Awaiting Execution



Zulfiqar Ali, a Pakistani textile worker in his 50s, was arrested on drugs possession charges in

2004 at his home in West Java. He wasn't allowed to contact the Pakistani embassy and was denied access to a lawyer until a month into his detention. When he was interrogated by police, Zulfiqar was kept in a house for three days and beaten to force him to sign a 'confession' – which he later did. The injuries caused by police later required Zulfiqar to have stomach and liver surgery; the 'confession' he'd signed after being beaten was not questioned in court and his trial was conducted in a language he couldn't understand. He has been taken to the prison on Nusakambangan Island, Central Java, ready to be executed.

Email the embassy in London:
 email: kbri@btconnect.com
 (Suggested message attached)

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

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

This Month's GOOD NEWS

EL SALVADOR

Teodora del Carmen Vasquez Our Individual at Risk File



The new Minister of Justice in San Salvador was presented with petitions and solidarity messages in support of Teodora's release from prison. Teodora's case will now be reviewed by the Supreme Court which will determine whether to issue a favourable judgement in Teodora's case possibly leading to a commutation of her 30-year sentence for "aggravated homicide".

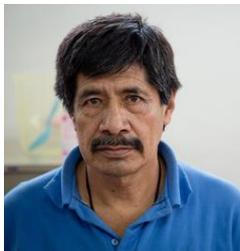
Teodora del Carmen Vásquez is a Salvadoran woman convicted in 2008 under charges of "aggravated homicide" and sentenced to thirty years in prison after suffering a still-birth while at work. She has spent more than eight years in jail. In January 2015 the Supreme Court released an unfavourable briefing document which denied her appeal for pardon.

Being from a poor family in a rural area of El Salvador, Teodora could also not afford an effective legal team to represent her. She has an 11-year-old son, who is currently being cared for by her parents. Due to extremely limited financial resources her mother struggles to visit her.

MEXICO

Ildefonso Zamora

Released from prison 12 Aug.



Ildefonso, human rights defender and prisoner of conscience, spent almost nine months in jail on trumped up robbery charges.

For over 20 years, he opposed illegal logging in his community.

In 2007 a group of loggers killed his son, Aldo. The local judge presiding over the case complied with a federal judge decision to release Ildefonso Zamora due to lack of evidence that he had been involved in a robbery.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala



The release of four Congolese pro-democracy activists, including **Amnesty International Prisoners of Conscience Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala**, is cause for celebration but they remain at risk of re-arrest unless the charges are dropped, warned Amnesty International today.

"The release of Fred, Yves and others is a rare positive step in what has been a very difficult year for freedom of expression in the DRC. The charges against them were politically motivated and must be dropped to ensure that their ordeal is over once and for all," said Sarah Jackson, Amnesty International's Deputy Regional Director.

Until their release, Fred and Yves were awaiting a trial that could have seen them face the death penalty. The pair were arrested along with 26 other activists in March 2015 and charged with various offences including "plotting a conspiracy against the head of state".

It is shocking that they could have faced the death penalty, when all they did was engage young people in peaceful activism Sarah Jackson, AI Spokesperson

The two were released along with Christopher Ngoy and Jean Marie Kalonji on 27 August. They were all being held at Kinshasa's Makala Prison.

Fred, Yves are part of the Lutte pour le Changement (LUCHA) youth group, which was awarded this year's **Amnesty International Ambassador of Conscience Award**.