



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WARRINGTON GROUP
 NEWS SHEET MARCH 2017

DATES

GROUP MEETING

Thursday 16th March 2017 – 7.30 to 9.30

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

8th to 9th April.

The AIUK Conference Nottingham

Saturday 22nd April

Collection in Stockton Heath

GROUP FINANCES



Money doesn't grow on trees but rather through the hard work of our group members and volunteers.

We are grateful to all who helped us raise £667.06 during 2016. We sent £600 plus the £72 group affiliation fee to AIUK during the year.

We are extremely grateful for our wonderful free venue at Nora Street Community House.

FINANCES FOR 2017

£293.82 is carried over from 2016. The collection in Tesco in January raised £240.18 giving us a current balance of £555.95. We agreed to send £300 to AIUK.

COLLECTON STOCKTON HEATH – 22nd APRIL

We have been given a licence to collect in Stockton Heath on Saturday 22nd April. If you are able to offer an hour of your time between 9am and 4pm please email benkin64@talktalk.net

DATES FOR 2017



22nd April - Collection, Stockton Heath

3rd June - Street stall, Warrington town centre

1st July - Croft Carnival

9th Dec. - Write for Rights, Culcheth

KAZAKHSTAN – Maks Bokaev and Talgat Ayan



Talgat Ayan and Maks Bokaev.
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Prisoners of conscience Maks Bokaev and Talgat Ayan have been given 5-year prison sentences for involvement in organising peaceful demonstrations. They were detained in May 2016. From the start they

were treated as guilty and therefore could not get a fair trial. They will serve their sentence in northern Kazakhstan where temperatures of -20 are common. At 1500 km from their home with no direct trains or flights it will be almost impossible for relatives to visit. Prison conditions are reported to be very poor and since arrest their health has deteriorated.



Send the attached appeal letter to the embassy in London

BERTA CACERES - HONDURAS

March 2nd was the 1st Anniversary of her death



Berta and the Civic Council of Indigenous and Popular Organizations of Honduras – COPINH, campaigned against the construction of a hydroelectric dam project called Agua Zarca and the impact it would have on the territory of the Lenca People.

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On the anniversary of Berta's death thousands of indigenous people marched to honour Berta. Supporters in UK sent tweets and messages to a variety of ministers campaigning for action to support environmental activists



On 2 March 2016 Berta Cáceres, a courageous defender of the environment and indigenous rights, was shot dead by gunmen who entered her home. Since Berta's murder, Amnesty International has documented a pattern of threats and increasing stigmatization against those who seek justice on her case or report the actions of powerful companies against local indigenous or peasants farmers' communities.

One year after her death, the Honduran General Attorney's office has arrested seven suspects and reported that these men have ties with DESA, the company building the Agua Zarca dam that Berta has opposed, and the military. The lawyers of the family deem that the refusal to question high ranking officials is jeopardizing the investigation. Lack of justice in this case is sending the message that human rights defenders can be killed and nothing will be done about it.

ISRAEL & THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.



Anas Barghouti - Human rights defender and former prisoner of conscience Anas Barghouti has agreed to a plea bargain to avoid prison. However, he remains subject to two suspended sentences should he be found to have violated the conditions of the plea deal by participating in

protests in the next three years or being found to belong to the Palestinian Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the next five years.

The final hearing took place on 19 February 2017, during which Anas Barghouti accepted a plea bargain. In return for pleading guilty to the charges against him, Anas Barghouti will avoid a prison sentence subject to the following conditions:

- a fine of 7,000 NIS (USD 1,887) (to be deducted from the 12,000 NIS that he paid for bail in 2013);
- a suspended sentence of 18 months in prison if he is found to belong to the PFLP in the next five years;
- a suspended sentence of eight months in prison if he is found to be participating in protests in the next three years.

Speaking to Amnesty International, Anas Barghouti said that he accepted the plea bargain in order to avoid a prison sentence in the immediate term. However, he feels that this is the beginning of a five-year sentence to life under threat of imprisonment. He said: "I don't believe that we can ever receive justice in the Occupation's military courts, which participate actively in our oppression. This is the Israeli authorities' way of intimidating me and trying to silence me. For the next five years of my life I will live in fear. They could make up an allegation for any reason or someone could testify against me and I will have an 18 month sentence waiting for me."