



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WARRINGTON GROUP
NEWS SHEET JULY 2017

DATES

GROUP MEETING

Thurs. 20th JULY – 7.30 to 9.30

Nora St. Community House, Howley,
 WA1 2JG

Friday 4th Aug

Collection at TESCO Altrincham

Friday 15th Sept

7.30pm Quaker Meeting House
 Journeymen Theatre 'The Bundle'.

FINANCES

We have £555.45 in the account. It was agreed we send the £72 affiliation fee and a further £200 to AIUK. We hope to send more in September after the Tesco collection.

INDIVIDUAL at RISK

SIRIKAN CHAROENSIRI - THAILAND



Sirikan Charoensiri, an outstanding award-winning lawyer, co-founder of Thai Lawyers for Human Rights founded shortly after the

military coup in May 2014 to provide legal aid and monitor the human rights situation in Thailand. She provides free legal services in high-profile human rights cases. After attending a peaceful pro-democracy student activists' protest to monitor the situation and provide any necessary legal representation she is facing charges of sedition and a possible military trial. If found guilty she could face up to at least 10 years imprisonment and a possible further 5 years. Sirikan has been standing up for human rights during a dark period of military rule.

CROFT CARNIVAL – SAT. 1ST JULY



A very pleasant day was spent at the excellently organised Croft Village Carnival. The warm sunny weather encouraged a good crowd of parents, grandparents and villagers to support the children taking part in the carnival float. Thanks to Gill's quoit game we had a lot of interest from children and parents testing their aiming skills to win a lollipop! It only goes to show that you don't have to offer large prizes to attract interest! We received £39.15 in donations. 4 people signed up for our monthly newsletter, 31 people signed the



petition letter on behalf of Teodora del Carmen Vásquez serving a 30-year prison sentence after having a miscarriage (called aggravated homicide in El Salvador). A very good day.

Many thanks for all the contributions – the bunting, gazebo, chairs, refugee boards, children's quoit game & prizes.

Human Rights Defenders Campaign, BRAVE



This new campaign was launched in May and is planned to run until late 2019. We have signed up for the case of Sakris Kupila a 21 year old medical student from Finland who, from being a teenager realized that he was transgender. Unfortunately the current law of legal gender recognition, in Finland requires that a person should have a psychiatric diagnosis and be sterilized.

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NAZANIN ZAGHARI-RATCLIFFE & KAMAL FOROUGHİ

Group members were given letters to send to our newly-elected MPs, on behalf of British-Iranian citizens Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Kamal Foroughi.



Members made origami tulips and wrote cherished family memories inside them.



These tulips will be sent off to highlight the injustice of Nazanin and Kamal missing out on making family memories of their own while they are in

prison.

OTHER LETTERS ASKED OUR NEWLY ELECTED MPS TO ENDORSE A 5-POINT MANIFESTO FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

MANIFESTO for HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Ensure human rights are prioritised and protected throughout and after the process of leaving the EU
2. Defend the Human Rights Act and our membership of the European Convention on Human Rights.
3. Protect the rights of people seeking asylum in the UK and elsewhere.
4. Promote a UK foreign policy that champions human rights.
5. Ensure responsible UK arms controls which protect human rights.

IDIL ESER & TANER KILIC ARRESTED IN TURKEY



Idil Eser, Director of Amnesty Turkey, was arrested with other activists attending a human rights workshop. Idil's arrest comes exactly one month after that of another colleague,



Taner Kilic, a human rights lawyer and the Chair of Amnesty Turkey's board, who continues to be held in custody awaiting trial for a crime he did not commit. IDIL and Taner have been campaigners for human rights for decades. Erdogan's government is abusing its power making the country a dangerous place for people who speak out for human rights.

Please send the letter to the Embassy in London



CENTRAL AMERICA - HUNDREDS STRANDED AT MEXICO-GUATEMALA BORDER

There was news of hundreds of people from rural Guatemala being stranded at the Mexican border, having been evicted from their lands in the context of a long standing land dispute in the Tigre National Park. Approximately 400 people are in temporary shelters and tents, without adequate access to water, food, or medical supplies. Many are suffering from conditions such as diarrhoea and fever, and there is little access to humanitarian support.