



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WARRINGTON GROUP
 NEWS SHEET SEPTEMBER 2017

DATES

GROUP MEETING

Next Meeting

Thurs. 21st Sept 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Nora St. Community House, Howley, WA1 2JG

Friday 15th Sept

7.30pm Quaker Meeting House

Journeymen Theatre 'The Bundle'.

Saturday 7th October

Amnesty **Skillshare** on the human rights defenders (BRAVE) campaign in Manchester

INDIVIDUAL at RISK
Tep Vanny - CAMBODIA

Tep Vanny - Cambodia



Tep Vanny is a symbol of peaceful activism in Cambodia and is currently in jail as a result of her brave determination to defend the rights of others.

She is a housing rights activist and for almost 10 years has been defending her community in central Phnom Penh where thousands of families have been forcibly evicted from their homes.

Along with her fellow activists, many of them women, she has been targeted by the authorities and harassed, beaten, arrested and imprisoned. The government are attempting to silence her voice and show activists like her what can happen if you stand up for your rights and the rights of others.

Death Penalty - IRAN

Alireza Tajiki was just 15 years old when he was arrested, 16 when he was sentenced to death, and 21 when he was executed.



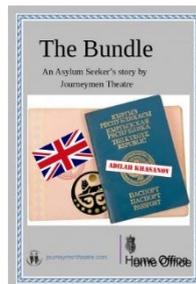
His grossly unfair trial relied on 'confessions' which Alireza said were extracted through torture, including

beatings, floggings, and suspension by arms and feet.

He was denied access to a lawyer and held in solitary confinement for 15 days without access to his family.

Alireza was held in solitary confinement in preparation for his execution on 10 August. His family were told to come to the prison for their final visit on 9th August.

FRIDAY 15 SEPT. 2017 at 7.30 pm
THE BUNDLE – duration approx.65mins



A performance by Journeymen Theatre Commissioned by QARN (Quaker Asylum Seeker and Refugee Network) The Bundle tells the story of one woman's bid for freedom, safety and hope.

Based closely on the story of a real woman and her three young children, **The Bundle** follows

Adilah's domestic persecution and denial of human rights in Chechnya. Removed from her Russian homeland by her Chechen father, abducted into a forced marriage and then subjected to a life of servitude, she takes the ultimate risk in plotting her escape to the UK. Here she finds a home but also encounters the Home Office's 'hostile environment' with regard to asylum seekers and refugees.

No charge for the performance. Donations to a refugee charity welcomed.

Come along and enjoy the evening

It would help us with our arrangements if you could let us know that you intend to join us.

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VOICES FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE



The Coalition of Women for Peace is a feminist organization against the occupation of Palestine and for a just peace.

Founded in November 2000, after the outbreak of the Second Intifada, CWP today is a leading voice in the Israeli peace movement, bringing together women from a wide variety of identities and groups. CWP is committed to ending the occupation and creating a more just society, while enhancing women's inclusion and participation in the public discourse.

CWP initiates public campaigns and education and outreach programs, working to develop and integrate a feminist discourse on all levels of society.

CWP is known for its clear and principled stances, including its unwavering support of the right of return of Palestinian refugees and the endorsement of universal jurisdiction.



More and more Members of Congress, including Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Elizabeth Warren, are coming around to the idea that criminalizing boycott is incompatible with democratic values, and publicly coming out against the "Israel Anti-Boycott Act"

We've still got a long way to go before support for Palestinian human rights is an undeniable part of the progressive agenda, but the day is getting closer— because of the work we are doing together. And it's all the more remarkable considering the pressure Congress is under from groups like American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Anti-Defamation League to support this unconstitutional legislation.

SUPPORT FOR ISSA AMRO



Issa Amro, a community leader, nonviolent activist and previous recipient of the United Nations' "**Human Rights Defender of the Year in Palestine**" award. He faces charges described by Amnesty International as "baseless" and "politically motivated" within Israel's military court system, which could result in years of imprisonment. United Nations human rights experts expressed concern that Mr. Amro is "being unfairly targeted due to his legitimate and peaceful human rights work."

Mr. Amro founded a Hebron-based advocacy group that counsels Palestinian youth on nonviolent means of opposing Israeli settlement activities.

Mr. Amro was a guest of the State Department as part of its International Visitor Leadership Program. In 2016, the State Department highlighted Mr. Amro's military court case in its Human Rights Report among its main concerns regarding freedom of peaceful assembly in Israel and the Occupied Territories. A representative of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv attended Mr. Amro's court hearing in November last year alongside representatives of other concerned governments.

4 Senators: Bernie Sanders, Dianne Feinstein, Patrick Leahy and Dick Durbin— have signed a letter to Secretary of State Tillerson urging him to monitor the case of Issa Amro, following a similar letter in the House with signatures from 32 Representatives. These are big time leaders and having them sign a letter like that is a major indicator that Palestinian human rights are being taken more and more seriously.