



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WARRINGTON GROUP
NEWS SHEET APRIL 2018

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

DATES

GROUP MEETING

Thurs. 19th APRIL. 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Nora Street Community House

Howley

21st April Collection in Stockton Heath

URGENT

Collection - Sat 21st April

Stockton Heath collection on Saturday April 21st. If you are able to offer an hour for the collection would let me know indicating your preferred time.

**Individual @ Risk – Yu Wensheng
 Lawyer at risk of torture in China**



Beijing human rights lawyer Yu Wensheng is currently being held under “residential surveillance in a designated location” on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power”. Held incommunicado since 19th Jan this year and denied all access to a lawyer and his family, he is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. He is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression. Practising in Beijing, he has represented petitioners, civil rights activists, and his fellow human rights lawyers. Yu Wensheng has also advocated for reform of Chinese society. He was one of a small group of lawyers to sue the government over air pollution.



An optional letter to the Chinese Embassy in London is attached

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

Finances

Receipts:

Feb. Tesco collection £301

Expenses:

Hall hire Dec. 2018 £39

Balance: £528.24

We will send a donation to AIUK after the Stockton Heath Collection

MARCH MEETING ACTIONS

Action for Rodrigo Mundaca and his organisation MODATIMA in Chile, fighting to defend their community’s access to water. Members signed a solidarity card to Rodrigo and an appeal letter to the Chilian embassy in London.

Action for Azza Sulliman, a lawyer and human rights defender in Egypt-appeal letter sent.

Publicity – Local Free Magazines delivered to houses in the Warrington Area. - Group members had a separate meeting to consider advertising in local magazines – Love Local, Local Life, the Courier & Essential Guide. We have placed general adverts about our monthly meetings and plan to advertise future events in the appropriate magazine etc.

Our next event to advertise will be the street stall on 26th May.

ON-LINE ACTION

End indefinite detention in the UK.



www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/end-inhumane-overuse-detention-now

CONTACT: Evelyn Kinsella, 39 Beechways, Appleton, WA4 5ER. Tel: 268871 Email: benkin64@talktalk.net

www.amnesty.org.uk/warrington @AmnestyWarrngtn www.facebook.com/AmnestyWarrington

THE MAGNUM EXHIBITION

This will be displayed at the Gateway from 14th to 25th June, covering Refugee Week - more information nearer the date.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Members sent appeals on behalf of Munther Amira, a human rights defender arrested in December during a peaceful protest. Munther Amira is the Coordinator of the Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (PSCC). The PSCC facilitates communication between, and helps to strengthen, the various popular committees in Palestinian villages under Israeli occupation and who struggle against the Israeli Wall deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice advisory decision in 2004.



Human rights defenders in the OPT are subjected to acts of harassment, restrictions on freedom of movement, stigmatisation, abductions, long periods of arbitrary detention usually under administrative detention orders, illegal searches of their homes and offices and killings. Many of the violations are state-sanctioned or at least condoned by the ongoing policy of impunity. The situation of human rights defenders is particularly complex as they are carrying out their work in the context of the Israeli military occupation. People considered to be human rights defenders in the OPT include journalists, lawyers, medical workers, fieldworkers, international volunteers who act as independent observers and carry out human rights work and defenders working for economic, social and cultural rights.

BERTA CÁCERES

The second anniversary of the murder of indigenous leader and courageous environmental activist Berta Cáceres was on 2nd March. There were commemorations in Honduras and around the world throughout March

Group members sent a letter to the Honduran ambassador demanding action to solve her murder and prosecute her killers. A solidarity card was sent to Berta's organisation COPINH, which works to defend the indigenous Lenca people.

GOOD NEWS

COMBATANTS FOR PEACE



In 2006, Israeli and Palestinian former combatants, people who had taken an active role in the conflict, laid down their weapons and established Combatants for Peace. The egalitarian, bi-national, grassroots organization was founded on the belief that the cycle of violence can only be broken when Israelis and Palestinians join forces. Committed to joint nonviolence since its foundation, CFP works to both transform and resolve the conflict by ending Israeli occupation and all forms of violence between the two sides.

CHILDREN'S NETWORK.

We sent letters on behalf of Koo Jeong-hwa detained with her 4-year-old son since 3 December 2017 in North Korea for leaving the country without legal permits. The **Good News** is that Koo Jeong-hwa's family reports that she is no longer at risk of being sent to a political prison camp. Her son is currently with his grandmother and her husband has requested that her current whereabouts should be kept secret.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." - Martin Luther King, Jr.