



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
**WARRINGTON GROUP**  
**NEWS SHEET OCTOBER 2018**

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

**DATES**

**Thurs. 18<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 – 9.30 pm**

**GROUP MEETING**

**Nora Street Community House, Howley. WA1 2JG**

**FINANCES**

The Tesco collection in Altrincham raised £224.68. We have also received a donation of £40 and now have £731.27 in the account. It was agreed we send £400 to AIUK Charitable Trust.

**INDIVIDUAL @ RISK**

**Photojournalist Shahidul Alam**



In August, after giving an interview about the current wave of student protests in Bangladesh against unsafe roads photojournalist Shahidul Alam was abducted from his home by plain-clothed police who destroyed the CCTV evidence and locked up his security guards. He faces 14 years in prison charged under Section 57 of an act that has been used to silence scores of people since it was introduced in 2006. Police need neither arrest warrants nor official permission to prosecute. Those accused are often denied bail pending their trial and kept locked up for months with no official verdict. Unable to walk by himself in court in August he told friends that he had been beaten. *Leading British artists & curators have stepped up pressure on the Bangladeshi government to release Shahidul Alam. Creative voices, including the film-maker and artist Steve McQueen, the dancer and choreographer Akram Khan, and the artists Antony Gormley and Anish Kapoor, have joined an international call for justice and transparency about Alam's alleged crimes. A British exhibition of his work is also being planned in support of the cause.*

**SIGN THE ONLINE PETITION**

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/faction/free-shahidul-alam>

**WARRINGTON GUARDIAN**



We are grateful to the Warrington Guardian for printing a letter about Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. Hopefully some Warrington Guardian readers will have signed the on-line petition 'Free Nazanin'.

**GOOD NEWS**

**DALIT RIGHTS ACTIVIST RELEASED.**



Chandrashekar Azad 'Ravan', a prominent Dalit rights activist, has been released from Saharanpur District Prison on 14 September. He was being held in administrative detention without charge or trial under the draconian National Security Act.

**TAJKISTANI PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE RELEASED**



On 22 August, independent journalist and prisoner of conscience Khairullo Mirsaidov received a non-custodial sentence and was released in the courtroom, after spending more than eight months behind bars. He had been detained and prosecuted following his allegations of government corruption.

**PALESTINIAN NGO WORKER RELEASED**



Abdul Razeq - a development NGO based in Ramallah in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), was released from Ofer prison on 17 July. He had spent 14 months in administrative detention without charge or trial.

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# AIUK CAMPAIGN - BAN ISRAELI SETTLEMENT GOODS

## ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON WEST BANK AI'S POSITION



### 50 years too many

For 50 years Israel's occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip has resulted in systematic human rights violations against Palestinians living there. Israel's military rule disrupts every aspect of daily life in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It means daily humiliation, discrimination and oppression, destruction of homes, forced evictions, unlawful killings, arbitrary detentions, restrictions on movement and collective punishment for many Palestinians. Since Israel occupied the West Bank more than 1,000km<sup>2</sup> of Palestinian land has been stolen to build illegal Israeli settlements, which continue to expand.



### Violating International Law.

Settlements and their infrastructure are a means by which Israel dominates access to Palestinian natural resources. Palestinians are denied access to resources such as water, fertile land, quarries, and minerals. Meanwhile Israeli settlers and companies use these resources to produce products – everything from vegetables to cosmetics - that are traded and sold around the world.

Settlements flagrantly violate international law. The UK, like all other states, has a clear obligation to ensure respect for international humanitarian law.

We want governments to stop enabling the economy that keeps these illegal settlements growing and fuels the suffering of Palestinians.



### Ban Settlement Goods from entering UK

By banning settlement goods and putting in place laws and regulations that stop companies from operating in Israeli settlements, the UK has an opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of millions of Palestinians who have endured decades of injustice, indignity and discrimination. Amnesty UK is calling on the Foreign Secretary to ban Israeli settlement goods from entering UK markets, and to stop companies in the UK from operating in settlements or trading in their goods

### What are illegal settlements?



Israel's relentless and illegal land-grab is one of the main driving forces behind the mass human rights violations against Palestinians.

50,000 Palestinian homes and structures have been demolished to make way for over half a million Israelis to settle in Occupied Palestinian Territories.

These settlements have been condemned by the United Nations in 2016 as 'a flagrant violation of international law'. Yet they continue to grow. Israel also has a complex web of military laws to crush any opposition. Senior government officials brand Israelis who advocate for Palestinian rights as 'traitors'. Israeli armed forces have long used excessive and often lethal force against Palestinian men, women, and children, to punish and stifle protest and dissent.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

**Online action:** <http://50yearstoomany.uk/>

**Buy a T-shirt** – to show your support for the



campaign ([www.amnestyorg.uk](http://www.amnestyorg.uk)). shop

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