



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK JANUARY 2020

## NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

Best Wishes for 2020



### DATES

#### GROUP MEETING

Nora Street Community House, HOWLEY WA1 2JG  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. @ 7.30pm  
**Collection Tesco (Winwick Road)**  
Friday January 24<sup>th</sup>

### Individual at Risk - IRAN

**Bakhtiar Rahimi – labour rights activist**



Detained 45 year old labour rights activist, Bakhtiar Rahimi, from Iran's Kurdish minority, was arrested by security forces in Nov. 2019 while at work and was forcibly disappeared until around 11 Dec. 2019. He is being held in a Ministry of Intelligence detention facility in Sanandaj, Kurdistan province. Bakhtiar Rahimi is not receiving the daily medication for a serious heart and kidney conditions. He has been denied access to a lawyer and only permitted one short phone call to his family since his arrest. In 2008 he spent nearly a year detained without trial for his labour rights activism and support of trade unions.



**Optional appeal letter attached**

### COLLECTION TESCO WINWICK ROAD

**Friday January 24<sup>th</sup>**

This is a wonderful opportunity to collect money for Amnesty Funds but we do need offers of help to do an hour on duty. We are indoors so it is warm and we usually have a busy spot near to the check outs. Two people will be collecting each hour.

**Please let me know if you able to help.**

### WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2019



In total over the 3 **WRITE FOR RIGHTS** events (Padgate College, Quakers & Culcheth Christmas market) 97 cards were sent and £108.95 was collected which more than covered the postage cost leaving £71.16 to help cover our other expenses.

#### Balance

Receipts	£108.95
Postage	£ 37.79
<b>Balance into funds (expenses etc.)</b>	<b>£ 71.16</b>

Over the 3 events cards were sent as follows in descending order of Popularity

SOUTH SUDAN	21
BELARUS	17
MEXICO	16
GREECE	13
CANADA	10
CHINA	9
NIGERIA	5
MIGRANTS	3
PHILIPPINES	3
TOTAL	97

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website:



## CHILD CITIZENSHIP



Amnesty wrote recently about two young people who took the Home Office to court for charging extortionate fees (£1012) just to register their citizenship.

The current administrative processing cost of a child's registration claim is only £372. The Home Office uses the remaining £640 to cross-subsidise the immigration system. **London's High Court ruled that this fee is unlawful.** This judgement requires the Home Office to reconsider the fee and ensure that children's best interests are taken fully into account in doing so.

Responding to the news, one of the children I am glad I got to tell the court my story. I was born in this country and have lived here all my life. I feel as British as any of my friends and it's not right that I am excluded from citizenship by a huge fee.

I want to be able to do all the things my friends can. I don't want to have to worry they will find out I don't have a British passport and think that means I am not the same as them.

### Amnesty International UK PRESS RELEASE 20<sup>th</sup> DEC.

#### PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: ICC INVESTIGATION IS 'HISTORIC STEP TOWARDS JUSTICE'

**Fatou Bensouda's announcement welcomed,  
but lengthy delays over territorial jurisdiction  
must be avoided**

**'It is vital that the International Criminal Court's  
judges reach a conclusion swiftly and avoid  
further delays' - Philip Luther**

Responding to today's announcement from Fatou Bensouda, the International Criminal Court's prosecutor, that a preliminary examination into Palestine has concluded that war crimes have been committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and that "all the statutory criteria under the Rome Statute for the opening of an

investigation have been met", Philip Luther, Amnesty International's Middle East Research and Advocacy Director, said:

"Today's decision by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court is a historic step towards justice after decades of war crimes and other crimes under international law committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

"This announcement offers a crucial opportunity to break the cycle of impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"An International Criminal Court investigation paves the way for the thousands that have suffered as a result of these crimes to gain long overdue access to truth, justice and reparation."

However, before proceeding with an investigation the prosecutor has sought confirmation from the ICC's judges "as swiftly as possible" that the territory over which the court may exercise its jurisdiction comprises the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

Philip Luther said:

"It has already been five years since the preliminary examination of the situation in Palestine was announced, and it is vital that the International Criminal Court's judges reach a conclusion swiftly and avoid further delays.

"For over half a century, those suspected of criminal responsibility for crimes under international law, including war crimes, have been allowed to escape justice for atrocities committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territories."

#### Process begun five years ago

On 1 January 2015, the State of Palestine lodged a declaration accepting the jurisdiction of the ICC over alleged crimes committed in the "occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, since June 13, 2014". On 16 January 2015, the ICC prosecutor announced the opening of a preliminary examination into the "situation in Palestine" in order to establish whether the Rome Statute criteria into opening an ICC investigation were met.

For years, Amnesty and others have gathered and published compelling [evidence](#) that war crimes and other crimes under international law have been committed by Israel and Palestinian armed groups. Amnesty has been calling for the ICC prosecutor to investigate crimes committed by all parties to the armed conflict.

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