



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK JUNE 2020

# NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

## GROUP MEETINGS

Currently no date for Amnesty groups to meet. We hope you are all keeping well!

## FORCED MARRIAGE- BURKINA FASO

## CENTRAL AMERICA NEWS

### NICARAGUA

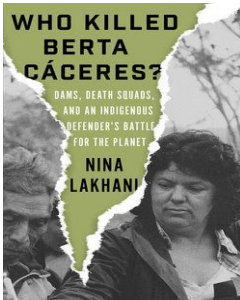
Amnesty continues to campaign to stop the repression of human rights defenders in Nicaragua. In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, the situation of the people imprisoned for exercising their right to protest raises our concerns even more.



Forced marriage is a frequent occurrence, especially for very young girls.

Over 52 percent of women in the country are married before the age of 18 and 10 percent are married before the age of 15. Forced marriage often puts girls in jeopardy of increasing health resources and losing access to education.

### HONDURAS



World Environment Day, saw the launch of a new book written by the journalist Nina Lakhani: *Who killed Berta Cáceres? An Indigenous Defender's Battle for the Planet*. It's a marvellously

detailed book which charts the events leading up to the assassination of environmental activist Berta Cáceres and the subsequent investigation and trial, as well as telling the broader story of Central America's difficult history.

### EL SALVADOR

Accused of home quarantine violations thousands of people have been detained in "containment centres" that lack proper hygiene and safety requirements. Many were breaking quarantine because they lacked food or medicine. There is an online action calling on President Bukele to stop the repressive measures and instead protect the rights of all people in El Salvador:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/daniel-ortega-garantice-el-derecho-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/>

The practice is connected to both poverty and tradition. There are also tangible links to lack of education, with girls being more at risk for child marriage if they are less educated. Forced marriage in Burkina Faso is technically illegal, but the law is rarely enforced. It does not prevent traditional or religious marriages, which creates a loophole in the law, causing many girls to be forced into marriage. The law also defines a lower legal marriage age for girls than boys. Girls can legally marry at age 17 and boys at age 20. Many girls are married before age 17, despite the current laws in place to prevent the practice.

Girls as young as 11 can be forced into marriage. This equates to a huge age difference between a young girl and her male spouse. The gap can vary from 30 to 50 years. In many cases, these men are engaging in polygamy and already have one or more wives.

**Send the attached letter if you are able.**

**CONTACT:** Evelyn Kinsella, 39 Beechways, Appleton, WA4 5ER. Tel: 268871

website:

[www.amnesty.org.uk/warrington](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/warrington)

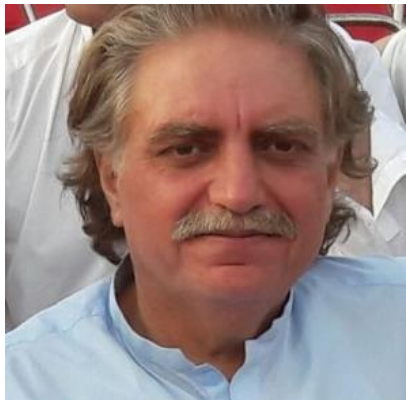


@AmnestyWarrngtn



[www.facebook.com/AmnestyWarrington](https://www.facebook.com/AmnestyWarrington)

## Pakistan: No sign of disappeared human rights defender



the whereabouts of Muhammad Idris Khattak, a Pakistani father, human rights defender and independent researcher, remain unknown since he was forcibly disappeared on 13 November 2019.

[Idris Khattak](#) has diabetes and requires daily medication, and his health is at even greater risk due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

With no information about his fate for six months, his daughters fear their father is at real risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Please call on Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan to immediately disclose the whereabouts of Idris Khattak



TAKE ACTION ON LINE

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/no-sign-disappeared-human-rights-defender?>

## GOOD NEWS



### Bat Shalom

In 1989, a meeting was convened in Brussels between prominent Israeli and Palestinian women peace activists. The meeting initiated an on-going dialogue that in 1994 resulted in the establishment of THE JERUSALEM LINK composed of two women's organizations BAT SHALOM on the Israeli side, and the JERUSALEM CENTER FOR WOMEN on the Palestinian side. The two organizations share a set of political principles, which serve as the foundation for a cooperative model of co-existence between their respective peoples.

Each organization is autonomous and takes its own national constituency as its primary responsibility, but together promote a joint vision of a just peace, democracy, human rights, and women's leadership. Mandated to advocate for peace and justice between Israel and Palestine, they believe a viable solution of the conflict between the two peoples must be based on recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and an independent state alongside the state of Israel, Jerusalem as the capital of both states, and a final settlement of all relevant issues based on international law.



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