



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK JULY 2020

NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

GROUP MEETINGS

No meetings until further notice
We hope you are all keeping well!

Plant Sale – Sunday 12th July



Plant sale in aid of Amnesty International at the top of the drive of 357 London Road, Appleton WA4 5HP from 10am to 2pm on Sunday 12th July.

Donations please in honesty box. Gill and Bryan will be on hand if any help is needed but will be socially distancing. For more information ring 01925 267001 or just come along and grab a bargain.

NEWS FROM ISRAEL / PALESTINE

June 2020 ICAHD (Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions) report – ICAHD's latest report states that between 1 – 10 June 2020, widespread demolitions by Israeli forces in the Occupied Palestinian areas of East Jerusalem and the West Bank demolished 73 structures, displacing 98 people - including 54 children - and affecting a further 299 people. For comparison, during May the demolitions in the Occupied Palestine Territory (OPT) totalled 54 and there were 36 demolitions during April.



A family of four demolished their home in Beit Hanina, and in Jabal al-Mukabbur a family of eight, including two children, was forced to self-demolish an agricultural structure. By undertaking a self-demolition, the family avoids paying the demolition fee and possibly other fines to Israeli authorities which can range from several hundred to many thousands of dollars. With many Palestinians living under the poverty line, the painful option of self-demolitions is often chosen.

NEWS FROM MÉXICO

Take action for torture victim infected with Covid-19



The story of Adrian Vazquez will be all-too familiar to those of you who worked on Amnesty's Stop

Torture campaign. Police arrested Adrian in 2012 and for 12 hours he was beaten and nearly asphyxiated by forcing water into his nose. He was falsely accused of being a notorious drug trafficker. His injuries, which included abdominal trauma, were so serious that he required life-saving surgery. In June Adrian was diagnosed with Covid-19 and the chronic injuries to his lungs and ribs make him especially at risk; he has no access to low-cost treatment. He was awarded damages but has yet to receive compensation for his horrific experience at the hands of the police.



Please consider sending an appeal on behalf of Adrian. Letter attached.

e-mail: gobernador@baja.gob.mx

Embassy in London. mexuk@sre.gob.mx

website:



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

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THE ISTANBUL 11



TURKEY: ACQUIT RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Letter from Kate
Allen Director of
Amnesty UK
(written 4 days
ago)



Dear friends,

I wanted to write to you all this evening after a very difficult day hearing the news from Istanbul that our colleague Taner Kilic, the honorary Chair of Amnesty International Turkey, was today convicted of being a member of a terrorist organisation and sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in jail. Idil Eslar the former Director of Amnesty Turkey and two other members of the Istanbul 10 were also given prison sentences for assisting.

This is an outrageous miscarriage of justice and it is heart breaking to think of the impact on our colleagues and their families. It is also frightening to think of the signal that it sends to human rights defenders in Turkey. If even members of Amnesty International, with all of our strength as a global movement, aren't safe, then who is?

I have personally attended 9 of the 12 hearings for this group of people. The charges have been proved to be completely groundless from the start. It is outrageous that any of these people have spent any time behind bars, let alone now being subjected to a further sentence. They now have a right

to appeal, and at the time of writing there have been no detention orders and so they are not being taken to prison from the courthouse.

The purpose of my writing to you today is to bring you up to date with what is happening and to thank you for all the work that you have done so far to fight for justice for our colleagues in Turkey. AIUK could not have done more to exert pressure on the Turkish Authorities and to provide solidarity and support to our colleagues. Having spent so much time with them over the past 3 years I know how much they have valued that and the impact it has had.

There will be more for us to do now as they appeal their convictions. We will take our lead from Amnesty Turkey and the IS and no doubt we will be taking action again to try to quash these outrageous convictions. I will be writing to the staff at Amnesty Turkey tonight to share our solidarity and love and I know we will all want to do all we can, and this is one of those times where being part of a global movement feels more important than ever.

I wish we could all be together at this time to provide support, solidarity and inspiration but I know we are all together in spirit. We will share any news and future action when we have it.

In the meantime, I wish you all a restful weekend. We will be thinking of Taner, Idil and all of the brave human rights defenders in Turkey, and it is good to know that we are doing that together, ready to continue our support for them when they need us.

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