



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK NOVEMBER 2020

# NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

## GROUP MEETINGS

No meetings until further notice



The Festival will take place over the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020, coinciding with World Children's Day (and the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child) on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

## GOOD NEWS



Iranian human rights defender **Narges Mohammadi** has been released from prison! She should never have been unjustly jailed for over 5 years for her peaceful human rights activism.

Many thanks to everyone across the globe who worked tirelessly for her release!  
**Google her name to read the sad story of how much she has been harassed and punished for her human rights work.**

## The 2020 G20 Riyadh summit

The 2020 G20 Leaders' Summit will be held virtually on November 21 – 22 and will be chaired by His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The G20 is an international association of 19 states and the supranational EU. The group's summit takes place annually, with government leaders and central bank governors from the respective countries coming together ostensibly to discuss economic matters and global financial stability. Their resolutions are seen as political declarations of intent but they are not legally binding.

G20 members are as follows: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

## Azimjan Azkarov died in prison



Azimjan Askarov, a human rights defender and an artist, died on 25 July in prison in Kyrgyzstan after showing symptoms of COVID-19. Azimjan spent 10 years jailed on fabricated charges in retaliation for his human rights work. The authorities must investigate the cause of his death and share this information with the family and his lawyer. Those who failed to provide due medical attention must be held accountable for their wrongdoing. His conviction was a miscarriage of justice and his family must be given the opportunity to clear his name.

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## INJUSTICE IN SAUDI ARABIA

### Mohammed Essam al-Faraj

On April 27, headlines around the world celebrated the news that Saudi Arabia announced a Royal Decree ending the death penalty for 'crimes' committed by children.



But six months later - a loophole in the law means that Mohammed Essam al-Faraj still faces the threat of a death penalty even though he was 15 years old at the time of his arrest. His story challenges the headlines published at the end of April.

### 3 Nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize

Renowned human rights defenders Nassima al-Sada, Loujain al-Hathloul and Waleed Abu al-Khair have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Yet they are locked in prison. The Saudi government are trying to mute their human rights advocacy.

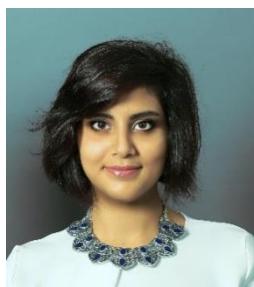
**Take a moment to reflect on their amazing work.**

### Nassima al-Sada



Nassima is an activist, human rights educator and mother of three has campaigned for civil and political rights, women's rights and the rights of the Shi'a minority in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. She put herself forward as a candidate for municipal elections in 2015- the first-time women were allowed to both vote and stand in elections but was banned from participating.

### Loujain al-Hathlou



One of the most outspoken women human rights defenders in Saudi Arabia, well-known for her campaigning against the driving ban and for an end of the male guardianship system. She stood for election in November 2015, but despite finally being recognised as a candidate, her name was never added to the ballot. They both successfully campaigned for women's right to drive and women now face fewer restrictions.

### Waleed Abu al-Khair



A prominent lawyer and human rights defender. He founded the Monitor of Human Rights in Saudi Arabia, one of the few local NGOs documenting human rights violations in the country. He has provided legal representation to many victims of human rights violations and activists, such Raif Badawi, an online activist who was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for creating and managing the Saudi Arabian Liberals website.

### Nobel Peace Prize Nominees

These 3 HRD activists have been treated horrendously by the Saudi prison authorities; enduring solitary confinement, little contact with their lawyers and families, and ill-treatment. This year's G20 Leaders' Summit hosted by Saudi Arabia, gives us a unique opportunity to call for their release.

Contact your MP to ask Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, to raise this issue during the summit.

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