



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK FEBRUARY 2021

NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

No GROUP MEETINGS until further notice

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL,

2021 marks the **60th anniversary of Amnesty International**, which means we are celebrating 60 years of activism! We will be marking this wonderful anniversary in several ways this year and are hoping you will join us in this. One of the ways in which we'd like to mark it, is by gathering your stories and experiences from the past six decades, to highlight in each local groups mailing this year. If you have any stories about your activism for Amnesty, or if you know anyone who has been involved in Amnesty from the early years, we'd love to hear these stories and to share them with everyone!

In the Line of Fire: Civilian casualties from unlawful strikes the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karab^h



Amnesty's new report documents an investigation of 18 attacks by Armenian and Azerbaijani forces

between September to November 2020 in which as least 146 civilians, including children, were killed. Both sides used notoriously inaccurate and indiscriminate weapons in populated civilian areas including banned cluster munitions, unlawfully killing scores of civilians and wounding hundreds more.

AIUK FOCUS FOR 2021.

- End Direct Provision
- Campaign for the Covid-19 vaccine to be equally available to people in all nations
- Amplify the calls for climate justice
- Support and fight for LGBTI+ rights
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JULIAN ASSANGE STILL IMPRISONED IN BELMARSH MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON



A British judge has ruled that Julian Assange should not be extradited to the United States to face espionage charges, saying that such a move would be “oppressive” because of the WikiLeaks founder’s mental health.

The US government reacted quickly announcing that it would appeal the decision.

Concern was expressed about the British judge’s justification underpinning the decision not to extradite Julian Assange.

“We disagree with the judge’s assessment that this case is not politically motivated that it is not about free speech,” Rebecca Vincent, the director of international campaigns for Reporters Without Borders, said.

“We continue to believe that Assange was targeted for his contributions to journalism, and until the underlying issues here are addressed, other journalists, sources and publishers remain at risk.”

Assange’s lawyers are seeking his release from Belmarsh, a maximum-security London prison housing some of the UK’s most dangerous prisoners where he has been held for almost two years.

Julian Assange is “free to return home” to Australia if a US extradition bid fails in the British courts, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said. Australian legislators urged Washington to drop its espionage case against the WikiLeaks founder.

website:



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

www.amnesty.org.uk/warrington



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SIXTY TEENS ANNOUNCE REFUSAL TO SERVE IN ISRAELI ARMY

Sixty Israeli teenagers published an open letter addressed to top Israeli officials on the 5th January, in which they declared their refusal to serve in the army in protest of its policies of occupation and apartheid.

The so-called “Shministim Letter” (an initiative with the Hebrew nickname given to high school seniors) decries Israel’s military control of Palestinians in the occupied territories, referring to the regime in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem as an “apartheid” system entailing “two different systems of law; one for Palestinians and another for Jews.”

“It is our duty to oppose this destructive reality by uniting our struggles and refusing to serve these violent systems—chief among them the military,” reads the letter, addressed to Defense Minister, Education Minister and IDF Chief of Staff.



Signatory and Israeli conscientious objector, Hallel Rabin, Kibbutz Harduf, Israel.

THE FIRST PALESTINIAN CHILD ISRAELI FORCES KILLED IN 2021



On 26th January, Israeli forces shot dead 17-year-old Attallah Mohammad Harb Rayan, a Palestinian teenager from a town near Nablus. He is the first Palestinian child killed by Israeli forces in 2021. He was shot after he allegedly carried a knife and attempted to attack an Israeli soldier according to Israeli army radio. Children suspected of committing criminal acts should be apprehended in accordance with international law and afforded due process of law. Israeli forces should not be able to act as judge, jury, and executioner.

INDIVIDUAL MAKING A DIFFERENCE MARINEL SUMOOK UBALDO - PHILIPPINES



Marinel was just 16 when the climate crisis tore her life apart.

One of the most powerful Typhoons on record destroyed her village along with huge parts of the Philippines.

The government response was shockingly poor.

Relocation sites lacked basic services such as water and electricity, and there were only limited opportunities for people to earn a living. As a result, many families returned to their original homes, despite these areas still being extremely dangerous.

‘I want world leaders to commit to minimising the emission of greenhouse gases. I want them to help vulnerable countries, such as my own, adapt to the unavoidable effects of climate change.’

Marinel has dedicated her life to fighting the climate crisis since the typhoon. She’s been making governments take notice so that other families don’t suffer the same fate as her own.

Let’s all get behind this inspiring young woman. Ask the Ambassador in London to contact President Duterte to demand that he takes the climate crisis seriously, and that Marinel and her people are helped with safe housing.



Send the attached letter to the Philippine Embassy in London.

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