AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK NOVEMBER 2021 NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

NO GROUP MEETING There will be no further group meetings until next February and only then if 'Covid19' cases fall significantly. WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2021

See attachment

UK GOVERNMENT: STOP THE ASSAULT ON OUR FREEDOMS



A new Bill giving police sweeping powers including additional powers to shut

down peaceful protests - is going through Parliament. We cannot allow this to happen. Take action now and call on our Prime Minister to stop the assault on our freedoms. f you haven't already done so, sign the petition on the Amnesty website and/or write to your MP.

GOOD NEWS TRADE UNIONIST ACQUITTED



On 20 May, longstanding trade unionist Frédéric Vuillaume was

acquitted by the court in Dijon, eastern France.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER RELEASED



On 17 July, the Egyptian authorities provisionally released

journalist and human rights defender Esraa Abdelfattah.

FRIDAYSFORFUTURE – UGANDA





Photo: Getty Images

When Leah Namugerwa turned 15, she celebrated by planting 200 trees - highlighting the environmental damage in her country.

Her call to action came from her increasing awareness of the widespread hunger in northern Uganda. Prolonged droughts have made the problem worse, as well as deadly landslides in eastern parts of the country. "There are many environmental issues happening in my country, but I barely see them in media or reported by anyone," she said.

"Media is ever reporting politics and celebrity gossip. The silence on environmental injustice seems to be intentional. Most people do not care what they do to the environment. I noticed adults were not willing to offer leadership and I chose to volunteer myself. Environmental injustice is injustice to me."

Leah is one of several Friday for Future activists to be awarded by us for their human rights work. FridaysForFuture – Uganda is the leading section of the African movement. She strikes every Friday and gives speeches in regional capitals.

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SIX PALESTINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS LABELLED 'TERRORIST'

Six Palestinian civil society organisations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory labelled 'terrorist' groups under 19 October military order issued by the Israeli Defence Ministry.

The groups are Addameer, al-Haq, Defense for Children Palestine, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, Bisan Center for Research and Development, and the Union of Palestinian Women Committees.

The designation outlaws the activities of these civil society groups. It authorises the Israeli authorities to close their offices, seize their assets and arrest and jail their staff members, and it prohibits funding or even publicly expressing support for their activities. Even publicly expressing support for the groups is now prohibited.

AI HONG KONG TO CLOSE OFFICES AMID RISING THREAT OF GOVERNMENT REPRISALS



Hong Kong's national security law is putting Amnesty employees at risk (Hong Kong police at protests in 2019, pictured) © Vernon Yuen/NurPhoto

Amnesty international will close its two offices in Hong Kong by the end of the year

Two Amnesty International offices in Hong Kong: local section focused on human rights education and regional office carries out research, advocacy and campaigning work National security law passed last year is putting Amnesty employees at risk.

The local 'section' office will cease operations on 31 October while the regional office – which is part of Amnesty's global International Secretariat – is due to close by the end of 2021. Regional operations will be moved to the organisation's other offices in the Asia-Pacific.

Anjhula Mya Singh Bais, chair of Amnesty's International Board, said:

"This decision, made with a heavy heart, has been driven by Hong Kong's national security law, which has made it effectively impossible for human rights organisations in Hong Kong to work freely and without fear of serious reprisals from the government.

ATTACKS ON HINDU MINORITY HOUSEHOLDS AND TEMPLES IN BANGLADESH



© Munir Uz Zaman / AFP via Getty images

Seven people killed and hundreds injured in clashes that broke out across the country last week

Protection of Hindus and others must be guaranteed amid ongoing violence

'The state has failed in its duty to protect minorities' - Saad Hammadi

Responding to a recent wave of attacks on Hindu minority households and temples in Bangladesh during and after the Durga Puja, the country's biggest Hindu festival, Saad Hammadi, Amnesty International's South Asia Campaigner, said:

"Reports of a spate of attacks by angry mobs against members of the Hindu community, their homes, temples and puja pandals during the country's biggest Hindu festival, are symptomatic of the growing anti-minority sentiment in the country.

"Repeated attacks against individuals, communal violence, and destruction of the homes and places of worship of minorities in Bangladesh over the years show that the state has failed in its duty to protect minorities.

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