



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK JANUARY 2022

## 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.



Happy New Year to you all.

There hasn't been a great deal to celebrate during 2021 but with many people either double or triple vaccinated 2022 should herald the start of normality for most people.

Human Rights around the world seem to be in dire straits and in need of support from us all.

Although Warrington Amnesty Group has dwindled almost to extinction the executives are hoping to be motivated to do small acts of support for our core interests.

At the moment we don't envisage having normal group meetings re 'Omikron', dwindling numbers etc., but the executive members intend to meet to draw up a simple programme involving mainly on-line actions such as signing petitions and sending email appeals.

Fundraising is going to be particularly difficult as in the past we depended very much on supermarket collections to supplement our takings from Gill's wonderful plant sale which in recent years has formed the basis of our funds.

We are going to try to raise money from the site 'We buy books' which is fairly easy to use and hopefully involves minimum work!! .

Thank you to all the mailing members who respond to our emails – it gives us encouragement when members indicate that not only have they received the newsletter but have actually read it and action has been taken.

Thank You and Well Done!

Please help to ensure that Julian Assange's plight is not forgotten. .



### NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL

This dreadful Bill introduces a further outrageous clause. Nationality can be removed without the person's knowledge nor the reason for the removal.

Appeals against the removal must be made within 28 days. But if you don't know that your nationality has been removed you can't oppose it!

website:



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

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## CASA – CENTRAL AMERICA NEWS

### BERNARDO IS STILL IN PRISON



We continue to campaign for indigenous water rights defender Bernardo Caal. On 30 January the teacher and community leader will have been in prison for four years, locked up in filthy, overcrowded conditions in a prison system notorious for deadly riots. He has three-plus years remaining on his sentence. We'll soon send suggested ideas for further actions. A special thanks goes to the Glasgow West group, which held a vigil at COP26. **Appeal letter attached**

### HONDURAS LOOKS SET TO ELECT ITS FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT, XIOMARA CASTRO



Ms Castro, the candidate for the left-wing Libre (Free) Party, has a preliminary lead of almost 20 percentage points over her rival. Her victory will bring an end to the 12-year reign of the right-wing National Party, which has been plagued by scandals and corruption accusations.

Ms Castro will replace the divisive President Juan Orlando Hernández.

He has been dogged by allegations of ties to the drugs trade after his brother Antonio was jailed for trafficking in the United States.

Ms Castro has promised to "pull Honduras out of the abyss" of "a narco-dictatorship and corruption".

### EL SALVADOR'S ASTRONOMIC ROLLBACK ON HUMAN RIGHTS



In December, Amnesty researcher Astrid Valencia published an article marking the halfway point of Nayib Bukele's five-year term as president of El Salvador and outlining the many ways in which his presidency has been disappointing. He has effectively declared open season on independent journalists, lawyers, human rights activists, and anybody who dares to criticise him or his administration's policies. The rights to express an opinion, to freedom of association or even for women to make decisions regarding their own bodies have been ignored or purposefully pushed aside. Most recently his government has prioritised laws to remove judges and prosecutors and a proposal to limit the funding that human rights organisations can receive, as well as dismissing bills to protect human rights defenders and journalists, to create a system to help the search for the disappeared, and to make abortion accessible.

### PROPOSED LAW ENDANGERS NGOS, HRDS AND THE MEDIA

On 9 November El Salvador's Minister of the Interior proposed a law prohibiting "foreign agents" from carrying out activities that have "political or other purposes, with the objective of altering public order, or that endanger or threaten national security, social and political stability of the country".

It will restrict and hinder the operations of civil society organisations working to defend human rights and independent journalism. The bill establishes requirements that will have a disproportionate effect in those NGOs that receive funding from abroad. If passed, the law would affect funding, operations and freedom of association for those who protect human rights in the country and/or disagree with the government.

✉ Please email the attached appeal to the Embassy in London before 24 January.

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