



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK FEBRUARY 2022

## NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

### GROUP MEETINGS

**Our first meeting in 2022 will be on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm @Nora Street Community House, Howley, WA1 2JG**

### URGE YOUR MP TO SPEAK UP AGAINST THE POLICING BILL

The Policing Bill threatens to crack down on peaceful protest, harm minoritised groups and jeopardise our freedoms. Act now to oppose the Bill and protect your rights and freedoms.

**But the Policing Bill continues to threaten our basic freedoms with the prospect of chilling extensions to policing powers.**

Last week, because of huge collective action across the country, the House of Lords removed some of the worst parts of the Policing Bill. **But, the fight is not over.**

While the Bill has suffered a setback, MPs could vote to put some parts back in. Will your MP be on the right side of history?

#### **Your power to change this**

We must continue to keep fighting the bill as it progresses through these final stages. Your MP has the power to oppose the bill completely, or at the least make significant changes - and as their constituent, your MP has to listen to your concerns.

This is a vital chance to make a difference.

**Email your MP now and urge them to speak up against the Policing Bill.**

### Agenda in Brief

**To examine & revise the agenda.**

**Evaluate group posters / flyers.**

**Fund-raising ideas**

**Updates from: Israel & Occupied Territories, Central America & West Africa**

### Desmond Tutu's death



Palestinians have lost a charismatic supporter and knowledgeable opponent to apartheid. He was outspoken in opposing Israel's policies. This letter was placed in the Guardian.

#### **To the Editor, The Guardian**

Desmond Tutu's death is mourned by all who recognise his titanic status in the struggle against racial injustice. For Palestinians his support for their struggle for justice made him an iconic figure. Regrettably, your obituary made no mention of his repeated criticism of Israeli policies, and his commitment to Palestinian liberation.

Tutu's early support for Palestinian civil society's call for Boycott Divestment and Sanctions was founded upon his recognition of Israel's practice of apartheid. It is a crucial part of his legacy.

The concern about the failure to address this in the Obituary is exacerbated by the deletion of comments, including by three of the signatories to this letter, in response to the Obituary which all highlighted these issues. The grounds given were they: "violate the Guardian's community standards".

It is difficult to view these deletions away from the context of the pressure being applied by Israel and its supporters to render any naming of its laws and policies as racist and any call for a sanctions-led response to be antisemitism. Tutu was subject to this critique after endorsement of the Palestinian call for BDS.

We call upon the Guardian to restore the posts and for its comment pages to address Tutu's legacy of support for Palestinian rights. Tutu once said, "I wish I could keep quiet about the plight of the Palestinians. I can't!

website:

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

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



@AmnestyWarrngtn



[www.facebook.com/AmnestyWarrington](http://www.facebook.com/AmnestyWarrington)

## IRAN NEWS

### NARGES MOHAMMADI



Iran has sentenced prominent human rights defender Narges Mohammadi to another eight years and two months in prison as well as 74 lashes, her husband says.

Paris-based Taghi Rahmani said on **Twitter** on January 26 that Mohammadi had called the family from prison on January 25, and informed them that she was also banned from social-media activities and from giving interviews for two years.

Rahmani said the sentence, which also includes a two-year exile from the capital, Tehran, was preliminary.

Mohammadi was arrested in November 2021 after she attended the memorial for a man killed by Iranian security forces during nationwide protests in November 2019.

Rahmani later said his wife stood accused of "spying for Saudi Arabia."

### Great News:



**#AtenaDaemi**, human rights activist, the brave daughter of **#Iran** was released from prison today after a long 6 years imprisonment. We congratulate her and her dear family. We hope for

release of all political prisoners in Iran soon.🙏

### HOSSEIN SHAHBAZI



LONDON: UN human rights experts have expressed dismay at a decision by Iran's judiciary to press forward with the execution of a juvenile offender, despite repeated calls to halt the killing.

Hossein Shahbazi was 17 years old when he was arrested for the fatal stabbing of a classmate during a brawl.

The court that sentenced him relied in part on confessions that the UN experts claimed were obtained through torture and ill-treatment.

Shahbazi, 20, was also denied access to a lawyer and his family throughout the 11-day interrogation.

"We urge the Iranian authorities to immediately and permanently halt the execution of Hossein Shahbazi and annul his death sentence, in line with international human rights law," said the experts, who are affiliated to the UN but do not work directly for the organization.

In a statement on Monday, the experts, including Javid Rehman, special rapporteur on the human rights situation in Iran, said:

"We underline again that reconciliation efforts do not replace the government's obligation to prohibit such executions.

"International law unequivocally forbids the imposition of the death penalty on persons below 18 years of age. Iran must observe its international obligations by imposing de jure and de facto moratorium on the execution of juvenile offenders once and for all."

According to the experts, another juvenile offender was executed in November.

**Send the attached email to Iranian Embassy in Belgium**

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