



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK MARCH 2022

NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

GROUP MEETINGS

Our next Group Meeting will be on Thursday 17th March at 7.30 pm @Nora Street Community House, Howley, WA1 2JG

Our first meeting in 2022 on 21st Feb. went without a hitch. It was good to get back to face to face meetings in a neutral venue. We are hoping to attract a couple of new members as a result of an upcoming mailing by AIUK. This will be sent on 10th March to all amnesty members living in the Warrington Area to let them know that we have started monthly meetings again.

AIUK's Programme for 2022

In addition to campaigning to limit the worst impacts of the **Nationality and Borders Bill**; to **protect the Human Rights Act** and to **dismantle Israel's apartheid against Palestinians**, this year we will continue to challenge the **Policing Bill** and will be launching campaigns on **the Right to Protest**; on **homelessness in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland**; on **racial justice**, including launching a report on the chilling effect of the **Prevent Duty on activism** and around predictive policing in the UK; and continuing work on **cases of individuals** including Nazanin and Anoosheh in Iran and others in Saudi Arabia, China and Turkey. There will be more information about 2022 plans next month.

Agenda in Brief

E-mail sent before the monthly meeting
Fund-raising ideas
Updates from: Israel & Occupied Territories, Central America & West Africa

PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

This was debated in Parliament on 24th FEB. The speeches can be read in HANZARD (on line). It is 8 years since UK agreed to recognise Palestine but so far has not done so. Until more of the general public care about this the government will continue to sit on the fence! 138 countries have recognised the state of Palestine.

ANTI-REFUGEE BILL

The news is scary right now – but here's some good news. After months of campaigning, the government was defeated on part of its anti-refugee bill.

The Lords removed Clause 11 of the anti-refugee bill, which punishes refugees for the way that they travel to safety. But MPs can still add clause 11 back in. That's why we need to show them how unpopular that would be.

AFGHAN WOMEN



The rights of many women and girls in Afghanistan disappeared when the Taliban seized power. Afghan girls used to attend school and dream of having careers. But almost overnight, they were told they should stay at home.

women and girls now face threats of gender-based violence and further restrictions on their rights - including their ability to move freely and to choose what they wear.

Afghan women achieved significant progress over the last 20 years in the face of instability and conflict. Without support from Governments losing this progress under the Taliban.

Sign the petition on line to urge the UK to act on their promises to Afghan women.

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NEWS FROM THE AMERICAS

HONDURAS - GUAPINOL WATER DEFENDERS



Good news! Guapinol defenders are finally free. It has been a rollercoaster time for the Guapinol water defenders, but the good news is they are finally free! On 8 February, six of the eight prisoners who were found guilty of illegal deprivation of liberty against the contractor of the company. The verdict was described as outrageous by AI calling for it to be overturned. Three days after the guilty verdict, the Supreme Court ruled there had been violations of due process and pre-trial detention. It took until 24 February, for the court to order their release. The men have now been freed and reunited with their families.

DATE FOR SENTENCING OF DAVID CASTILLO

The Sentencing Court in Tegucigalpa has finally scheduled the sentencing of David Castillo for 4 April. He was found guilty of masterminding the murder of environmentalist leader Berta Cáceres.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF BERTA CÁCERES

2ND March marks the sixth anniversary of the murder of Berta Cáceres. The family of the perpetrators must know the full truth of this crime, which cannot go unpunished. We continue demanding #JusticeForBerta!"



ABORTION IN COLUMBIA DECRIMINALISED



The Constitutional Court approved the ruling to decriminalise abortion today during the first 24 weeks of pregnancy, with five votes in favour and four against.

Today's 'ruling is yet another example of the unstoppable momentum of the green tide in Latin America' - Erika Guevara-Rosas

Erika Guevara-Rosas, Amnesty International's Americas director, said:

"We celebrate this ruling as a historic victory for the women's movement in Colombia that has fought for decades for the recognition of their rights.

"Women, girls and people able to bear children are the only ones who should make decisions about their bodies. Now, instead of punishing them, the Colombian authorities will have to recognise their autonomy over their bodies and their life plans.

"Following the legalisation of abortion in Argentina last year and the recent decriminalisation in Mexico, this ruling is yet another example of the unstoppable momentum of the green tide in Latin America. "We will not stop fighting until the sexual and reproductive rights of all women, girls and people able to bear children are recognised in the entire continent, without exception."

MEXICO

Six journalists killed in two months,
Early Feb. Heber López, director of online news site,

22nd Feb. TV host Michelle Perez Tadeo

31 Jan. Roberto Toledo, a camera operator

23 Jan Reporter Lourdes Maldonado López

17 Jan crime photographer Margarito Martínez

10th Jan. Reporter José Luis Gamboa.

México ranked 143th out of 180 for press freedom and is the Western Hemisphere's most dangerous country for journalists.

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