



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK APRIL 2022

NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

GROUP MEETINGS

Our next Group Meeting will be on Thursday
21st April at 7.30 pm @Nora Street
Community House, Howley, WA1 2JG

MARCH MEETING DECISIONS & NEWS

- ❖ Members welcomed Anita to the Group
- ❖ Elena Fowler has been appointed Rep for Amnesty in the North West.
- ❖ Members signed a letter to the Mexican Embassy in London raising concern regarding the large number of journalists murdered.
- ❖ Tesco Collections are resuming – Gill is applying for Sat 18th June – due to circumstances we will struggle to have enough collectors. If you could give this some thought and possibly volunteer your help nearer the date this would be very welcome.
- ❖ We are very grateful to Gill for again planning a plant sale in her driveway on Saturday 14th May between 11am and 2pm. This will also include a book sale (pre-used) so do come along and browse, buy a plant or even donate a plant! We will give a further reminder in the May newsletter

HOME SWEET HOME

A poignant film showing a Palestinian family home being taken over by an Israeli family. If you haven't signed already please sign this one. Take action now.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/demolish-apartheid-not-palestinian-homes-petition/>

Agenda in Brief

The AIUK monthly mailing and how to make good use of it!
The Planning Campaign
Publicity Ideas
Updates: Palestinian Occupied Territories, Central America & West Africa

25 March was Freedom Day in BELARUS.
But not for MARFA RABKOVA



Marfa Rabkova spent her 40th birthday in January in pre-trial detention in Belarus. Marfa is the

volunteer network coordinator for the Belarus human rights group *Viasna*. She has been detained since September 2020 for exposing Belarusian police's brutality against peaceful demonstrators after the disputed presidential election on 9 August which re-elected Alyaksandr Lukashenka. Marfa now faces multiple charges and could be jailed for up to 20 years. She is a prisoner of conscience, targeted solely for her peaceful human rights work and must be immediately and unconditionally released. Peaceful protests continue and reprisals against protesters continue too. Riot police have used unlawful force against peaceful protestors. Torture and other ill-treatment in detention is widespread. The shocking government clampdown on dissent demonstrates a blatant disregard for human rights: children, artists, women, pensioners, athletes, students and academics, trade unionists and other groups have all been targeted. *Viasna* claims there are more than 1000 political prisoners in Belarus and the number keeps increasing.

We must stand in solidarity with Marfa and demand the Belarusian authorities release her and protect her while detained.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/release-human-rights-defender-marfa-rabkova>

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The current UK immigration system was established in 1973. The UK's current nationality system was established in 1983. The creation of each of these was intimately linked to the racism and injustice of what is known today as the Windrush scandal.

The injustices of Windrush are not over and the injustices of these Home Office systems are not limited to those of Windrush.

And now that the UK's membership of the EU and its free movement rights have ended, the failings of these systems are exposed more than ever. The volume of responsibilities falling upon the Home Office is much greater while its systems for managing these are essentially the same.

If these systems are ever to function effectively and to secure the dignity and rights of the people affected things need to be different.



DEATH PENALTY CALLS FOR SINGAPORE TO HALT ITS DOUBLE EXECUTION

Singapore's record on use of the death penalty is well known. The city state has flouted international law in its mandatory application of the death penalty for drugs related offences. It is now seeking to execute two men for drugs offences who are also intellectually disabled. Roslan Bakar and Pausi Jefridin were convicted of trafficking small quantities of heroin. They were scheduled to be hanged on Wednesday 16th February after the rejection of appeals. Singapore's President ordered a delay but did not commute their sentence and sadly a further appeal was rejected paving the way for the two men, and a third, Rosman bin Abdullah, to be executed.



GOOD NEWS!!

On 24 March 2022, Bernardo Caal Xol, indigenous environmental rights defender and prisoner of conscience, was released from prison after more than four years. A judge ordered his release for good behavior!



We call on people globally to join us to end ties of complicity & ensure governments fulfil their obligations under International Law by:

- Investigating Israeli apartheid & reactivating the UN mechanisms to combat apartheid to impose targeted sanctions on Israel, including military embargo.
- Campaign for governments to ban & for shops and supermarkets to remove products from Israel's illegal settlements.
- Campaign to end contracts & investments in companies supporting these settlements, particularly those listed in the [UN Database](#).
- Holding institutions that promote our dispossession, such as the so-called "Jewish National Fund" ([JNF](#)), accountable & join efforts to uncover their complicity with ethnic cleansing, illegal settlements & apartheid against the Palestinian people.
- Supporting the ongoing investigations of the International Criminal Court into Israeli crimes committed against Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- Denouncing and rejecting normalization of Israeli apartheid in cultural, academic, political economic, and environmental arenas globally.

EXPLOITATION OF GIRLS IN BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso, 52% of girls are married before the age of 18 years. 10% before they turn 15. The country has the fifth-highest rate in the world for child marriages. Thousands of them are denied a childhood against their will. The government must take steps to eradicate child marriage and prevent and punish sexual violence against women & girls. In some parts of Burkina Faso, more than half of all girls are married off before they turn 18. They have no say in the matter. Their lives are planned for them. Having children is not something they can decide on either. If they defy instructions to marry or carry and mother a child they have not chosen to have chances are they will be threatened or beaten. Send attached email to info@justice.gov.bf

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