



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK SEPTEMBER 2022

NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

GROUP MEETINGS

Group Meeting will be on Thursday 15th September at 7.30 pm @Nora Street Community House, Howley, WA1 2JG

GOOD NEWS

México - Disappearance of students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College



Former attorney general, Jesús Murillo Karam, attorney general from 2012 to 2015 has been arrested and warrants issued for 83 army soldiers and officers over the notorious

disappearance of 43 students in 2014.

Jesús Murillo was arrested at his Mexico City home on charges of forced disappearance, torture and obstruction of justice in the abduction and disappearance of the student-teachers in the southwest state of Guerrero.

The attorney general's office also released 83 more arrest orders for soldiers, police, Guerrero officials and gang members in relation to the case.

The remains of only three students have been found and identified, with the case haunting Mexico ever since.

Murillo announced in 2014 that the students had been killed and burned at a rubbish dump by a drug gang, but the investigation allegedly used torture, improper arrest and mishandling of evidence, resulting in most of the suspects walking free.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador vowed to clear up what had happened. His administration has tried to arrest another former top official, Tomas Zeron, since 2020,

including asking Israel to extradite him last year.

More news from Mexico

August 30 was the International Day for the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. In México. More than 100,000 people remain missing or disappeared, and governmental action has failed to address the crisis. Disappearances are a terrible fact of life in México. The police, the army—even the Navy—have carried out enforced disappearances and many have collaborated directly with organized crime to extort money. A quarter are women and girls, approximately 16,000 are minors and among minors, the majority are girls. Every year, the families of those disappeared, civil society organizations and others mobilize massively in México and around the world.

Israel & the Occupied Palestinian Territories

TRADE DEAL - The UK conducted a consultation over plans to negotiate a new UK-Israel Free Trade Agreement this year which will “upgrade” an existing Trade and Partnership Deal with Israel.

AIUK’s Economic Affairs Director, said: “A new trade deal with Israel must not be a betrayal of Palestinians’ human rights and must uphold the UK’s obligations under international law”. Amnesty has advised the Department of Trade that the agreement should be framed to ensure it doesn’t reinforce Israel’s breaches of international law and is consistent with the UK’s current non-recognition of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

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PALESTINIAN DEATHS

UN Human Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet expressed alarm at the high number of



Palestinians, including children, killed and injured in the occupied Palestinian territory this year.

Israeli forces used lethal force which appeared to be in violation of international human rights law. In the past week, 19 Palestinian children have been killed in the occupied Palestinian territory, taking the death toll since the start of the year to 37. Seventeen children were killed during the Gaza hostilities from 5-7 August, and two more were killed on 9 August in Israeli law enforcement operations in the West Bank "Inflicting hurt on any child during the course of conflict is deeply disturbing, and the killing and maiming of so many children this year is unconscionable," said Bachelet.

AI'S FINANCIAL HEALTH



AI's international treasurer's report published in May, shows that AI is in good financial health with 2020's strong financial performance continuing into 2021. The treasurer attributes this strength to three main factors: collaboration in sharing financial best practice across the movement (e.g., in exchanging information on how to make fundraising initiatives successful); improved speed of decision-making across AI; and the loyalty of donors who recognize the importance of AI's human rights work. He also identifies 3 ways in which AI can be even more effective: by improving budgeting, by prompt sharing of information within AI, and by improving reporting to donors to encourage them to give more.

AI's income

AI had an actual income of €357m in 2021, compared with a budgeted figure of €320m and an income in the previous year of €329m. This meant that the 2021 income was AI's largest ever. The top ten sections for income were in the USA, UK, Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland, Australia, Norway, Sweden and Spain. Between them, these 10 sections raised €257m, or 72% of AI's income. Amongst these, it was notable that AI Netherlands received donations from 1.7% of the country's population, Switzerland from 1.3% and Austria from 0.9%, all much higher figures than other national sections achieved.

News from other trouble spots

Afghanistan:



In the year since the Taliban seized power the position of women has deteriorated drastically. [Amnesty's latest report Death in Slow Motion](#) makes depressing reading, with professional women and girls of secondary school age confined to their homes and more vulnerable to domestic violence, a surge in child marriage, increased neonatal death rates due to poor nutrition and lack of healthcare facilities, arrest and torture of women who protest and increased suicide rates among women.

India:

The right-wing BJP government continues to erode the space for civil society and curtail freedom of speech. Journalists and academics are languishing in jail for years without proper trial, because of their work defending the rights of the poorest and most marginalised groups. The Amnesty India office remains under enforced closure, with former staff at risk of arrest.

Sri Lanka:

Amnesty is demanding the new President stop the brutal assaults on peaceful protesters, who are desperately struggling to deal with the financial crisis and soaring cost of living.

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