



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK OCTOBER 2022

NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

GROUP MEETING – 7.30 to 9.30 approx.

We have had to change the venue for our meeting on Thursday 20th October. It will be held @39 Beechways WA4 5ER.

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2022

This year's exciting & very relevant theme is *The Right to Protest*.

Our plans for the campaign include:

- venue to promote the campaign;
- suitable venues for DIY card packs;
- pop-up info tables in selected venues.

More information in November.

TESCO COLLECTION – Sat 19th November

Tesco Winwick Road have given us a collection on Saturday 19th November. The venue is excellent – indoors, chairs available, coffee shop on site. This is a major opportunity for us to raise funds for Amnesty. If you are able to offer help on the day please let me know (email or phone (can leave a message))

MOVING UK EMBASSY FROM TO JERUSALEM?

Palestinians have called a proposal by the UK to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem a "blatant violation of international law". UK PM Liz Truss is said to have told her Israeli counterpart, Yair Lapid, about the review while at the UN General Assembly. Such a move would be highly controversial. The opening of the US embassy in Jerusalem in 2018 was met with outrage across the Arab world.



Mr Lapid tweeted his thanks to Ms Truss for "positively considering" it describing Ms Truss as his "good friend". Downing Street has not given any indication of timing but has confirmed that a review is under way.

Protect Palestinian Civic Space

Before dawn on 18th August, Israeli armed forces raided the Ramallah offices of:

- Addameer – supports political prisoners held in Israeli and Palestinian prisons.
- al-Haq - an independent Palestinian human rights organization in Ramallah.
- Defence for Children International – Palestine (DCIP),
- The Union of Agricultural Work Committees,
- Bisan Center for Research and Development,
- Health Work Committees,
- The Union of Palestinian Women Committees.

They also confiscated files and equipment and issued military orders to close them down and weld shut their office doors.

"These organizations have contributed enormously to human rights in the OPT and across the globe, yet Israeli army boots trample all over their work. Amnesty International stands proudly in solidarity with our Palestinian partners and calls on all governments to condemn the Israeli army's attack on Palestinian civil society," said Amna Guellali, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa. *"The international community needs to work together not only to reopen the offices of these seven organizations, but also to honour their calls to support the International Criminal Court's investigation into the Palestine situation and for international condemnation of Israel's apartheid against Palestinians."*

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WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS IN NIGERIA

Despite the existence of strict laws against rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), and child marriage, these offenses remain widespread, with low rates of reporting and prosecution. Women and girls in camps for displaced persons have reported sexual abuse by members of the military and other authorities. Boko Haram's attacks on women's rights have been particularly egregious, with victims often subjected to forced marriage and rape, among other acts.

Women and girls are often at risk of violence. Nigeria's Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development estimated that every year two million women and girls are sexually assaulted in the country. However, only a limited number of those assaults are reported. And when they are reported, too many cases of rape or femicide go unpunished. Perpetrators often escape justice or are not prosecuted. Reporting to police as well as accessing health care, legal aid, or counselling remain extremely difficult for gender-based violence survivors in many states in Nigeria. In June 2020, the Nigerian government declared a state of emergency on sexual and gender-based violence. However, not much has changed. Rape persists and most survivors and families of victims do not get justice as perpetrators remain neither prosecuted nor punished. While rape remains at an epidemic level in Nigeria, there are no accurate nor consolidated statistics on rape. Relevant data, which is critical for assessing the situation of women and girls as well as for developing adequate laws and policies to combat sexual violence and its consequences, is not available. Available data is often unreliable and grossly inadequate to reflect the prevalence of rape. There is also a paucity of information on the number of prosecutions and convictions for rape cases. Most cases go unreported, due to the fear of stigma, victim-blaming, lack of trust in the police, the lengthy legal process and other militating factors.

RAPE OF 14 YEAR OLD GIRL



14-year old Keren-Happuch was allegedly raped at her private boarding school and died as a result of her injuries on 22 June 2021.

Since the commencement of the investigation, the Police have refused to provide Keren's mother with a copy of her late daughter's medical report. Keren's mother later secured access to her daughter's medical report which stated that she died of rape. Further, the police failed to provide Keren's mother with a copy of the autopsy report arguing that it would compromise the investigation. The family's lawyers filed a Freedom of Information Act request to have a copy of the autopsy result, but it was denied. Rather, the

Police invited the Akphager family lawyers and the school to a meeting and read parts of the autopsy to them. Further, the school where Keren was allegedly raped has failed to produce the CCTV footage that could support the investigation. Everyone has the right to be safe from harm, especially children at school. What happened to Keren is an atrocity and those responsible must be held accountable for their crime. This campaign calls for justice to be delivered for Keren by demanding that the Nigerian Police Force investigate the mysteries surrounding Karen's death and alleged rape. Support Keren's mother in getting justice for her daughter sign the petition at:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/demand-justice-for-the-death-of-teenage-schoolgirl-raped-in-nigeria/>

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