



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK SEPTEMBER 2023

NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

GROUP MEETING

Thurs. 21st Sept. 7pm to 9pm
Nora Street Community House



In Masafer Yatta, where over 1,000 Palestinians are facing forcible expulsion, land defenders from the area have been at the forefront of strengthening the community's capacity and resolve to resist the oppression they endure. Community-based groups like Youth of Sumud organise protests against Israel's land grabs and home and school demolitions, they monitor violations committed by Israeli occupation soldiers or settlers, and they support the steadfastness of local farmers, especially during the olive harvest season when they come under intense assault from settlers.

The Palestinian partner organisations Stop the Wall and Youth of Sumud have asked us to raise some specific demands on their behalf to the Foreign Office: ask the British government officials visit them to see the situation in Masafer Yatta, to offer them support in resisting expulsion, and of course, to implement sanctions on Israel over its violation of Palestinian rights. We need you to make sure the Foreign Office is flooded with messages amplifying their call.

Human rights defenders across Palestine play a huge role in upholding their community's

resistance, including through developing connections with international solidarity groups like PSC; but that also makes them targets for Israeli occupation forces who know that human rights defenders, like our comrades in Youth of Sumud, are sometimes the last line of defence for communities like Masafer Yatta.

THE ROHINGYA PEOPLE OF BURMA

Recently it was the sixth anniversary of the Burmese military offensive against the Rohingya people of Burma. The military offensive, mostly targeting children, drove around 800,000 Rohingya into neighbouring Bangladesh. Combined with Rohingya who had fled previous attacks, there are now more than a million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

They live in squalid camps, surrounded by barbed wire fences, without proper housing, sanitation, food, medical care and education. There is no prospect of them returning home soon. How has the British government responded? It has cut aid to Rohingya refugees, mostly children, by 82%.



US has just put all international companies on notice that if they are directly or indirectly involved in the supply of aviation fuel to Burma, they could face sanctions.

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PROGRESSIVE WINS BIG IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

To the relief of many human-rights activists and ethnic groups,

anti-corruption candidate Bernardo Arévalo has won the presidential election. He beat his rival, former first lady Sandra Torres, by a wide margin, 58 percent to 37 per-cent. His campaign pulled off a massive upset defying opinion polls, legal challenges and attempts to disqualify his party. He will replace the unpopular right-wing President Alejandro Giammattei. But there are worries about Bernardo Arévalo's safety. The Organisation of American States' Human Rights Commission asked that he be given protection after reports of a possible plot to kill him. There are well founded fears that the justice system will do everything it can to prevent him from assuming the presidency.

PROTECT THE PROTEST CAMPAIGN



Kamile Wiyat, a 19-year-old Uyghur student shared a video of protestors, holding up blank pieces of paper as part of the November 2022 'A4 protests' in China. She was arrested in December 2022 and her family heard nothing from her until March 2023 when news of her sentencing came through. We have been fighting for Kamile's release since her arrest.



The last few years have been tough. In the UK and around the world our rights are being eroded. **But that's only half of the story.** The other half: when we come together, human rights can triumph. Here are [6 ways humanity has won in the past 6 months](#), thanks to many of you:

1) **LGBTI Rights defender freed in Iran**

Iranian activist Zahra Sedighi Hamadani faced the death sentence in 2022 for supporting LGBTI rights, and after more than a year behind bars - she is now free.

2) **The UK Government's Rights Removal Bill scrapped**

Finally the UK Government have officially scrapped the Rights Removal Bill.

3) **Human rights defenders and Amnesty staff in Türkiye freed**

In Türkiye, human rights defenders and Amnesty Türkiye staff finally had their baseless and politically motivated convictions quashed in June after years of legal harassment.

4) **Rwanda plans ruled unlawful**

In the UK, a Court of Appeal ruled that plans to send people seeking safety to Rwanda are unlawful.

5) **Win for Justice for Syria at the UN**

The UN General Assembly voted to set up a new body aiming to reveal the fate of over 100,000 people missing or forcibly disappeared in Syria.

6) **UN Human Rights Award to campaign for a healthy environment**

A coalition of Indigenous peoples' organisations, social movements and human rights organisations (including us), won the UN Human Rights Award.

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