



# NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

## NEXT GROUP MEETING

Thurs. March 21st. 7pm-9pm

15-17 Nora St. Howley. Community Rooms.

## REPORT FROM FEBRUARY AGM 2024

### Chair's report

Gill's report was received. Gill began by remembering Harold, who is much missed by the group. She thanked the office holders for their work during the year. The report noted the introduction of special interest meetings last year, the links made with other Amnesty groups through the North West Groups Zoom meetings and the less successful social programme.

### Secretary's report

Evelyn's comprehensive report was received. It was good to see a list of appeals that members have taken part in and letters they have written during 2023.

### Treasurer's report

The accounts for 2023 were received. We raised £579.98 and sent £543.81 to Amnesty, leaving £208.74 in the group account. We also sent an additional £20 to AIUK Charitable Trust in the form of a CAF voucher received at the Israel apartheid event.

## EMIRLENDRIS BENITEZ in VENEZUELA



Emirlendris Benitez is 42 years old and has spent five years unfairly imprisoned. Since her arrest, she has been a victim of countless human rights violations including use of arbitrary detention, torture, gender-based violence,

discrimination, unfair trial, and inhumane conditions of detention. She is an example of the Venezuelan government's terrifying policy of repression. In custody, she was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment while pregnant. She was transferred to a medical facility where her pregnancy was ended without her knowledge or consent. The torture she was subjected to left her needing the long-term use of a wheelchair for mobility and the inhumane prison conditions have further harmed her health. Urgent medical care was repeatedly delayed but after urgent actions and global mobilisation on her behalf, she was finally granted access to medical treatment.

**If you can, send the attached email or letter to the Embassy of Venezuela in London.**



## THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT OF 'PREVENT'

The 'Prevent' strategy defines certain indicators of 'radicalisation', but after speaking to interviewees, we found that decisions

ultimately rely on 'gut feeling' leading to Prevent having a racist and discriminatory impact. Vulnerable and marginalised people are most affected and wrongly flagged up as carrying a high risk of being 'drawn into terrorism' – even though they have never committed a crime. The system is often shrouded in secrecy and there is no clear way to challenge referrals. 'Prevent' is stripping people of their basic human rights and impeding their ability to live, work and speak freely. It is ineffective and a waste of public resources. It must be scrapped.

[Download Amnesty's 2023 Prevent Report @ amnesty.org.uk](#)

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## ISRAEL HAS UNLEASHED WAVE OF UNLAWFUL ATTACKS ON PALESTINIANS IN WEST BANK

### AMNESTY INTER.UK STAGED A SILENT VIGIL

Vigil in solidarity with civilians in Rafah outside Downing Street on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. to draw attention to the plight of some 1.4 million Palestinian civilians who are at acute risk in any full-scale Israeli military assault on the city.

Amnesty is calling for:

- ✓ The UK to demand Israeli to reverse decision to launch a full-scale attack on Rafah.
- ✓ an immediate ceasefire,
- ✓ the release of all civilian hostages in Gaza,
- ✓ the urgent lifting of Israel's blockade on Gaza, UK to suspend arms transfers to Israel
- ✓ Israel to support the genocide case at the International Court of Justice
- ✓ the International Criminal Court's ongoing investigations into serious human rights violations in Israel and Palestine.

### JULIAN ASSANGE'S FATE IN THE BALANCE



If Julian Assange is extradited from the UK to the USA it will establish a dangerous precedent, meaning the US authorities could target for extradition publishers and journalists

around the world. Other countries could also follow the US example. Publishing information that is in the public interest is a cornerstone of media freedom, is protected under international human rights law and should not be criminalized.

The judges at the UK High Court have deferred their decision until possibly mid-March. The outcome of this will be crucial for democracy, freedom of speech and our reputation for upholding the rule of law and a test for the US and UK authorities on their commitment to the fundamental tenets of media freedom.



A Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance which came under fire while attempting to rescue injured people in the West Bank © Palestinian Red Crescent Society

With the world's attention largely focused on Gaza, Israeli forces have stepped up use of lethal force with raids on refugee camps and attacks on crowds at demonstrations

Detailed investigation into Israel's unlawful killing of 20 Palestinians, including 7 children 'In an instant, my brother was eliminated' - sister of 15-year-old shot by Israeli forces 'It is time for the ICC Prosecutor to investigate these killings and the crime of apartheid in its investigation into the situation in Palestine' - Erika Guevara-Rosas

With the world's attention largely focused on Gaza during the past four months, Israeli forces have unleashed a brutal wave of violence against Palestinians in the occupied west bank, carrying out unlawful killings and denying medical assistance to those injured, said amnesty international today.

Since 7 October, Israeli security forces' use of unlawful force during law-enforcement operations across the west bank has been unrelenting, sowing fear and intimidation among entire communities. It has also been used to disperse rallies and protests held in solidarity with Gaza and those demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Between 7 October and 31 December, 299 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, a 50% increase compared to the first nine months of 2023, with at least 61 more Palestinians, including 13 children, killed so far in 2024 (as of 29 January). 2023 was the deadliest year for Palestinians since the UN began recording casualties in 2005.

DATE: • 21 March – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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