



# AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

**Remembering those experiencing injustice,  
A time for contemplation.....**

**July 2025**

**“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners. And those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering.” Hebrews: 13:3**

*A special time is set aside in Bishop Alcock's Chapel between the two morning services on the first Sunday of each month from 9.00am to 10.15am. Here we can hold in mind or pray for the people whose cases are highlighted for the current month. This meditation is open to those of all faiths and none.*

## **Russia: Amnesty International criminalised**

On 19 May the Russian authorities declared Amnesty International an 'undesirable organisation', thus criminalising its activities and any association with the organisation in Russia. The announcement accused Amnesty of promoting 'Russophobic projects' and indicated that it was prompted by Amnesty's work on freedom of expression and association in Russia, and its documentation and exposition of crimes under international law committed by Russian forces in Ukraine. The designation comes three years after the Russian authorities blocked access to Amnesty's websites in Russia and de-registered the Amnesty office in Moscow.

## **Tunisia: opposition activists given long sentences**

On 19 April 37 activists, including prominent opposition figures, lawyers and human rights defenders, were sentenced to harsh prison terms, ranging from 4 to 74 years after a sham trial. The Tunis Court of First Instance convicted them of conspiracy against state security and terrorism charges based on unsubstantiated charges related to their meetings to organise political opposition efforts, as well as meetings with foreign citizens, including diplomats. The process was marred by violations of fair trial and due process rights. The actual hearing lasted only a few minutes, with no opportunity for the defendants to be heard, no cross-examinations and no statements from the lawyers. Some of the defendants had been in detention since their arrest in February 2023.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Tunisian authorities to quash the unjust convictions and sentences of all defendants
- For the Tunisian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all those who are detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights
- For the Tunisian authorities to cease the politically motivated persecution of critics, political opponents, human rights defenders and activists

## **Morocco: activist serving 20 years in jail**

Nasser Zefzafi was living peacefully with his family in Rif, a region long marginalised by the Moroccan government, when peaceful protests broke out in his hometown in 2016. They were sparked by the death of a fishmonger, who was crushed by a rubbish truck as he tried to recover fish confiscated by the authorities. Millions marched peacefully to express their sadness and frustration and demand change. The Hirak El-Rif movement was born and Nasser, a firm believer in justice and equality, became a prominent figure in it. The security forces subsequently arrested hundreds of protesters. In May 2017, Nasser was arrested for interrupting a sermon at a mosque and accusing the imam of acting as a mouthpiece for the authorities. After being tortured and ill-treated in police custody, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison in June 2018. Prison conditions have badly affected his health: he suffers from nerve pain and respiratory and eyesight problems, but the authorities have denied him the necessary medical care.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Moroccan authorities to immediately release Nasser who has been imprisoned solely for the peaceful expression of his beliefs
- For the King to consider including Nasser in his traditional July Throne Day pardons
- For the authorities to allow Nasser adequate healthcare while he is imprisoned

### **Good news**

On 6 June Norway joined 25 other European countries in redefining rape as sex without consent. It's the last Nordic country to make the change. Up to now, prosecutors have had to show that an attacker used violence or threatening behaviour, or had sexual intercourse with someone who was unable to resist, to secure a conviction for rape. Under the new law passed by parliament, anyone who has sex with someone who has not consented to it by word or deed could be convicted of rape, even without violence.

**Sources for cases:** Amnesty International

‘I pray for all of us, oppressor and friend, that together we may succeed in building a better world, through human understanding and love, and that in doing so we may reduce the pain and suffering of all sentient beings.’

**Dalai Lama XIV**

*“To clasp one’s hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”*

Please keep this sheet to hand and use it in prayer or meditation, and any action you feel and find possible.

Your local Amnesty group can be contacted at [www.amnestycity.org.uk](http://www.amnestycity.org.uk)

**ELY AMNESTY NEWS**

Our monthly planning meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next two meetings will be held from 7pm on 1 July and 5 August in St Peter’s House, Broad Street, Ely, CB7 4AH. Anyone interested in attending to find out more or join our group would be very welcome.

Ely Pride will be held on 9 August 10.00-21.30 in the new venue of Amherst Field, Bridge Road, Ely CB7 4DY. We will have a stall there from 10.00-5.00. Do come and visit us.