



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

June 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.

Iran: Human rights defender facing death penalty

Sharifeh Mohammadi is at risk of execution after a Revolutionary Court in Rasht, Gilan province, sentenced her to death again in February. The Iranian human rights defender was convicted of “armed rebellion against the state” (baghi) solely for her peaceful human rights activities, including supporting women’s and workers’ rights. In October 2024, the Supreme Court had overturned her conviction and death sentence issued in June 2024 and ordered further proceedings in a lower court. A grossly unfair retrial took place in December 2024; her allegations of torture and other ill-treatment were never investigated.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Iranian authorities to quash Sharifeh Mohammadi’s conviction and immediately and unconditionally release her
- Pending her release, that she will receive adequate healthcare and regular visits from her family and lawyers
- That an independent and impartial investigation is begun into her allegations of torture and that anyone found responsible is brought to account

Venezuela: 900 human rights defenders detained

In May, lawyer Eduardo Torres became the latest human rights defender to be detained by the Venezuelan government. He is among almost 900 politically motivated arbitrary detainees currently being unfairly held in Venezuelan detention centres and suffering an endless list of other human rights violations; detainees include nationals from Spain, the US, Uruguay, Colombia, and Ukraine, among other nationalities. This is part of Nicolás Maduro’s government’s long-standing policy to silence any form of real or perceived dissent.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For all those detained to be immediately and unconditionally released
- For the Venezuelan authorities to cease arbitrarily detaining human rights defenders in a bid to quash political scrutiny and destroy civil activists
- Pending their release, for all those detained to receive adequate healthcare

Sudan: A forgotten war?

Sophisticated Chinese weaponry has been captured in Khartoum, as well as used in Darfur, according to a new investigation by Amnesty International. The exports via the United Arab Emirates are in blatant breach of a UN arms embargo. It follows another report revealing recently manufactured weapons from countries including China, Russia, Türkiye and the UAE had been transferred into and around Sudan. The conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces has escalated since April 2023 and tens of thousands of people have been killed and many more injured, while widespread sexual torture against women and girls by the Rapid Support Forces has been documented. Markets, hospitals and displaced people camps have been bombed.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For all states to stop transferring arms to the UAE until such time that the UAE can guarantee that none will be reexported to Sudan
- For the UN to fully and comprehensively implement its arms embargo
- For the many victims of this terrible war – and for desperately needed peace

Good news from Türkiye

The Saturday Mothers protesters were finally acquitted in March, seven years after their ordeal began. The group are relatives of victims of enforced disappearances during the 1980s and 1990s who had held a peaceful vigil every Saturday at the same spot since May 1995. Their 700th vigil was violently broken up by riot police in August 2018 and 45 people were later charged with “attending illegal meetings and marches without weapons and not dispersing despite warning.”

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.amnestyelycity.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 3 June and 1 July 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.