



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

December 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.

Myanmar: Hard labour sentence for journalist

Journalism is an extremely dangerous profession in Myanmar. More than 200 journalists have been imprisoned by the military since they seized power in 2021. At least seven have been reportedly killed. Despite this, photojournalist Sai Zaw Thaike travelled undercover to Rakhine State, determined to report on the devastation of Cyclone Mocha in 2023. Within a week, he was arrested, interrogated and beaten. In September 2023, he was sentenced by a military tribunal to 20 years in prison with hard labour. He also endures periods of solitary confinement.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Sai Zaw Thaike's immediate and unconditional release
- For the military junta to ensure he is not subjected to further torture or ill-treatment
- For the authorities to cease its repression on freedom of expression in Myanmar

Tunisia: Lawyer arbitrarily detained

Sonia Dahmani is a lawyer and media personality who has been arbitrarily detained since May 2024 by the Tunisian authorities. She faces five prosecutions and is enduring cruel, inhumane detention conditions that seriously threaten her health. Sonia has long spoken out on racism, migration and prison conditions in Tunisia. The authorities have charged her under a repressive cybercrime law for 'spreading false news'. Her arrest follows President Kais Saied's authoritarian power grab and growing repression of civil society. She is one of dozens of people targeted for criticising the government.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the president to immediately and unconditionally release Sonia Dahmani
- For the authorities to drop all charges against her, because she has been detained solely for exercising her right to freedom of expression
- For the government to cease its targeting of people who are critical of its policies

Honduras: Assassination of environmental campaigner

Juan López dedicated his life to protecting rivers, forests, and campesino [peasant farmer] rights in Tocoa, northern Honduras. He was assassinated in September 2023. His family and colleagues continue to demand justice and accountability. Deeply rooted in his Catholic faith, Juan was a lifelong advocate for land and environmental rights. At the time of his murder, he was researching and writing about local environmental struggles and injustices. His killing highlights the dangers faced by environmental defenders in Honduras, where corporate interests often prevail over justice.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the attorney general to ensure a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into the killing of Juan López
- For all those responsible to be brought to justice

Good news from Algeria

Almost a year to the day since French-Algerian writer Boualem Sansal was arrested on arrival at Algiers airport, the Algerian president pardoned him and allowed him to leave the country.

The 81-year-old, who is being treated for prostate cancer, became part of a bitter diplomatic row between Paris and Algiers. A long-term critic of the Algerian government, he was given a five-year jail sentence in July for undermining national unity with remarks that questioned Algeria's borders. He was freed after the German president took up his cause. On his arrival in Germany by military plane, he was taken straight to hospital for treatment.

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. The next meeting will be held from 7pm on 2 December in St Peter's House, Broad Street, Ely, CB7 4AH. There will be no meeting in January. We will be meeting on 3 February to plan our activities for 2025 and would warmly welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

We will be holding a fundraising coffee morning in the Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 10 January from 10am to 12noon. Do join us for coffee/tea, cake and scones. There will also be cake and bric-a-brac stalls.