



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WARRINGTON GROUP
 NEWS SHEET FEBRUARY 2017

DIARY DATES

GROUP MEETING

Thursday 16th February 2017 – 7.30 to 9.30

Nora Street Community House, 15-17 Nora Street, Howley, WA1 2JG

8th to 9th April.

The AIUK Conference Nottingham

COLLECTION TESCO STORE

We raised £240.18 from our collection held on Saturday 21st January.



A big thankyou to our helpers: Gill, Bryan, Matthew, Jane, John, Heather, John & Miriam, Pat, Harold, Jo & Evelyn.

The venue was very convenient – There is free parking, we were given an Indoor spot near the check outs and we were able to have a small table.

Many thanks to Gill for making the arrangements with Tesco head office.

GROUP FINANCES

£200 was sent to AIUK in November.

Receipts:

£42.30 - Culcheth Write 4 Rights

£10 - Postage from Alison Brock

£11.95 from St Monica's church

Balance in our account £315.77

PLANS FOR 2017

22nd or 29th April - Collection, Stockton Heath
 27th May: Street stall, Warrington town centre
 1st July - Croft Carnival
 July/Aug. - Possible Tesco collection
 9th Dec. - Write for Rights, Culcheth

BURKINA FASO



In December 2015 the ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity adopted a 3-year action plan to prevent and eliminate child marriage in Burkina Faso. In March 2016 the government made its first official statement planning to end child marriage and raise the age of marriage to 18. Girls' rights to non-discrimination, education, health, to be free from violence and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and torture, to physical and mental integrity, and even life, are all at stake.

2 appeal letters were sent and we hope to send a teddy bear to the embassy in London to make the point that girls in Burkina Faso should be allowed to have a childhood and not be forced into early marriage.

HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS

- Gill sparked a discussion about a TV news article about Breitbart and other online news sites and their threat to democracy.
- Evelyn talked about a series of Al Jazeera programmes about Israel's use of lobbyists to influence the British parliament.
- Three prisoners have been executed in Bahrain, the first executions there since 2010. A fourth is feared to be in danger of execution.
- Barack Obama has commuted Chelsea Manning's prison sentence and she should be released in May.
- There was some discussion about the situation in The Gambia.

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Individual at Risk – TURKEY
Imprisoned Woman Denied Vital Operation

SIBEL ÇAPRAZ



Sibel Çapraz, a member of Hakkari Municipal Council, was shot in the right arm and abdomen shortly after the end of a three-day, 24-hour curfew on the night of 27 November 2015 in south-east Turkey, during clashes between security forces and the PKK. Family state that she was shot by the police outside her sister's house, where she was staying.

She is charged with “inciting the public to hatred or hostility” and “membership of an armed terrorist organisation”. She is being denied an urgent operation to reverse a colostomy procedure needed after she was shot in the abdomen. The delay is increasing the risk of complications and potentially putting Sibel Çapraz's life at risk.

The denial of requisite medical treatment to Sibel is prohibited by the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.



Send the attached appeal letter

The First Executions in Bahrain for 6 years



It is reliably reported that false confessions obtained under torture were used to convict the trio.

All of the men were tortured by police after their arrest and at least two say they signed false confessions under duress:

VERÓNICA RAZO - MEXICO



Verónica, a Mexican 37-year-old mother of three, is terrified of sleeping. Every night, when she lies in her bed in a small cell in a federal prison, an hour outside the Mexico

City, her mind replays the scariest 24 hours of her life.

On 8 June 2011 federal police raped, suffocated and electrocuted her in a warehouse in Mexico City. She was tortured so badly that she almost died as a result. Police wanted her to say that she belonged to one of the brutal criminal gangs causing mayhem across the country. She has been behind bars since then.

Members sent letters appealing for her release and the indictment of those who tortured her.

Israel & the Occupied Territories.

Members sent letters on behalf of **Anas Barghouti** a Palestinian lawyer who is still detained. His hearing was adjourned until 24th January, despite the prosecution bringing no witnesses to court in December.



Anas Barghouti, is a lawyer and human rights defender who was arrested by the Israeli authorities on 15 September 2013. Amnesty International considered him a prisoner of conscience at the time because his arrest was based solely on his peaceful work as a human rights defender, representing Palestinians detained by Palestinian security forces.