



**Happy New Year to Everyone
 & Best Wishes for 2017**

DIARY DATES

GROUP MEETING –

Thursday 19th January 2017 – 7.30 to 9.30

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

Sat. 21st Jan. 2017 8.00 to 17.00 - Collection

Tesco Store Winwick Road

Support your Amnesty Group while shopping!

Individual at Risk – CHINA

ILHAM TOHTI

CHINA – Life sentence for Uighur activist



Uighur academic ILHAM TOHTI is a prominent critic of the Chinese government's policies in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. Uighurs, members of an ethnic minority that practices Islam, face widespread discrimination in their employment, education and housing, curtailed religious freedom, and political marginalisation. Ilham has spoken out about his community's plight for many years. His 'Uighur Online' website reporting human rights violations has been repeatedly shut down. He has always opposed violence and worked peacefully to build bridges between communities. Nevertheless, he has been put under surveillance, charged with 'separatism', an 'offence' often used against Uighurs who speak out, Ilham was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2014.



Send the attached appeal letter

CULCHETH WRITE FOR RIGHTS – December

We were happy with the general support we received for our Write4Rights 2016 in Culcheth. There was a fairly steady number of visitors during the day so that we all felt very satisfied with the support.

56 cards were sent and 12 appeal letters were signed on behalf of the 11 individuals at risk. We received £99.60 in donations which covered the cost of posting the cards giving a balance of £44.80 plus £23.50 from the sale of books totalling £70.30. After paying the £35 room hire £35.30 goes into group funds. Our thanks to everyone who helped on the day and/or donated books. We felt that it was a rewarding and satisfying team effort.

We are grateful to Warrington North MP for supporting this event



Helen Jones MP posting her card

Views In the Hall



Countries in order of number of cards sent

**Malawi/ Turkey/ Iran / Peru / Azerbaijan /
 Cameroon / Egypt / Indonesia /USA / China
 /UK**

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REPORTERS IN DANGER OF ARREST IN TURKEY



Thirty journalists are currently under arrest in Turkey. One-in-three of these journalists is from the Dicle News Agency (DİHA), which has been covering the conflicts in the country's southeast between the military and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Hundreds of journalists are being tried due to news stories or books that they wrote. The number of cases opened against journalists and writers by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan alone has reached 1,843, according to Turkish press organizations.

Furthermore, foreign reporters and writers who criticize Erdogan and the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) are being taken into custody and deported from the country.

STANDING ROCK: A MAJOR VICTORY FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHTS



Update, 5 December 2016: Amazing news! In a major victory for Indigenous people who fought to protect the water and their rights, the Army Corps of Engineers has decided not to allow an oil pipeline to cross under a reservoir on land it controls in North Dakota.

We're calling on Congress to ensure that Indigenous communities are always consulted in decisions like this. It must only be the beginning of an improved process for projects that affect Indigenous populations. The world is now watching and so are we.

What's been happening at Standing Rock?

Freedom of expression is a human right. But at Standing Rock, North Dakota, it's been under threat. We've called on police to respect, protect and fulfil Indigenous people's right to peaceful protest.

Members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other tribes have been protesting against a planned oil pipeline that would border the Standing Rock reservation.

Tribal members and those protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline, calling themselves 'water protectors', say it threatens to contaminate their main source of drinking water and destroy cultural and religious sites. "People here just want to stand up for the rights of indigenous people and protect their natural resources. These people should not be treated like the enemy."

Eric Ferrero, director of communications, Amnesty International USA

Water protectors have set up camp at a planned construction site across the river from the Standing Rock reservation, supported by a growing number of Indigenous people and others from across the United States and Canada.

But as tensions have risen between law enforcement officers and protestors, the police have employed an increasingly militarised response.

Over the last few months, Amnesty has sent four delegations of observers to the area to ensure people's human rights are protected.