



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
**WARRINGTON GROUP**  
 NEWS SHEET OCTOBER 2016

**Diary Dates**

**NEXT GROUP MEETING**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – 7.30 to 9.30**

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

**Saturday Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Write for Rights**

Newchurch Parish Hall, Culcheth

**Sat.1st Jan. 2017 Collection Tesco Store**

**Individual at Risk – Ethiopia**

**ETHIOPIA - British national at risk of execution**



Andy Tsege is a British National and a well-respected critic of the Ethiopian government. In 1979 after his younger brother was murdered by government security forces Andy sought political asylum in the UK and has lived in London ever since. In June 2014, after lecturing in the Gulf, Andy was on his way back home when his plane was diverted to Yemen. While at the airport he was abducted to Ethiopia and was held in secret detention in solitary confinement for over a year. Later he was paraded on Ethiopian TV looking ill and gaunt. Torture is widespread in Ethiopian prisons. Andy has been denied access to his family, a lawyer, or proper access with British officials.



**1. Send the attached letter to the Foreign Secretary**

**Collection October**

We had a late donation for the collection which brought our total to £207.30. We now have £425.50 in the account. We sent £472 to AIUK in July and will consider sending another small donation before Christmas.

**Group Photo**

**Harold took a group photo for us to send to Teodora in El Salvador**



**Israel & Occupied Palestinian Territories**



Gaza in the dark - The Gaza Strip has been under siege for a decade, with a strict Israeli-Egyptian blockade controlling the entry and exit of people and goods.

Electricity is rationed throughout the territory, as Gaza has access to less than half of its power needs. Residents may receive eight hours or fewer of electricity a day, with blackouts common.

Gaza's power plant was bombed in 2006 and the electricity network suffered further damage during the 2014 war, straining the system to its limits. The lack of electricity also has consequences for the pumping and treatment of sewage water.

In addition to Israeli attacks and restrictions, infighting between Hamas in Gaza and the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah have contributed to a lack of progress in solving the territory's power crisis.

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## This Month's NEWS

### GOOD NEWS

Eight good news stories were featured this month

In September Canadian-Irish-Iranian citizen **HOMA HOODFAR** a prominent professor of anthropology, was freed in Iran after global campaign flown to Oman.

Prisoner of Conscience **AHMED ABDULLAH** was released on bail in Egypt -10 September after spending over four months in detention without trial.

Egyptian **ISLAM KHALIL**, a 27-year-old survivor of enforced disappearance and torture, was released on 31 August.

Bangladeshi journalist **SHAFIK REHMAN**, an 81-year-old arrested on 16 April, has been granted bail by the Supreme Court.

Omani prisoner of conscience **SAEED JADDAD** was released from prison on 26 August, after serving nine months of a one-year prison sentence for a blog he wrote in October 2014.

Iranian physicist **OMID KOKABEE** who was on medical leave following his surgery for advanced kidney cancer, has been granted conditional release.

Egyptian Human rights defender **MALEK ADLY** was released in August after he spent 115 days in detention. He faces an ongoing criminal investigation

**DMYTRO KOROLIOV** was released in August after spending one year in secret detention in the Security Service compound in Kharkiv, northeast Ukraine.

### Action for Burundi -BURUNDI



Members were given details of a **Thunderclap Action** for Jean Bigirimana, a journalist who disappeared in July: messages are sent via Facebook, Twitter or Tumblr and are held back until 2<sup>nd</sup> November (International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists) when they are released together. After completing a multiple-choice quiz on Burundi members were given appeal post cards to send to President Pierre Nkurunziza.

### IRAN - 22 year old Zeinab Sekaanvand Lokran

**Zeinab was sentenced to death by hanging after an unfair trial.**



Zeinab was convicted of killing her husband. Held in the police station for 20 days, she said she was tortured and beaten by male police officers. She “confessed” to stabbing her husband after he had subjected her to months of physical and verbal abuse and refused her a divorce. She was 17 years old when her husband was killed and she was arrested. International pressure is working. Zeinab’s execution has not taken place and she is **no longer at imminent risk of execution.**

She has a new lawyer who is in the process of applying for retrial based on Article 91 of Iran’s Islamic Penal Code. Her death sentence remains in place until a retrial is granted by the authorities.

### Decode Darfur interactive platform .

New members Chris told group members about this new Amnesty project in which digital volunteers are to expose Darfur human rights violations in ‘revolutionary’ crowdsourcing project. Amnesty International is building a network of digital volunteers to help uncover human rights violations and abuses in the conflict-ravaged Sudanese region of Darfur as part of a revolutionary crowdsourcing. Supporters will be able to analyse thousands of square kilometres of satellite imagery in remote parts of Darfur where bombings and chemical weapons attacks are suspected to have taken place – just by using their phone, tablet or laptop.

“This ambitious, revolutionary project marks a fundamental shift in the way we view human rights research – and gives anyone with internet access the chance to help expose some of the world’s gravest injustices