



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WARRINGTON GROUP
 NEWS SHEET OCTOBER 2016

Diary Date

NEXT GROUP MEETING

Thursday 20th October 2016 – 7.30 to 9.30

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

Saturday Dec 10th Write for Rights – Culcheth

Sat.1st Oct. Collection Stockton Heath

With the help of Pat, Barbara, Jane, John, John & Miriam, Harold, Evelyn, Gill, Sue, Heather, Angela & Matthew we raised £197.30 for funds in spite of competition from Multiple Sclerosis Society. Well Done Everyone – with the £195.42 from the April Collection this brings our total to £392.72



Refugees Welcome march – London

Sue Rigby went on the 'Refugees Welcome' march in London on 17th September.



Individual at Risk – IRAN



IRAN - British woman jailed for five years in Iran

On 3rd April Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe was detained by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard at the airport returning to the UK after a holiday visiting her parents. Fortunately her parents were allowed to take the baby! Both Nazanin's passport & baby daughter's passports have been confiscated. After a secret trial she is facing a five-year jail sentence. Long periods of her detention have been in solitary confinement in the high-security wing of notorious Iranian prisons with serious health consequences. She has become increasingly frail and unable to walk. She has been denied contact with her baby daughter, her husband and her parents and has had no access to a lawyer.

SPEAK OUR AGAINST HATE CRIMES



Warrington Borough council replied to our letter on this subject and pointed out that a letter had been printed in the Warrington Guardian on 1st July welcoming people from a wide variety of countries of all faiths, ethnicities and nationalities assuring them of a friendly welcome in Warrington and alerting the public to what actions they can take to report hate and racist crimes within the borough!



1. Send the attached letter to Iranian Embassy



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This Month's NEWS

Ukraine

NATALYA SHARINA



Group members were asked to send appeals on behalf of Natalya Sharina, the Director of the state-run Library of Ukrainian Literature who has been under house arrest since 30 October 2015 after investigators allegedly found “extremist literature” in a pile of books in the library that had not been indexed or made available for borrowers.

Further Charges

On 5 April 2016, weeks before her house arrest was due to expire, she was charged with embezzlement for allegedly misappropriating library funds (an offence that is classified as a serious crime and carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years) and her house arrest was extended until July. On 27 July her detention was again prolonged until 29th August.

Israel & Occupied Palestinian Territories

Hasan Safadi



Media co-ordinator for the prisoners' rights group, Addameer, was arrested on the border with Jordan and allegedly tortured – he was charged with visiting an ‘enemy’ - country.

Bilad Kayet



Bilad completed his 14½ years in jail in June for activities in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Instead he was given a further six months under administrative detention which could be renewed unlimited times.

Mr. Kayet is reported to be in a critical condition after being on hunger strike and doctors have informed him that he may suffer irreversible damage to his health. The United Nations says it is “deeply concerned” at his deteriorating health.

HONDURAS



Just as In UK people are trying to protect the land from the effects of fracking however in Honduras people are dying while trying to protect their land in the face of projects such as the construction of the Agua Zarca dam in Río Blanco which threatens the flow of the Gualcarque river, sacred to the Lena indigenous community.

Six months ago Berta Cáceres was murdered in Honduras. Berta spent decades supporting local communities in their efforts to protect their land.

Recently Amnesty International released a report, *'Defending the land with our blood'* highlighting the dangers faced by those human rights defenders working to protect the land in Honduras and Guatemala.