

Sources for cases: Amnesty International UK

'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 take this sheet away with you 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

All of our forthcoming events and regular meetings have been postponed or cancelled until further notice due to the Coronavirus / COVID-19 outbreak.

If you are interested in what we normally do, or would like to find out ways that you can continue to support Amnesty from home, then please feel free to get in touch with us through the above website.



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

Remembering those experiencing injustice,

A time for contemplation.....

April 2020

"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 on the first Sunday of each month from 9.00 - 10.15am. Here we 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. Please join us.

INDIA: Human rights defenders jailed

In 2018 and as part of an attack on human rights defenders in India, nine prominent activists were arrested after police claimed they were involved in the violence between two ethnic groups – the Dalits and Hindus – in the state of Maharashtra. They are the Bhima Koregaon 9, or BK9: Sudha Bharadwaj, Shoma Sen, Surendra Gadling, Mahesh Raut, Arun Ferreira, Sudhir Dhawale, Rona Wilson, Vernon Gonsalves and Varavara Rao. They are lawyers, artists and trade unionists who have fought for the rights of India's poor and its most unfairly treated communities.

They have been charged under a draconian “anti-terror” law and remain jailed, pending their trial. This is part of a wider crackdown on human rights activists by Narendra Modi's nationalist government.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the BK9 in their imprisonment, their families and fellow human rights campaigners
- For the Indian government to unconditionally release them
- For the Indian government to cease its crackdown on human rights defenders

SUDAN: Report details security forces' violence

Sudan's crackdown on protests against the government of deposed President Omar al-Bashir in 2018 and 2019 involved all branches of the country's security forces, an Amnesty International investigation has found. It also reveals new evidence about how protesters were killed. The investigation documents specific killings by the security forces - for example, at least 100 people were killed by security forces during a peaceful protest in Khartoum on 3rd June alone. Human rights violations detailed include the arbitrary detention of thousands of people and their torture, as well as testimonies of rape and sexual assault of female protesters. At least 20 people taken into detention are still missing.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the victims of these appalling abuses and their families
- For Sudan's transitional authorities to hold thorough and independent investigations into these killings and other human rights violations
- For the country's prime minister Abdalla Hamdoko (who survived an assassination attempt in February) as he steers the transitional government through the next few years

CHINA: History professor jailed

Iminjian Seyden is a history professor at the Xinjiang Islamic Institute in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in China. He went missing in 2017 and it has since emerged he was convicted of “inciting extremism” during a secret trial in February 2019. He was sentenced to 15 years in jail. It is believed his conviction was related to an Arabic rhetoric book he published in 2014, when working with a group on poverty alleviation – but no evidence against him has been made public. The professor's daughter Samira, who works at Harvard Medical School, only discovered about her father's trial in November.

This is part of a much wider targeting of the mostly Muslim Uyghurs by the Chinese government, which includes restrictions of religious freedom and cultural and social rights. More recently it has involved the detention of up to a million people in “transformation-through-education” centres.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Iminjian Seyden in his imprisonment and his family
- That the Chinese government will provide evidence of internationally recognised due process in his conviction – or release him without charge
- For the Chinese government to cease its persecution of the Uyghur people

Good news from Equatorial Guinea!

Joaquin Elo Ayeto has thanked Amnesty International activists for their “titanic effort” in helping secure his release from prison. Joaquin is a member of the opposition party and involved with a campaign group working to challenge the injustices faced by young people. He was imprisoned for almost a year without trial before being freed in February.