



AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

**Remembering those experiencing injustice,
A time for contemplation.....**

October 2026

“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 between the two morning services on the first Sunday of each month from 9.00am to 10.15am. Here we can 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.

Libya: Executions resume

The Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF) has resumed executions for the first time in Libya since 2010. Since 23 August, 30 people have been put to death following torture-tainted trials. At least 50 men remain at imminent risk. According to Amnesty research, military courts have convicted hundreds of civilians in eastern Libya in grossly unfair, secret trials aimed at punishing opponents and critics of the LAAF and its allies.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For all executions in eastern Libya to be halted and an official moratorium on executions to be declared
- For all convictions and death sentences issued following unfair trials to be quashed
- For those facing internationally recognisable offences to be retried before a civilian court

Ethiopia: Filmmaker disappears

Filmon Gebrehiwot Hagos has not been seen since August 2025. The human rights defender is the owner of Filari Film Production and is known for his videography of weddings, films, music videos, news coverage, and photoshoots. Shortly before his disappearance, it was alleged that he was working on documenting the effects of the war in Tigray, recording interviews with survivors of sexual violence, and carrying out other post-war documentation activities. Ethiopia has a long-documented pattern of enforced disappearances, especially in relation to the 2020-2025 war in the Tigray region. Filmon's fate and whereabouts remain unknown, raising serious concerns that he has been subjected to an enforced disappearance.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For an investigation to be immediately carried out into the disappearance of Filmon Gebrehiwot Hagos
- If he is being held by the authorities, for him to be released immediately and unconditionally
- For his wife and children as they await news of his whereabouts

China: Artist jailed under “heroes and martyrs” law

Artist Gao Zhen has been convicted of “slandering China’s heroes and martyrs” and sentenced to three years in prison. The 70-year-old is part of the internationally known Gao Brothers artistic duo, renowned for their contemporary artworks examining Chinese history, state power and social change. The charges relate to artistic works, dating back a decade or more, that authorities claim insulted revolutionary figures. His wife and child have not been accused of any crime, yet they have reportedly been subject to harassment and intimidation and have been unable to leave China since his detention. Amnesty International described Gao Zhen’s trial and sentence as an attempt to “silence artists, activists and other individuals who dare to express views that differ from those of the Chinese government”.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Chinese authorities to cease their retaliation against Gao Zhen’s family members
- For the authorities to overturn his conviction, drop all charges and release him immediately and unconditionally
- For the repeal of the law on heroes and martyrs, unless the Chinese authorities can ensure it is in line with international human rights standards

Good news from Britain

A man held in prison for more than 20 years after being given an indeterminate sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) is set to be released this month. Leroy Douglas was 24 when he was initially convicted in 2005 of stealing a mobile phone and sentenced to a minimum prison term of two-and-a-half years. IPPs were established to keep serious offenders, who were perceived to be a risk to the public, in prison. Despite being scrapped by the UK government in 2012, more than 2,000 prisoners are subject to IPPs. Open-ended IPP sentences “violate serious human rights”, according to the United Nations.

Sources for cases: Amnesty International

'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 keep this sheet to hand 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

Our monthly planning meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next two meetings will be held from 7pm on 6 October and 3 November in St Peter's House, Broad Street, Ely, CB7 4AH. Anyone interested in attending to find out more or join our group would be very welcome.