



# AMNESTY

ELY CITY GROUP

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

**September 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 usually 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.*

*Though we cannot gather in person due to present circumstances, we invite you to remember the cases here and any others for whom you have a particular concern.*

## **PHILIPPINES: Senator imprisoned**

Senator Leila de Lima has been a vocal critic of the human rights violations that have been committed in the so-called 'war on drugs' waged since President Duterte took power in June 2016. Shortly after President Duterte took office, Senator de Lima voiced her concern regarding the increasing number of extrajudicial killings of suspected drug offenders. Following this, the President and other state officials began a campaign of harassment and intimidation against her. On 24 February 2017 Leila de Lima was arrested on drug-related charges. Amnesty International believes that these charges are politically motivated.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Philippine authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the Senator and drop all charges against her.
- For the authorities to ensure that, while in detention, Senator de Lima is held in humane conditions, and for them to remove the arbitrary restrictions imposed on her so she can discharge fully her legislative mandate, especially as Chair of the Committee on Social Justice.

## **ERITREA: Enforced disappearance of teenager**

Ciham Ali Ahmed was born in California but raised in Eritrea. She is a dual Eritrean and US national. In 2012, aged 15, Ciham was arrested after attempting to cross the border into Sudan to avoid the forced national military service for young people. Anyone caught crossing the border is usually imprisoned for around six months. But despite never being charged with any crime, Ciham has remained in detention. Her family have not seen or heard from her in over five years. Ciham is one of tens of thousands of prisoners who are arrested in Eritrea and never heard from again.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For Ciham Ali Ahmed and her family
- For the Eritrean authorities to inform her family of Ciham's whereabouts
- For the Eritrean government to release all prisoners who have never been charged with a crime.

## **CHINA: Detained for sending money to Australia**

Mahira Yakub transferred money to her parents in Australia in 2013 to help them buy a house. In April 2019 the authorities accused her of 'giving material support to terrorist activity' and detained her. She has been in prison ever since, with no access to her family or a lawyer and without any evidence of the 'crime' she's accused of. Mahira is part of the Uyghur community, a largely Muslim ethnic minority group. The Chinese government has detained over one million Uyghurs in 're-education camps' since 2017 — including Mahira. She suffers from liver damage because she was detained in a camp in 2018.

Please hold in mind or pray:

- For the Chinese government to release Mahira, unless there is credible and admissible evidence that she has committed an internationally recognised offence
- For the authorities to allow Mahira access to her family, adequate medical care and legal representation of her choice, and to ensure she is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment.

### **Good news!**

Our March prayer sheet featured Magai Matiop Ngong, who accidentally shot his cousin during a scuffle. Aged only 15, he was sentenced to death by hanging. On 14 July South Sudan's Court of Appeal quashed Magai's death sentence. The case has been sent back to the High Court for a more appropriate sentence. Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International's Director for East and Southern Africa, said 'Magai is one of the lucky ones'. Muchena said at least two other people, who were children at the time of their crimes, had been executed in the country since May 2018.

**Sources for cases:** Amnesty International UK, BBC

‘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](http://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.