

December 12, 2021

Greetings from Amnesty International Group 22 Pasadena/Caltech!

This update includes the following:

- * Write For Rights 2021
- * Prisoners of Conscience Narges Mohammadi and Gao Zhisheng
- * Upcoming Events for December 2021
- * Recent Group 22 Letter Writing meetings and Book Discussions

Reminder: Current information about Group 22 upcoming events and a link to Group 22's Facebook page are available at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~aigp22/>

*** WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2021 ***

Write A Letter, Change A life!

Please join Group 22 and Amnesty International members around the world in the 2021 Write For Rights campaign. Visit <https://write.amnestyusa.org> to learn about the ten featured cases. You can take action as an Individual Writer or find a public event on the Events Map. You are invited to join us in the Group 22 online Letter Writing meeting on December 14 (see below).

*** PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE NARGES MOHAMMADI AND GAO ZHISHENG ***

In June an Iranian court announced a new sentence for Narges Mohammadi, two-and-a-half years in prison, 80 lashes, and two separate fines for charges related to her peaceful human rights activities while she was previously unjustly jailed.

Now that which we feared has come to pass. On November 16, she was arrested and taken to Evin Prison to begin serving the new sentence. Even more distressful is that she was put into solitary confinement, and her family is unable to contact her.

Please visit Group 22's web page for information about Narges and suggested social media actions.
<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~aigp22/POC-Narges/Narges.html>

Prisoner of Conscience Gao Zhisheng is still missing after he was forcibly disappeared in August 2017. A respected human rights lawyer, he was subject to torture and ill treatment during his previous disappearances and imprisonment during 2006-2014. You can learn more about him and find a sample letter to China Ambassador Qin Gang on our web page http://www.its.caltech.edu/~aigp22/GaoPOC/2021_Apr_Gao.pdf

*** UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2021 ***

Tuesday, December 14, 7:30–9 pm. Letter-writing.
Contact aigp22@caltech.edu to get a link to the Zoom session.
This month we will focus on the 10 Write For Rights cases, one of which is extremely ill journalist Zhang Zhan in China. All cases include both letter and email actions to government officials. You can mail solidarity letters or cards to 6 of the cases and post social media messages of support for 8 cases.
The Amnesty California page at <https://amnestycalifornia.org/w4r2021> has simplified versions of the sample letters and also a concise PDF of all 10 cases that you might find useful.

Sunday, December 19, 6:30 pm. Human Rights Book Discussion Group.
Our December selection is "Vigil: Hong Kong on the Brink" by Jeffrey Wasserstrom.
Kirkus Review calls it "a well-organized, strikingly relevant work".
<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/jeffrey-wasserstrom/vigil-wasserstrom/>
If you are interested in the book discussion, please contact aigp22@caltech.edu in order to receive an invitation to the Zoom session.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, January 21, 2022. Laemmle Playhouse in Pasadena will screen "Unsilenced", a film about human rights issues in China.
<https://www.laemmle.com/film/unsilenced>

*** RECENT GROUP 22 LETTER WRITING MEETINGS AND BOOK DISCUSSIONS ***

Many thanks to Kathy and Paula for organizing and hosting our Letter Writing online sessions. Thank you also to regular attendees Stevi, Robert, Radulf, Randy and Doni, Elena and Arturo.

Group Coordinator Kathy reported the Urgent Actions counts for our recent letter writing meetings.
June: 50 letters and 62 emails.
July: 28 letters and 45 emails and 19 tweets
August: 41 letters and 43 emails.
September: 41 letters and 61 emails and 1 fax.
October: 18 letters and 48 emails and 10 tweets.

Our book group continues to meet on the third Sunday of the month, just like we've been doing ever since Martha started the group back in September 1996! (Except, of course, that we've been online with Zoom instead of meeting in person.)

Here are the books we discussed recently.
July: "Eat the Buddha: Life and Death in a Tibetan Town" by Barbara

Demick

August: "A Midsummer's Equation: A Detective Galileo Mystery" by Keigo Higashino

September: "Spirit Run: A 6,000-Mile Marathon Through North America's Stolen Land" by Noe Alvarez

October: Crooked Hallelujah by Kelli Jo Ford

November: "Ghosts of Gold Mountain: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad" by Gordon H. Chang

Many thanks to Kathy for being our Zoom host and to Stevi for leading the discussions and providing lots of fascinating supplementary articles and maps. It's been wonderful to have Martha join us from Wisconsin and Jenny from northern California. (And we also get to say hi to Bootsy the cat and Mollie the dog!)

If you would like to receive emails about the book group, contact aigp22@caltech.edu.

*** LAST WORD ***

Happy holidays! Stay safe.

Peace and all good,

Joyce and Kathy and Stevi