

July 11, 2022

Greetings from Amnesty International Group 22 Pasadena/Caltech!

This is another in the series of occasional updates with news from Group 22.

This update includes the following:

- * Upcoming Events for July and August 2022
- * Recent Letter Writing Meetings and Book Discussions
- * Prisoners of Conscience Narges Mohammadi and Gao Zhisheng

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/>

Past Updates and Newsletters are at

<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~aigp22/Oldnews/>

See <https://amnestyusa.org/ukrainecrisis/> for Amnesty USA resources and actions for Ukraine.

***** UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JULY & AUGUST 2022 *****

Tuesday, July 12, 7:30-9 pm. Letter-writing.

Contact aigp22@caltech.edu to get a link to the Zoom session.

You can always write letters on your own: go to <https://www.amnestyusa.org/take-action/urgent-action-network/>.

Check the Amnesty USA home page for online actions and updates on

current human rights issues.

Sunday, July 17, 6:30 pm. Human Rights Book Discussion Group.

Our July selection is a novel, "The Winter Soldier" by Daniel Mason.

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/daniel-mason/the-winter-soldier/>

It's 1914 in Vienna, and Lucius is a twenty-two-year-old medical student when World War I explodes across Europe.

If you are interested in the book discussion, please contact

aigp22@caltech.edu in order to receive an invitation to the Zoom session.

Tuesday, August 9, 7:30-9 pm. Letter-writing.

Sunday, August 21, 6:30 pm. Human Rights Book Discussion Group.

Our August selection is "While Justice Sleeps", a mystery by Stacey Abrams. (Yes, Stacey Abrams!)

[SAVE THE DATES]

Tuesday, September 13. Letter Writing.

Sunday, September 18. Book Discussion. "How Iceland Changed the World: The Big History of a Small Island" by Egill Bjarnason.

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

Many thanks to Kathy and Paula for organizing and hosting our Letter Writing online sessions.

Group Coordinator Kathy reported the Urgent Actions counts for our recent letter writing meetings.

April: 49 Letters, 64 Emails 5 Faxes.

May: 90 Letters, 93 Emails, 2 Faxes.

June: 64 Letters, 79 Emails

(In June we also sent 3 letters, 8 emails, and 1 tweet for POC Narges Mohammadi.)

Our Human Rights Book Discussion group continues to meet every third Sunday of the month.

Thanks to Kathy for being our Zoom host and to Stevi for leading the discussions and providing supplementary materials. As always, thank you to Martha for providing suggestions for us to choose our book selections for future months, as she has done since she started the book discussions in 1999!

These are the books we discussed recently.

April: "Fathoms: The World in the Whale" by Rebecca Giggs

May: "Light Perpetual: A Novel" by Francis Spufford

June: "Fallout: The Hiroshima Cover-up and the Reporter Who Revealed It to the World" by Lesley M.M. Blume

(Special thanks to Stevi for sharing her experience of attending the 50th anniversary observance at Hiroshima in 1995.)

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

Iran authorities ended the medical furlough of Narges Mohammadi and returned her to Qarchak Prison on April 11, a few days short of her 50th birthday. She has been denied the medication prescribed for her serious heart condition and has been subjected to death threats from inmates, as well as suffering from the prison's unsanitary conditions and deplorable lack of clean drinking water.

Please take action for Narges with the June 23 Urgent Action from Amnesty USA.

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-update-health-of-tortured-iranian-defender-at-risk-iran-ua-105-15/>

To get a sense of her courage and dedication to human rights, you can watch this short video that Narges pre-recorded for release on her 50th birthday.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1Kq1VagJsY>

There has been no news of human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng since he

was forcibly disappeared in China nearly 5 years ago. But we do not forget him. We will post a special action to mark the anniversary of his abduction in August 2017.
<http://www.its.caltech.edu/%7Eaigp22/GaoPOC/Gao.html>

***** LAST WORD *****

Happy Summer! Stay safe. Stay cool. Keep working for human rights.
Peace and all good,
Joyce and Kathy and Stevi