

August 31, 2020

Greetings from Amnesty International Group 22 Pasadena/Caltech!

We hope you are keeping well and staying safe during the pandemic. You can contact aigp22@caltech.edu to receive information about our virtual Letter Writing and Book Group meetings on Zoom.

This is another short update about our group's human rights activities and news about our adopted Prisoners of Conscience in Iran and China.

LETTER WRITING

Thank you again to group member Paula for hosting our Zoom Letter Writing on August 11 and to group coordinator Kathy for her list of current Urgent Actions.

Kathy reported the Group 22 total of 84 emails and 31 letters to Amnesty USA, and she told us, "Once again Randy and Doni win the prize with a total of 34 emails!"

Kathy's list of current Urgent Actions is available at https://www.its.caltech.edu/~aigp22/current_ua.html.

This will be updated for our next Letter Writing on Tuesday, September 8.

BOOK GROUP

August is our traditional month for a mystery. This year we chose "Gold of Our Fathers" by Kwei Quartey, featuring Ghana detective inspector Darko Dawson. Kathy was our Zoom host on August 16, and Stevi led the discussion and provided supplementary information. I enjoyed the book, especially the dialog in English as spoken in Ghana.

Our September selection is "Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland" by Patrick Radden Keefe. Zoom meeting will be Sunday, September 20, 6:30 pm. There's a very interesting interview with the author on LA Review of Books, 4/21/2019. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/whatever-you-say-say-nothing-an-interview-with-patrick-radden-keefe/>

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE GAO ZHISHENG

It's three years since our adopted Prisoner of Conscience, human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, was disappeared on 13 August 2017. He is still missing. China has not revealed his whereabouts or state of health to his family.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/gao-disappearance-08172020080134.html>

I updated the Gao Zhisheng page on our website, where you can find a sample letter and sources for more information about Gao.
<http://www.its.caltech.edu/%7Eaigp22/GaoPOC/Gao.html>

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE NARGES MOHAMMADI

There's one encouraging report on Narges from VOA, dated Aug 6.
<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/voa-news-iran/jailed-iranian-journalist-mohammadi-out-danger-coronavirus-husband-says>
However, I have not seen this report confirmed anywhere else, so cautious optimism would be in order.
I will have a new sample letter for Narges available for our letter writing on September 8.

Peace and all good,
Joyce and Kathy and Stevi