

November 26, 2020

Greetings from Amnesty International Group 22 Pasadena/Caltech!  
We hope you are well and enjoying a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

A lot has happened since our last Update of September 30. Apologies for the delay. This Update will include Upcoming Events in December, reports of our Letter Writing meetings in October and November, Book Group update, and news of our adopted prisoner of conscience.

Reminder: Information about Group 22 Upcoming Events is available at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~aigp22>

\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2020 \*\*\*

Now - January 31, WRITE FOR RIGHTS.

Write for Rights (W4R) is Amnesty's largest global grassroots action with hundreds of thousands of activists all over the world writing letters and signing online petitions to free human rights defenders each year. International Human Rights Day is on December 10th, but you can participate now through January 31, 2021. Visit <https://write.amnestyusa.org> for information about the cases selected for 2020.

Saturday, December 12, 1-3 pm. Group 22 WRITE FOR RIGHTS.

Group coordinator Kathy will host an informal session for us to chat and exchange ideas while we work on this year's cases. Contact her at [danishgirl@earthlink.net](mailto:danishgirl@earthlink.net) by December 5 to receive a Zoom invitation.

Saturday, December 19, 1-4 pm. Write for Rights - California.

This is a virtual, state-wide event organized by some Amnesty International local groups to bring our California community together in the fight against human rights violations. Information and RSVP at <https://ca-w4r.eventbrite.com>

Sunday, December 20, 6:30 pm. Human Rights Book Discussion on Zoom.

Our December selection is a novel, "Out of Darkness, Shining Light" by Zimbabwean writer Petina Gappah. It's the story of the African attendants who transported the body of Scottish explorer David Livingstone after he died of malaria. Here's the Kirkus review. <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/petina-gappah/out-of-darkness-shining-light/>

If you are interested in the book discussion, please contact [aigp22@caltech.edu](mailto:aigp22@caltech.edu) to receive an invitation to the Zoom session.

\*\*\* REPORTS ON PAST LETTER WRITING MEETINGS AND BOOK DISCUSSION \*\*\*

Many thanks to group member Paula for hosting our Zoom Letter Writing meetings and to group coordinator Kathy for providing lists of

current Urgent Actions.

For the October 13 meeting, Kathy reported 87 emails, 12 letters, and 2 tweets were sent for the various Urgent Actions!

For the November 10 meeting, Kathy reported,  
"Here's the letter count (drum roll please!):

108 emails

50 letters

8 faxes and 9 tweets.

For Prisoner of Conscience Gao Zhisheng, 11 emails and 9 letters."

More thanks to Kathy for hosting our Zoom Book Group meeting on November 15 and to Stevi for moderating the discussion. We had selected "Wasn't That a Time: The Weavers, the Blacklist, and the Battle for the Soul of America" by Jesse Jarnow. Much of the book dealt with early careers of Pete Seeger, Lee Hays, Ronnie Gilbert, and Fred Hellerman.

\*\*\* PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE NARGES MOHAMMADI IS FREE! \*\*\*

Narges Mohammadi, Group 22's adopted Prisoner of Conscience, is a prisoner no longer. She was released from Zanzan Prison in Iran at 3 am on October 8. Here's a video of her greeting her mother:  
<https://www.its.caltech.edu/~aigp22/POC-Narges/Release.MP4>

Narges thanked Amnesty International for never giving up on her. Her husband, Taghi Rahmani, who lives in exile in Paris with their two children, reported that Narges talks with the children and they are all happy.

In mid-November, however, we received the sad news that Narges's mother, Ozra Bazargan, had contracted Covid and died. We send all our sympathy to Narges and her family.

\*\*\* LAST WORD \*\*\*

Happy Holidays! Stay safe, stay well.

Peace and all good,

Joyce, Kathy, and Stevi