

December 2, 2022

Greetings from Amnesty International Group 22 Pasadena/Caltech!

This update contains the following:

- * Film "Unsilenced" at Caltech December 9
- * WRITE FOR RIGHTS December 10 at Dog Haus Pasadena
- * Prisoner of Conscience Gao Zhisheng in China
- * Prisoner of Conscience Narges Mohammadi in Iran
- * Recent 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/>
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.

SAVE THE DATE: 2023 AIUSA Annual General Meeting, March 3-5.
Location: San Diego Omni Hotel and Whova Event Platform

***** FILM "UNSILENCED" AT CALTECH DECEMBER 9 *****

Tuesday, December 9. "Unsilenced", a film about China human rights violations, will be shown 7:30 PM at Caltech, followed by Q&A and actions for Group 22's adopted Prisoner of Conscience Gao Zhisheng and other cases. <https://www.unsilencedmovie.com>
This screening is sponsored by Amnesty International Group 22. Light refreshments will be served at 7pm. Admission is free and open to the public. Please RSVP to wenchenspeaker@gmail.com to reserve your seat or for more information.
<https://www.caltech.edu/campus-life-events/calendar/international-human-rights-day-film-screen-unsilenced-1>

***** WRITE FOR RIGHTS DECEMBER 10 AT DOG HAUS PASADENA *****

Saturday, December 10, 11 am - 1 pm, WRITE FOR RIGHTS. Dog Haus, 93 East Green Street, Pasadena. <https://oldpasadena.doghaus.com>

We will send letters and cards of support for the 10 cases that Amnesty features this year. Please join members of Group 22 in the outdoor patio to write a few letters and enjoy the food.

To learn about the ten cases, visit <https://write.amnestyusa.org>
The W4R campaign runs until January 31, and you can participate as

an individual. The above website includes all the resources you need. You can send emails and sign petitions as well as writing letters.

WRITE A LETTER, CHANGE A LIFE!

***** PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE GAO ZHISHENG IN CHINA *****

There has been no news of human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng since he was forcibly disappeared in China in August 2017. But he is not forgotten!

Group 22 member Wen Chen has been helping his wife, Geng He, in her tireless advocacy to learn what has happened to her husband. Wen and her daughters represented Amnesty in a rally at the Chinese Consulate in August. Wen also arranged the Dec 9 film event at Caltech, which will include opportunities to take action for Gao.

Visit our Group 22 web page for Gao to learn more and to take action.
<http://www.caltech.edu/~aigp22/GaoPOC/Gao.html>

***** PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE NARGES MOHAMMADI IN IRAN *****

The massive ongoing protests in Iran have been in the headlines since the September death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini following her arrest by the morality police. Here is the November 24 statement from Amnesty International:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/11/iran-landmark-un-fact-finding-mission-marks-long-awaited-turning-point-in-tackling-systematic-impunity/>

Amnesty Denmark reports that Narges Mohammadi recently signed several protest letters about conditions of female prisoners in Evin Prison. Her husband, Taghi Rahmani, is about to bring the case of Narges before the EU commission of human rights.

The English edition of Narges Mohammadi's book about solitary confinement, "White Torture", will be available December 13.
<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/White-Torture/Narges-Mohammadi/9780861545506>

Visit our Group 22 webpage for Narges for more news and actions.
<http://www.its.caltech.edu/%7Eaigp22/POC-Narges/Narges.html>
Zan, Zendegi, Azadi! (Woman, Life, Freedom!)

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

The big news is that our last three Letter Writing meetings have been in-person dinner events at the Caltech Athenaeum. Thanks to

Group Coordinator Kathy for arranging these. Actually they were "hybrid" events, with a few of us attending via a Zoom link. Kathy and Robert, Wen and daughter Amber, Randy and Doni, Maria Elena and Arturo, Larry D., Mario, Paula, and Stevi were among those attending one or more of the three Athenaeum dinner meetings.

Many thanks to Group Coordinator Kathy for selecting and sending us Urgent Actions for all our Letter Writing meetings. For August, Kathy reported 9 letters and 29 emails; for September, 41 letters, 22 emails, 3 contact forms, 4 faxes.

Our Human Rights Book Discussion group continued to meet online 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, we rely on Martha for suggesting possible books for us to discuss.

Here are the books we discussed recently.

August: "While Justice Sleeps" by Stacy Abrams

September: "How Iceland Changed the World" by Egill Bjarnason

October: "The Ministry for the Future" by Kim Stanley Robinson

(We discussed the first half in Oct; the second half in Nov.)

Here are our next selections.

December: "Welcome to the New World" by Jake Halpern

January 2023: "Red Island House" by Andrea Lee

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

Happy Holidays! Stay safe. Keep working for human rights.

Peace and joy and all good,

Joyce and Kathy and Stevi