



Amnesty International

Group 524

September 2020



Group Leader Passes

September Meeting Cancelled

Longtime Group 524 Leader John Warren passes

2020 marks the thirtieth anniversary of AI Group 524. Instead of marking this milestone with a commemoration of our decades of work for human rights across the world, we are mourning the passing of our leader John Warren. John was present at the founding meeting of Group 524 in January, 1990 and proceeded to lead us for almost all of the next 30 years. (see obituary on page 2).

Next Meeting: Our September 15th meeting has been cancelled

This year has brought us many challenges and unfortunately they continue with the loss of John and our inability to meet in person. Amnesty International Area Coordinator Eve Wider has offered her assistance as we try to re-organize. In the meantime, I am willing to put together the monthly newsletter with at least one action we can take. Members should give some thought as to what tasks they may or may not be able to assist with. Questions and concerns can be emailed to me, (joheb@aol.com).

Model Letter for Chinese Uighur-Buzainafu Abudourexiti

On page 3 is a reprint of last month's sample letter in the case of **Buzainafu Abudourexiti**, a young Uighur woman who has been imprisoned since 2017.

Amnesty International Group 524

Meeting Schedule: Third Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Providence Heights

9000 Babcock Blvd., Allison Park, PA 15101



Contact John Belch (joheb@aol.com or 412-766-1894) for more information on material in this mailing, or visit the Amnesty USA web site (www.amnestyusa.org) and Group 39's Amnesty Pittsburgh web site (www.amnestypgh.org).



JOHN FLOYD WARREN

November 25, 1948 - August 21, 2020

John Warren was the Floyd family historian, often bringing large envelopes of newspaper clippings to holiday gatherings. He could trace his Floyd ancestors back nine generations to County Donegal in Ireland. A longtime resident of Ben Avon, he lived in a house built in 1901 by his grandfather. For decades, he helped assemble the Hunter Clan for reunions on the



grounds of the Deer Creek United Presbyterian Church. Mr. Warren, 71, died unexpectedly on August 21, after a brief illness. The son of the late Dorothy Floyd Warren and Charles Bradley Warren. He is survived by his sister, Charlotte W. Marson; and nieces, Laura Marson and Joanna Marson, all of Charleston, South Carolina; as well as longtime companion, Anita Reed of Ben Avon. A soft-spoken man, he was active with Community Presbyterian Church in Ben Avon, Amnesty International and various environmental organizations. John brought a passion for helping others and making the world a better place to those and many other works. He attended the College of Wooster and graduated from Duquesne University. As a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, he performed national service for two years at a children's home in Philadelphia. He then taught elementary school for seven years before transitioning to a career in information technology. John was a well-read man who enjoyed Pirates baseball and walks through historic sites such as Allegheny Cemetery. He loved to organize outings with his cousins, Peter Burk of O'Hara Twp. and Steve Kaufman of Castle Shannon; these trips usually ended with a visit to a nearby microbrewery. Mr. Warren will be buried in the family plot at Deer Creek cemetery. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



China: Model Letter Calling for Release of Buzainafu Abudourexiti

In May, we introduced you to the case of **Buzainafu Abudourexiti**, a young Uighur woman who has been imprisoned since 2017. We adapted the text of our appeal from an online petition at the website of Australia's Amnesty section. Her husband, Almas Nizamidin, is a Uighur man who has already settled in Australia. Buzainafu is simply seeking to leave China and join him in Australia. What appears below is the text of the Australian petition, which can be sent as a brief letter to the Chinese embassy in Washington. (Due to the pandemic, international mail has been disrupted, so our focus is on targets in DC.) You can also send email to the Chinese embassy: (chinaembpress_us@mfa.gov.cn).

Last month, we checked the website of the World Uyghur Congress, and confirmed that Buzainafu was included on their list of political prisoners held by the Chinese authorities:

<https://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/current-issues/uyghur-political-prisoners/>

Here is a link to Buzainafu's case summary on that site.

<https://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/urgent-action-uyghur-woman-incommunicado-after-secret-trial/>

Here is the text of our model letter on this case:

Ambassador Cui Tiankai
Embassy of the People's Republic of China 3505 International Place NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador:

I am extremely concerned for **Buzainafu Abudourexiti**, who is serving a seven-year sentence at Urumqi Women's Prison following a secret trial in June 2017. No official documentation about her case, nor the charges she has been convicted of, has been provided to her family.

I am calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Buzainafu Abudourexiti, unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that she committed an internationally recognized offense and is granted a fair re-trial in line with international standards.

Please ensure that Buzainafu Abudourexiti has regular, unrestricted access to family and lawyers of her choice, is not subject to torture and other ill-treatment, and receives regular and unrestricted access to medical care on request or as necessary.



Amnesty International Report on Covid-19 in US Immigration Detention

The full report is available at
<https://www.rightsnow.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Covid-in-Detention-Campaign-Update-31-August-2020.pdf>

Their recommendations include:

IMMIGRATION DETENTION – Amnesty International calls on the US government to immediately release as many as possible of the over 20,000 civil immigration detainees in its custody, for the duration of the COVID-19 global pandemic. The US government should release families together. US authorities have the legal power and responsibility to provide humanitarian parole and alternatives to detention to all those detainees in its unsafe and unsanitary detention facilities, prioritizing those who are older or have underlying health conditions placing them at higher risk of contracting COVID-19.

IMMIGRATION DEPORTATIONS – In a letter to US authorities on 6 May 2020, Amnesty International called on the US government to immediately impose a temporary moratorium on all deportations and other forced returns of immigration detainees, which are needlessly endangering public health and the people being transported. Amnesty additionally called for the US government to release people on orders of supervision who have received removal orders and are in detention.

EXPULSIONS – In a public statement in April 2020, Amnesty International called on the US government to cease the unlawful expulsions of migrants and asylum-seekers, including children and families, and resume processing asylum-seekers' claims in a manner while taking steps to safeguard public health.