



Amnesty International

Group 524

October 2022



No October Meeting Nicaraguan ICE Detainee Banned Books Week

Welcome

October has brought autumn and the sad news of the passing of member Sr. Cathy Frost (see page 2). This month's focus is on an ICE detention case and the continuing Banned Books Week effort.

"Teresa": Nicaraguan ICE Detainee

"Teresa", a Nicaraguan detained by ICE here in Pennsylvania, after fleeing her country. See the details and letter on pages 3 and 4.

Banned Books Week

We featured three cases from this action last month and actions on the other cases can continue until 10/31. Details are on page 5.

Amnesty's Ukraine Crisis Campaign

Amnesty has set up a page on their website to coordinate actions and information concerning Ukraine. A press release about the Nobel Peace Prize is on page 6. <https://www.amnestyusa.org/UkraineCrisis/>.

Amnesty International Group 524

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

Meeting Location: Providence Heights
9000 Babcock Blvd.significance



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).



Passing of Sister Cathy Frost

Sister Cathy Frost was a long time loyal member of Group 524 and passed away on October 6, 2022.



For many years, Sister Cathy served as a Catholic School Teacher in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, and New York. She received her MS degree from Duquesne University. Sister ministered for the longest periods of time at St. Anthony's School for Exceptional Children, Oakmont, PA, and at Providence Heights Alpha School in Allison Park. From 1986 - 1991, she served in the Harlem area of New York.

Sister Cathy was part of a very dedicated group of Sisters who have and continue to support and host Group #524 for almost 20 years. We thank them for their dedication to social justice and human rights.

The Sisters are moving to a new residence built on the property and we hope to start meeting - in person- again when a space is available.



DEMAND ICE FREE “TERESA”

Teresa* is a 26-year-old woman who was forced to flee her home in Nicaragua after facing assault, intimidation, and threats because of her opposition to policies of the Nicaraguan government. She came to the U.S. seeking asylum.



Now, she’s being detained in Berks County, Pennsylvania by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Teresa has been in detention for more than four months.

Teresa’s detainment is harmful and unnecessary — and it violates U.S. human rights obligations. She should be freed and with her community while she pursues her right to seek asylum.

We’ve teamed up with Aldea — The People’s Justice Center to stop this injustice.

Tell ICE Field Office Director in Philadelphia: release Teresa immediately.

**Teresa’s name has been anonymized to protect her safety.*

This action is also available online at <https://act.amnestyusa.org/page/111654/action/1>

Group 524
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Patrick Maddas
Assistant Field Director
ICE Philadelphia Field Office
114 North 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Field Director:

I write to urge you to release Teresa*, a 26-year-old woman from Nicaragua, immediately. She has been detained at four facilities since arriving in the United States in April 2022 to ask for asylum. She was transferred to the Berks County Residential Center in July 2022.

Teresa* is seeking asylum because she was intimidated, assaulted, and threatened with further harm by pro-government agents after expressing her political opinion opposing the government of President Ortega. She participated in peaceful protests in 2018 and expressed her opposition to the 2021 elections.

Teresa's* continued detention is harmful, unnecessary, and undermines the Biden administration's stated commitment to upholding human rights.

I urge you to release Teresa* while she pursues her right to seek protection in the United States.

Please act quickly.

Sincerely,



BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2022

Each year during Banned Books Week, Amnesty International draws attention to people around the world who have been imprisoned, threatened, or murdered because of their writing, art, or other published work. As a member of the Banned Books Week Coalition and in solidarity with the American Library Association (ALA) and organizations around the world, Amnesty activists work to fight challenges to freedom of expression.

Banned Books Week 2022 was September 18 – 24, but you can take action on the cases until October 31. All six cases are available at <https://www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022/> with the letters available as online email actions as well.





HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS FROM BELARUS, RUSSIA AND UKRAINE WIN THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Responding to the news that human rights organizations from Ukraine and Russia, as well as rights advocate Ales Bialiatski of Belarus, have been awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize, Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said:

“The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to human rights defenders and organizations from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine highlights the vital role they play in defending human rights in their countries and the wider region.”

“The Nobel Committee is sending an important message to the world – that it must support human rights defenders that have shown an outstanding effort to document war crimes, human rights abuses and the abuse of power in their countries. This message is sent at a critical moment when ongoing Russian aggression has led to a human rights crisis of incredible proportions in Ukraine, and of the crackdown on any form of dissent in Russia and Belarus.

“This is also a message of solidarity. Since July 2021 Ales Bialiatski, a pioneer of human rights in Belarus since the mid-1980's, has been behind bars for his peaceful work documenting, among other things, the crackdown on dissent following the disputed 2020 presidential elections. Memorial, one of the oldest Russian human rights organizations, was shut down by the Russian authorities at the end of 2021, and the Center for Civil Liberties has been documenting Russian war crimes in Ukraine since 2014 and continues its work in Ukraine despite the ongoing Russian war of aggression.

“Amnesty International stands in solidarity with Ales Bialiatski, Memorial and the Center for Civil Liberties. All three are an inspiration and an example of courage and dedication for all those who carry out human rights work in Eastern Europe.”

