



Amnesty International

Group 524

April 2026



Yu Wensheng Released!!!

More Prisoner Releases!!!

US Journalist Prosecution/Asylum Seeker Requires Care

Welcome

The focus this month is on the successful release of a number of prisoners and the continuing serious human rights violations in the news. We hope to see you on April **21** 6pm at the Commons.

Good News - Prisoner Releases!

Our group's Individual At Risk case, **Yu Wensheng** has been released! See page 2.
Palestinian student **Lequaa Kordia** was released and others are detailed on page 3.

Ketteler Award Tabling

Group 524 tabled at the 2026 Bishop Ketteler Award ceremony. See page 4.

US Journalist Prosecution

Georgia Fort is being prosecuted for media coverage of ICE in Minnesota. See pages 5-6

Asylum Seeker Requires Medical Care

In detention, Andrea Pedro Francisco requires urgent medical care. See pages 7-8.

Amnesty International Group 524

Meeting Schedule: Third Tuesday of the month, at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: The Commons Residence Providence Heights
9000 Babcock Blvd.



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)



Individual At Risk Prisoner Yu Wengsheng Released !!



Our IAR prisoner, **Yu Wengsheng** was released from detention on April 13, 2026 and has been reunited with his wife Xu and family in Beijing.

Over the past two years we have advocated on his and Xu's behalf.

AIUSA Country Coordinator for China, Suzanne Wright, sent us the news and this message:

"Thank you for all your hard work on this case. We know that everyone's efforts played a part in keeping him safe while in detention."





Additional Prisoner Releases

Denis Cabrera Rodríguez (USA: UA 104.25), a Cuban asylum seeker with Type 1 Diabetes who was denied access to his insulin pump while in ICE detention, was released on March 22. He is now home with his family while awaiting adjudication of his asylum claim, though he has been required to wear an ankle monitor. Your advocacy helped shine a spotlight on the dangers of denying medical care in detention.



After spending a year in arbitrary ICE detention, **Leqaa Kordia** (USA: Second UA 96.25) was released on March 16 following a judge's order. She has reunited with her family in New Jersey ahead of Eid. While her legal proceedings continue, her release is a powerful testament to sustained advocacy.

Tunisia: Human rights and humanitarian workers

Mustapha Djemali and **Abderrazak Krimi** (UA. 45.25) were freed after more than 18 months in arbitrary detention for their humanitarian work.

Sherifa Riahi, Mohamed Joo, and Imen Ouardani (UA 54.25) were released after the suspension of their prison sentences.

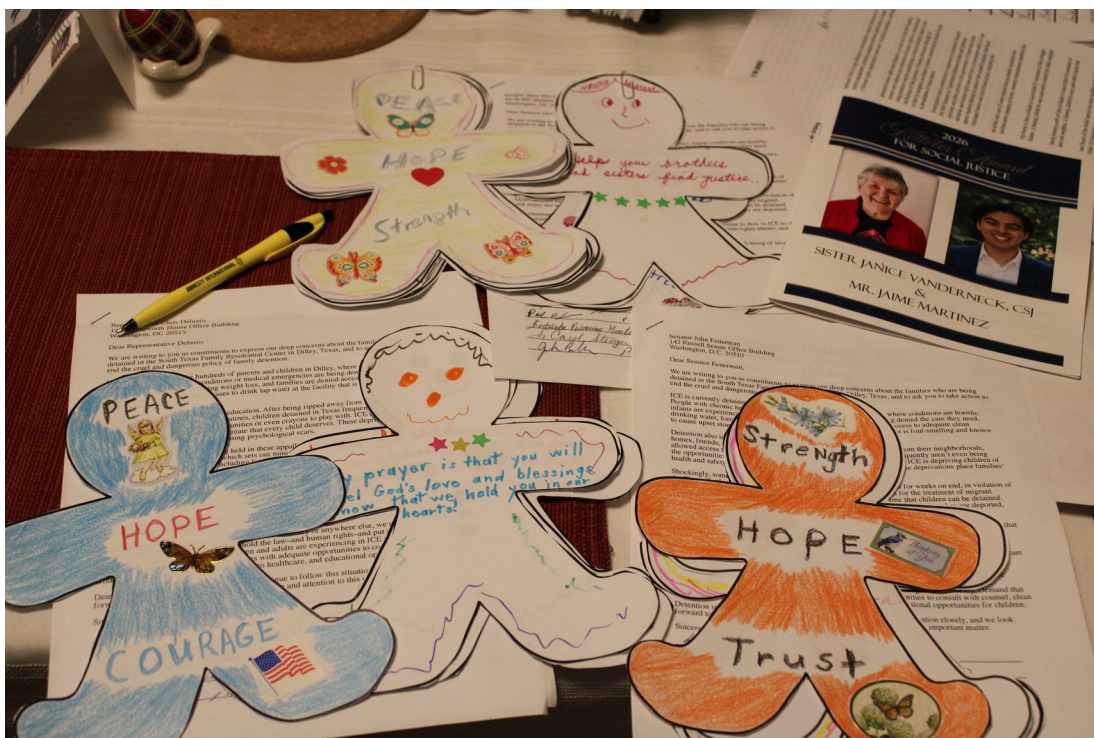
Ahmed Souab (Second UA 93.25), a prominent human rights lawyer was released on February 23 after 10 months in detention amid declining health.

Yuval Peleg (Israel: UA 91.25), an 18-year-old conscientious objector, was exempted from military service after serving five prison terms.

Kamile Wayit (China: UA 33.23), a Uyghur student imprisoned for posting about the A4 protests, was released.

Several arbitrarily detained human rights defenders in Venezuela (Eighth UA 1.25) were released between January and February.

Our group tabled at this annual event on April 12, sponsored by the Sisters of Divine Providence as part of AIUSA's Spring Interfaith action. This year's honorees, Sister Janice Vanderneck and Jaime Martinez work tirelessly for immigrants in our community. The Sisters decorated paper dolls with messages of hope for those families who are being affected. Attendees signed petitions to our Representatives and Senators advocating for an end to family detention in immigration "centers" and other issues.





Stop the Prosecution of US Journalists

Earlier this year, journalist Georgia Fort was arrested for documenting an anti-ICE protest at a church in Minnesota. The peaceful protest followed the killing of Renee Good by a masked federal agent during the Trump administration's militarized and violent immigration siege on the city.

The U.S. Department of Justice is prosecuting Fort and others representing the press with serious criminal charges, including a hate crime.



This is a shameful and chilling attempt to intimidate and silence journalists for covering the administration and its policies. Straight out of a playbook on authoritarian practices.

We're flooding the office of the U.S. Attorney for Minnesota, Dan Rosen, with calls to drop the charges against Georgia Fort and other members of the press. Please join us.

Demand that U.S. Attorney Dan Rosen immediately drop the charges against Georgia Fort and other journalists.

We've investigated and documented numerous instances of the media and journalists being targeted for simply doing their job and reporting on the administration's anti-rights agenda:

- **Federal agents have verbally and physically attacked journalists** and searched their homes. Black and Brown journalists have been particularly targeted for exercising their rights to freedom of expression.
- **The administration deported reporter Mario Guevara, a U.S.-based Salvadoran journalist** who reported on ICE raids – despite him having valid authorization to stay in the U.S.
- The White House has **hand-picked outlets to cover its activities while banning or restricting others** — even demanding that journalists waive their First Amendment protections to gain media access to the Pentagon.
- The administration has **gutted public funding for NPR, PBS, and Voice of America**. And it has **weaponized the Federal Communications Commission to retaliate against critical coverage**, as we saw with Jimmy Kimmel.



Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Main
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear AAG Dhillon and U.S. Attorney Rosen,

I am writing to express deep concern about the prosecution of Georgia Fort and other members of the press for simply covering a protest in Minneapolis on 18 January 2026. It is evident that the arrest and subsequent prosecution of Georgia Fort and others from the press underscores a disturbing escalation of a systemic disregard for human rights.

As I am sure you are aware, Article 19 of the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which the United States has ratified, enshrines the right to freedom of expression, which protects a free press and the right of journalists to seek and share information. However, for the Department of Justice to prosecute Georgia Fort and other individuals from the press with criminal charges, including a hate crime, for reporting on a protest inside Cities Church in St. Paul, Minnesota — where one of the pastors was an acting ICE field office director at the time — is to target them for simply doing their job as journalists and breaches their human rights.

Reporting is not a crime. Rather, ensuring the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and of press freedom is integral to holding government officials and leaders accountable for their actions. These charges deliver a chilling and intimidating effect on journalists who are covering issues that are most pressing to communities.

I therefore strongly urge that you drop the charges against Georgia Fort and the other press individuals in the case of *United States v. Levy Armstrong* (0:26-cr-00025) in the District Court of Minnesota.

Yours sincerely,

Copy to:
U.S. Attorney for Minnesota Dan Rosen
U.S. Courthouse
300 S 4th Street
Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55415



RELEASE ASYLUM SEEKER WITH OVARIAN CYST

We are sharing this Urgent Action concerning Andrea Pedro-Francisco, a 23-year-old asylum seeker from Guatemala who is currently detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and not receiving adequate medical care. Andrea was detained in Minneapolis on February 5, 2026 during Operation Metro Surge and later transferred to ICE custody in El Paso, Texas, where she remains detained at the El Paso Service Processing Center (EPSPC).



Andrea has a large ovarian cyst, that she was scheduled to have removed on February 11. Lacking adequate medical care in detention, Andrea's health is rapidly deteriorating, causing her extreme abdominal and lower back pain, among other symptoms. We demand Andrea's immediate release, and until that happens, immediate access to adequate healthcare to prevent further health deterioration and possible death.

Call on Field Office Director Marisa Flores to immediately release Andrea and ensure she receives the urgent medical care she desperately needs.



Marisa Flores, El Paso
ICE Field Office Director
11541 Montana Avenue, Suite E,
El Paso, TX 79936 USA

Dear Field Office Director Marisa Flores,

I am concerned that Andrea Pedro-Francisco, a Guatemalan citizen seeking asylum in the United States, was detained on February 5, 2026, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was transferred to the ERO El Paso Camp East Montana detention facility in El Paso, Texas which is more than 1,800km away from her home. In March, she was subsequently transferred to the El Paso Service Processing Center (EPSPC).

Andrea suffers from a large ovarian cyst, which causes extreme abdominal pain and poses a serious risk to her reproductive health. Her condition requires a biopsy to determine whether the cyst is cancerous, as well as surgery to remove it. Prior to her detention, Andrea had been scheduled to undergo surgery on February 11 to have the cyst removed, but her detention by ICE prevented the procedure from taking place.

Andrea was gravely ill when she arrived at Camp East Montana and had to be hospitalized. The doctor who treated her confirmed that she needs surgery but stated that he would not perform the procedure because she is in immigration detention. Instead, the doctor prescribed Andrea medication for her symptoms, but she never received it.

It is truly alarming that Andrea has not received adequate medical care at either detention facility and that she still awaits surgery. Andrea requires urgent medical care that she can only adequately receive outside of detention. Without proper care and urgent surgery to remove the cyst, Andrea is at risk of serious medical complications, including loss of her ovary, infertility, and the development of other serious and preventable conditions.

I implore you to ensure that Andrea is immediately released and provided with the urgent medical care she desperately needs.

Sincerely,