

Where does their courage come from?

A car screeched through the streets of Guatemala City. As it neared a children's home, it slowed.

Out of its windows erupted a storm of gunfire, pockmarking the white adobe walls and terrifying the children inside.

Bruce Harris, the British social worker who ran the home, knew exactly what the attack meant. It was a warning to get out.

Guatemala City police had killed many of the street children with whom he worked. One boy was kicked to death in an attack so violent that it split his liver. Others were found with their eyes burned out and their tongues ripped from their mouths.

Bruce Harris knew that he might himself be killed. Yet he refused to give up his work. Where did his courage come from?



Bruce Harris.

In Burma last May, Aung San Suu Kyi led a campaign for justice and human rights. Her party won more than 80% of the votes in the first free elections to be held for over 30 years.

Instead of handing over power, the Burmese regime placed her under house arrest and imprisoned hundreds of her supporters.

After Suu Kyi went on hunger strike in protest, the regime promised to give her people 'fair trials.'

This year she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize but was not allowed to leave Burma to receive it.

Her husband, an Oxford professor, and their two British sons cannot visit her or even communicate with her.

Yet Suu Kyi does not give up. Where does her courage come from?



Aung San Suu Kyi.

In Syria, a man called Riad Al-Turk has been in prison since 1980. Arrested for his political beliefs, he was imprisoned without trial, never charged with any offence.

Riad Al-Turk suffers from kidney failure, chronic heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.

He is known to have been severely tortured. Many times he has been rushed to intensive care and kept alive, only to be tortured again, and again.

The Syrians have 38 methods of torture. The 'washing machine' crushes prisoners' fingers in a rotating drum. The 'Syrian Chair' strangles them.

He has not seen his two children for eleven years.

Despite repeated calls there is still no hope of his release. Where does this man get his courage?



Riad Al-Turk.

"I'll tell you a small story which I told in Damascus. I was kept in total and complete isolation for four years. I saw no-one and spoke to no-one apart from a cursory word with my guards when they brought the food.

And one day out of the blue a guard came with a postcard. It was a postcard showing a stained glass window from Bedford showing John Bunyan in jail.

"... And I turned the card over and there was a message from someone whom I didn't know simply saying 'We remember, we shall not forget. We shall continue to pray for you and to work for all people who are detained around the world.'

"That thought sent me back to the marvellous work of agencies like Amnesty International and their letter-writing campaigns, and I would say: never despise those simple actions.

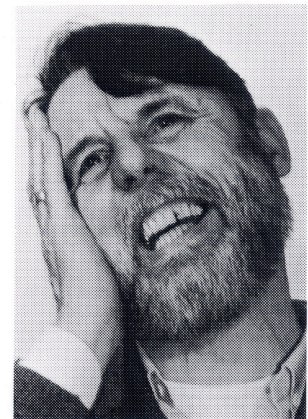
Something, somewhere will get through to the people you are concerned about as it got through to me..."

These were virtually the first words that Terry Waite spoke after his own release from captivity.

Instead of dwelling on his own ordeal, he chose to remind us that in prisons all over the world there are thousands of innocent people, unjustly held in terrible conditions, whose names will never be publicly known.

He urged us to work for their freedom. Not to despise the small help that each of us can give.

Join Amnesty and help campaign for the release of people unjustly imprisoned and tortured. Even the



Terry Waite.

'simple action' of writing a postcard can bring someone hope.

Where does their courage come from? Terry Waite told us.

Their courage comes from you.

I wish to be a member of Amnesty International. I enclose £15 Individual
 £20 Family £6 OAP £6 Student, Under 18, Claimant I wish to donate
 £250 £100 £50 £25 £10 Other I enter my Access, Visa,
 Mastercard No. Signed
 Card expiry date If paying by credit card you
 should give the address where you receive your credit card bill.
 Mr/Ms.
 Address
 Postcode
 To: Amnesty International British Section, FREEPOST, London EC1B 1HE.
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