

Action

November 2016



THE BRIGHTON AND HOVE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

Forthcoming Brighton & Hove Amnesty Group Meetings/Events

Group meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month from 8-10pm at Community Base, Queens Road, Brighton

3rd November

Speaker from Hummingbird Project

1st December

Campaign meeting

Monthly Collection

Contact Madeline
01273 508620

madeline@peasgood.plus.com

19th November
17th December

Monthly Stall

Sydney Street
12th November

Contact Jill 01273 621697
11am to 1pm

3rd December 2016

Write for Rights

10am to 4pm
Friends Meeting House

Silent Auction

To be launched at our November meeting

Final bidding date 3rd December
See website for auction sheet and place your bids by email
brightonand-hoveai@googlemail.com

Write for Rights 2016



Saturday 3rd December 10am – 4pm

Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton

“Better to light a candle than curse the darkness”

Cards are like candles – they shine a light in the dark....
“They are messages of solidarity and kindness that show me I am not alone and that, in addition to my friends and fellow prisoners, there are conscientious people around the world who are standing by me.”

Saman Naseem – Iranian prisoner

Please join us – for even just 10 minutes – to write a message of solidarity to those who are in a dark place and need some comfort from other human beings.... We also have music, singing and delicious refreshments!

New refugee campaign 'I welcome'

Last month, Amnesty launched a new global refugee campaign, I Welcome. The aim of the campaign is that refugees are protected, welcomed and enjoy their human rights, including through strengthened global responsibility-sharing and international cooperation.

There is a good report on the scale of the refugee crisis to be found online at

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol40/4905/2016/en/>

"Who is a refugee?"

A refugee is a person who cannot return to their own country because they are at risk of serious human rights abuses there, or because of who they are or what they believe in. Because their own government cannot or will not protect them, they are forced to flee their country and seek international protection.

Who is an asylum-seeker?

An asylum-seeker is someone who is seeking international protection abroad, but is yet to be recognized as a refugee.

Who is a migrant?

A migrant moves from one country to another, usually to find work, although there may be other reasons such as to join family. Some move voluntarily, while others may feel compelled to leave because of economic hardship or other problems. People can migrate "regularly", with legal permission to work and live in a country, or "irregularly", without permission from the country they wish to live and work in.....

.....On 19 September 2016 the United Nations (UN) General Assembly collectively, and spectacularly, failed the 21 million refugees of this world. The "High-level Summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants" was to address the global refugee crisis, a crisis in which, daily, millions fleeing war and persecution in countries like Syria, South Sudan, Myanmar and Iraq suffer intolerable misery and human rights violations. World leaders at the General Assembly agreed an Outcome document that said they would help, but agreed no actual plan. Empty words that change nothing."

There is, I feel, a problem for us to internalise what "21 million" (21,000,000) really means. When it comes to such large numbers we have no sense of scale. So, if the report had said 22 million I would not register that as a major change (think about it). However, it's 1,000,000 people. That represents about 3.5 cities the size of Brighton and Hove combined. (pop Brighton and Hove 2016 estimated at 277,000).

To give an idea of scale have a look at the map below. If Brighton and Hove has 277,000 then this is the space that 21 million would need with the same density of houses.



That space would be filled SOLID with dwellings. Except, of course, there is nothing solid about the accommodation for most of these people.



Peter Gwilliam

Amnesty October Stall

FRED BAUMA AND YVES MAKWAMBLA (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO)

Date Saturday 22nd October

Time 11am - 1pm

Venue Outside Amnesty Bookshop, Sydney Street, Brighton

Weather Fine and dry

Activists Madeline, Joanna, Sue, Andrew, Celia, Jill

Campaign Fred and Yves, Youth Activists in Democratic Republic of Congo

Although members of the Youth Movement LUCHA, including Fred and Yves, have been released, the charges against them have not been dismissed. We sent letters and a petition to President Kabila asking him to take all necessary measures to drop these charges.

Also we urged him to end human rights violations related to elections. We asked him to respect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including political opponents and pro - democracy activists.

We collected 90 signatures for the petition and had 60 letters signed by people in the street. Well done Amnesty Activists of Brighton and Hove !

Next Stall Saturday 12th November

Campaign Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe (British - Iranian Charity Worker)



CHARITY WORKER DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE

Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe a British-Iranian project manager, was arrested on 3rd April this year at Tehran's international airport. She was due to return to the UK with her 22 month old daughter Gabriella, following a family visit. Before being taken away she was allowed to leave Gabriella with her parents, but the authorities confiscated Gabriella's British passport. Unidentified officials later told the family Nazarin was being held in the city of Kerman, and had been arrested for 'national security' reasons. She has no access to a lawyer and may have been coerced into 'confessing'.

On 11th May Nazarin was finally permitted to meet her family, though security agents remained present. She was allowed to make phone calls to relatives in Iran, but prevented from speaking to her husband Richard who is in the UK. In June Nazarin was moved to Evin prison. She is now able to see her mother and Gabriella, and has spoken to Richard but her family has no way of contacting her. In August Nazarin was brought before a Revolutionary Court for the first time.

Please support Nazarin by signing the enclosed letter or writing one of your own. Thank you.

Celia

BRIGHTON & HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS

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Amnesty Websites: international - www.amnesty.org AI UK - www.amnesty.org.uk local group - www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton

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See our photos on Flickr— <http://www.flickr.com/groups/amnestybrighton/pool>

Amnesty UK Human Rights Centre - Tel: 0207 0331500.

