



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group June 2017 Newsletter



Our thanks to Ann Elliott of Bromley for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 13 June
Tuesday 11 July

Campaign Meeting
Campaign Meeting
No Meeting in August

Bromley Little Theatre

In aid of Amnesty International

Presents the Charity Premiere

Of

'Nell Gwynne'

By Jessica Swale

"A Rollicking Restoration Romp!"

THURSDAY 6TH JULY AT 7.45PM

TICKETS £12

Until 23rd June: David Howkins 01689 823793

From 24th June: Peter Martin 07949 713618

BOOK NOW!

China Prisoner Case File

There is little news about our Chinese Prisoner of Conscience, Nobel Peace Prize winner, **Liu Xiaobo**. We continue to send letters every month to a range of Chinese officials calling for his immediate release. His wife, **Liu Xia**, is suffering from severe depression after the death of both her parents in quick succession, and continues to remain under tight surveillance at home.



Monthly Action: UK General Election

We were asked this month to contact our Prospective Parliamentary Candidates asking them to show support for human rights, and to enquire what human rights issue they are most passionate about. We decided to contact the three Conservative PPCs in our area and we await some interesting responses!



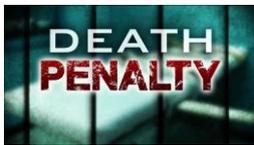
SAVE THE DATE

Cudham Fair
Monday 28th August from Noon
Join us on the Amnesty Cakes Stall!

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£1,623.95
Income	£80.00
Expenditure	£1,216.55
Balance at 9 th May	£487.40
CHANGE	- £1,136.55

Income of £80.00 in private donations was received. A donation of £1,172 was sent to Amnesty.



Focus: Death Penalty

Amnesty has just published its survey of the Death Penalty worldwide in 2016. It's a mixed picture; whilst the number of executions carried out is down by more than a third compared with 2015, the number of people sentenced to death has reached a record high. Amnesty recorded **1,032** executions in 23 countries compared to 1,634 in 2015. However **3,117** people were sentenced to death – the highest number ever recorded in a single year. Nearly 19,000 people languish on death rows worldwide. These figures do not include China where the actual number of executions is unknown. Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Pakistan join China as the world's top five executioners. The US executed the fewest number of people for 25 years (20). Executions in Iran were also down significantly. Two countries, Benin and Nauru abolished the death penalty for all crimes; it brings to 141 the number of abolitionist countries; 59 retain the death penalty.

Human Rights Defenders at Risk: Petition the UAE

Ahmed Mansoor is a human rights activist and blogger in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He was arrested under mysterious circumstances by state security in March under cyber-crime charges. Prior to his arrest, he was the last remaining free human rights activist working in UAE. The UN has expressed its deep concern for the crackdown on human rights activists across the UAE *"We regard Mr Mansoor's arrest and detention as a direct attack on the legitimate work of human rights defenders in the UAE...[his] outstanding work in the protection of human rights and the advancement of democracy...is of great value not only to the UAE but for the whole region"*. Over the past five years Ahmed has been assaulted and has faced numerous death threats. Amnesty has an [online petition](#) for Ahmed Mansoor.



If you have online access, please go to: www.amnesty.org.uk/node/50422 to sign the petition.

Present on 9th May: Neville White, Vivien Glanz, David Howkins, Vivienne Andrews, Waultraut Gilchrist, Patsy Paine, Margaret Coppard, Wendy Simmons and we welcomed Harry Macdonald-Lucas to the meeting.

Apologies: Gladys Edmonds, Ted Burke and Peter Martin.

Meetings are held in the Wesley Room, Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington commencing at 7.30pm. **E-mail** amnestybromley@gmail.com **website:** www.amnesty.org.uk/bromley

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