



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Bromley & Orpington Group

### July 2017 Newsletter



Our thanks to Dr Roger May of Orpington for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

#### COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

**Tuesday 11 July**

*Speaker: Stuart Sweeney – The European Court of Human Rights*

*No Meeting in August*

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

*Speaker: Amnesty North Korea Co-ordinator, Kenny Latunde-Dada*

### Speaker Event: Stuart Sweeney

#### *'Human Rights, The Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights'*

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.

#### **Breaking News: China Prisoner Case File – Liu Xiaobo Released**

We have received the heart-breaking news that our Prisoner of Conscience, Nobel Peace Prize winner, **Liu Xiaobo** was released from prison on compassionate grounds after he was diagnosed with late-stage liver cancer. He is currently in hospital receiving treatment. Amnesty has called on the Chinese authorities to provide access to his family and that the house arrest under which his wife **Liu Xia** has lived for so long should be immediately lifted so that she has free access to travel. In 2013, more than 450,000 people from 130 countries signed a petition created by Archbishop Desmond Tutu to demand the couple's immediate release. The petition was launched in solidarity with a letter signed by 134 Nobel laureates demanding Liu's freedom. We will share more when we have more information. We have been working on Liu Xiaobo's behalf for several years writing letters every month to a range of Chinese authorities.



#### **SAVE THE DATE**

*Cudham Fair*  
*Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August from Noon*

**Join us on the Amnesty Cakes Stall!**



#### **Find us on Facebook**

Bromley & Orpington Group has a Facebook Group page where updates and news are regularly posted, log on and join up!

### Saudi Arabian Activist at Risk

Saudi Arabian human rights defender **Mohammad al-Otaibi** has been detained in Saudi Arabia since 25 May after he was deported from Qatar. He was travelling to Norway where he had been granted asylum. He is a prisoner of conscience and is being detained for exercising his right to freedom of expression and assembly. We wrote to the Saudi authorities calling on them to release Mohammad al-Otaibi immediately and unconditionally as he is a prisoner of conscience and urging them to ensure he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and granted regular access to his family and a lawyer of his choice.



### Monthly Letter: Madagascar

This month's letter concerns the alleged persecution of environmental rights worker **Clovis Razafimalala**. He has peacefully objected to the unauthorised export of rosewood from northern Madagascar and in September 2015 he was apprehended and is still to face trial in relation to a protest that took place around that time. Clovis did not take part in the protest, but is believed to be held for his long-standing environmental campaigning. We are calling on the Malagasy authorities to release Clovis immediately and unconditionally. Please address, sign and post this letter, which will cost £1.17 if within 10g.

Concerns are increasing at the worsening situation for human rights defenders and journalists in Madagascar. Amnesty is also concerned for the fate of **Fernand Cello**, who has been in hiding since December 2016, after having aired a piece in which he accused a mining company and alleged government allies of running an illegal sapphire mine in South-West Madagascar. The company was eventually ordered by the ministry of mining to suspend its operations for contravening the mining code. A few days after Fernand Cello's broadcasts, the radio station he works for, Radio Jupiter, was raided by military forces.



### Human Rights Defenders Campaign – BRAVE

On 16 May 2017, Amnesty International launched a new global campaign, **BRAVE**, to strengthen the recognition and protection of human rights defenders around the world. The campaign is in response to the increased attacks and targeting of Human Rights Defenders (HRD), Activists and civil society organisations around the world. The campaign will run until the end of 2019 and will also be a priority campaign at Amnesty UK (AIUK). In 2016 at least 281 HRDs were killed in 22 countries. The list of those at risk is large and includes student leaders, political opponents, teachers, lawyers, journalists, women's rights & environmental activists and many others; they are being harassed, tortured, jailed and killed. This is a campaign we decided we want to be a part of and will choose specific cases to support as the campaign develops; these will include featured defenders in Sudan, Egypt, Chile, Finland and Cambodia.

**Present on 13<sup>th</sup> June:** Neville White, Vivien Glanz, David Howkins, Vivienne Andrews, Waultraut Gilchrist, Patsy Paine, Wendy Simmons, Ted Burke and Gladys Edmonds. **Apologies:** Peter Martin.

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

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Last call

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July Bromley Little Theatre Charity Premiere at 7.45pm**  
**'Nell Gwynne'**  
**Tickets £12 from Peter Martin 07949 713618**