



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

November 2017 Newsletter



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

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 14th November
Tuesday 12th December
Tuesday 9th January

Speaker: Cindy Asokan, AI Zimbabwe country co-ordinator
Greetings Card Campaign 'Send a Message of Hope'
Speaker/Theme to be confirmed

Save The Date!
Amnesty Jazz
With the Nic Beston Quartet
Friday 9th February 2018
Tickets £12.00 – on sale soon!

Monthly Action: Defend the Brave

One of the cases we are supporting via Amnesty's new campaign, BRAVE, to strengthen the recognition and protection of human rights defenders around the world is **Sakris Kupila** from Finland. One does not associate human rights challenges in Finland, but Sakris is transgender and for him to be legally recognised as a man would require rigorous psychiatric analysis and enforced sterilisation. Finland has practically legislated to make transgender people 'sub-human' by enforcing sterilisation. In 2017! We signed the online petition, and if you would like to support it please go to; <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/brave/?viewCampaign=69104>

Pro-Democracy Attacks: DRC

We wrote to the Congolese Minister of Justice after pro-democracy activists **Jean Mulenda, Patrick Mbuya, Jean-Pierre Tshibitshabu** and **Eric Omari** were sentenced to eight months in prison on 30th August for their involvement in public protests calling for publication of the elections calendar. They are currently in custody. At least 100 other people were arrested during the demonstrations in a dozen cities across DRC, but they were released without charge a few hours later. Four of the nine activists arrested were released without charge. The remaining five have been charged with 'provocation' and 'incitement to disobedience to public authority' and transferred to Kasapa, Lubumbashi's central prison that evening. Amnesty views all five to be Prisoners of Conscience, as a result of freedom of expression being under attack.



Monthly Letter: Kazakhstan

This month's letter is in support of two human rights defenders **Maks Bokaev** and **Talgat Ayan** who have been sentenced to five years imprisonment for freely exercising their right to freedom of expression and assembly. There are fears for the health of Maks, and Amnesty has also criticised the course of their trial which did not conform to international standards. They are being held in isolation in a remote penal colony. Please address, sign and post this letter, which will cost £1.17 if within 10g.

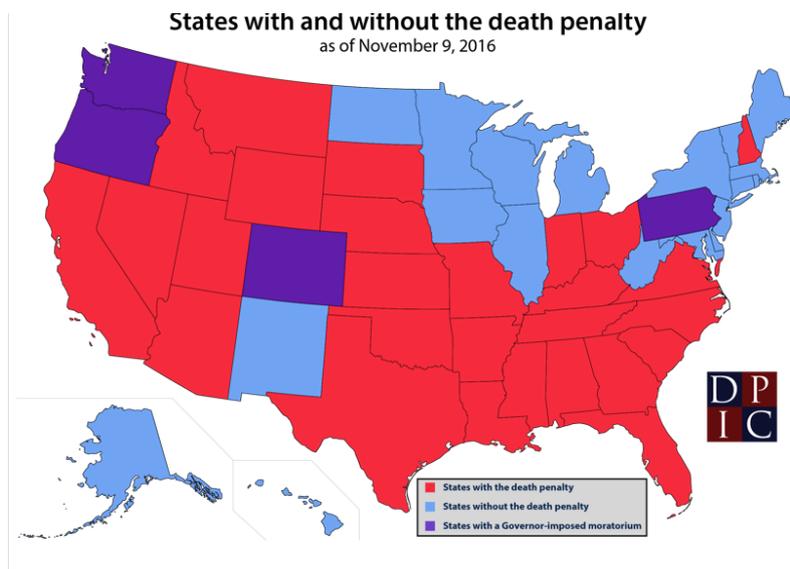


Death Penalty: Good News

There have been some encouraging developments in the US. The **US Supreme Court** prevented the State of Georgia from executing Keith Tharpe on 26th September to give justices more time to consider whether the trial jury had been racially prejudiced. This is almost unprecedented. In another move the **Texas Court of Criminal Appeals** granted a stay of execution to Clinton Young, who was due to be executed on 26 October. The case is remanded to the trial court for resolution of the claim that false or misleading testimony was introduced at his trial. Young was convicted in 2003 but only circumstantial evidence was offered at trial.

Whilst there have been several positive trends in the US, the death penalty remains the ultimate penalty in 31 states. Michael Lambrix was executed on 5 October in Florida: he had been on death row for 33 years.

There have been 1,461 executions in the USA since the US Supreme Court upheld new capital statutes in 1976. Florida accounts for 94 of these executions and two of the 19 carried out so far this year



2018 Meeting Dates

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month – except August

9th January
13th February
13th March – 22nd AGM
10th April
8th May
12th June
10th July
11th September
9th October
13th November
11th December
No meeting in August

STOP PRESS!

Bromley Little Theatre Charity preview in October 2018 in support of Amnesty

“Charles III”

By Mike Bartlett

Premiered at the Almeida Theatre, the play enjoyed a successful West End transfer and was this year made into a BBC television film. This award winning play now comes to Bromley.

Amnesty performance date 11th October 2018 – SAVE THE DATE

Present on 10th October: Neville White, Vivien Glanz, Vivienne Andrews, Gladys Edmonds, Margaret Coppard, Ted Burke. **Apologies:** Patsy Paine, David Howkins, Waltraut Gilchrist, Wendy Simmons.

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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