



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group February 2018 Newsletter



COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 13th February
Tuesday 13th March
uesday 10th April

Speaker: Labour Rights in the Medical Supply Chain
22nd Bromley & Orpington Group AGM
Campaign Meeting

Our thanks to Ted Burke of Farnborough for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

Labour Rights in the Medical Supply Chain
Speaker: Arthy Hartwell
Head of International & Immigration BMA
Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 7.30pm
All Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome Arthy Hartwell from the British Medical Association to talk about this little known issue: We will hear about the manufacturing of medical gloves mostly in Malaysia and Thailand, by migrant workers in extremely poor working conditions and with many human rights abuses.

West Africa: Mauritania



We wrote to President Aziz regarding the deteriorating right to freedom of expression in the West African state. The country is a highly centralised Islamic State with pervasive human rights violations. These include the use of torture, arbitrary arrest and long periods of pre-trial detention. Prisons are harsh, overcrowded and dangerous. The country suffers from slavery, slavery-related practices and trafficking. Violations of freedom of the press, association, and conscience are of serious concern. The case we have taken up is in support of **Mohamed Cheikh Ould Mohamed**, a blogger, detained for freely exercising his right to freedom of expression. He was originally sentenced to death for blogging in 2014 this was reduced to a two-year sentence on appeal. Due to be released in

November, he has so far not been set free. We wrote calling for his immediate release and that laws suppressing press freedom and freedom of expression be abolished.

Monthly Letter: Chile



The first Monthly Letter of 2018 is on behalf of a human rights defender, **Rodrigo Mundaca** who has had four criminal cases filed against him for defending human rights in Petorca province on behalf of those campaigning about illegal water extraction. Rodrigo works for a peaceful activist organisation, MODATIMA, whose members have been harassed and persecuted for their peaceful activism. Please address, sign and post this letter, which will cost £1.17 if within 10g.

Monthly Action: Defend the Brave

We wrote to our three MPs calling on the UK government to strengthen its commitment and support to Human Rights Defenders around the world and to be more vocal about the issue of increased attack and harassment of those standing up for Human Rights as part of the UK's approach to protecting human rights.



The Nick Beston Quartet

With special guest vocalist

Sue Rivers

Present a concert of popular jazz standards in aid of
Amnesty International Bromley & Orpington Group

Friday 9th February 2018 at 7.30pm

Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington

Tickets: £12 in advance; £13 on the door. Discount under 16s

From David Howkins 01689 823793 or davidhowkins@virginmedia.com

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£731.10
Income	£100.00
Expenditure	£331.73
Balance at 31 st December	£499.37
CHANGE	- £231.73

Income included private donations (£100). Expenditure included the final donation to AI for 2017 (£278) and postage for the 'Send a Message of Hope' campaign.

China: Where is Liu Xia?



Since her husband's death the whereabouts of Liu Xia have remained unclear. She has been held under illegal house arrest since 2010 despite never having been charged with any offence. According to reports, she needed surgery in recent months, and her mental health has by all accounts declined further. She wrote to Herta Müller the 2009 Nobel Literature Prize Laureate "*I have no right to speak, speak loudly. I live like a plant. I lie like a corpse*". Despite international criticism, the Chinese authorities show no sign of loosening their repressive grip on Liu Xia's right to freedom. We wrote to the authorities calling for her immediate release, the right to leave China and to receive urgent medical care.

Present on 9th January: Neville White; Vivien Glanz; David Howkins; Vivienne Andrews; Patsy Paine; Gladys Edmonds; Wendy Simmons; Margaret Coppard; Peter Martin; Waltraut Gilchrist. **Apologies:** Ted Burke; Rindy Bakker.

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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Why not make getting involved with your Amnesty Group a new-year resolution? Join us at meetings where we fundraise and campaign for human rights (every second Tuesday of the month). We often have speakers and major events such as our Amnesty Jazz concert and Bromley Little Theatre charity premiere to plan. Take a look at the website, email us with ideas or join our Facebook Group. *Your Group needs you and we hope to see you soon!*