



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

March 2018 Newsletter



COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 13th March
Tuesday 10th April

22nd Bromley & Orpington Group AGM
Campaign Meeting

Our thanks to Mark Thomas of Locksbottom for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

AGM NOTICE

**The 22nd AGM of the Amnesty International
Bromley & Orpington Group
Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7.30pm**

Nominations for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer to be received by 6th March 2018



Amnesty Jazz

Incredibly, we hosted our 8th Amnesty Jazz concert on 9th February courtesy of the wonderful Nick Beston Quartet and guest singer Sue Rivers. A brilliant evening of light jazz classics was enjoyed by over 200 people and we had our best result so far with £2,597.82 raised (gross). After expenses, over £1,800 was raised for Amnesty. We extend our very great thanks to Nick and the musicians and to all who helped on the night to make the evening such a BIG success – a special mention to the wonderful Orpington Rangers who greeted guests and managed the ticketing on the night.

Monthly Letter: China

The second Monthly Letter of 2018 is on behalf of a defender against forced evictions: **Ni Yulan**. She was tried by the Xichen District People's Court in December 2011, and was sentenced to two and a half years' imprisonment for 'making trouble' by protecting citizens from forced evictions. She has been subjected to regular intimidation, surveillance and harassment. Amnesty views her treatment (including severe beatings whilst in prison, that has left her disabled) as a violation of her right to freedom of expression. Please address, sign and post this letter, which will cost £1.17 if within 10g.



Monthly Action: Drop Absurd Charges against Azza Soliman



Imagine tuning into watch the evening news to hear the newscaster describe an individual as 'the epitome of ignorance [who] only brings trouble'. This is what is happening in Egypt. Now! **Azza Soliman** is a brave defender of women's rights and who has been under attack for three decades for standing up for women's equality. She has been among the most prominent human rights activists since the 1980s and has been variously accused of spying and being a 'threat to national security'. She now faces 10 years' imprisonment for absurd charges designed to silence her that includes tax evasion, slandering the Egyptian state and operating a civil organisation without proper registration. We asked members to send an SMS text to the Egyptian authorities calling for an end to her intimidation and for charges to be dropped. If you would like to take part please search for Azza Soliman on the Amnesty UK website where you can take part in the online SMS action.

The Human Cost of Healthcare



We were delighted to welcome **Arthy Hartwell**, Head of Immigration and International at the British Medical Association, to talk about the hidden cost of healthcare in the NHS. The health service spends over £30bn every year on goods and services, with many single-use disposable items such as surgical swabs, medical gloves and instruments sourced from developing world countries where working conditions are extremely poor. The outsourcing of the supply chain has undoubted human rights implications, and Arthy pointed in particular to the surgical gloves market. Malaysia produces over 150 billion pairs of single-use surgical gloves every year with a value of over \$5bn. Conditions are marked by poorly paid migrant labour. The BMA, working with the Ethical Trading Initiative (that supports major retailers with supply chain risks) has begun to carry out inspection audits and develop supply chain protocols so that the NHS can work towards a nil abuses supply chain. This is a very ambitious target, as many aspects of the medical supply chain are reliant on child labour such as the manufacturing of scalpels in Pakistan (see right) where the basic tool is heavily reliant on small children. For the NHS, the challenge is multiplied by the lack of central procurement of essential items, with each NHS Trust managing its own supply chain - hence the BMA's wish to provide Trusts with the tools to eradicate human rights abuses.



Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£499.37
Income	£1,872.82
Expenditure	£71.20
Balance at 13th February	£2,301.32
CHANGE	£1,801.62

Income included Amnesty Jazz receipts of £1,802.82 (NET). The Group resolved to send £1,872.00 to Amnesty.

Child Slave to be Deported



The Home Office stands accused of cruelty for trying to deport a child victim of trafficking. *The Guardian* recently reported the horrific case of 'S', an orphan, who was living on the streets of Hanoi before being trafficked to the UK and forced to work in an illegal cannabis factory for over five years, working for no pay in dangerous conditions. 'S' was finally 'released' when police raided the factory. 'S' has been living in foster care since that time, has learnt English and goes to college. A young man who has suffered the most brutalising trauma is now under

threat of deportation because as he turns 17 he is no longer 'protected' under child asylum rules. Forced deportation back to Hanoi means he would face being re-trafficked or persecuted or killed by his original traffickers. As a Group we have written to the Home Secretary, protesting plans to deport him, and quoting his local MP, Helen Goodman, who described the Home Office move as 'grotesque'. We sent a copy of our letter to Helen, who responded '*it is highly encouraging to see so many people come out in support of 'S' and your help is greatly appreciated*'. The online petition has already secured over 120,000 names – please add yours at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/allow-shildon-s-stephen-to-stay-in-uk?bucket=share>

Present on 13th February: Neville White; David Howkins; Vivienne Andrews; Gladys Edmonds; Ted Burke; Wendy Simmons; Waltraut Gilchrist; Patrick and Carolyn Nield and four guests to hear the speaker. **Apologies:** Vivien Glanz; Patsy Paine; Margaret Coppard; 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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