



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Bromley & Orpington Group

### July 2018 Newsletter



**COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

**Speaker – Richard Kotter: ‘Human Rights in Finland’**

**No meeting in August**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

**Speaker – Tilly Levenas ‘Mexico’**

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

**Speaker: Richard Kotter**  
**‘Human Rights at Risk in Finland’**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 7.30pm**  
**ALL WELCOME**

**Monthly Action: Iranian Teacher on Hunger Strike!**

**Esmail Abdi** – an Iranian maths teacher and trade unionist – was arrested on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 after voluntarily going to Evin prison to ask why he’d been banned from travel. He was planning to attend the global union Education International congress to advocate for quality education for all in Iran. Instead he was put into solitary confinement for 40 days without charge and without access to a lawyer. After an unfair trial he was sentenced to six years imprisonment. The conditions in the notoriously brutal Evin prison are taking a harsh toll on his health. He has already needed medical leave once, but he is now being refused care. Esmail has now been on hunger strike since 24<sup>th</sup> April to protest his treatment and the criminalisation of trade unions. Esmail has done nothing wrong and Amnesty



views him to be a Prisoner of Conscience imprisoned for exercising his right to freedom of expression via peaceful organisation of protests and petitions. The International TUC has ranked Iran a ‘category five’ country – the worst level for a non-failed state – because there is no guarantee of workers’ rights. We signed a petition organised by Amnesty, and wrote to the Iranian Embassy in London calling for his unconditional release. For more information and to take part, go to [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk) and search for Esmail Abdi.

**Group Finance**

<b>Balance brought forward</b>	£441.66
<b>Income</b>	£90.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	£85.19
<b>Balance at 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>£446.69</b>
<b>CHANGE</b>	£4.81

There has been very little change to our finances since March with £90.00 received in private and corporate donations.

**+++ Press Release +++** In response to the US/North Korea summit on 12<sup>th</sup> June, Amnesty has said: “Whilst we welcome news that President Trump raised human rights at the summit, Amnesty International urges the US Government to continue to push for urgent reforms in North Korea. Human rights should be a...crucial component in negotiations between the two countries. North Korea continues to commit systematic,

widespread and grave violations of human rights, some of which may amount to 'crimes against humanity'. It must close its prison camps, where up to 120,000 people continue to be held, protect freedom of expression, and reunite families separated through displacement during the war" ENDS.



## Open Garden

Margaret will be opening her Mediterranean style garden in aid of Amnesty

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 10.00am-5pm

58 Warren Road, Orpington

\*\*\* Cakes and refreshments: Donations welcome \*\*\*

### Chairman's Appeal – Support Your Local Group!!

Our Amnesty Group covering much of the Boroughs of Bromley & Bexley has been campaigning continuously since 1962. It costs around £20 a month to run the Group in room hire and postage costs. Can you help by sponsoring a Newsletter? Our monthly Newsletter, which is sent to over 150 addresses, is sent free of charge to all supporters, and it is traditionally 'sponsored' by a supporter. **Please can you help support your Group by sponsoring a Newsletter for £20?** All donations allow even more of our funds to go to Amnesty. A letter is enclosed with this mailin; we appreciate all support offered. Thank you.

**Save the Date: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October – open meeting with Bob Neill MP talking about his human rights work as a barrister and Parliamentarian: The Town Church, 2 Ethelbert Road, Bromley 10.30-12.30pm. Talk and refreshments.**



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**Facebook**

*Don't forget to find us on Facebook; we now have 33 members who have found us on Facebook; if you use and enjoy social media why not join us for news updates and campaign information. You can also find us online.*

**Present on 12<sup>th</sup> June:** Neville White, Vivian Glanz, Gladys Edmonds, Wendy Simmons, Patsy Paine, Waltraut Gilchrist, Margaret Coppard, Ted Burke and Peter Martin. **Apologies:** David Howkins, Vivienne Andrews, Patrick & Carolyn Nield and Rene Eastwood.

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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