



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

February 2020 Newsletter



COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

<i>Tuesday 11 February</i>	<i>Campaign Meeting</i>
<i>Tuesday 10 March</i>	<i>Bromley & Orpington Group 24th AGM</i>
<i>Tuesday 14 April</i>	<i>Campaign Meeting</i>

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

Amnesty Jazz!

With the Nic Beston Quartet & Guest Singer Sue Rivers

Friday 21st February 2020 at 7.30pm
Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, BR6 9JH

Tickets £12.00 in advance (£13.00 on the door)
Available from David Howkins 01689 823793

Monthly Action - Bahrain

On 8th January the Bahrain High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld the convictions and death sentences of **Hussain Ali Moosa Hussain Mohamed** and **Mohamed Ramadhan Issa Ali Hussain** which followed an unfair trial that was achieved by extracting a 'confession' under torture. This has been a long-running case in which the convictions were overturned in October 2018 by the Cassation Court after new evidence was presented pointing clearly to their innocence. The Cassation Court returned the case to the Court of Appeal, where the original convictions have now been upheld.

They were convicted and sentenced to death in September 2014 for the murder of a policeman, however medical evidence showing the confession had been extracted following torture caused the court to overturn the convictions as unsafe. We wrote again to the Bahraini authorities urging the convictions to be quashed, the allegations of torture properly investigated and those responsible brought to justice. We have called for the release of **Hussain Ali Moosa Hussain Mohamed** and **Mohamed Ramadhan Issa Ali Hussain** without delay.

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£527.76
Income	£40.22
Expenditure	£30.96
Balance at 31 st December	£537.02
CHANGE	£9.26

Expenditure included £25.36 relating to postage for the Greetings Card Campaign; we signed and sent over 40 cards to Prisoners of Conscience, or those whose human rights continue to be oppressed and violated.

**Amnesty International
Bromley & Orpington Group
24th Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 10th March 2020 at 7.30pm**

An AGM Notice will be circulated with the March Newsletter

Nominations (duly seconded) for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer to be received by 3rd March

Hong Kong

We received a reply to our letter decrying the escalating violence used by the Hong Kong police against pro-democracy protestors. The letter was signed by the Secretary to Carrie Lam, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong. The letter pointed to Hong Kong's core values but noted the right to protest needed to be balanced with the need for public safety. The former had to be restricted to protect the latter in the current situation. The letter noted that there is an ongoing investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) into the handling of large scale public order events. Hong Kong's abiding by the Rule of Law was asserted. In conclusion the letter said *"the allegation that the Hong Kong (government) have been increasingly restricting the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, is groundless. Human Rights and freedom in Hong Kong are fully protected by law and safeguarded by the Hong Kong Government in a robust manner"*. Amnesty supporters can make their up own minds!

The Future of the Group – Part III

At the AGM in March, Neville will stand down after 25 years as Chair. The Group had a further discussion so that an orderly handover can be effected. At present it is planned that Minutes will be taken at meetings and the Group will explore how to continue communicating with friends and supporters – possibly via a quarterly Newsletter. The Group will also explore how the website and Facebook page can be kept up to date. Other roles are still to be determined, for instance our involvement in the North Africa Regional Action Network.

Also at the AGM, our Independent Examiner of 12 years, Karl Ahlborn will retire. We owe Karl an enormous debt of gratitude for auditing our accounts each year-end and ensuring the books are in order. Although our finances are not huge, it is an excellent discipline ensuring all monies donated to Amnesty are properly accounted for. It's an invisible role and we are hugely appreciative to Karl. The Group asked David to nominate a new Independent Examiner to be appointed at the AGM.

Save the Date
Bromley Little Theatre Charity Preview
"Breaking the Code"
By Hugh Whitemore
The story of Alan Turing who broke the Enigma Code
Thursday 2 July 7.45pm - More details soon!

Present on 14th January: Peter Martin (in the Chair) Vivien Glanz; David Howkins, Wendy Simmons; Waltraut Gilchrist; Patrick and Carolyn Nield; Ted Burke; Claire Ellis and Vivienne Andrews.

Apologies: Neville White; Gladys Edmonds.

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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