

Bloxham Amnesty International group

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 22 MARCH 2014

BLOXHAM AMNESTY CAMPAIGNERS HOLD FLOODLIT VIGIL MARKING THREE YEARS OF SYRIA UPRISING

Members of the Bloxham Amnesty International group will hold a floodlit vigil for Syria from 8pm on the evening of Monday, 24 March 2014 as part of a series of global solidarity actions with the people of Syria three years since the uprising began in March 2011.

The vigil – to be held at the floodlit parish churches of Bloxham, Adderbury, King's Sutton and Deddington - is part of a string of similar events throughout March 2014 around the country and around the world organised by a coalition of human rights and humanitarian organisations, including Amnesty, Oxfam, Save The Children and Christian Aid.

The anniversary is being marked by using the simple unifying symbol of light so that iconic landmarks shine a light of hope for Syria, as an expression of solidarity with over 250,000 civilians trapped in besieged areas of Syria who have little food, water or medicine, and to remember the thousands of people killed.

Amnesty is pressing for humanitarian aid to be delivered into Syria, especially for those besieged by Syrian government or armed opposition group forces, and demanding the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 which was unanimously adopted on 22 February 2014.

Ian Myson, Publicity Officer of Bloxham Amnesty Group said:

“Syria is the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

“Our vigil is simply a matter of local people saying ‘we haven’t forgotten, we’re still trying to help and we’re standing in solidarity with the people of Syria’.

“Recently, after much dithering, our own government did the right thing by agreeing to resettle some of the most vulnerable refugees from the Syria conflict.

“Now we need to see the world powers - especially Russia, a key country in all of this - coming together and demanding immediate access for humanitarian aid especially into besieged and hard to reach areas of Syria.

“It’s really important to mark this three-year point since the uprising began, but we don’t want to be back here holding another vigil for Syria in a year’s time – the humanitarian crisis must be resolved.”

Bloxham Amnesty Group have sponsored the floodlighting of the parish churches of Bloxham, Adderbury, King's Sutton and Deddington, in order to link the vigil to these most important and prominent local landmarks. All are welcome to participate in the event which starts at St Mary's Church, Bloxham at 8pm on Monday 24 March.

Note to editors

Amnesty International is a movement of ordinary people from around the world standing up for humanity and human rights. Our purpose is to protect individuals wherever truth, fairness, freedom and truth are denied.

Bloxham Amnesty International Group is the local AI group for the Banbury area. We campaign to highlight the plight of individuals unjustly imprisoned, suffering torture, facing execution, or whose human rights are otherwise under threat; and raise funds to support Amnesty's research and campaigning activities. We hold monthly meetings and other events to which all are welcome. For more information visit www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/bloxham

ENDS

Media contact:

Ian Myson, Publicity Officer, Bloxham Amnesty Group: 07801 200403; ian_myson@hotmail.com