



AMNESTY
International

Wandsworth

March 2013

WANDSWORTH

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP

meets

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH @ 19:30 @

THE EXHIBIT

12 BALHAM STATION ROAD

Northern Line tube / 2 rail stops from Clapham Junction

249, 315, 155 and 355 buses

just by the entrance to Sainsbury's car park

Head up the stairs to the 2nd floor and you should find us to the left of the cinema

Afghanistan: Tackling Violence Against Women Must Be Prioritised

"I want to make it clear today that our Afghanistan country plan will have tackling violence against women and girls as a country strategic priority to do whatever the UK can to ensure the gains for girls and women in Afghanistan are not lost and instead can be built upon. Kate [Allan, Amnesty UK Director], I know you have raised this as an issue with me, and you're right. This is why we are making this a country strategic priority."

Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development

AIUK welcomes Greening's announcement but this commitment has to be translated into a clear programme of work that includes funding for women's shelters and helping the Afghan police force support – not punish – the victims of abuse. It is also vital that the FCO similarly prioritises tackling violence against women and girls in Afghanistan, and works together with DFID to ensure women in Afghanistan can live without fear. *Tonight's meeting will look at what we can contribute to that campaign.*

PLUS: ■ SYRIA ■ LIBYA: OUR CASE ■ AMNESTY'S INDUSTRIAL STRIFE – REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING ■ STAND UP FOR WOMEN2 ■ NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES ■ FINANCE ■ FILM NIGHTS ■ LETTERS TO SIGN

FILM NIGHTS

HUMAN

RIGHTS

WATCH

FILM FESTIVAL

The 17th Human Rights Watch Film Festival opens on 15 March, with many of the showings taking place locally at The Ritzy in Brixton.

Monday 18th: Act of Killing (deadly human rights violations in Indonesia) [6:15]

Tuesday: Camera/Woman and Going Up the Stairs (a woman's life in Morocco and Iran)

Wednesday: Camp 14 – Total Control (prison camps in North Korea) [(6:15)

Thursday: Tail on the Baobab Tree (child marriage) [6:30]

Friday: Wadjda the first full-length feature film shot entirely in Saudi Arabia [6:30; closing night]

A [Human Rights Photo Exhibition](#), organised by the cinema staff to tie in with the festival, will open Upstairs at The Ritzy on Saturday 16 March at 4.00.

[Interested in going with a party from the group? Let me or Sara know which film interests you and we'll see if there are tickets available.](#)

Wandsworth AI

Secretary:

Chair:

<http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/wandsworth>

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Once again The Bedford was packed, almost to the rafters, for this comic celebration of International Women's Day.

What with the income from ticket sales and raffle tickets, it looks as though Amnesty will benefit from anything between £2000 and £3000.

Congratulations and thanks to those in the three local groups who worked so hard to make the evening a success.

THE DISPLACED PEOPLE OF TAWARGHA

Local groups campaigning in support of the safe return home of the Displaced People of Tawargha have come up with the idea of asking their local mayor or council to write to the local council of Misratah in Libya, where a number of Tawarghans are held in detention.

The Displaced People of Tawargha were expelled from their homes in the summer of 2011 when militias from nearby Misratah attacked the town. The Tawarghans, who are ethnically distinct from the Arab inhabitants of Libya, are now in refugee camps in different parts of Libya and are unable to return home. The Misratah militias continue to hold Tawargha men in detention, and Amnesty has documented cases of torture and killing of these detainees.

The Libyan government has not yet established effective control over regional militias. For this reason, it may be that the local council of Misratah has, for the moment, more influence over the fate of Tawarghans than the central government. Amnesty met with the leader of the city council of Misratah last year and handed over petitions containing almost 2,700 signatures, asking for the safe return home of the people of Tawargha.

This is a rare Amnesty case where action from one local council, in the UK, to the local council of Misratah, could have a direct impact on individuals at risk – the 30,000 people displaced from Tawargha. We are talking to Amnesty's International Secretariat about when and how letters from local councils in the UK can get delivered to the local council in Misratah. It is important to confirm this, before asking local councillors to write letters.

As soon as this is confirmed, we will send details and a suggested format for the letter. This has been discussed in a preliminary way by the Scarborough, Lyme Regis and Kingston upon Thames local groups. Other local groups following the Tawargha case include Woodgreen, Horsham, and Wandsworth.

(extract from the AIUK North Africa Newsletter)



Shaker Aamer – one-time resident of Battersea and currently living elsewhere/
"100,000 signatures urgently needed"

"There are only a few weeks left to get 100,000 signatures on the government e-petition 33133, "Return Shaker Aamer to the UK". British resident Shaker Aamer has been unlawfully imprisoned in Guantánamo for over 11 years without charge or trial. We appeal to all readers to add their names to the e-petition to reach this target number. Achieving this would mean that there could be a debate in parliament. It would also mean that public protest at this terrible injustice would be on record.

"This would help the case for demanding Shaker Aamer's release and return to his British family. To date, there are over 37,000 names on the e-petition. If all of us signed and encouraged all our friends and colleagues to add their names, we could get the required number. The government could not ignore it. Please sign the e-petition today. The deadline is 20 April but do it now and help end the torture and abuse endured every day by Shaker Aamer.

Go to www.freeshaker.com for a useful link to the government website."

Joy Hurcombe, Chair, Save Shaker Aamer Campaign

[from The Guardian website]



SIGN UP FOR 2013

Every month we send out a newsletter with information about our meetings and news about our current activities and as often as possible we enclose a letter to be signed in connection with an action or campaign. This is a very important way of keeping in touch with people who cannot make every meeting.

Unfortunately, this costs money, as does running the local group and the national organisation. Therefore, we are asking local supporters to Sign Up for 2013.



I enclose £5 [£2 unwaged] as my membership of
Wandsworth Amnesty group for 2013.

Name

Address

.....

Tel: Em@il:

Send to: Peter Martin/ 6 Manville Road/ Tooting Bec/ SW17 8JN

Cheques to: Amnesty International/Wandsworth *please*.

Thanks!