



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group November 2014 Newsletter



Our thanks to Patsy Paine of Petts Wood for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

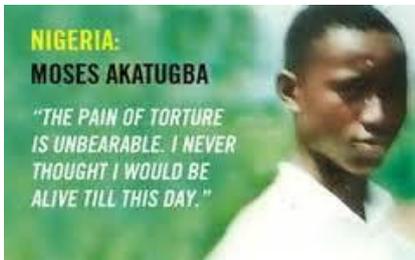
COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 11 November	Film Night – 'Blood in the Mobile'
Tuesday 9 December	Greetings Card Campaign – 'Send a Message of Hope'
Tuesday 13th January	Campaign Meeting

'Send A Message of Hope'
Amnesty Greetings Card Campaign
Tuesday 9th December at 7.30 pm
Mince Pies. All Welcome.

Film Night: We are delighted to be able to announce award winning film 'Blood in the Mobile' will be shown at our next meeting on Tuesday 11th November. The film shows how our love for the mobile phone is fuelling conflict in countries such as DRC via the extraction of 'conflict minerals'. All welcome. 7.30pm for 8pm start. Refreshments.

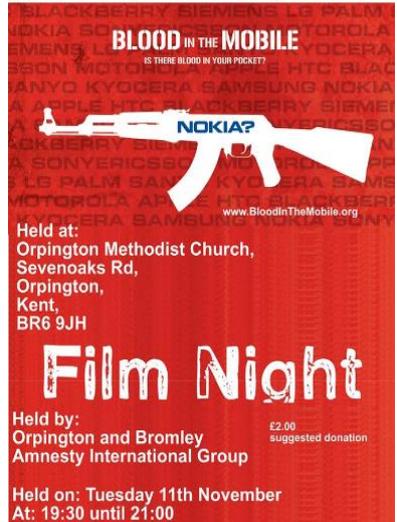
Monthly Letter: Nigeria



This month's appeal is among the worst we have seen. Moses Akatugba was 16, and on his way home from school when he was arrested by the Nigerian army in 2005 and accused of stealing goods in an armed robbery. Moses has always

denied the charges, but under torture two forced confessions were extracted; during his ordeal he was beaten, hung upside down and had his finger and toe nails pulled out with pliers. He spent the next eight years in prison, until in November 2013 he was sentenced to death, based on his 'confession'. He was a child when arrested and has been subject to illegal process in international law. Please sign, address and post the attached letter. **This will cost 97p to post.**

In Aid of Amnesty International - Stopping Torture Worldwide

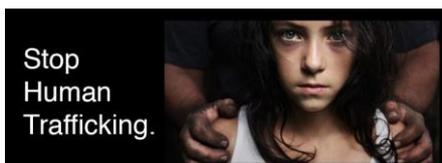


'Coffee & Cake for Amnesty'
Saturday 8th November 10.00am-4.00pm
at 58 Warren Road, Chelsfield.
All welcome to pop in during the day. All proceeds to Amnesty

We enjoyed a poignant and splendidly performed evening at Bromley Little Theatre with the charity premiere of 'My Boy Jack commemorating the start of World War I. The evening, including raffle raised £912.00.

Trafficking: Spot the Signs

We were delighted to welcome back Peter Cox of **Croydon Community against Trafficking**. Peter gave us an update; Croydon remains a vulnerable borough for trafficking – the third most prevalent in London after Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea. Croydon has a high multinational population, close to airports and with the Home Office immigration centre adding to the mix. CCAT was formed in 2005 in response to the low profile given to trafficking by Croydon Council. CCAT took on the local papers with their small ads for brothel services – often a front for trafficking, and set up intelligence gathering teams to research the ‘dubious places’ in the borough where trafficking was likely. Their success has meant that such places have reduced from about 120 in 2005 to fewer than 45 today –



however as Peter chillingly remarked, it hasn't gone away, but merely moved somewhere else. The most popular countries from which girls and boys are trafficked are Romania, Poland, Nigeria, Vietnam, Albania, and from within the UK. CCAT noted that the Coalition Government has made great progress, with credit to the Home Secretary, for piloting the Modern Slavery Bill through Parliament. This will protect victims and allow seizure of assets.

There was still work to do on corporate responsibility towards trafficking. CCAT is a marvellous example of community action focused on the pernicious trade in people. We have nothing like it in Bromley, but Peter inspired us to take action ourselves and lobby the authorities on how they are tackling it. www.modernslavery.co.uk

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£1,084.58
Income	£412.00
Expenditure	£98.41
Balance at 14 th October	£1,398.17
<i>CHANGE</i>	<i>+ £313.59</i>

Income included Bromley Little Theatre ticket receipts (£276) and takings from the raffle (£96). Total net profit from BLT was £912. Other income included private donations of £40. The Group agreed to send £900 to Amnesty bringing out total contribution so far for 2014 to £3,572.

2015 Meeting Dates

Tuesday 13th January
Tuesday 10th February
Tuesday 10th March – 19th AGM
Tuesday 14th April
Tuesday 12th May
Tuesday 9th June
Tuesday 14th July
Tuesday 11th August - provisional
Tuesday 8th September
Tuesday 6th October – Note 1st Tuesday
Tuesday 10th November
Tuesday 8th December

Group Campaigning Actions

We wrote to our **MPs** calling on them to support Early Day Motion 99 which calls on the Government to raise asylum support rates to at least 70% of Income Support. We also wrote to two of our **MEPs** calling on them to support the review of EU law which prohibits trade in items used for torture, and which will hopefully lead to some of the existing loopholes being closed. Finally we wrote to the President of the Beijing Municipal Higher People's Court in support of our prisoner **Liu Xiabo**.

Present on 14th October: Neville White, David Howkins, Vivien Glanz, Patsy Paine, Ted Burke, Wendy Simmons, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Waltraut Gilchrist, Patrick McDonell, Peter Martin, Margaret Coppard, Simon Nash, Vivienne Andrews, Rindy Baaker. Apologies: Rene Eastwood, Gladys Edmonds, Eleanor Ivens.

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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