



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

April 2013 Newsletter



Our thanks to Roger Knight for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 9 May
Tuesday 14 May
Tuesday 11 June

Speaker: Mary Hla, Burma Campaign
Speaker: Ros Topley, Amnesty Central Africa Co-ordinator
Activity to be confirmed



AI Bromley at Zimbabwe High Commission

We joined others at the Zimbabwe High Commission in Strand, on 16th February as part of our campaign calling on the Zimbabwean authorities to end their persecution of WOZA members, and to call for fair and peaceful elections. Over 200 were killed at the last elections, and Amnesty has launched a global campaign focused on ensuring these are free from violence. Our **Day of Action** on 11th May will be on behalf of WOZA (Women of Zimbabwe Arise!).



Bromley & Orpington Group Events Calendar

- 9th April – Speaker: from Burma Campaign**
- 13-14th April National Conference & AGM, Warwick**
- 11th May – Day of Action, Bromley**
- 14th May – Speaker: Human Rights in Central Africa**
- 9th July – Speaker: Business & Human Rights**
- 26th August – Cudham Fair**
- 15th September Sevenoaks Sponsored Walk**
- 8th October – Speaker: Doctors of Death**
- 19th October – Street Collection (provisional)**
- 22nd November – Film Night (provisional)**
- 10th December – Human Rights Day; Message of Hope**

Monthly Letter –Brazil

Alexandre Anderson de Souza and his wife have been repeatedly threatened for their environmental campaigning. Over the past three years he has survived six assassination attempts. Alexandre is president of the Association of Men and Women of the Sea (**AHOMAR**),



from Mauá beach, Magé. AHOMAR has long campaigned against development in the bay, which they claim is causing long-term environmental damage and threatening members' livelihoods. Four members of AHOMAR have been killed since 2009 including Treasurer **Paulo César dos Santos Souza**, who was beaten and shot in the head in front of his wife and children in 2009. Please write, calling for Alexandre Anderson de Souza to be given full protection and urge that all threats and violence against AHOMAR members, including the four deaths, be fully investigated. Please address, sign and post the attached letter which costs 87p to post.

Day of Action
In support of Women's Human Rights in Zimbabwe and Afghanistan
Churchill Theatre Forecourt, Bromley
Saturday 11th May 2013

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£2,679.20
Income	£67.00
Expenditure	£2,274.00
Balance at 12th March	£472.20
CHANGE	-£2,207.00

Income included a corporate donation of £50. Expenditure included our £2,100 remittance to Amnesty and AGM fees.

Human Rights Focus: The Story Behind the News: Journalists at Risk

2012 was the deadliest year on record for journalists with 90 killed in theatres such as Syria, Somalia and Pakistan. The dangers in Syria have become so acute that few journalists can now cover it; *The Sunday Times* has told freelance photographers not to submit images as they do not want to encourage exceptional risk taking. What seems to have changed is the deliberate targeting of journalists; the death of Marie Colvin in Syria in February 2012 when the building in which she was staying was deliberately shelled, told its own story. Journalists are quite often in the front line of human rights abuses as witnesses but increasingly they are becoming the victims. So far in 2013 6 journalists have been killed, three in Pakistan, 2 in Syria and one each in Turkey, Somalia and Brazil.

Women's Rights in Afghanistan: The Time is Now!



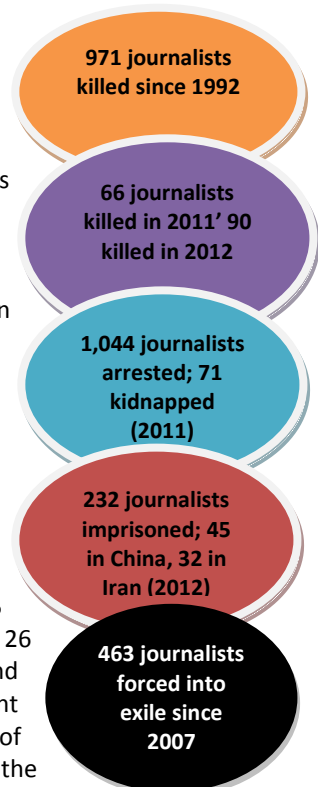
Did you know that 87% of Afghan women suffer some form of domestic violence? Or that only 40% of girls are enrolled in school in Afghanistan? Or that 26 girls' schools were destroyed between March and December 2010, despite a government commitment to girls' education? Rene reported back from a day of speakers telling us that the price of peace could be the sacrifice of women's rights. **Horia Mosadiq**, Director of the

Afghan Human Rights | Research and Advocacy Consortium said that whilst there has been progress, violence against women and girls is pervasive every-day. The police fail to act on abuses and the few shelters receive no support and are frequently harassed by the authorities. Samira Hamidi, Director of the Afghan Women's Network reminded us that with the withdrawal of UN troops and a 'deal' increasingly likely with the Taliban, the rights of women may be sacrificed. The cost of peace may be too high. Amnesty is urgently campaigning for the rights of Afghan women to be at the centre of any peace deal.

Justice for Hakamada Iwao!

The new Japanese Government has resumed executions and there are renewed fears for the fate of 77 year old Hakamada Iwao, who is the world's longest serving death row prisoner after 47 years and is now seriously mentally ill. We wrote once again to the Japanese authorities calling for clemency. www.amnesty.org.uk

Meetings are held in the Wesley Room, Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington commencing at 7.30pm. **E-mail** aibromley@btinternet.com **website:** www.amnesty.org.uk/bromley



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