



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

April 2014 Newsletter



Our thanks to Ian Magrath of Chislehurst for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 8 April
Tuesday 13 May
Tuesday 10 June

Campaign meeting – AGM resolutions
Speaker: Asylum Aid
Speaker: Release International

Protecting Afghan Women's Rights



Bromley & Orpington Group members highlighting the stories of Afghan women

2014 is set to be a critical year for Afghanistan and particularly for women's rights. As international troops withdraw there is real fear that the gains women have enjoyed over the past few years may be lost. There are already indications that the fragile progress achieved is back-sliding. The parliament has criticised the Elimination of Violence against women law, and high profile women have been targeted, including the killing of four police women and a pregnant teacher. Fragile human rights gains have to be protected and we joined AI demands to keep women in focus as the transition continues in a photo campaign (see left).

Monthly Letter – Vietnam



Tran Huyhn Duy Thuc is a blogger and activist, sentenced to 16 years in prison for expressing ideas about political and economic reform. He was charged with 'attempting to overthrow the people's administration'. At an unfair trial the charge was changed at the last moment, but the judgement took 45 minutes to read out suggesting it was prepared in advance. Please address, sign and post the attached letter which costs 88p to post.

Bromley & Orpington 2014 Group Events Calendar

- 11-13th April - National Conference & AGM, Warwick**
- 13th May – Speaker: Asylum Aid**
- 17th May – Day of Action, Bromley**
- 10th June – Speaker: Release International**
- 11th September – BLT Charity Premiere (My Boy Jack)**
- 11th & 18th October – Street Collection (over two weekends)**
- 21st November – Film Night (provisional)**
- 9th December – Human Rights Day; Send A Message of Hope**
- December – Christmas Tree Festival; Hayes Free Church**
- **Other speakers to be announced**

Day of Action

“Afghan Women's Rights: Protecting the Progress”
Churchill Theatre Forecourt, Bromley
Saturday 17th May 2014. 9am-4.30pm. Join us!

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£3,231.74
Income	£61.00
Expenditure	£2,749.50
Balance at 11 th March	£543.24
CHANGE	-£2,688.50

Income included a donation of £20, and a surplus raised at the social in February. Expenditure included our £2,672 remittance to Amnesty, and AGM fees. Please see separate AGM Notice for information about our 2013 results and the 2014 budget.

Group Secretary: At the AGM, Shirley Henderson, our Group Secretary since August 2010 retired and we were delighted to welcome Vivien Glanz into the role. We thank Shirley for all her work and support as Secretary. Vivien's contact details are set out below.

WOZA again face police brutality



We signed a Group letter to the Zimbabwe Police Commissioner expressing our concern at the continuing harassment faced by members of WOZA! On 13th February 980 WOZA! members demonstrated in Harare marching to Parliament where they faced 30 riot police. They were obstructed from presenting their petition and demonstrators were beaten with batons. We reminded the Commissioner that the new constitution protects freedom of expression and peaceful protest. In other news President Mugabe released 2000 prisoners in a general amnesty. Whilst this is welcome, and included all women not serving a life sentence, it is viewed as aligned to a crisis of over-crowding in the prison population rather than a move towards genuine reform. The EU is to suspend 'targeted sanctions' which risks providing credence to the regime; US sanctions will remain.

Monthly Action: Syria; Marking the 3rd Anniversary of the Uprising



The third anniversary of the Syria conflict is a grim reminder to the world of its failure to stop the suffering, and is an opportunity to demonstrate to world leaders that they need to do more to help the people of Syria. With more than 130,000 killed in the conflict, 9 million displaced and 300 people fleeing their homes every hour, the need for a powerful campaign is greater than ever. To this end Amnesty is part of a global campaign coalition of NGOs and civil society who will mark the 15th March anniversary

with a demonstration of solidarity with ordinary Syrian people. These actions will culminate in candle-lit vigils across the world. The aim is to demonstrate global solidarity with children, men and women struggling each day to survive the Syria conflict and to raise awareness of their need for basic necessities, including food, medical aid and fuel. We collectively signed a letter calling on the authorities – government and opposition – to protect civilian human rights and provide for basic necessities, including an immediate end to the use of cluster weapons and anti-personnel land mines, and the use of mortars, artillery and free-fall unguided bombs in attacks on residential areas.



Find us on Facebook and on the web.

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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