



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

April 2015 Newsletter



Our thanks to Janice Davis (now) of Switzerland for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 14 April **Speaker: Tahrir Swift; Human Rights in Iraq**
Tuesday 12 May **Campaign Meeting**
Tuesday 9 June **Speaker: AI North Korea Country Co-ordinator**

‘Human Rights in Iraq’
Speaker: Tahrir Swift
Tuesday 14th April at 7.30pm; All Welcome

Supporting Shaker Aamer

Group member Chris Purnell has been closely following the campaign to bring Shaker Aamer home from Guantanamo Bay. We wrote to the Prime Minister urging pressure be brought to bear on the US authorities and we received a very welcome response from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. They confirmed, the Prime Minister and Foreign and Defence Secretaries had each raised the case very recently with their respective opposites in the US, and that the UK Government firmly held the view that *“indefinite detention without review or fair trial is unacceptable...all parts of the UK Government are working to secure the release and return of Mr Aamer to the UK...we are confident that the US Government understands the seriousness of our commitment”*.



Bahrain: Appeal for Clemency

We sent appeals to the King of Bahrain and the Minister of Justice on behalf of three men sentenced to death after an unfair trial. The three were sentenced in February to be executed after being convicted of charges that included organising a terrorist group. However, there were serious failings in the judicial process: all three had been tortured, denied access to a lawyer, and their lawyers request for the three to be examined by a forensic doctor was denied. At the trial, neither they nor their lawyers were allowed to cross examine witnesses. AI has called for a new, fair trial in keeping with internationally recognised standards.

Day of Action
“Working for Women’s Rights”
Churchill Theatre Forecourt, Bromley
Saturday 9th May 2015. 9am-4.30pm. Join us!

Postage charges are due to be increased from 30 March 2015 as below:

Standard Inland (up to 100g)	1 st class 63p	2 nd class 54p
Large Letter (up to 100g)	1 st class 95p	2 nd class 74p
International all Zones (up to 10g)	£1.00	
International (up to 20g)	Europe £1.00	ROW £1.33



Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£702.34
Income	£2,622.23
Expenditure	£2,822.97
Balance at 10 th March	£501.60
CHANGE	-£200.74

Income included Amnesty Jazz receipts (£2,266.23); Chairman's Appeal (£220) and other donations (£136). Expenditure included £1,872 sent to Amnesty. The final result from the jazz concert was announced; gross receipts were £2,266.23 and £1,377.87 after expenses. Please see separate AGM Notice for information about our 2014 results and the 2015 budget.

China: Husband and Brother of Activist Detained

The husband and brother of detained women's rights activist **Su Changlan** have been 'criminally detained'. They were held after submitting an application to visit her. During this, her brother raised a placard declaring her innocence. He was summoned for investigation and later charged with 'picking quarrels and provoking troubles'. Su Changlan was arrested in October 2014 for her peaceful activism on behalf of women's rights, and has been charged with 'state subversion' which could result in life imprisonment. We signed a Group letter to the Chinese authorities calling for their immediate and unconditional release.



Over 3 million actions were sent last Christmas as part of Amnesty's Write for Rights' campaign. Over 85,000 actions were sent in the UK on behalf of those imprisoned or persecuted for their peaceful activism or their beliefs. In addition to the news we received from **Chelsea Manning**, AI has reported good news from other cases. **Lu Ping's** daughter was

able to visit her mother for the first time in December. She said "I'm very moved by all the action for my mother and I want to send my thanks to everyone who has been campaigning on her case". Action on behalf of **John Jeanette** has resulted in the Norwegian Government ending forced sterilisation prior to changing legal gender. "Getting this massive, wonderful and warm support from people worldwide really makes a difference to my daily life". Finally, **Raif Badawi's** wife told Amnesty how much the support for her husband has meant. "He started to cry out of joy and said 'how can I thank all those people who supported me: I want to thank them one by one". Amnesty Works!

Monthly Letter: Sri Lanka

This month's appeal concerns **Prageeth Eknaligoda** a *Journalist missing for over five years*. He left work on 24 January 2010 but never arrived home. Amnesty believes he was subjected to enforced disappearance due to his work as a journalist, satirical cartoonist and outspoken criticism of the authorities. He had declared his support for one of the main opposition candidates for the presidential elections, due to take place two days after he disappeared. Official investigations have been ineffective and his whereabouts are still unknown. Amnesty is calling for a full and impartial investigation into the case. Please sign, address and post the attached letter. **This will cost £1.00 to post.**



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 amnestybromley@gmail.com website: www.amnesty.org.uk/bromley

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