



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

April 2016 Newsletter



Our thanks to Gordon Ledgerwood of Orpington for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

<i>Tuesday 12 April</i>	<i>Film Night "Kandahar" (2001)</i>
<i>Tuesday 10 May</i>	<i>Campaign Meeting</i>
<i>Tuesday 10 June</i>	<i>To Be Confirmed</i>

Amnesty at the Movies
'Kandahar' (2001)
 After a short business meeting we will show the 2001 movie
 All welcome. Light Refreshments
 Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm



Our jazz night with the Nick Beston Quartet was the best and most successful so far with 230 people attending. Ticket sales raised £2,155, and we took £88.35 in food donations and £110.00 in other generous donations. Overall the event raised £1,527.35 NET. Our grateful thanks to all who helped out on the night, including Wendy for organising the refreshments, and David for putting the event together. We very much hope Amnesty Jazz will return in 2017.

Monthly Letter: Egypt

Prisoner of Conscience **Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein** has had his detention renewed for another 45 days. He has now spent more than two years in pre-trial detention. The 20 year old student was arrested for wearing a tee-shirt with an anti-torture logo. He is being held illegally for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. There is rising concern at the deteriorating human rights situation in Egypt with widespread use of torture and the forced closure of human rights organisations. Crackdown on basic freedoms, imprisonment without trial and deaths in custody are routine. A centre for the rehabilitation of torture victims has also been forced to close on grounds that its human rights work violated its license for medical related activities. Please address, sign and post the enclosed letter. This will cost £1.05 to post.



Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£532.91
Income	£2,449.35
Expenditure	£939.75
Balance at 8 th March	£2,042.51
CHANGE	£1,509.60

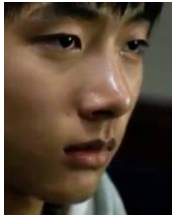
Income included Amnesty Jazz receipts (£2,409.35) and donations of £40.00. Expenditure included £882.00 in concert related expenses. **It was agreed** a donation of £1,500 + £72 affiliation fee would be sent to Amnesty.

Postage charges are due to be increased from 29 March 2016 as below:

Standard Inland (up to 100g)	1 st class 64p	2 nd class 55p
Large Letter (up to 100g)	1 st class 96p	2 nd class 75p
International all Zones (up to 10g)	£1.05	
International (up to 20g)	Europe £1.05	ROW £1.33



Juvenile Offender Sentenced to Death: Iran



We wrote to the Iranian authorities regarding a juvenile offender sentenced to death for the second time. **Amanj Veisee** was first sentenced to death in 2008 after the Provincial Criminal Court convicted him of murder for fatally stabbing his cousin during a fight. The Supreme Court upheld the sentence even though Amanj was just 15 at the time of the alleged crime. Permission to carry out the sentence was given in 2013 when he had reached the age of 22. The second trial was granted after the Penal Code was altered allowing alternatives to the death penalty to be recommended. However, the second trial has upheld the earlier judgement and his execution may be carried out imminently despite Iran

being a Signatory to the International Covenant of the Rights of the Child.

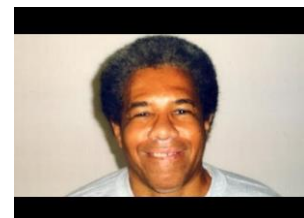
Russian Crackdown on Social Media

Yekaterina Vologzheninova, a shop assistant from Yekaterinburg was found guilty on 20th February of “inciting hatred and enmity on the grounds of ethnicity” following her online criticism of Russia’s annexation of Crimea. The judge ruled that her name must be added to an official list of terrorists and extremists. She argued that her comments had been privately made on social media and were not shared publicly. Nevertheless her posts were ruled to be incitement of hatred against the state and her computer a ‘criminal weapon’. We wrote to the Russian authorities, demanding her immediate exoneration on grounds of her peaceful right to freedom of expression, and for her name to be removed from the official list of extremists.



Good News

He was the longest serving isolated prisoner in the US, kept almost continuously in a tiny cell for 43 years. But on 19th February, without warning **Albert Woodfox** was suddenly released. Albert entered solitary confinement at the age of 26 in 1974. For the next 43 years he was kept in a cell 6x9 feet for 23 hours a day even though there was no cause. His one hour of exercise a day was only allowed in shackles. Albert’s conviction for the murder of a prison guard was overturned three times, but he was never let free as the Louisiana authorities immediately appealed allowing his continued solitary incarceration. The state’s evidence consisted of highly suspect testimonies with no evidence linking him to the crime. After 43 years Albert is mentally and physically frail, but he is now free. Albert has said “*I do not have the words to convey the years of mental, emotional and physical torture I have endured...the feeling of pain allows me to know I am alive*”. You can send a message of support to Albert at www.amnesty.org.uk



Westminster Corner



We received a reply from Beckenham MP, Bob Stewart DSO, regarding the export of equipment to Saudi Arabia that could be used to further armed conflict in Yemen. Mr Stewart notes Amnesty’s concerns and states that the Committee on Arms Export Controls will “*take a very active interest in what is sold to Saudi Arabia. Having served on the Committee I will wait to see what its judgement is on defence exports to Saudi Arabia before making my own conclusions*”.

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

Neville White (Chairman) 01689 896368
Neville.white@waitrose.com

Vivien Glanz (Secretary)
vivienglanz@hotmail.com