



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

August 2012 Newsletter



Our thanks to Alison Mead for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 14 August

Tuesday 11 September

Tuesday 2 October

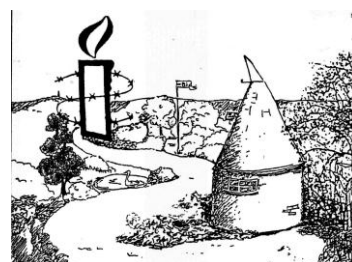
Planning

Campaign Roundup

*** please note date * Speaker – 'No Sweat' exploited labour**

22nd Sevenoaks Sponsored Walk: 16th September 2012

The annual Sevenoaks sponsored walk takes place on Sunday 16th September with walks of 3, 6 and 11 miles through glorious Kent countryside. Led walks leave Buckhurst car park, Suffolk Way, Sevenoaks at 10,00am. You can also come just for the marvellous lunch, or make a donation. **We have prioritised the help we need as usual**, and a form is enclosed with this mailing setting out how you can help. We always need walkers, and contributions of food (quiche, salad, cakes, soup etc.) would be very much appreciated. Offers of food help can be made direct to Rene on 0208 467 6973, or by e-mailing Neville or returning the form. Sponsor forms will be sent out with our next Newsletter at the end of August.



Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£597.57
Income	£580.00
Expenditure	£95.98
Balance at 10 th July	£1,081.59
CHANGE	£484.02

Income included BLT ticket sales of £530 and private donations of £50.

HOT NEWS: Tuesday 2nd October 7.30pm
Vicki Morris of 'No Sweat' will speak on
"Sweatshop Exploitation – Global Reality"

Monthly Actions: Justice for Roma and Johan Teterissa

We signed Group letters to the **Mayor of Cluj-Napoca** in Romania following the forced eviction of 76 families in violation of Romania's international obligations. The families – mostly Roma – were evicted from their homes in the city centre area, and rehoused on the outskirts next to a rubbish dump. The housing is inadequate with no sanitation or running water. Other families were not rehoused at all. We called on the Mayor to ensure adequate provision of vital services and to ensure security of tenure. We also wrote to the **Indonesian Minister of Justice** regarding Prisoner of Conscience, **Johan Teterissa**, a primary school teacher, who has been sent to prison for 15 years for 'raising a flag'. Following his peaceful, public protest, he was sent to a prison that does not meet international standards, and there are concerns for his deteriorating health.



**Join us at the Amnesty stall
Cudham Village Fair
Monday 27th August 2012, from Noon**



If you use and enjoy social media, please consider joining our Facebook page, where regular updates, news, banter and interesting events are posted. We have a small but dedicated member list and would love to see you there! Just look for Amnesty International Bromley & Orpington.

Bad News: Domestic Workers Don't Have Rights!

You may recall we wrote to the **Home Office** in May concerning domestic worker abuse where new visa conditions make it impossible for a domestic worker to change employer to escape abuse, and may thus 'institutionalise' human rights violations. We had a reply in which all of Amnesty's concerns are discounted. *"The Government has not seen any evidence to indicate that removing the right to change employer will lead to an increase in trafficking"*. The Home Office states that domestic workers have normal recourse to the protection of the law, but fails to suggest how workers 'in servitude' can access help when they may be forcibly restricted. Unhelpfully, the home Office goes on *"The Government believes the most appropriate response to anyone who has suffered abuse whilst accompanying their employer...is to assist them to return home"*.

Good News - Export Ban on Death Penalty Drug

The Coalition has announced that a drug that forms a crucial part of lethal injection in the US is to be banned for export. Propofol, more properly used as an anaesthetic in hospitals, is to be barred for export to the United States following the first US State, Missouri, to approve it as part of the cocktail used in executions. The ban follows earlier export bars on sodium thiopental, one of the three 'staple' drugs used in lethal injection. Vince Cable said *"we are clear that the State should never be complicit in judicial executions through the use of British drugs in lethal injections"*.



Amnesty London Region

We were delighted to welcome Petros Hassakanos, Amnesty London Regional Rep to the meeting. Our Group is one of 25 that make up the London Region, and it was helpful to hear of initiatives and support that we can draw on such as the Amnesty Photographer's Group if we need an event recorded, and a young persons' group that can be called onto support street collections etc. Petros noted that the 25 Groups have differing strengths and capabilities. We hope to be able to work closer with London Region going forward.

More Good News - Greetings Card Campaign

The 'Send A Message of Hope' appeal at Christmas is one of Amnesty's most popular campaigns. The 2011 campaign generated over 1m appeals across 78 countries, and there is evidence it has made a significant difference. In three cases the lives of the individuals have changed dramatically for the better, the most notable being Azerbaijan student Jabbar Savalan being released. In three other cases there has been small, but detectable change suggesting pressure is helping. In four other cases Amnesty is aware that pressure is making a difference. In 11 of the 14 cases the families or representatives have thanked Amnesty for helping.

Present on 10th July: Neville White, David Howkins, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Rene Eastwood, Waltraut Gilchrist, Margaret Coppard, Patsy Paine, Wendy Simmons, Pamela Smith, Ted Burke, Eleanor Ivens, Gladys Edmonds, Simon Nash, Claire Ellis, Patrick McDonnell and Petros Hassanakos. Apologies: Patrick Nield, Chris Purnell, Pat Eastaugh, Vivien Glanz.

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

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

Shirley Henderson (Secretary) 01689 855632
shirleyhenderson399@btinternet.com