



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group December 2013 Newsletter



Our thanks to Shirley Henderson of Orpington for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

## COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Write for Rights 'Send a Message of Hope' (+ mince pies)  
Campaign Meeting  
Speaker: Paul Eagle; Business & Human Rights

## The Nick Beston Quartet

With special guest vocalist

### Sue Rivers

Present a concert of popular jazz standards in aid of  
Amnesty International Bromley & Orpington Group

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014 at 7.30pm

Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington  
Tickets £10 in advance; £11 on the door  
From David Howkins 01689 823793

### Corporate Responsibility & Human Rights

Our monthly action called for greater reporting transparency by business of the risks and impacts of human rights. A letter sent to our MEP called on the EU to strengthen the forthcoming Directive on corporate non-financial reporting on environmental and social issues. Specifically, we are calling for stronger clarity around material impacts; commitment to supporting international human rights standards and EU guidance on how business should report.



### Campaign Action Iran



Our monthly letter is in support of an Iranian human rights defender, **Sayed Ziauddin Nabavi**. A student and former member of the Advocacy Council for the Right to Education, he is currently serving a 10 year sentence for peacefully expressing his right to protest following the recent elections. He is viewed internationally as a Prisoner of Conscience, and there are fears for his health and for a further unjust sentence after he wrote an open letter defending a fellow prison inmate. Please address, sign and post the attached letter which will cost 88p to post.

## 'Write for Rights'

**"Send a Message of Hope" this Christmas**  
Join us on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm

\*Mince Pies\* \*Refreshments\* booklet enclosed or [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)

## Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£558.85
Income	£806.82
Expenditure	NIL
Balance at 12 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>£1,365.67</b>
<b>CHANGE</b>	<b>£806.82</b>

The street collection raised an amazing £756.82, based on our collecting at four supermarkets over two week-ends. Sainsbury West Wickham once again raised the most at £28.31 per hour! We thank all those who took part and especially to Margaret for again masterminding our collection. Donations and Christmas card receipts raised a further £30. We agreed to send £800 to Amnesty, taking our 2013 donation total to £2,950.

**There will be a last chance to buy Amnesty Christmas Cards at our December meeting.**

## Supporting Human Rights in Burma

We are very committed to the people of Burma, and in keeping with a long history of supporting human rights in the country, we wrote to the Burmese Attorney General calling for the release of **Kyaw Hla Aung**, who has been in arbitrary detention since 15 July 2013. This is doubly worrying as his arrest and detention for the peaceful right to protest, comes after the lifting of sanctions and the 'normalisation' of civilian rule. Aung is an ethnic Muslim, part of a stateless minority that have no rights in Burma. Aung is unwell and Amnesty also fears for his health. His case is featured in this year's Write for Rights campaign and we hope you will send a 'Message of Hope' to him.



*Advance Notice: Amnesty Social; Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7.30pm  
venue to be advised*

## Other Campaigns

We signed a Group letter to **MP Jane Ellison** who represents Battersea and Balham. She is the local MP for **Shaker Aamer**, and has campaigned vigorously for his release and return to the UK; now that she is in government, we urged her to continue to pressure government to lobby the US authorities to allow him home. He has now been held without trial in Guantanamo Bay for 11 years and 9 months. He is seriously ill and there are critical concerns for his health and wellbeing. A letter was also circulated to the **Ethiopian authorities**. Human rights have been seriously compromised in Ethiopia, and one of its oldest human rights organisations has almost had to close down owing to punitive legislation that has clamped down on human rights defenders. Members of the **Human Rights Council** have been arrested, attacked and intimidated with only 15% of staff remaining in country.



**Find us on Facebook and on the web.**

**Present on 12<sup>th</sup> November:** David Howkins, Neville White, Margaret Coppard, Eleanor Ivens, Gladys Edmonds, Vivien Glanz, Wendy Simmons, Eve Fisher, Chris Purnell and Simon Nash. Mariela Quaranta was welcomed to the meeting. **Apologies:** Rene Eastwood, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Waltraut Gilchrist, Peter Martin, Patsy Paine, Ted Burke.

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

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