



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

December 2016 Newsletter



Our thanks to Neville White of Orpington for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 13th December

Tuesday 10th January

Tuesday 14th February

'Send a Message of Hope' – Greetings Card Campaign

Speaker Campaign Against Arms Trade

Speaker Amanda Barnes – Amnesty South Africa Co-ordinator

Campaign against the Arms Trade: Arms Sales & Human Rights

Tuesday 10th January 2017 at 7.30pm. All Welcome!

Stop the Traffik: Modern Slavery



We were delighted to welcome **Anne-Marie Barry** of Stop the Traffik. Anne-Marie noted that the UK Modern Slavery Act had brought all legislation on trafficking and slavery together in one place, but data remained problematic. The UK Government official estimate is of 13,000 victims per year, but UK Border Force has put it at nearer 20,000. She said that responses to trafficking varied greatly across the UK depending on the resources committed. For instance, Greater Manchester had a very effective and co-ordinated response, whilst Merseyside did not. For the first time statistics suggest that trafficking for labour exploitation was exceeding sexual exploitation; there has been an exponential increase in boys and young men trafficked into cannabis farms for instance. The Gangmaster Licensing Authority was making good progress but did not have authority over all industries so that weaknesses persist. Stop the Traffik had been set up in 2006 as a short-term campaign group to raise awareness but had evolved into the UK's largest and best known trafficking NGO. STT was co-ordinating data from all sources to present a comprehensive picture of the state of Modern Slavery in the UK today. The organisation was now part of an international alliance of NGOs working together on trafficking and slavery. Anne-Marie pointed out that whilst Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa were the origins of much trafficking, case studies attest to people from Italy and Sweden falling victim to traffickers. More information to get involved can be found at www.stopthetraffik.org

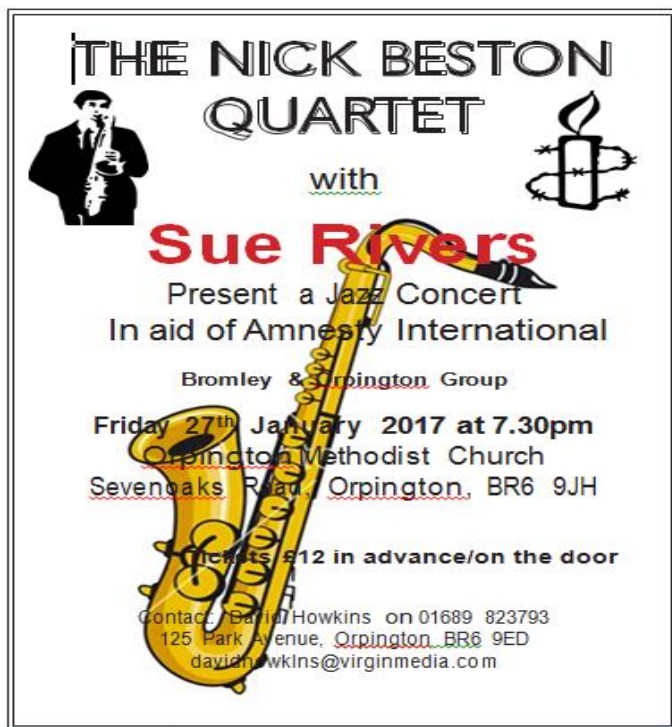
Monthly Letter: Cameroon

This month's Appeal is on behalf of **Ahmed Abba** a journalist with Radio France International who was detained in late July 2015. He was covering Boko Haram and has been accused of complicity with terrorism for not sharing information with the authorities. Since that time no trial has been held and he remains in detention. Amnesty views him to be a prisoner of Conscience. Please sign, address and send the enclosed letter, which will cost £1.05 to post



'Send A Message of Hope'
Amnesty Greetings Card Campaign
Tuesday 13th December at 7.30 pm - Mince Pies. All Welcome.

With this letter we are once again asking if you can sponsor a monthly Newsletter. It costs us around £20 a month to run the Group with room hire and postage. If you can kindly help us by sponsoring a monthly Newsletter, more of the money we raise from events can go direct to Amnesty for vital human rights work. Please, if you can, return the letter to the address provided. Thank you!



THE NICK BESTON QUARTET
with
Sue Rivers
Present a Jazz Concert
In aid of Amnesty International
Bromley & Orpington Group
Friday 27th January 2017 at 7.30pm
Orpington Methodist Church
Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, BR6 9JH
Tickets \$12 in advance/on the door
Contact: David Howkins on 01689 823793
125 Park Avenue, Orpington, BR6 9ED
david.howkins@virginmedia.com

2017 Meeting Dates

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month – except August

10th January
14th February
14th March – 21st AGM
11th April
9th May
12th June
11th July
12th September
10th October
14th November
12th December

Monthly Action: Children of Aleppo



The Group Monthly Action saw us sign a petition and letter to the Prime Minister in respect of the humanitarian disaster in Aleppo where the civilian slaughter proceeds

pace. Amnesty is calling on the UK to use more rigorous efforts to bring all parties to the negotiating table, to end the bombing campaign and to push for strengthened sanctions on those who are perpetuating the slaughter.

Westminster Corner



We received a reply from Jo Johnson MP in respect of our letter regarding the reuniting of refugee families. Mr Johnson states that the UK has been at the forefront of the response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, and that he understands our concern to do more. There 'are no current plans to widen the criteria' for inclusion, which 'Ministers believe are fully compliant with the UK's international obligations'. He notes that 'three discretionary resettlement schemes are also in place for recognised refugees for whom resettlement is the most appropriate answer.

Present on 8th November: Neville White, Vivien Glanz, David Howkins, Gladys Edmonds, Ted Burke, Patsy Paine, Patrick McDonnell, Wendy Simmons, Rindi Bakker. **Apologies:** Waultraut Gilchrist, Margaret Coppard, Shirley Henderson, Peter Martin, Vivienne Andrews, Joan Williams.

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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