



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group February 2015 Newsletter



Our thanks to Chris Purnell of Orpington for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 10th February

Tuesday 10th March

Tuesday 14th April

Speaker: Shane Enright, Amnesty UK "Worker Rights"

19th Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Tahir Swift 'Human Rights in Iraq'

FINAL CALL: AMNESTY JAZZ

The Nick Beston Quartet

With special guest vocalist

Sue Rivers

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

Friday 6th February 2015 at 7.30pm

Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington

Tickets £10 in advance; £11 on the door

From David Howkins 01689 823793 or davidhowkins@virginmedia.com

How Big is Amnesty?

An interesting document lands in the inbox. The International Secretariat has commissioned some research to try and determine just how BIG Amnesty is. Amnesty has measured its size in various ways over the years, but at the end of 2013 it calculated that Amnesty is a global movement of nearly **eight million people** who campaign for human rights. Reaching practically every nation of the world this figure is made up of:

- 1,335,349 members
- 901,469 supporters
- 5,580,680 activists
- **7,817,498** human rights defenders in total

80% of fee paying 'members' come from AI's 10 largest sections, whereas the largest number of 'activists' are to be found in India. AI has offices or structures in **72** countries (38 in the global north, and 34 in the global south) and has records of engagement with people in 216 countries. In only two countries is there no Amnesty presence at all: The Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. The number of activists has increased dramatically (those supporting actions but not paying a subscribing fee), whilst supporters (not members but making regular donations) have fallen. Members of Amnesty have risen modestly since 2012. The combined percentage of members, supporters and activists from the global south has increased from 10% to 40% of the whole of AI in 2013.



Speaker: Shane Enright, Amnesty UK
'Worker Rights & Union Collaboration'
Tuesday 10th February 2015 at 7.30 pm

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£619.19
Income	£142.74
Expenditure	£59.50
Balance at 31st December	£702.34
CHANGE	+ £83.24

Income included Chairman Appeal sponsorship of £130.00. The 'Sponsor a Newsletter' Appeal has raised £330.

Amnesty Social
Monday 16th February at 7.30pm
Venue: The Five Bells Pub, Chelsfield Village BR6 7RE
Please note menu selections have to be made in advance by 8th February.
To register please contact Margaret on 01689 854094

Monthly Letter: 'My Son is Not a Spy'

This month's appeal concerns **Erkin Musaev** who was arrested in 2006 as he was flying to Kyrgyzstan, where he planned to attend a conference as part of his work with the UN Development Programme. A file containing sensitive information had been planted in his luggage. He disappeared for 10 days after which he was found to be held by the National Security Service (NSS). During the next four months he was brutally tortured, beaten daily, and interrogated nightly; he was forced to sign a confession to spying. After nine years prison, torture and psychological pressure have aged him and he is in need of serious medical attention. Amnesty has adopted Erkin as a Prisoner of Conscience. Please sign, address and post the attached letter. **This will cost 97p to post.**



Forced Evictions in DRC

We signed a Group letter to the Procurator General in Lubumbashi, calling for the prosecution of those responsible for human rights violations during forced evictions in Kawama. The small village of Kawama was all but erased in illegal demolitions and forced evictions that were in contravention of international law. Hundreds of homes were demolished in 2009 on the orders of police, requested by the owners of a local copper mine who had made complaints about thefts from the mine. A Government Prosecutor tried to investigate but was instructed by officials in the capital to stop.



Present on 13th January 2015: Neville White, David Howkins, Vivien Glanz, Ted Burke, Wendy Simmons, Gladys Edmonds, Eleanor Ivens, Waltraut Gilchrist, Peter Martin, Margaret Coppard, Vivienne Andrews, Claire Ellis.
Apologies: Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Rene Eastwood, Simon Nash, Chris Purnell, Patsy Paine.

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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