



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

February 2016 Newsletter



Our thanks to Rene Eastwood of Chislehurst for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 9th February

Tuesday 8th March

Tuesday 12th April

Campaign Meeting

Bromley & Orpington Amnesty Group 20th AGM

Film: Kandahar (2001)

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 12th February 2016 at 7.30pm

Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington

Tickets £10 in advance; £11 on the door

From David Howkins 01689823793 or davidhowkins@virginmedia.com

Journalists At Risk

Neville gave a presentation on the risk journalists face in pursuit of their profession. In 2015 71 journalists had been killed, 10 more than in 2014. Overall in the decade 2005-2015, there had been 596 journalists killed with an average of 54 per year – 2012 had been the worst single year in the past decade with 74 killings. 49 were murdered in 2015 and a further 17 were killed in combat – notably in Syria, which was the most dangerous country in which to be a journalist with 14 deaths. Although the Charlie Hebdo atrocity was the worst single incident in 2015 (putting France in second place for the most deadliest place in 2015), there were 19 journalists killed in four countries (Brazil, South Sudan, Bangladesh and Mexico) that did not attract headlines. Since 1992, the New York based Committee to Protect Journalists has recorded 1,177 journalists killed in pursuit of their profession.



Burundi in Crisis

We took part in a West and Central Africa Regional Action focused on the disintegrating human rights situation in Burundi. According to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, at least 240 people have been killed in violent clashes between protestors and police in response to President Nkurunziza unilaterally changing the constitution to allow him to run for a third presidential term. Peaceful protests have been violently suppressed and civilians killed. Since April 2015, a state of fear has existed in which journalists, opposition figures and human rights defenders have been murdered. We wrote as part of international efforts to draw attention to the spiral of violence, calling on the President and Minister for Public Security to end the attacks and bring perpetrators to justice. It was noted that a similar situation is developing in neighbouring Rwanda as the President extends his term, and Amnesty fears that at some point a repeat of the 1994 genocide could be ignited.



Monthly Letter: Iran

This month's letter draws attention to the case of **Omid Kokabee** a member of Iran's Turkmen minority who has served nearly half of a ten year jail term for 'having connections to a hostile government'. Omid is held to be a prisoner of conscience who has done nothing to merit imprisonment. It is thought the charges relate predominantly to his valid ties with academic institutions abroad. Held at Evin Prison in Tehran, he has been denied satisfactory medical care for health issues developed since his imprisonment, which include kidney stones. Please sign, address and send the enclosed letter, which will cost £1.00 to post.



Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£496.87
Income	£49.00
Expenditure	£12.96
Balance at 31 st December	£532.91
CHANGE	£36.04

Bromley & Orpington Amnesty International 20th AGM

Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.30pm

Please see enclosed AGM Notice for Resolutions

Our 20th AGM will be held on 8th March at 7.30pm. A Notice of Meeting is included in this mailing. Nominations (duly seconded) for the positions of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer should be lodged with Viv by 1st March. This is an opportunity to really get involved with your local Amnesty Group. We need fresh ideas for fundraising, and more members to get involved in campaigning and decision making. Do come along and volunteer!



We are hoping to show the 2001 movie 'Kandahar' at our April 12th meeting. The Iranian movie was acclaimed on release and is set in Afghanistan at the time the Taliban were in control. Based in part on real events, it tells the story of an Afghan-Canadian woman who travels perilously across Afghanistan to the city of Kandahar to be reunited with her sister. All welcome to the screening! Film: 85 mins.

Amnesty Social

Thursday 25th February at 7.30pm

Venue: The Five Bells Pub, Chelsfield Village BR6 7RE

Please note menu selections have to be made in advance.

To register please contact Margaret on 01689 854094

Present on 12th January 2016: Neville White, David Howkins, Vivien Glanz, Waltraut Gilchrist, Ted Burke, Wendy Simmons, Peter Martin, Gladys Edmonds, Joan Williams, Shirley Henderson, Margaret Coppard, Patsy Paine, Rindi Bakker, Vivienne Andrews, Patrick McDonnell. **Apologies:** Eleanor Ivens.

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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