



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group February 2014 Newsletter



Our thanks to Eve Fisher of Chelsfield for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 11th February

Tuesday 11th March

Tuesday 8th April

Speaker: Paul Eagle AI – Corporate Responsibility & Human Rights

18th AGM

Speaker/Campaigning Meeting – to be confirmed

Paul Eagle
Amnesty Business Group
Corporate Responsibility & Human Rights
Tuesday 11th February 2014 at 7.30pm
Orpington Methodist Church

Campaigning: Israel & Tunisia

We signed Group letters to the Israeli and Tunisian authorities. The 550 people living in **Nabi Saleh village** are facing frequent violent repression from the Israeli army. Since 2009, the villagers have held weekly peaceful protests against Israel's military occupation and the illegal Israeli settlement of Halamish, which has taken over most of their farmland. Despite court orders, the settlers have also turned the village water spring into a tourist attraction, which Nabi Saleh residents are prevented from using. The Israeli army also intimidates the villagers by, for example, declaring the whole village a closed military zone, carrying out night raids, arresting children, and arbitrarily using weapons such as tear gas, which is fired at homes and causes injury and damage.



Jabeur Mejri was not afraid to express his views on religion. He was jailed in 2012 for seven-and-a-half years after posts he made on social network sites were deemed "insulting to Islam". He is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression. The Tunisian police arrested Jabeur Mejri on 5 March 2012 following complaints from lawyers who had seen the posts. Within weeks he was put on trial and convicted for offences that included "attacking sacred values through actions or words" and "undermining public morals".

FINAL CALL

Bromley & Orpington 2014 Social Evening

'Ephesus' Orpington High Street

Monday 24th February 2014 at 7.30pm

Please reserve your place(s) from Wendy on 01689 829977

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£721.31
Income	£49.60
Expenditure	£207.84
Balance at 31 st December	£562.97
CHANGE	-£158.34

David prepared the financial statements to the Amnesty year end of 31st December. Income included a private donation, film night receipts (£26) and Christmas card sales. A further donation of £150 was sent to Amnesty taking our total raised for 2013 to **£3,100**, which is ahead of budget (£3,000 forecast),

Bromley & Orpington Amnesty International

18th AGM

Tuesday 11th March 2014 at 7.30pm

Nominations for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer should be made to the Secretary.

Monthly Letter: Burma

Our monthly letter is in support of a Burmese community leader, **Dr Tun Aung**. Dr Aung was arrested following disturbances between ethnic Rohyngya Muslims and Buddhists in June 2012. He has been sentenced to 17 years in prison after an unfair trial. AI views Dr Aung as a prisoner of conscience after it was widely reported he tried to calm the crowd and was wrongly accused with inciting the disturbances. Please address, sign and post the attached letter which will cost 88p to post.



Amnesty AGM & National Conference 2014

We are delighted that Simon will represent the Group at the 2014 Amnesty International AGM and National Conference, to be held in Edinburgh over the weekend of 12-13th April. He will report back at the May meeting.

New Zimbabwe Minister of Justice Opposes Death Penalty

We wrote welcoming the appointment of **Emmerson Mnangagwa** as Minister of Justice who has said publicly he opposes the death penalty. We also welcomed Zimbabwe's undertaking to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We urged him to work towards achieving this which obliges signatories to take steps towards abolishing the death penalty. We called for a moratorium as a first step towards this aim. Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa have all abolished the death penalty, whilst Zambia and Malawi have a moratorium in place, thereby setting a positive trend for abolition across Africa.



Find us on Facebook and on the web.

Present on 14th January 2014: David Howkins (in the Chair), Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Margaret Coppard, Ted Burke, Eleanor Ivens, Waltraut Gilchrist, Wendy Simmons, Eve Fisher, Rene Eastwood, Patrick McDonnell, Simon Nash and Mariela Quaranta. Apologies: Neville White, Patsy Paine, Vivien Glanz, Peter Martin, Gladys Edmonds.

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

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