



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
Bromley & Orpington Group



Christmas & New Year
Newsletter 2016/17

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 10th January

Tuesday 14th February

Tuesday 14th March

Speaker: Campaign Against the Arms Trade; Arms & Human Rights

Speaker: Amnesty South Africa Country Co-ordinator

21st Bromley & Orpington Group AGM

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

We raised £2,222 for Amnesty in 2016 – Thank you!

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 27th January 2016 at 7.30pm

Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington

Tickets £12 in advance; £13 on the door. Discount under 16s

From David Howkins 01689 823793 or davidhowkins@virginmedia.com



Monthly Action: Cameroon – Arrested for Sending a Satirical Text

2016 has seen a worrying clampdown on Freedom of Expression with many of Amnesty's current concerns arising from people being oppressed for writing or sending an opinion. **FOMUSOH IVO FEH** was set to start university when he received a satirical text message: 'Boko Haram recruits young people from 14 years old and above. Conditions for recruitment: 4 subjects at GCE, including religion.' The message was a joke about how difficult it is to find a job in Cameroon. Ivo forwarded the message to a friend who sent it on again. But after a teacher saw the text and showed it to the police, Ivo and his two friends were arrested in late 2014. A draconian anti-terrorism law was used to charge them with several offences, including attempting to organise a rebellion. They face the prospect of a military trial and a 20 year sentence. We signed Amnesty's petition urging all charges be dropped and the three friends released immediately.

"Season's Greetings for a very Happy and peaceful New Year to all our supporters"

Finance

Balance brought forward	£468.66
Income	£345.00
Expenditure	£183.00
Balance at 13 th December	£630.66
CHANGE	£162.00

'Write for Rights'. Our traditional Christmas meeting includes sending a 'Message of Hope'. We remember all those suffering human rights abuses by writing a simple greetings message in support and solidarity. In 2015 Amnesty's "Write for Rights" Campaign led to over 3.7 million actions being sent from 200 countries. The campaign led to improvement in the situations of several of the individuals profiled. This year another 12 cases are featured across the world. Go to www.amnesty.org.uk to find out about this year's cases.



**WRITE
FOR RIGHTS**

Monthly Letter

Our monthly appeal concerns the ongoing detention of **Isroil Kholdorov**, an Uzbek opposition politician whose sentence has been extended twice since his original six-year sentence was imposed in 2007. He was charged with illegally crossing the state border, establishing illegal groups, as well as the distribution of threatening and extremist materials, and encroachment upon the constitutional regime in Uzbekistan. Amnesty views him to be Prisoner of Conscience in the ongoing attempt to extinguish all opposition voices in this autocratic regime. Please sign, address and send the enclosed letter, which will cost £1.05 to post



Save The Date:



Thursday 6th July 2017:

Bromley Little Theatre Charity Premiere

We are delighted to announce that Amnesty has been given the July Charity Preview of 'Nell Gwynn' by Jessica Swale. Originating at Shakespeare's Globe in 2015, the play went on to have great success in the West End with Gemma Arterton in the title role. Kind, humane, funny and ever so slightly naughty, this modern Restoration Romp is sure to delight BLT and Amnesty audiences alike.

Good News

2016 witnessed the fewest number of executions carried out in the United States since capital punishment resumed in 1977; it also saw the fewest number of capital sentences being handed down for 30 years. There were just 20 executions in 2016 – down from 45 in 2010, with just 49 capital sentences handed down in 2015 (latest figures) compared to 114 in 2010. 31 states retain the Death Penalty, but in 2016 executions took place in just five states – the majority in Georgia (nine) and Texas (seven). Since 1973, 150 people have been released from Death Row after compelling evidence of innocence became available. 2,905 people remain on death row, but the decline in executions is remarkable.

Present on 13th December: David Howkins, Neville White, Gladys Edmonds, Patsy Paine, Waltraut Gilchrist, Ted Burke and Vivienne Andrews. **Apologies:** Vivien Glanz, Peter Martin, Margaret Coppard, Wendy Simmons, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams and Rene Eastwood

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

Neville White (Chairman) 01689 896368
Neville.white@waitrose.com

Vivien Glanz (Secretary)
vivienglanz@hotmail.com