



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

July 2014 Newsletter



Our thanks to Joan Norris of Shortlands for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 8 July

Tuesday 12 August

Tuesday 9 September

Speaker: Andy Moody; Amnesty China Co-ordinator

Campaign meeting

Campaign meeting

China's Human Rights
Speaker: Andy Moody, AI China Co-ordinator
Tuesday 8th July at 7.30pm
All Welcome!

10 Ways To Stop Torture

Amnesty launched its first global torture campaign as long ago as 1973. Over 1m signatures eventually led to the UN Convention on Torture being adopted in 1984, which has so far been ratified by 150 countries. Despite this commitment, **141 countries continue to use torture**. 30 years of broken promises has now led Amnesty to launch a new **Global Torture Campaign** focusing on five key countries – Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines and Uzbekistan. We have 10 demands to stamp out torture and we asking you to sign the pledge to **Stop Torture** at www.amnesty.org.uk.stoptorture



Release International

We were delighted to welcome Andy Wilson and colleague Ali to the meeting to talk about the work of Release International. Founded by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand who was imprisoned for 14 years in communist Romania, Release works on behalf of persecuted Christians in 30 countries. The charity works for the release and defence of falsely imprisoned Christians persecuted for their religious beliefs, funds safe houses for women from other faith backgrounds who have converted, provides medical aid, welfare and trauma counselling and funds projects related to advocacy. Andy described religious persecution as 'more than a human right, but never less than a human right', and pointed to mass slaughters in Nigeria, persecution in Vietnam and blasphemy trials in Pakistan. He noted that 40% of countries have some restriction on freedom of worship and religion. Christians face systemic persecution in over 30 countries ranging from discrimination in education, employment and civil liberties to false imprisonment, assaults, rape and mass slaughter. You can find more on Release International at www.releaseinternational.org.



Bromley Little Theatre Charity Premiere in aid of Amnesty
"My Boy Jack" by David Haig
Thursday 11th September 2014 at 7.45pm
Tickets £10 from David Howkins 01689 823793

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£497.86
Income	£133.78
Expenditure	£50.88
Balance at 10 th June	£580.76
CHANGE	+£82.90

Income included private donations totalling £55.00 and donations received at the Day of Action of £78.78.

Day of Action

We held a very successful Day of Action in Bromley on 17th May in support of Afghan women's human rights. Glorious weather, a new canopy (thanks Simon!) and an interested public saw us gather many signatures for the Amnesty petition to protect the human rights advances gained over the past decade. We were joined for part of the day by Beckenham MP, Bob Stewart.

Monthly Action - Brazil

As I write, the FIFA World Cup is in full swing. The global sporting event hides severe human rights concerns in Brazil. On April 22nd Edilson Silva dos Santos was shot and killed during a protest in the Pavão-Pavãozinho community in Copacabana. The protest was a spontaneous reaction by residents to the death of Douglas Rafael Pereira da Silva, who was found dead in the backyard of a children's day-care centre earlier that day. This month we wrote to the Governor of Rio, urging the authorities to ensure a prompt and thorough investigation into allegations that the police were responsible for these killings. The backdrop to these terrible events is significant public protest at the cost of hosting the World Cup, which has led to widespread violence and police brutality. To sign the AI petition please go to www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/brazil-protests-world-cup-rio-2014



Our Movement in 2013

- 232 local groups
- 114 student groups
- 45 country co-ordinators
- 39,716 'pocket' activists
- 15,239 Women's Action Network
- 13,891 Urgent Action Members
- 13,784 Children's Rights Members
- 8,708 responded to crisis actions
- 391,000 appeals by e-mail and text
- £24.8m income - £24.3m spent
- £18m spent on human rights research

URGENT

Do you receive our Newsletter by post? Could you help us to save money and receive it by e-mail? We are urging those that can to receive our monthly newsletter electronically. Please e-mail Neville to change! Thank you.

Present on 10th June: David Howkins, Neville White, Vivien Glanz, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Gladys Edmonds, Ted Burke, Eleanor Ivens, Patsy Paine, Waltraut Gilchrist, Wendy Simmons, Rene Eastwood, Patrick McDonnell, Mariela Quaranta. Sheila Pitt was welcomed to the meeting. Apologies: Simon Nash, Peter Martin, Margaret Coppard.

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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