



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

July 2015 Newsletter



In Memory of Charles Jacob CBE, a good friend of Amnesty

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 14 July

Tuesday 8 September

Campaign Meeting

Speaker from 'Unseen' supporting the victims of trafficking

Please Note No Meeting in August

'Garden Opening for Amnesty'

Come and enjoy Margaret's Mediterranean style garden
'Open Garden' Sunday 12th July from 11am-5pm
58 Warren Road, Orpington, BR6 6HY
Refreshments & Home Made Cakes!
ALL PROCEEDS TO AMNESTY

North Korea: Human Rights Black Hole

We welcomed **Kenny Latunde-Dada**, Amnesty Country Co-ordinator for North Korea to the meeting. Kenny gave us a brief history of modern North Korea, noting how post the Korean War of 1950-53 the communist north led by Kim-Il-Sung built a regime based on self-sufficiency and the supreme leader as a near deity. During the years of major famine (1994-98), one in seven of its 23m population are believed to have died, forcing the country to accept outside aid. The accession of the founder's grandson – Kim Jong-Un, in 2011, provided grounds for hope of reform. However, the past few years have seen, if anything, a hardening of the regime, with arbitrary executions and brutal repression of all opposition. Kenny focused on one aspect of North Korea's horrific human rights situation – its prison camps. Set up in the 1950s, Amnesty has identified six camps in the remote northern region in which prisoners work from 4am to 11pm in a state of semi-starvation. Some camps are used for re-education purposes whilst others are essentially death camps from which inmates will never be released. Such is the state of fear that individuals can be sent to camps for very trivial or minor offences; three generations of a family are usually assigned to a camp at the same time in order to provide 'inter-generational re-education'. Amnesty's campaign is focused on China, to prevent the return of refugees or escapees to a regime where they will face almost certain death. The UN will vote soon on whether the regime should be referred to the International Criminal Court. Although the resolution is expected to be vetoed by Russia and China, it will be the first time North Korea has faced such a sanction. This was a sobering, heart breaking talk and we thanked Kenny for his informed presentation.



Cudham Fair

Come and visit the Amnesty Cake and Preserves Stall

Bank Holiday Monday 31st August from 1pm

Cudham Recreation Ground, Cudham Lane

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£505.35
Income (as restated)	£80.00
Expenditure	£32.60
Balance at 9 th June	£552.75
CHANGE	£47.40

Monthly Letter: Turkey

This month's appeal is on behalf of a Syrian national who was shot in the head on the night of 18th May 2014 when trying to cross the Turkish border together with nine other Syrian refugees. "There was no verbal warning and there were no warning shots fired. A single shot entered his skull just behind the right eye and exited his head just behind the left eye." Ali survived but is now blind in both eyes. He was 14-years-old at the time. Once he recovered from his injuries Ali was granted a visa to join his mother in Germany. To date there has been no response from the Turkish authorities regarding an investigation into the shooting and no one has been brought to justice. Please sign, address and post the attached letter urging the Turkish Minister of Justice to hold an independent and impartial investigation into the shooting of Ali Ozdemir and to ensure those responsible are brought to justice. **This will cost £1.00 to post**



An MP writes...."The UK has committed £800m for humanitarian assistance in response to the Syria crisis, of which approximately £378m has been allocated to partners providing humanitarian assistance inside Syria, and £422m to support refugees and host communities in neighbouring countries. This is the UK's largest ever response to a humanitarian crisis...providing monthly food rations to 8.7m people in Syria". **Jo Johnson, MP, Orpington.**

Amnesty UK Finances & Membership in 2014

Neville gave an overview of Amnesty UK finances which appear quite healthy at present. 2014 delivered a surplus of nearly £3m with income of £27m and expenditure of £24m. AIUK had 210,222 supporter members at the year end, the first increase since 2009. Other points to note included a strong rise in income from legacies (£5.4m) and an increase in commercial income arising from online and book sales. Although the 2014 figures were healthy – the budget projected a small deficit – deficits are projected going forward for the years 2016-2021 as demands on AIUK to support international hubs in the developing south (India, Brazil, China and South Africa) place an increased pressure on income.



GOOD NEWS! We were delighted to learn that **Moses Akatigba**, the Nigerian teenager sentenced to death for stealing mobile phones has been pardoned following intensive campaigning by AI. We reported his case a few months ago calling it among the worst we had come across. Moses was tortured and made to falsely confess before being sentenced to death. The Governor of Delta State cited Amnesty in his pardon statement. Moses has sent a message saying he is overwhelmed and thanks all who campaigned on his behalf. **BAD NEWS!** Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court has upheld the sentence of 1,000 lashes passed on **Raif Badawi**, with fears the sentence will resume in the coming days. Badawi was sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years imprisonment for his peaceful blogging and calls for political reform. The case has caused international outrage with the EU and UN condemning the ruling.



Present on 9th June 2015: Neville White, David Howkins, Waltraut Gilchrist, Patsy Paine, Ted Burke, Wendy Simmons, Gladys Edmonds, Margaret Coppard, Patrick McDonnell, Rene Eastwood, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Vivienne Andrews. **Apologies:** Vivien Glanz, Eleanor Ivens, Chris Purnell and Peter Martin.

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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