



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Bromley & Orpington Group

### June 2013 Newsletter



Our thanks to Gladys Edmonds of West Wickham for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

#### COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

*Tuesday 11 June*

*Tuesday 9 July*

*Tuesday 13 August*

*Activity to be confirmed*

*Speaker: Peter Eagle, Amnesty UK Business Group*

*Planning Meeting*

#### Day of Action

Our day of Action in Bromley on 11<sup>th</sup> May proved to be a challenge in the light of high winds and rain. Our beautiful stall in support of WOZA (Women of Zimbabwe Arise!) nevertheless gathered over 100 signatures for our petition and cards, and raised £18 in donations. The team worked tremendously hard on the event, which was still a great success despite having to close early because of the weather. Well done to everyone who helped organise the day.



Shirley, Joan and Patrick prepare to meet the public!

#### Human Rights in Central Africa.



We welcomed Ros Topley, Amnesty country co-ordinator for central Africa who gave us a tour of human rights concerns in the key countries of Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone. In Nigeria Amnesty has focused on the continuing violations caused by oil pollution in the Niger Delta. This has caused devastating environmental damage, poisoned farming land and impoverished communities. In the north of the country where Sharia Law is in place, human rights atrocities have been committed by Islamic militants and by security forces. In DRC rape used as a weapon of war continues to be a feature of chronic human rights abuses as warring forces, including child soldiers, fight for control of DRC's mineral wealth.

#### Monthly Letter – Mexico



Catholic priest **Fray Tomás González** runs "La 72" migrants' shelter in Tenosique, Mexico. Both Fray Tomás and staff at the shelter have faced harassment for their work defending migrants' rights, including threats and intimidation. Criminal gangs threatened staff and migrants at "La 72" most recently in December 2012, and already in 2013 there have been fresh reports of assaults against newly arrived Central American migrants. No one has been held to account for these abuses and the shelter remains vulnerable to attack. Please address, sign and post the attached letter which will cost 87p to post.

**Come and visit the Amnesty Stall at  
Cudham Fair  
Recreation Ground, Cudham Lane  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August from Noon**

## Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£494.71
Income	£58.48
Expenditure	£24.00
Balance at 14 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>£529.19</b>
<b>CHANGE</b>	<b>£34.48</b>

Income included £40 in private donations and £18.48 raised at the Day of Action. We also received a CAF cheque for £50, which has been sent direct to Amnesty. The Group's contribution so far in 2013 is £2,150.00.

### 2013 AGM & National Conference

Neville, Chris and Simon attended the AGM in Warwick which this year was dominated by debate about the future of the movement. As previously reported, Amnesty's highest decision making body the ICM has agreed that to fight human rights abuses in the 21<sup>st</sup> century more resources need to be deployed in the developing world. To that end 'hubs' are being created in Brazil, South Africa, India and Asia which will carry out more of the research. This means reducing research roles in London, and the UK section contributing more financially to the international movement to make it happen. This has been very traumatic in the short term, and the AGM debated resolutions designed to endorse these proposals. Overall the restructuring was approved, although anxiety remains. Within the Group there are a range of views, but our delegates were mandated to support the change. The AGM also approved new campaigning in areas of risk such as migrant workers, Ethiopia, British involvement in the deployment of drones and human rights abuses in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. It was humbling to listen to this year's keynote speaker, a women's human rights worker from Afghanistan; we were reminded that women stand to lose the rights they have gained if the Taleban return to power sharing in government.



**“Business & Human Rights”**  
**Peter Eagle, Amnesty UK Business Group**  
**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at 7.30pm**  
**Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Way**



**Kate Allen, Director Amnesty UK at the April Meeting of the Bromley & Orpington Group**

*Sponsor a Newsletter: Are you able to sponsor a Newsletter to help us keep our costs down? We are asking our friends once again to consider sponsoring a monthly Newsletter for £20. In 2012 we were able to donate 80% of all monies raised to Amnesty as this sponsorship helped us keep printing and postage costs down. Please help us to repeat this in 2013. Thank you!*

**Present on 14<sup>th</sup> May:** Neville White, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Ted Burke, Eleanor Ivens, Patsy Paine, Wendy Simmons, Patrick Nield, Patrick McDonnell, Rene Eastwood, Eve Fisher, Simon Nash, Waltraut Gilchrist, Patricia Eastaugh, Pamela Smith, Gladys Edmonds, Chris Purnell. Apologies: David Howkins, Margaret Coppard, Claire Ellis.

Meetings are held in the Wesley Room, Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington commencing at 7.30pm. **E-mail** [aibromley@btinternet.com](mailto:aibromley@btinternet.com) **website:** [www.amnesty.org.uk/bromley](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/bromley)

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