



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Bromley & Orpington Group

### June 2016 Newsletter



Our thanks to David Warren-Axe of Orpington for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

#### **COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

**Campaign Meeting**

**Speaker: Andy Moody, Amnesty China Co-ordinator**

**Please note – no meeting in August**

**Speaker – to be confirmed**

**Speaker: Andy Moody**  
**Amnesty International China Co-ordinator**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS & CHINA**  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm**  
**All Welcome!**

#### **Justice for Khadija – Jailed for Exposing Corruption**

Khadija Ismayilova is an award-winning Azerbaijani investigative journalist and an outspoken critic of the Azerbaijan government. She has published numerous articles exposing human rights violations and corruption at the highest levels in the country which resulted in her being exposed to a prolonged and retaliatory smear campaign in the state-controlled media and later by bringing false criminal charges against her, including tax evasion, embezzlement and illegal business. Khadija was detained on 5 December 2014 and sentenced to seven-and-a-half years' imprisonment on 1 September 2015. The Azeri authorities are very sensitive to public criticism of their human rights record and are soon to host the European Grand Prix. Amnesty believes this is a good opportunity to raise awareness of Khadija's plight as a Prisoner of Conscience. We wrote to the Azeri authorities calling for her immediate release and an end to the retaliatory campaign against her. For more information on this campaign please go to [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)



You are invited to a Charity Tea Party in the Garden

In support of

Amnesty International and St Martin's Chelsfield

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016, from 2pm-5pm

Margaret Coppard, 58 Warren Road, Orpington BR6 6HY

#### **Amnesty Banner**

*We have recently invested in a new resource for the Group – a feather banner. We found last year that members of the public struggled to identify our stall at Cudham Fair since we disposed of our former Amnesty canopy. The banner which is in bright yellow and suitable for all outdoor conditions, will be an attractive means of identifying our stall at this year's fair. The banner was purchased at no cost to the Group thanks to several kind donors who split the cost between them.*

**Advance Notice:**  
**Amnesty at the Cudham Fair**  
**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2016 from Noon**  
**Cudham Recreation Ground, Cudham Lane**  
**Come and say hello and buy one of our home made cakes!**

**In 2015 Amnesty Groups raised an amazing £200,000 - £122,781 by local groups such as ours, £48,492 by youth groups, £13,160 by student groups and £13,933 by faith groups!**

#### Westminster Corner



We received two replies from our MPs in response to two different campaigns. Bob Neill, MP for Bromley & Chislehurst wrote in response to our letter regarding arms sales to Saudi Arabia which may be fuelling conflict in Yemen. "The UK operates one of the most rigorous and transparent export control regimes in the world...the Government has been very clear that a license will not be issued for any country if to do so [would lead to] a violation of international humanitarian law" Jo Johnson, MP for Orpington wrote regarding Syria when there was still some optimism over the peace process. "The recent cessation of hostilities is holding better than people expected...any solution to the crisis must bring about a strong, legitimate and inclusive government for all Syrian people. The Government is opposed to President Assad playing any meaningful future role in Syria's reconstruction.

#### Group Finance

There was no finance report this month. The balance at 10<sup>th</sup> May was £505.25.

#### Amnesty Campaign Updates

- **Stop Torture Campaign**

The global campaign to 'stop torture' will come to an end in May, although focus on the five targeted countries: Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Nigeria and Uzbekistan is continuing via other Amnesty actions. We will publish a round-up of campaign highlights in July

- **The Human Rights Act**

The government has still not announced plans to replace the Human Rights Act. The delay suggests they are finding this hard to do. No announcements are expected until after the European referendum in June. Amnesty will respond with a focused campaign once more information is known, no doubt targeting local MPs.

#### Late news



*The US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer has said it will no longer allow its drugs to be used in applying lethal injection, cutting off the last remaining source of 'official' drugs used in the US to carry out the death penalty. Its move brings the company into line with over 20 European and US drugs companies that have applied a ban since 2011 and throws into doubt the future of lethal injection in the United States as a means of execution.*

**Present on 10<sup>th</sup> May:** Neville White, David Howkins, Vivien Glanz, Waltraut Gilchrist, Ted Burke, Peter Martin, Margaret Coppard, Patsy Paine, Wendy Simmons. **Apologies:** Gladys Edmonds, Vivienne Andrews, Eleanor Ivens.

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

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