



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

March 2013 Newsletter



Our thanks to Patrick McDonnell of Shirley for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 12th March

Tuesday 9th April

Tuesday 14th May

Bromley & Orpington Group 17th AGM

Speaker; Mary Hla, Burma Campaign

Speaker; Peter Eagle, Amnesty Business Group

**Mary Hla of Burma Campaign will speak on
“Burma: On the Road to Democracy?”
Tuesday 9th April 7.30pm
All Welcome**

Zimbabwe Goes to the Polls

This is an important year for Zimbabwe with elections later this year. The last time the country went to the polls over 200 people were killed in a spiral of violence. We signed letters to the Presidents of Tanzania, Angola and South Africa as members of SADC (Southern African Development Commission), calling on them to ensure the elections are peaceful and free from violence and intimidation. Members of the Group also attended a rally at the Zimbabwe High Commission in London linked to the campaign. To take part in this campaign, go to www.amnesty.org.uk



Arms Trade Treaty: Mind the Gaps

Every day at least 1,500 people die from armed violence and conflict. A comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty was in sight until the US delegation asked for more time, pausing the UN process. This has been frustrating but 157 states voted to agree a final text, with 110 states expressing support for a Treaty. Only Russia was isolated in abstaining the vote to move forward. The UK Government has played a leading role in the process, and in March 2013, in New York, the final negotiations will take place. Amnesty is keeping up the pressure calling for 'no loopholes' or 'gaps' that would undermine human rights. Clear, binding rules are needed to stop arms being supplied when it is likely they will be used to exacerbate human rights violations. We signed cards to our MPs urging the Government to continue to work for a comprehensive Treaty in New York.

Bromley & Orpington Group 17th AGM

Tuesday 12th March 2013 at 7.30pm. Notice Enclosed.

Nominations for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer to be received by 5th March

Amnesty Jazz

We had a turn-out of over 180 people on 1 February to enjoy Amnesty Jazz courtesy of the Nic Beston Quartet with guest singer Sue Rivers. This is our third year running the concert, and it was the most successful so far with income of £1,228.49 after costs. We are most grateful to the Quartet and Sue for giving us their time and musicianship, and all the wonderful members of the Group who put on refreshments



Finance

Balance brought forward	£563.27
Income	£2,341.18
Expenditure	£225.25
Balance at 12 th February	£2,679.20
CHANGE	+£2,115.93

A bumper month saw income from the jazz concert and the 2012 sponsored walk being credited. The latter amounted to £955.69, a disappointing result when compared to recent years. The jazz concert exceeded our hopes and made £1,228.49 after costs. We also received £50 in donations. We agreed to send a donation of £2,100 to Amnesty.

Monthly Letter: The Philippines

Darius Evangelista was last seen in March 2010 when he was arrested for theft by the police. His wife later saw a video in which she recognised her husband being beaten by uniformed officers. A body was later found which was identified as Darius. A Manila court has ordered the arrest of seven officers, but no-one has so far been brought to justice. Please address, sign and post the attached letter which will cost 87p to post.



Members who attended the Amnesty Extraordinary General Meeting in January at Central Hall agreed it had been a very thoughtful and wide ranging debate of the issues facing Amnesty over the next few years. Basically, in order to fund the expansion of Amnesty centres in developing 'hubs', resources will be moved from London, and this has resulted in a programme of redundancies at AIUK.

The EGM was called by a group of members calling for the redundancies to be halted and new proposals to be brought to the General Meeting in April. Although the resolutions attracted strong support, the requirement for a 75% majority meant that some failed. However, one significant resolution was passed and redundancies will now be halted whilst new proposals are brought to the annual gathering in April. We will watch developments. The turnout of some 2,300 proxies appeared to be quite low.

Amnesty International Bromley & Orpington Group

Day of Action in support of Individuals at risk
Churchill Theatre Forecourt, Bromley
Saturday 11th May 2013
Come and support us and sign a letter!



Find us on Facebook and on the web.

Present on 12th February: David Howkins, Neville White, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Ted Burke, Patsy Paine, Patrick Nield, Waltraut Gilchrist, Wendy Simmons, Patrick McDonnell, Rene Eastwood, Peter Martin, Patricia Eastaugh, Pamela Smith, Gladys Edmonds, Chris Purnell. Apologies: Vivien Glanz, Eve Fisher, Eleanor Ivens.

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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