



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

November 2012 Newsletter



Our thanks to Barbara Mills of Orpington for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 13 November

Activity to be confirmed

Tuesday 11 December

Greetings Card Campaign: 'Send a Message of Hope'

Tuesday 8th January

Activity to be confirmed

22nd Annual Sevenoaks Sponsored Walk

We enjoyed amazing autumn weather for our annual Sevenoaks Sponsored Walk, which this year took in 11 miles of glorious Kent countryside including Ightham Mote. The farm lunch was as usual, magnificent, and we would like to thank everyone who helped out providing or preparing food, registering walkers at the car park and to Ted for leading us so well around the route. Over £600 was taken at the farm alone, and around 120 walkers took part. We will know the final result towards the end of the year.



Happy Walkers

No Sweat: Exploited Labour, the Global Reality

Globalisation and the appearance of 'fast fashion' has increased awareness of the true cost of supplying western consumers in terms of labour exploitation and worker conditions; for instance The Times reported Mauritian garment workers receive 12p an hour producing for Top Shop. We were therefore pleased to welcome **Vicki Morris** to the meeting to talk about '**No Sweat**' a grass roots campaigning organisation focused on empowering workers to organise for better conditions. Campaigns have focused on clothing, accessories, foot-ware and toys, where poor labour conditions, including long hours, sweatshop conditions, inadequate health and safety and child labour have caused concern. 'No Sweat' works with UK Trades Unions to help workers organise for themselves to force better conditions. We had a lively debate on the power of consumers to effect change rather than union power alone, and whether consumers can be encouraged to think more about where and how their throwaway fashion is made.

Campaign Action: Students at Risk

We signed letters to the Laos authorities regarding a group of student activists imprisoned for peacefully calling for political, social and economic change. Public demon-strations have not been permitted in Laos since 1975 and the government claims those arrested were guilty of collusion with foreign nationals and spying. In fact the 30 young people were arrested for unfurling banners outside the National Assembly and were sentenced to lengthy terms of imprisonment. One, Khamphouvieng Sisaath later died following torture. Conditions of detention are poor and those found guilty are routinely held beyond their sentence terms. We called for their immediate and unconditional release.



GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN

"Send a Message of Hope" this Christmas

Join us on Tuesday 11th December at 7.30pm

Mince Pies* *Refreshments

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£626.83
Income	£20.00
Expenditure	£24.00
Balance at 2 nd October	£622.83
CHANGE	-£4.00

An attractive range of Amnesty Christmas Cards will be on sale at our Nov-Dec meetings.

Monthly Letter: India

Indigenous activist and Prisoner of Conscience, **Kartam Joga** has now served almost two years in Jagdalpur prison. Amnesty International believes he is being targeted for his human rights work in Chhattisgarh state, central India. Kartam Joga is an activist with the Communist Party of India, and an elected member of a local self-government body. He has documented human rights violations against the Adivasi Indigenous Peoples since 2005, when their hamlets were attacked by a private militia. He petitioned India's Supreme Court in 2007, demanding accountability for human rights violations committed by security forces and the Salwa Judum. No evidence has been found against Kartam Joga in three of the four cases against him, but he continues to be detained. Please address, sign and post the attached letter which will cost 87p to post.

A Night at the Movies!



Amnesty at the Movies: Friday 23rd November

We will be showing **The Corporation** on Friday 23rd November at 7.30pm at our usual venue. We suggest a donation of £2. Refreshments will be provided.

Supporting Pussy Riot's Appeal for Justice



Amnesty's online e-petition calling on the Russian authorities to free three Russian women was signed by the Group. The three are members of a political punk group who protested for political change in the Orthodox Cathedral in early 2012. They were found guilty of 'religious hatred' and 'hooliganism' and sentenced to two years in jail. International condemnation has been widespread. www.amnesty.org.uk

Present on 2nd October: David Howkins, Neville White, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Margaret Coppard, Pamela Smith, Ted Burke, Eleanor Ivens, Gladys Edmonds, Simon Nash, Patricia Eastaugh, Patsy Paine, Vivien Glanz, Patrick & Caroline Nield, Waltraut Gilchrist, Wendy Simmons, Eve Fisher. **Apologies:** Chris Purnell, Rene Eastwood, Patrick McDonnell.

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

Neville White (Chairman) 01689 896368
Neville.white@waitrose.com

Shirley Henderson (Secretary) 01689 855632
shirleyhenderson399@btinternet.com

2013 Meeting Dates

Tuesday 8th January

Tuesday 12th February

Tuesday 12th March (AGM)

Tuesday 9th April

Tuesday 14th May

Tuesday 11th June

Tuesday 9th July

Tuesday 13th August

Tuesday 10th September

Tuesday 8th October

Tuesday 12th November

Tuesday 10th December