



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group November 2013 Newsletter



Our thanks to Charles Jacob CBE of Chislehurst for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 12 November

Campaigning Meeting

Tuesday 10 December

Greetings Card Campaign: 'Send a Message of Hope'

Tuesday 14 January

Activity to be confirmed

Doctors on the Dark-side

Stuart explored the history of medical ethics from the Hippocratic Oath in the 5th century BC, to the provisions in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Convention on Torture sets out the right to medical care, health and the right to security, as well as outlawing torture itself. The Declaration of Tokyo (1975) approved by the World Medical Council said torture is contrary to the laws of humanity and in opposition to the higher purpose of the physician. However, in 2002 the US said that waterboarding and other extreme interrogation techniques were 'safe, legal and effective' all overseen by medical practitioners, making them complicit in torture. There have been attempts to correct this: the British doctor, Derek Keilloh, was found guilty of serious misconduct by the UK Medical Council over the death of Iraqi detainees, and struck off. Doctors continue to be complicit in practices directly contravening the Hippocratic Oath, including administering death penalty lethal injections in the US.

Sevenoaks Sponsored Walk

Despite a gloomy forecast the weather stayed largely dry, and we enjoyed a fantastic final Sevenoaks Walk, taking in 11 miles of glorious Wealden countryside. The farm lunch was as usual, fantastic. There is some sadness as we reflect on our long involvement in this lovely event alongside our friends in Sevenoaks Group. We would like **to thank** everyone who has been involved over the past quarter century; all the walkers, helpers at the farm, counters, those who sponsored or donated food or led walks. We owe an enormous debt to Juliet, Fidelity and her extended family for so generously opening their home to Amnesty as the centrepiece of the event. We will miss it. The early signs are good with nearly £3,000 already collected.



Amnesty Prisoner Case File: China

8th October is the exact anniversary of **Dr Liu Xiaobo** being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010. We sent a second letter to the Chinese authorities, calling for his release. His wife **Liu Xia**, remains under house arrest. Dr Liu is a prisoner of conscience imprisoned for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

'Christmas Tree Festival'

We will be taking part in the Orpington Christmas Tree Festival to be held at the Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road. The festival runs from 30th November to 7th December with a full programme of daytime and evening festive events. Do come along and see our tree!

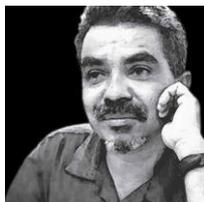
GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN

Join us on Tuesday 10th December - Human Rights Day at 7.30pm

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£784.24
Income	£20.00
Expenditure	£245.39
Balance at 8 th October	£558.85
CHANGE	-£225.39

Monthly Action: Sri Lanka



The Sri Lankan government has for years created an image of human rights progress in a country where torture, crushing dissent, and impunity remain an everyday reality. As Sri Lanka gets ready to host the meeting of Commonwealth leaders next month, Amnesty is calling for change. **Prageeth Eknaligoda** is a

journalist and cartoonist who went missing on his way home from work in January 2010. He has not been seen or heard from since. Prageeth was an outspoken critic of the government and Amnesty believes he may have been 'disappeared' because of his satirical criticism of the government. We wrote to the Foreign Secretary, William Hague and the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, calling on them to ensure Sri Lanka protects and upholds all human rights.

Amnesty at the Movies

We will be showing **Burma VJ** on Friday 22nd November at 7.30pm at our usual venue. There is a suggested donation of £3.

Save the Date

Nic Beston Jazz Quartet
In aid of Amnesty International
Friday 31st January 2014 at 7.30pm

Monthly Letter: Iraq

The Group signed a letter to the Iraq Mission in London on behalf of **Mahdi Issa Abu Dheeb**, President of the Bahrain Teachers' Association who has been in prison since April 2011. He was held in solitary confinement and tortured. He has been charged with offences including 'calling for a strike of teachers, inciting hatred, and attempting to overthrow the regime by force'. Amnesty believes he is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned for expressing his right to freedom of expression.

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

Present on 8th October: David Howkins, Neville White, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Margaret Coppard, Ted Burke, Eleanor Ivens, Simon Nash, Waltraut Gilchrist, Eve Fisher, Chris Purnell, Rene Eastwood, Patrick McDonnell, Peter Martin. We welcomed Stuart Sweeney and Vivien Andrews to the meeting. Apologies: Gladys Edmonds, Vivien Glanz, Wendy Simmons, Patsy Paine.

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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2014 Meeting Dates

Tuesday 14th January

Tuesday 11th February

Tuesday 11th March (AGM)

Tuesday 8th April

Tuesday 13th May

Tuesday 10th June

Tuesday 8th July

Tuesday 12th August

Tuesday 9th September

Tuesday 14th October

Tuesday 11th November

Tuesday 9th December

