



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

October 2016 Newsletter



Our thanks to Joan Norris of Shortlands for sponsoring the October Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 11th October *Speaker – Burma Action Campaign*
Tuesday 8th November *Speaker – Stop the Traffik*
Tuesday 13th December *'Send a Message of Hope' – Greetings Card Campaign*

Speaker: Wai Hnin

Burma: Nation in Transition

Tuesday 11th October at 7.30pm
All Welcome!

Monthly Action: Japan

Matsumoto Kenji, 65, was sentenced to death in 1993 for two separate robberies and murders in the period between September 1990 and September 1991. He appealed against his conviction but this was rejected by the Osaka High Court in February 1996. A subsequent appeal to the Supreme Court was also rejected, and his death sentence was confirmed on 4th April 2000. He could be executed at any time. Matsumoto has an intellectual disability, allegedly due to mercury poisoning which he has had since birth. Mercury poisoning, a common disease in the Kumamoto prefecture of Japan, where Matsumoto Kenji is from, causes damage to the brain and central nervous system. He has a low IQ (between 60 and 70 according to the diagnosis by a psychiatrist) which could have made him more vulnerable during police interrogation. According to his lawyer, police officers coerced him to confess by offering him food. The court, despite his proven incapacity has ruled that he is mentally competent enough to be sentenced to death and that his confession was reliable. Death penalty conditions are especially harsh in Japan, where prisoners are kept in perpetual solitary confinement, forbidden from moving in their cells and taken to execution without prior warning. We wrote to the Japanese authorities calling for the case to be reviewed and the sentence of death commuted.



Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£423.04
Income	£587.22
Expenditure	£5.60
Balance at 13 th September	£1,004.66
CHANGE	£581.62

Income included Cudham Fair receipts, income from Margaret's 'Open Garden' and private donations of £90. It was agreed that £500 would be sent to Amnesty, bringing our total for 2016 so far to £2,072.00.



Stop Press: We have been told informally by Bromley Little Theatre that we should be offered a charity premiere in 2017 and we have now selected our preferred choice of productions – all with a historical/period costume theme – so watch this space for more news!

SAVE THE DATE AMNESTY JAZZ WILL RETURN ON FRIDAY 27th JANUARY 2017

Cudham Fair: Beautiful summer weather and our compelling stall selling home-made cakes saw the Group have a most successful day at the annual Cudham village fair on August Bank Holiday Monday. All 100+ cakes made by our brilliant team sold out making £318.72. Our legendary 'bucket game' in which the public give £1 and receive half the bucket if 'their' marked Pound is pulled out, raised £111.00 in total, of which Amnesty receives half. So overall we made £374.22 one of our best results in over 20 years of participating in the fair. Our grateful thanks go to all who helped out on the day and provided vital 'behind the scenes' support.

Monthly Letter: DRC

There is heightened repression in DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) against those who speak out against autocratic President, Joseph Kabila. **Fred Bauma** and **Yves Makwambala** are victims of this crackdown for supporting youth activist movement 'FILIMBI' which campaigns to support young people in the responsible and peaceful execution of civic duties. They were detained in March 2015 when security guards stormed a FILIMBI press conference and arrested over 30 people. Fred and Yves were held incommunicado for two weeks and then moved to Makala prison in the capital, Kinshasa. If found guilty of politically motivated activities they could be executed; Amnesty views them both to be Prisoners of Conscience. Please sign, address and send the enclosed letter, which will cost £1.05 to post.



Coming Soon: Anne-Marie Barry of UK charity Stop the Traffik will talk about the pernicious trade in humans as part of our Modern Slavery strand – Tuesday 8th November 2016. Up to 20,000 people are trafficked into the UK every year, whilst the practice is global – the latest survey estimates 35.8m people around the world are the victims of Modern Slavery. Come and find out more!

Refugees Welcome!

Amnesty's global strategic campaign on refugees is to launch this autumn and will be called 'I Welcome'. The aim of this campaign is to promote the view that refugees are welcomed, protected and should be free to enjoy their human rights. The 'Refugees Welcome' march in London took place on September 17th with members of the Group attending – this was two days before a major United Nations meeting in New York addressing the global refugee emergency. We will take part in this important, timely campaign as it rolls out during the autumn.



Present on 13th September: Neville White, David Howkins, Vivien Glanz, Patsy Paine, Peter Martin, Waltraut Gilchrist, Gladys Edmonds. **Apologies:** Margaret Coppard, Wendy Simmons, Vivienne Andrews, Joan Williams and Shirley Henderson.

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

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