



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group October 2012 Newsletter



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

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 2 October

Tuesday 13 November

Tuesday 11 December

** please note date* Speaker – 'No Sweat' exploited labour*

Activity to be confirmed

Greetings Card Campaign: 'Send a Message of Hope'

Vicki Morris of 'No Sweat' will speak on
“Sweatshop Exploitation – Global Reality”
Tuesday 2nd October 7.30pm
All Welcome

The Gambia: Human Rights Crisis

Gambia is the smallest country in Africa with a population of just 1.7m and almost completely surrounded by Senegal, save for a small strip of coastline. It is also undergoing a human rights crisis. In August President Yahya Jammeh announced an end to the 27 year moratorium on executions stating that all 45 men and two women on death row would be executed by mid-September. There has also been an increase in the number of death sentences passed. On 23 August eight men and one woman were summarily removed from their cells and executed without warning. The 38 remaining prisoners on death row are under imminent sentence of execution. We signed a letter to the President asking for the immediate retraction of executions and to restore the moratorium. Gambia is the only country in West Africa to have used the death penalty in recent years. Owing to the urgency we faxed and e-mailed the letter to ensure its swift arrival. If you would like to send an appeal please go to www.amnesty.org.uk where it is Amnesty's top action.

Death Penalty Injustice USA

Reggie Clemons has been on the Missouri death row for a crime he almost certainly didn't commit having had a confession extracted under torture and a wholly fabricated version of the crime put by the prosecution. His sentence will be reviewed later this month, and this will be the only opportunity to save Reggie from a terrible miscarriage of justice. Please sign the petition at www.amnesty.org.uk



Rattle a Tin for Amnesty



We urgently need your help on Saturday 13th October to take part in the annual London-wide street collection. This annual event is one of our most important fund raisers, and this year Margaret has secured four supermarket sites in West Wickham, Orpington, Chislehurst and Locks Bottom which we hope to man from 9-5. Enclosed is a simple form, if you can spare an hour (or preferably two) please do get in touch with Margaret and help us top last year's total of £675.

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

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£1,324.24
Income	£295.43
Expenditure	£992.84
Balance at 11 th September	£626.83
CHANGE	-£697.41

Income included private donations of £40 and our takings at the Cudham Fair of £255.93 (gross). We sent £820 to Amnesty bringing our donation so far for 2012 to £1,570. Expenditure also included Christmas cards.

Cudham Village Fair

The weather remained (largely) clement and a dedicated crowd once again turned out for the annual village fair in Cudham. Our usual book stall attracted a lot of interest, and Gladys surpassed our wildest hopes with the entertaining bucket game. Although takings were slightly down on last year we still raised a terrific £255.43, including £124 on the bucket game. After expenses and subtracting half the bucket takings we raised £193.43 for Amnesty. Grateful thanks to all who turned out on the August Bank Holiday to run the stall.



Monthly Letter: The Gambia



Our theme this month of the deteriorating human rights situation in Gambia is also reflected in our monthly letter for October. Dr Amadou Janneh, a former Minister in the Gambian Government, was sentenced to life imprisonment on 16 January having been accused of 'intent to cause or bring into hatred, contempt, or to excite disaffection against the person of the President. His crime – to be in possession of tee shirts with the slogan 'end dictatorship now' on them. Dr Janneh is viewed as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty. Activists, human rights defenders and peaceful protesters are subject to intimidation, arrest and unfair trials. Please address, sign and post the attached letter

which will cost 87p to post.

Amnesty at the Movies: Friday 23rd November

We will be showing **The Corporation** on Friday 23rd November at 7.30pm at our usual venue. Suggested donation of £2 and refreshments will be provided. Doors open at 7pm.



STOP PRESS: *at the eleventh hour, the US pulled the plug on a*



comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty saying it needed more time to consider all the implications, prompting Russia to do the same. The UN Sessions in July were on the cusp of an historic agreement that would, for the first time, seek to regulate the international arms trade. Led by the UK government, a resolution will now be put to the General Assembly in October, which already has the support of 90 countries. A two thirds majority is all that will be needed for the Treaty to be adopted. Watch this space!

Present on 11th September: David Howkins, Neville White, Joan Williams, Rene Eastwood, Margaret Coppard, Pamela Smith, Ted Burke, Eleanor Ivens, Gladys Edmonds, Claire Ellis, Simon Nash, Patricia Eastaugh, Patsy Paine, Chris Purnell, Vivien Glanz. Apologies: Shirley Henderson, Patrick Nield, Waltraut Gilchrist.

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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