



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group September 2014 Newsletter



Our thanks to Margaret Bellenger of Bromley for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

## COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

*Tuesday 9 September*

*Campaign Meeting*

*Tuesday 14 October*

*Speaker: Croydon Campaign against Trafficking (CCAT)*

*Tuesday 11 November*

*Film Night*

*We would like to thank all our supporters for responding to our request to convert to e-mail delivery where possible. This helps us reduce costs and improve the efficiency of our communication. The Newsletter is also posted on our Facebook page and on our website. From 1 August our Group e-mail is [amnestybromley@gmail.com](mailto:amnestybromley@gmail.com) . If you receive this Newsletter by post and can receive it by e-mail please let us know. Thank you*

### Monthly Letter: Mexico

*Abducted and tortured:* On 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012, **Claudia Medina Tamariz**, a mother of three from Veracruz City, was bound, blindfolded and taken from her home to the local naval base by marines who broke into her house. After being forcibly abducted, she was allegedly tortured, beaten and kicked. She was coerced into making a false statement which she subsequently retracted. The enclosed letter asks for the authorities to look into her forcible abduction and allegations of torture, and to bring those responsible to justice. The letter also calls on Mexico to adopt the Istanbul Protocol as the benchmark for investigating allegations of torture. Please sign, address and post the attached letter. **This will cost 88p to post.**



### Street Collection

We will be taking part in the annual London-wide street collection at three supermarket venues over two successive Saturdays. We will be collecting at Tesco, Orpington and Sainsbury, Chislehurst on 11<sup>th</sup> October and Sainsbury, West Wickham on 18<sup>th</sup> October. We urgently need collectors who are willing to give an hour (or more) of their time to 'rattle a tin for Amnesty'. This is an effective way for us to fundraise and Margaret would be delighted to receive offers of help on 01689 854094 or e-mail [amnestybromley@gmail.com](mailto:amnestybromley@gmail.com) Thank you!



Croydon Campaign Against Trafficking  
**"Trafficking: the reality close to us"**  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm  
All Welcome.

## Group Finance

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance brought forward            | £497.86         |
| Income                             | £154.89         |
| Expenditure                        | £124.96         |
| Balance at 12 <sup>th</sup> August | <b>£527.79</b>  |
| <b>CHANGE</b>                      | <b>+ £29.93</b> |

Income from the Day of Action was a very healthy £28.78 + a donation of £50 to be used specifically for women's rights campaigning. Other private donations of £75 were received.

## Bromley Little Theatre Charity Premiere in aid of Amnesty

### "My Boy Jack" by David Haig

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.45pm

Tickets £10 from David Howkins 01689 823793

### Hakamada Iwao: Update

On 27 March the Shizuoka District Court in Tokyo, released Hakamada Iwao, the world's longest serving death row prisoner, suspended the death penalty and granted a retrial. Despite his age, ill health and questionable evidence against him, the Prosecutor's Office is appealing against a retrial stating the original conviction should stand. The appeal to re-imprison him was rejected, but there is now expected to be a lengthy legal battle to ensure a re-trial can go ahead. Although Hakamada will not be returned to prison, and his health is improving in hospital, his 40 year-long claims of innocence have still not been heard. We wrote to the Prosecutor's office calling on them to drop their opposition to a re-trial. We will continue to work on behalf of Hakamada and plan a supportive action next month.



### Film Night is coming!

*Amnesty's well established film night is back on 11 November. We will have a short business meeting followed by a movie on an Amnesty theme. Curtain up at 7.30pm. Save the date!*



### Iranian Writer Sentenced to Death



**Arzhang Davoodi** has served 11 years in prison for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. He is a poet, writer and activist, imprisoned for being the director of a cultural institute. Often held in solitary confinement, on 20 July 2014 he was sentenced to death for his alleged membership of a proscribed organisation. There is no evidence of this, and he and his lawyer were given no time to prepare a defence before sentence of death was passed. We wrote to the President of Iran calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

**Present on 12<sup>th</sup> August:** Neville White, David Howkins, Shirley Henderson, Gladys Edmonds, Ted Burke, Wendy Simmons, Joan Williams, Vivienne Andrews and Margaret Coppard. **Apologies:** Vivien Glanz, Rene Eastwood, Eleanor Ivens, Chris Purnell, Simon Nash, Waltraut Gilchrist.

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

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