



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

September 2013 Newsletter



Our thanks to Sue Riley of Beckenham, for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 10 September

Speaker: Mary Hla, Burma Campaign

Tuesday 8 October

Speaker: Stuart Sweeney "Doctors on the Dark Side"

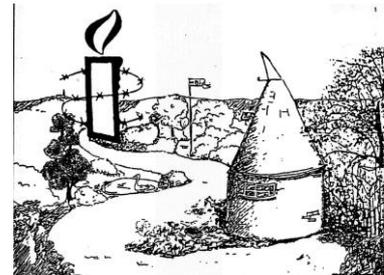
Tuesday 12 November

Speaker: Jenny Dickson, Al Syria country co-ordinator (tbc)

Tuesday 10th September at 7.30pm
Mary Hla of Burma Campaign
"Burma in Transition; the Story So Far"

Sevenoaks Sponsored Walk: 15th September 2013

Enclosed with this mailing is a sponsor form for the **Sevenoaks Sponsored Walk on Sunday 15th September**, which is calling time after a quarter of a century and 23 years' since Bromley & Orpington joined Sevenoaks to help organise it. Over those years we have raised many thousands of pounds for Amnesty and we would like this year to be **A BIG FINISH** to truly celebrate a great event. Please do come along, enjoy the rolling countryside, get sponsors have a great day out for all the family. Offers of food for the lunch can be made to [Rene on 020 8467 6973](#); Neville would be delighted to be sponsored if you can't get along on the day!



HOLD THE DATE!

AMNESTY FILM NIGHT

FRIDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2013

Monthly Letter: Mexico

Miriam López, a housewife and mother of four was raped and tortured by soldiers in 2011; she was then arbitrarily arrested in her hometown of Ensenada, Baja California State, in February 2011. They initially held Miriam for a week in a military barracks and interrogated her in relation to alleged drug offences. During that week, she was raped three times and subjected

to electric shocks, stress positions and near-asphyxiation. Her torturers also showed her pictures of her husband and children, and told her that they would "go for them" if she didn't co-operate. Miriam was eventually released without charge in September 2011. So far, nobody has been brought to justice for her treatment. Her story is just one of thousands of similar cases of torture and other ill-treatment in Mexico in recent years. Please address, sign and post the attached letter calling for a full and impartial investigation into the allegations of rape and torture. This will cost 87p to post.

Tuesday 8th October at 7.30pm
Stuart Sweeney (former Group Secretary)
"Doctors on the Dark Side"

New Amnesty Prisoner Case File: China

We are delighted to have been allocated a new **Prisoner Case File**, the first for several years. We will work on this over the next year or so, sending appeals and raising awareness. We hope that you will take part in these actions. The case concerns **Dr Liu Xiaobo** and his wife Liu Xia. Dr Liu is an academic and political activist, who was taken from his home on 8th December 2006. For six months he was held under 'residential surveillance' and reportedly tortured. He was arrested formally in 2009 on suspicion of 'inciting subversion' and sentenced to 11 years imprisonment, and a further two years' deprivation of political rights. The trial lasted 2 hours. He has been held in Jinzhou Prison ever since; his wife is an artist and poet and has been held under illegal house arrest since October 2010. Dr Liu has faced intimidation and harassment throughout the 1990s and 2000s and he is viewed as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty for peacefully exercising his right to Freedom of Expression.



Dr Liu Xiaobo and his wife Liu Xia

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£623.23
Income	£90.00
Expenditure	£70.00
Balance at 13th August	£643.23
CHANGE	£20.00

Income included £70 from the "**sponsor a newsletter**" appeal and a £20 individual donation. Please contact Neville if you would like to sponsor a Newsletter for £20. This helps us keep our costs as low as possible so that all the money we raise can go to Amnesty. We have so far raised £2,150 for AI in 2013.

Rattle a Tin for Amnesty: London Street Collection

*The annual **London wide street collection** is a little different this year as we have been offered collections at four supermarkets on two successive Saturdays. We will therefore be collecting at two sites (**Sainsbury Locks Bottom, and Tesco Orpington**) on 12th October (the official date) and two on the 19th October (**Sainsbury West Wickham and Sainsbury Chislehurst**). **If you are able to spare an hour or two to 'Rattle a Tin' for Amnesty on EITHER Saturday, please let Margaret know on 01689 854094. We particularly need afternoon collectors.***



*Don't forget to find us on Facebook; we now have **20 members** who have found us on Facebook; if you use and enjoy social media why not join us for news updates and campaign information. You can also find us online (details below).*

Zimbabwe Elections

We have followed the election process closely in Zimbabwe and its outcome. We discussed serious concerns regarding six women forced to flee their homes. We are investigating taking part in an Amnesty action to ring Zimbabwe police stations where women are known to be held for investigation. The Group signed two letters to the Zimbabwean authorities regarding the latest concerns.

Present on 13th August: David Howkins, Shirley Henderson, Joan Williams, Waltraut Gilchrist, Patsy Paine, Margaret Coppard, Wendy Simmons, Ted Burke, Eleanor Ivens, Eve Fisher, Gladys Edmonds, Rene Eastwood, Patrick McDonnell. Apologies: Neville White, Vivien Glanz and Simon Nash.

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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