



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Bromley & Orpington Group

Summer 2016 Newsletter



Our thanks to Roger Knight of Bexleyheath for sponsoring our Summer Newsletter

We are taking a short break over the summer – our next Newsletter will be out in late September.

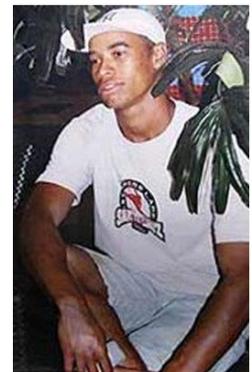
COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

<i>Tuesday 13th September</i>	<i>Speaker – Sam Nadel AI China Co-ordinator (postponed from July)</i>
<i>Tuesday 11th October</i>	<i>Speaker – Burma Action Campaign</i>
<i>Tuesday 8th November</i>	<i>Speaker – Stop the Traffik</i>

Amnesty at Cudham Fair
Monday 29th August 2016
Noon, Cudham Recreation Ground, Cudham Lane
Come and say hello and buy one of our home made cakes!

Monthly Action: Brazil

Ricardo Mattos dos Santos, a talented circus acrobat from a poor neighbourhood in Salvador, was killed in a drive-by shooting in January 2008. His killers were looking for young men who were suspected of stealing a bike from the son of a retired military police officer. Ricardo and another young man, Robson de Souza Pinho, were killed. Ricardo was hit by 5 shots while he begged for his life and said that he was not one of the people the attackers were looking for. After an investigation in March 2011 the public prosecutors charged three military police officers with the crime, but three years later the case still has not gone to trial, and no one has been brought to justice. Ricardo’s brother, **Enio Mattos dos Santos**, was abducted from his home and shot by unknown people in 2013. He was 19 years old. The context of his death is still unknown and there is little information about the perpetrators and the circumstances of the case. Jorge Lázaro, their father has been fighting for justice for his two murdered sons ever since. We wrote to the Brazilian authorities calling on them to guarantee a fair and timely investigation to bring those responsible for the killings of Ricardo dos Santos and Enio dos Santos to justice.



Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£439.88
Income	£40.91
Expenditure	£57.75
Balance at 14th June	£423.04
CHANGE	-£16.84



Margaret opened her lovely Mediterranean style garden for a charity tea party on 26th June in aid of Amnesty International and St Martin’s Church, Chelsfield. Largely benign weather and strong support saw Margaret raise £400 for the two causes; our grateful thanks to Margaret for all her hard work, support and terrific donation to Group funds.

Speaker: Sam Nadel
Amnesty International China Co-ordinator
HUMAN RIGHTS & CHINA
Tuesday 13th September 2016 at 7.30pm
All Welcome!
** postponed from July*

China: Freedom of Expression Under Pressure

Lu Yuyu and his girlfriend, two bloggers who compiled data on protests in China, have been missing since mid- June and may have been criminally detained. Amnesty believes they are at risk of torture and ill-treatment. The couple documented at least 30,000 mass incidents in 2015 of opposition to the Government ranging from land disputes to worker protests. The couple have been under surveillance and have been subject to police intimidation. Amnesty is seriously concerned for their welfare. Freedom of Expression is under severe repression in China with a hard crackdown on all protest. We wrote to the Minister of Public Security urging their immediate and unconditional release, and to ensure they are not subject to ill-treatment.



Monthly Letter: Venezuela

Venezuelan police have threatened to kill another member of the Barrios family who are receiving protection after 10 members of the same family have been murdered since 1998 in circumstances that suggest police complicity. A 2011 Inter-American Court ruling assigned protection and public housing to the family following long-term threats to their safety. The police, according to one member of the family, have said they did not care about the protection measures or the court ruling. The attached letter calls on the authorities to ensure the Inter-American Court ruling is enforced and protection is afforded. Please sign, address and send the enclosed letter, which will cost £1.05 to post.



The global **Stop Torture** campaign came to an end in May 2016 with some significant achievements to report. In August **Mexico's** Attorney General approved a National Protocol for Investigation of Torture. This was one of the key safeguards that the Stop Torture campaign called for. In June 2016, **Yecenia Armenta** was released after almost four years in prison and after suffering brutal torture. In November 2014 **Morocco** ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). This strengthened Morocco's international commitment to the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment in detention. In June 2015, **Nigerian** lawmakers passed an Anti-Torture Bill, which was one of the major advocacy calls of the campaign in Nigeria. It is currently being reviewed by the Nigerian Law Reform Commission. In December 2014, the Nigerian police released a Human Rights Practice Manual setting out standards expected of police officers and guidance on how to achieve these. The **Philippines** Senate opened an inquiry into Amnesty International's report into torture in the country. Since then, two Senate inquiries have taken place to respond to evidence in the report regarding widespread torture in the Philippine National Police.

Present on 12th July: Neville White, David Howkins, Vivien Glanz, Margaret Coppard, Ted Burke, Patsy Paine, Peter Martin, Ann Garrett and Vivienne Andrews. **Apologies:** Waltraut Gilchrist, Wendy Simmons and Gladys Edmonds.

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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