



THE BRIGHTON AND HOVE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

Forthcoming Brighton & Hove Amnesty Group Meetings/Events

Group meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month from 8-10pm at Community Base, Queens Road, Brighton

3rd April

Group Business meeting

1st April

Group AGM
and

Planning workshop

Letter Writing Evenings

An evening once a month to sit and write letters with fellow Amnesty members. These evenings are hosted at member's houses. All welcome, simply contact the host/hostess for details:

24th April

Emma
01273 232397

Monthly Collection

Contact Julian
julianwatmore@gmail.com

Monthly Stall's

Contact Jill 01273 621697

Silent Auction

Get yourself a bargain!

For a chance to bid on some fantastic treats, days out and gifts see our silent auction inside this issue of the newsletter or available on line through our website www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton
Deadline for bidding 14th April

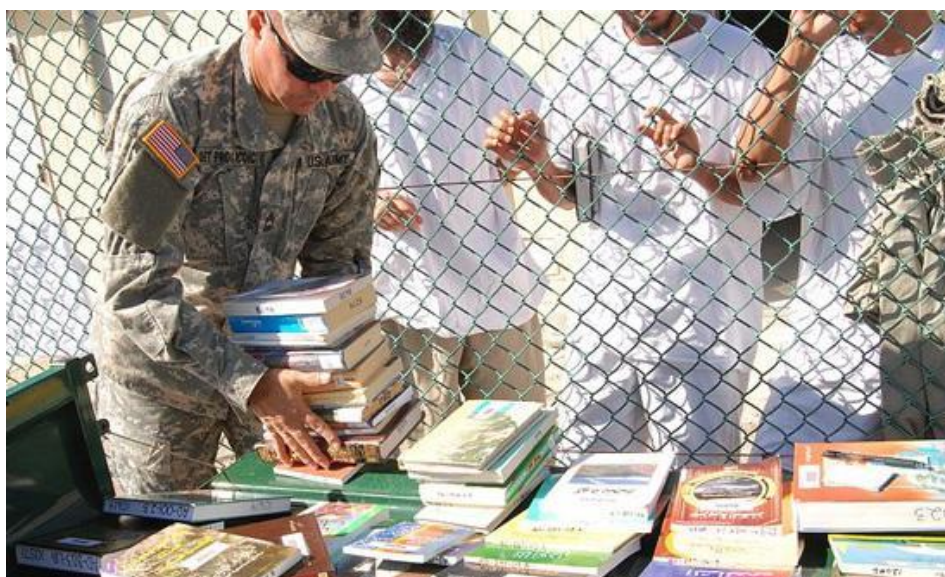
Happy Bidding!

3rd May

12.30 to 3pm

Jumble sale
St Martins Church Hall
Jumble needed!
(see page 2)

World Book Day: Guantánamo's Restricted Library



World Book Day on 6th March celebrated and encouraged reading. What did you pick up to read on World Book Day? Some Shakespeare, a classic fairy tale such as *Puss in Boots* perhaps, or something weightier like Dostoyevsky's *Crime & Punishment*? For Guantánamo detainees, however, none of these books are options; they are banned from reading them

The reading material requested by detainees is vetted and some books fail to make it through. To say the decisions are curious would be an understatement. Russell Brand's *Booby Wook 2* is forbidden. Franz Kafka's *The Trial* is permitted. The protagonist in *The Trial*, Josef K, is arrested and prosecuted without

ever learning of the charges brought against him. If any book were deemed too close to the bone, surely it would be *The Trial*.

The incendiary, inappropriate material in banned stories such as *Cinderella* and *Jack and The Beanstalk* is obvious. Other books appear to have been vetoed for their titles alone, regardless of the content – *Crime and Punishment*, John Grisham's *The Innocent Man*, and Scott Turow's *Presumed Innocent*, for example. The ban on *The Innocent Man* was lifted after Grisham wrote an article in the [New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com) about Nabil Hadjarab, the man who had requested the book.


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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, BRIGHTON AND HOVE PROUDLY PRESENTS

A MOST SPLENDID FUNDRAISING EVENT



GRAND JUMBLE



TO BE HELD AT
THE PARISH HALL, SAINT MARTINS CHURCH,
LEWES ROAD, BRIGHTON
ON
SATURDAY 3RD OF MAY 2014
BETWEEN 12.30PM AND 3PM

FREE ENTRY
TEA AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED
RAFFLE

DONATIONS OF JUMBLE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED
PLEASE CALL EMMA ON BRIGHTON 232397

(Continued from page 1)

Tom Bingham's *The Rule of Law* is prohibited. In this book, published towards the end of his life, the former Lord Chief Justice discusses law as the basis of a just society and the potential erosion of a fair legal system under the threat of terrorism.

Shaker Aamer's lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith, has suggested that prisoners have been denied access to materials that might

help them learn English. This stretches as far as banning the *New Dinkum Aussie Dictionary*. Just as communication seems to be frowned on by the US military, so does creativity. A poetry collection, *Poems from Guantánamo: The Detainees Speak*, was published in 2007 despite suspicion and opposition from the Guantánamo staff.

A restricted library is one of the lesser human rights violations experienced by Guantánamo's detainees. Nonetheless, the ar-

bitrary, *sub rosa* process of book censorship follows a pattern of decision-making that began when the GTMO military prison was set up in 2002.

Learn more about Amnesty's campaign to close Guantánamo http://www.amnesty.org.uk/guantanamo-bay-human-rights#.UzP1oqh_s3V

Mike

Monthly Action

Syria



The third anniversary of the Syria conflict on March 15th acted as a grim reminder to the world of its failure to stop the suffering. As the world's media once again reflects on the crisis at this time, we need to make sure that we use the opportunity to demonstrate to world leaders that they need to do more to help the people of Syria. In 2014, with more than 130,000 killed in the conflict, and 300 people fleeing their homes every hour, the need for a powerful campaign is greater than ever before.

Letter writing & E-mail action

Use the attached samples letter and email text below to write to both pro and anti-government representatives, calling on them to protect civilians. You can only e-mail anti-government representatives. You can also do this by visiting <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/Middle-East-and-North-Africa>

President of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces

Ahmad Jarba
info@etilaf.org

Dear Ahmad Jarba

I am writing to urge you to use your influence as the President of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces in order to ensure that armed opposition groups under your control comply fully with their obligations under international humanitarian law and commit to respecting international human rights standards.

I am deeply concerned about increasing reports of abuses being carried out against captured or injured members of government security forces and militias, journalists and other civilians. I therefore call on you to ensure that civilians are protected at all times and that all persons detained by armed opposition groups, including captured members of government security forces, militias, and others suspected of involvement in the conflict are protected and treated humanely. The armed groups associated with the coalition must uphold international humanitarian law and must be made aware that, if they fail to do so, they will be held to account in the future.

I therefore urge you to ensure that a clearly defined hierarchy and chain of command is established within the new military command in order to enforce compliance with international humanitarian law and prevent and suppress war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law
Yours sincerely

March Amnesty Stall - Water Aid Day

On Saturday 22nd March we held our stall as part of the Water Aid Day celebration at the Unitarian Church in New Road. This event is jointly organised by the Amnesty Bookshop and the local Water Aid Group.

Water Aid transforms lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities. One in ten people don't have safe water to drink and over two and a half billion live without somewhere safe and clean to go to the toilet. Two thousand children die needlessly from diarrhoea every day.

The event consisted of a 'free music festival' including Country and Western and local Rock Bands playing in the hall and enticing people in. There were tea and cakes and children's activities in the back room. The

floor was covered with rugs and cushions to chill out. There were even some tents to give an authentic festival flavour!

We had a petition on the stall although it was a little difficult to compete with the music to make ourselves heard. It was a recent urgent action in Bahrain. We were writing to King Shaileh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalif about Hussain Hubail, a photographer. He was arrested for using social media networks calling for 'illegal' demonstrations.

In prison he was tortured during his interrogation. Also he has not received adequate medical treatment for his heart condition. We were asking for his immediate and unconditional release. We gathered fifty signatures and hope to collect a few more at our next meeting.



Many thanks to all who helped organise the festival and to Celia and Judith who volunteered on the stall.

To volunteer on our monthly stalls call Jill on 01273 621697

Jill

BRIGHTON & HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS

Chair – Emma brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com Tel: 01273 232397

New Member Secretary: Sue Tel: 07790 755921

Group Secretary—vacant

Email Secretary: Emma Tel: 01273 232397 **Group Email:** brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com

Minutes Secretary: Catherine 07759 271399

Treasurer: Catherine 07759 271399

Newsletter editor: - Emma Parker: Tel: 01273 232397

Please email any contributions for the newsletter to brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com

Lanes collection organiser: - Julian julianwatmore@gmail.com

Web Site co-ordinator: Michael Fisher - michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com

Amnesty Stalls co-ordinator—Jill Francis—01273 621697

Campaign Co-ordinators:

Afghanistan—Women's Rights—Gwyneth gwyneth.jones@ntlworld.com

Prisoner of Conscience – The Displaced People of Tawargha (Libya) Celia Stubbs—01273 593833

Security and Human Rights—Michael—michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com

Arms Trade Treaty—Luke lukebeale@hotmail.com

Amnesty Websites: international - www.amnesty.org AI UK -

www.amnesty.org.uk local group - www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton

Follow us on twitter @AmnestyBrighton

See our photos on Flickr—

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/amnestybrighton/pool>

Amnesty UK Human Rights Centre - Tel: 0207 0331500

