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| March 2016 |  | |  | | --- | | Amnesty International Frome Group Newsletter | | March 2016 | |
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| we are Ordinary People from across the world standing up for Humanity andHuman rights |  | In This Issue |

Website: [www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/frome](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/frome)

**Dates for your diary :**

**Thursday 7th April** **12:15**. Deadline for voting on AI UK’s resolutions.

**Saturday 9-10th April**. AI UK National Conference and AGM

**Saturday 9th April 9am-12**. Bunting / letter signing stand and book stall. Market place, just outside Frome library.

**Thursday 21st April 8pm**. Frome AI group AGM. Bridge café, Selwood Road.

**Wednesday 25th May** **6.45pm**. Stall on Burkina Faso for the ‘My body, My rights’ campaign at the showing of Difret (film). Warminster and District film society. The Athenaeum theatre. Warminster. Doors 6.45pm. Film starts: 7:30pm. Tickets for the film available in advance from the box office or online visit : [www.theath.org.uk](http://www.theath.org.uk) .

Please contact Judy Hosegood [judy.hosegood@btinternet.com](mailto:judy.hosegood@btinternet.com) if you are interested in helping out on the stall either on Saturday 9th April or Wednesday 25th May.

**Frome AI Group meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Bridge café, Selwood Road, Frome BA11 3BS at 8pm.**

Frome events



**Bunting and books.. and a film night**

Our group action in solidarity of the

women and girls of Burkina Faso

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**Your thoughts needed..**

Your ideas for how we run our group

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In national news

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**Albert Woodfox is released**

**AI UK National Conference + AGM**

### Spring into action!

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| **MARCH MONTHLY ACTION**  **Stand in solidarity with girl survivors of early forced marriage in Burkina Faso.** |
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On Saturday 9th April we will have a stall in the market place, just outside Frome library.

We will be writing messages of solidarity and friendship on bunting. These will be sent by groups from across the UK to the young women staying in 5 shelters supported by AI in Burkina Faso, women who have been subjected to early forced marriage and/or female genital mutilation. We will also have a book stall to encourage people over to look at the information on display and to sign a letter or write a message on bunting.

For more information on this month’s action see <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/local-student-groups-action-march-2016-defend-women%E2%80%99s-rights-burkina-faso#.VvBy3Ee37UA>

For more information on the ‘My body, My rights’ campaign see

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/My-Body-My-Rights>



On Wednesday 25th May Warminster and District film society are showing Difret (12). This film, based on a true story, is about a 14 year old Ethiopian girl and the attorney who fights to defend her as she stands trial for killing the man (her would-be husband) who abducted her. The film society committee have agreed to us having a stall in the foyer of the Athenaeum. Our stall will again focus on Burkina Faso as part of the ‘My body, My rights’ campaign.

**What you can do…**

* Drop by and sign a letter/ buy a book
* Bring pre-loved books that you’d like to re-home to our stall
* Help out behind the stall in the market place. Please bring sharpie pens (apparently these are good to write on fabric!)
* Help behind the stall on the film night or simply enjoy the film.

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| **A huge thank you!!!** |

### Your ideas please….

Thank you to everyone who came to the coffee morning and bring and buy sale on Saturday 30th January held at Ann’s house.

**£360** was raised and **20** letters were sent to Mohammed Faisal Abu Sakhu, a Palestinian circus performer and teacher in circus skills who is being held in administrative detention in Israel.

Ann very kindly gave a donation to Frome AI too – Thank you!

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| **Write a letter…** **……. Make a stand****ACTION FOR INDIVIDUALS** |
| If you are interested in sending letters in support of victims of human rights abuses from all over the world, please visit  <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/Action-for-individuals> |

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| **URGent action** |
| To respond quickly to individuals, families and communities at risk of human rights abuse, please visit  <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/join-urgent-action-network>  You can decide on how many actions you receive each month and can unsubscribe at any time. |

## Frome Amnesty Group on Facebook?

At the February meeting we discussed Facebook…

Please let us know…

Are you on facebook?

Do you think Frome AI group should have a Facebook page?

If there was one would you visit it?

Would you prefer to receive information about our group by Facebook or by email or both?

Do you think Facebook would help us to spread the word about our events and our group?

## Where would you like to meet?

At the March meeting we discussed the pros and cons of meeting at the Bridge café vs a meeting venue which is more centrally located.

Are you happy to continue meeting at the Bridge café or would you prefer a more central venue?

Do you have any preference as to the type of venue e.g. community hall, a meeting room in a pub?

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| **Send your thoughts to**  **Nadine Crook at njwardman@yahoo.co.uk** |  |
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Frome festival

Are you opening your garden up as a hidden garden for the Frome festival?

And if so would you like to serve refreshments for Frome AI group?

If you have any feedback on this newsletter or would like anything included in the next issue then please feel free to contact me – Nadine Crook

[njwardman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:njwardman@yahoo.co.uk)

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'We had hoped that this day would come. Albert Woodfox has come so close to freedom numerous times over the past 43 years. And finally, it is real. I can scarcely believe it. But it’s real.

### Albert Woodfox is free, at last!

Writing to Albert in his tiny 6x9 metre cell, petitioning the Louisiana prison that repeatedly broke its own rules to keep Albert in isolation, lobbying state officials to grant him justice. All of us who have heard about Albert’s case could not help feeling outrage for this man who had been forced to spend over four decades of his life in conditions that are fit for no human.

AIUK National Conference and AGM

Amnesty International UK’s annual conference and AGM will be held on 9-10th April at the East Midlands conference centre.

There will be inspiring speakers, workshops and the opportunity to meet other activists and staff. Attendance is free. Find out more at [www.amnesty.org.uk/agm](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/agm)

The power to influence how Amnesty International is run is in your hands! AIUK are asking us to vote on 12 special resolutions which seek to change our constitution (articles of association). There are also ordinary resolutions to vote on which will determine AIUK’s campaign priorities. You can vote online, by post, by appointing

The grounds on which Albert was put into isolation reinforced the injustice of his case: a trial with no physical evidence, a conviction based on eye witness testimonies that were later recanted or discredited, and a move that seemed to punish Albert and his friends Herman Wallace and Robert King for their political affiliation with the Black Panther Party. Together known as the ‘Angola 3’, Albert is the last of the group to leave isolation.

Appeal courts overturned that conviction three times – most recently last summer. Albert had been due to face trial again in the coming months. But on Friday he was released for good.

someone to vote on your behalf or by attending the AGM. If you are voting online you will need 2 security codes which you should have received from AIUK by post.

You will find all of the information that you need to vote by clicking on <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/national-conference-agm-2016> then clicking on ‘Amnesty AGM resolutions 2016’ or click on [www.amnesty.org.uk/agm](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/agm) then click to download the resolutions (listed under important documents to download).

However, if you go straight to the online voting form and then open the documents listed (the links at the top of this form) then you will not be

'Although I was looking forward to proving my innocence at a new trial, concerns about my health and my age have caused me to resolve this case now and obtain my release with this no-contest plea to lesser charges. I hope the events of today will bring closure to many.' Albert Woodfox, 19 February 2016.

Frome Group has written many letters concerning Albert’s case over the years, so this is great news if a bit late in the day!

able to find special resolution 6a (proposed by the Saffron Waldron group) which is the alternative resolution to resolution 6 proposed by AIUK.

You should have received an e-mail from me with 2 useful documents attached. Sarah O’Grady’s (AIUK Chair) March update provides some background to the reforms at AIUK and Chris Ramsey, Malcolm Dingwall-Smith and Clive Briscoe’s open letter to AIUK members proposing how to vote on the resolutions. This makes for interesting reading before casting your vote!