

Action

July 2016



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

7th July 2016

Guest speaker
Talking about the plight of the Oromo people of Ethiopia

4th August

Campaign meeting
All welcome

1st September

Campaign co ordinator to speak about our new individual at risk from DRC

6th October

Campaign Meeting

3rd November

Speaker from Hummingbird Project

Monthly Collection

Contact Julian
julianwatmore@gmail.com
07469776295

Monthly Stall

9th July
Sydney Street
Contact Jill 01273 621697
11am to 1pm

6th August 2016 Pride

Group will take part in the parade and have a campaigning stall

17th September 2016 Annual Street Collection

17th December 2016 Write for Rights

10am to 4pm
Friends Meeting House

Amnesty Brighton and Hove @ Pride

Volunteers needed



The Pride Parade in Brighton is on Saturday 6th August. I am now collecting names for people who want to take part, walking in the Parade, for Brighton and Hove Amnesty.

Those of us who have taken part before will tell you that it is a great experience as well as being a fantastic opportunity to publicise our group. This is so important as we are a campaigning group that can make a difference to LGBTI issues, when so many of the parade floats are commercial advertising. We are normally greeted with huge cheers! The day is from about 10am to 2pm depending where we are in the line up.

Please let me know if you would like to be involved

Sue sue@suewilliams44.fsnet.co.uk

Refugee Week Opening Concert

This year 'Brighton and Hove Sanctuary on Sea' are organising Refugee Week. (18th - 29th June 2016)

Some of the events include a public debate on the Refugee crisis, a satirical one - woman show at the Marlborough Theatre and Refugee Table Tennis.

I attended the opening concert, part of the 'Crossing Borders Festival' of jazz and classical music. Pete Davison conducted the Regent's Orchestra in St Mary's Church, Kemptown. Kate Allen (Director of Amnesty UK) gave a short speech at the beginning challenging our preconceptions of the Refugee crisis. She pointed out that a million refugees coming to the UK was not a crisis compared with 4 million refugees in a small country like the Lebanon.

There was music by Benjamin Britten who was a conscientious objector and became a refugee in USA. Shostakovich was evacuated from Leningrad during WW2 in an attempt to evade being forced to join the Communist Party. Samuel Barber wrote 'Adagio for Strings' which was used in the soundtrack for the film 'The Deer Hunter'.

The music is poignant and evocative, very suited to contemplation of the refugees' plight. The whole concert was born out of the desire to celebrate the achievements of the many musicians who encounter some form of exile and also to make refugees welcome.

Jill

Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran

Date Saturday 18th June

Time 11am - 1pm

Venue Outside Amnesty Bookshop, Sydney Street, Brighton

Weather Fine, good weather for campaigning

Activists Andrew, Sue, Celia and Jill

Campaign HOSSEIN RAJABIAN, MEHDI RAJABIAN AND YOUSEF EMADI

These three men have been sentenced to 6 years in prison. They have been found guilty for their artistic work, including a film by Hossein dealing with women's rights to divorce in Iran and Mehdi and Yousef's distribution of unlicensed music by Iranian singers from outside the country covering taboo subjects.

They allege they were tortured and held in solitary confinement and have not had access to a lawyer.

We managed to get 90 letters signed from the passers by on the street. We will be sending these to the Ayatollah in Iran calling for him to overturn the Court's ruling on the three men.

Next Stall Saturday 9th July

Campaign More Iranian Political Prisoners

If you would like to help contact Jill on 01273 621697

SYRIA ACTION – HELP ENSURE HUMAN RIGHTS BENCHMARKS ARE EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSED IN THE SYRIA PEACE PROCESS

5 YEARS since the start of the crisis, Syria has become the epicentre of the world's worst human rights and humanitarian catastrophe. Violence and insecurity, targeted with indiscriminate attacks against civilians, mass arrests and widespread torture in detention facilities, deliberate denial of assistance and the collapse of services have prompted over 4.5 million people to flee the country and 7 million more to abandon their homes inside Syria.

UN Security Council members are not doing enough to end the crisis and some of them are actively fuelling it. A number of resolutions to provide humanitarian relief and protect civilians have been passed and ignored. 5 years on Syria must take priority over political interests. Is our government doing enough?

WHAT WE CAN DO

Contact your MP and ask them to write to the Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, to ensure the UK champions human rights at the Syria talks and lobbies parties to the conflict to :

END UNLAWFUL ATTACKS AGAINST CIVILIANS AND CIVILIAN OBJECTS

LIFT THE SIEGES

ALLOW UNFETTERED HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

RELEASE THOSE DETAINED AND ABDUCTED SOLELY FOR EXERCISING THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS

ENSURE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN PEACE TALKS

END IMPUNITY – ALLOW INDEPENDENT MONITORS ACCESS TO THE COUNTRY

SOCIAL MEDIA AND SOLIDARITY

NGO partners are taking action using a dove symbol with their hands to express solidarity and hope. They will post their pictures on social media using the hashtag #withSyria. You can too and be as creative as you want. Pictures will automatically appear on our coalition website www.withsyria.com if you use the hashtag.

NEW AIUK Syria website

Amnesty has launched The Syria 360 website; check it out at www.360syria.com and share it with contacts and on social media. #360syria

Noticeboard

CAPPE & MEDACT & CAAT
David Wearing
"A Shameful Relationship:
UK Complicity in Saudi State Violence"
Tuesday 5th July 2016
7 - 9 pm

University of Brighton, Pavilion Parade, BN2 1RA

David Wearing is a writer, academic and author of a new report on UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia. He will be in Brighton to discuss his findings on Tuesday 5 July.

British arms are being used by a Saudi-led coalition to indiscriminately kill civilians in Yemen and to enforce authoritarian rule in Saudi Arabia. Since David Cameron entered Downing Street, £24bn of arms sales have been approved for export to the Saudis. This trade is dangerous and destructive and must be stopped.

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) are now calling for a judicial review of the government's decision to keep arming Saudi Arabia, arguing that the sales are unlawful and in breach of arms export regulations.

Everyone is welcome to come and hear more.

Brighton Migrant Solidarity

Barbeque against Borders

Preston Park – Sunday 31st July from 12pm

A family-friendly barbeque/picnic with games. Please bring food to share and maybe something for the barbeque. and we're asking everyone to bring some food to share and may be something for the barbecue.

for more info contact Sue sue@suewilliams44.fsnet.co.uk

BRIGHTON & HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS

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Lanes collection organiser: - Julian julianwatmore@gmail.com 07469776295

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

Amnesty Stalls co-ordinator—Jill —01273 621697

Campaign Co-ordinators:

Individuals at Risk – Waleed Abu Khair—Julian julianwatmore@gmail.com 07469776295

Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala—Sue 07790 755921 sue@suewilliams44.fsnet.co.uk

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

