|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| Amnesty InternationalFrome Group NewsletterWE ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE WORLD STANDING UP FOR HUMANITY AND HUMAN RIGHTSWebsite: [www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/frome](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/frome) |

Letter signing in a pub!Our first “pop-up letter signing shop’ held in the Archangel pub on King Street was a lovely, social affair.It was great to meet so many Frome Amnesty supporters.In total 21 letters were sent. We sent letters on behalf of a prisoner of conscience Sheikh ‘Ali Salman, the Secretary General of the main opposition party in Bahrain, imprisoned for 4 years (now increased to 9 years!) for criticising the government in speeches he made in 2012 and 2014. And we also sent letters to the Tunisian authorities to highlight the discrimination, harassment and violence that many Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) people are facing in Tunisia as a result of Article 230 of the Penal Code which criminalises same-sex consensual sexual relations between adults.If you missed it, don’t worry! The letter signing stall will be making a reappearance on 4th June, 18th June, 9th July and 23rd July and if it proves popular will become a regular event. Watch this space…If you would like to send a letter then let me know which letter you would like / or both by emailing me, Nadine, at njwardman@yahoo.co.uk |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **June 2016****Issue 3**Issue 2 |
|  |
| IN THIS ISSUE: \*Pub letter signing event \* Film night (our May action) \* Hidden gardens \* In National news Journalist Khadija Ismayilova is released |
|  |
|  |

 |
| **Film night – Our May group action for Burkina Faso**https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTZ3rsM0plhr4M6EVpvSGaycxxXOinzNRatZCj4mwoQoNK-cJ41 |

If you came along to the film night on Wednesday 25th May you might have noticed that there was a slight change of plan!

Warminster Film society’s committee met the week before the showing of Difret and decided they would prefer for us to give out leaflets on the door, as people were leaving, instead of having a stall or showing a short film on child marriage, as we had previously planned.

So we gave out tailor-made leaflets that tied the film into Amnesty’s current campaign on early, forced marriage in Burkina Faso. For your copy of the leaflet please email me at njwardman@yahoo.co.uk

Approx 80 people attended the film and approx. 50 leaflets were given out. There was a mixed response; many people were very keen to read the leaflet but other people politely declined!

For more information about Amnesty’s campaign see:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/burkina-faso-child-forced-marriage-contraception-womens-rights>

If you would like would like to take action, here are some ideas…

* **Sign the petition**. Tell Burkina Faso’s government to protect girls from forced marriages

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/w4r-burkina-faso-forced-marriage/>

* **Send a letter to the minister of justice in Burkina Faso.**

Contact Nadine for a pre-typed letter at njwardman@yahoo.co.uk

* **Donate to support the work of Amnesty in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone** Donations received before 18th July 2016 will be matched under the Department for International Development (DfID) Aid Match scheme.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/donate/join-the-revolution-against-fgm-child-marriage-burkina-faso-sierra-leone>

**Frome AI May meeting**

The group met for our monthly meeting on Thursday 19th May at 8pm at the Bridge café.

It was agreed that £300 would be donated to Amnesty International UK.

The campaign to save the human rights act is currently at the top of AIUK’s agenda and therefore Judy has ordered the campaign pack so that as a group we can get prepared to take action!

# Tea and cake…. and flowers

Support Amnesty whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a cake at our stall in Orchard Street allotments, which will be open as part of the Hidden gardens event for Frome festival on **Saturday 9th July, 11-5.**

Would you like to help serve teas and coffees at the hidden gardens event at Orchard street allotments on Saturday 9th July or perhaps serve drinks in aid of Frome AI in your own garden if you are opening it for the hidden gardens event?

Please contact Judy Hosegood at judy.hosegood@btinternet.com

**Journalist Khadija Ismayilova is freed in Azerbaijan**

After a year and a half behind bars for her investigative journalism, Khadija was released on bail when Azerbaijan’s Supreme Court ordered her release on 25 May. Khadija was arrested in December 2014 and had been serving a seven-and-a-half year prison sentence on spurious charges of tax evasion and embezzlement, after her investigative journalism had exposed corruption at the highest levels of government in Azerbaijan. She has been released on bail and her sentence has been reduced to three-and-a-half years on probation. Amnesty is calling on Azerbaijan to overturn the conviction relating to her 2014 arrest and ensuing imprisonment altogether – she has committed no crime. Khadija was simply doing her job as an investigative journalist.

**This is fantastic news!**

In fact the letter that I chose to bring to the Archangel for our letter signing event was about Khadija. Luckily I noticed that she had been released before the event! But it’s brilliant to think that the letter that I wrote urging the government to release her is now not needed.

Letter writing does work!!

**Get involved…**

**If you are able to help out with running events, such as the letter signing events, Frome hidden gardens or other public awareness raising events then please get in touch**

Judy at judy.hosegood@btinternet.com or Nadine at njwardman@yahoo.co.uk

## **Your ideas for the newsletter…**

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