



## **THE BRIGHTON AND HOVE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP NEWSLETTER**

### **Forthcoming Brighton and 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 March

Guest speaker from  
Survivors Speak Out Network  
Freedom from Torture  
and

Business meeting  
7.30pm to 10pm

4th April

Guest speaker  
Medicin Sans Frontier

2nd May

Business meeting and Group AGM

6th June

Speaker from Syrian Non Violence  
Movement

### **Letter writing evenings**

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

28th February  
Host Jill 01273 621697

—please contact Emma on 01273  
232397 if you would like to host a letter  
writing evening

### **Monthly Collection**

23rd March  
Contact Catherine : 07828  
584430 to volunteer

### **Monthly Stall**

23rd March  
Contact Jill 01273 621697

## **Guest speaker**

## **Kolbassia Haossou Survivors Speak Out**

**7.30pm, 7th March  
Community Base  
Queens Road  
Brighton**



Kolbassia Haoussou from the Survivors Speak OUT (SSO) network at Freedom from Torture will be joining us at our March meeting to talk about life in the UK for survivors of torture and why speaking out on behalf of those who have been silenced is at the heart of the network.

SSO are survivors of torture and former clients of Freedom from Torture who actively speak out against torture and its impact.

## Amnesty Film night at Dukes@komedia

Many thanks to everybody that came along to Amnesty's screening of Pablo Larrain's Oscar-nominated film NO.

On the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup> February, members of the Brighton and Hove Amnesty group attended the newly opened 'Dukes' Cinema at Komedia to watch iNO! – A Chilean movie based around a campaign to defeat Augusto Pinochet's repressive 17 year dictatorship in Chile's 1988 referendum. The screening was completely sold out - sadly meaning a few members were not able to view it on the night, but also positively conveying a wide public interest in the surrounding topics of democracy and human rights worldwide.

It was a thought provoking film which included real footage from the time of the campaign- something which Luis Muñoz our guest

speaker particularly liked as he could remember experiencing it first hand back in the 80s – and mixing humour alongside politics in a unique way.

We were extremely pleased to welcome Luis – a Chilean exile and author who, after surviving two years in a concentration camp was exiled from his own country for nearly 10 years by the Pinochet regime. He talked avidly about both his experiences of the regime, as well as his thoughts and hopes for the future of Chile, in particular focussing on women's rights in his country. It was fantastic to be able to hear his accounts.

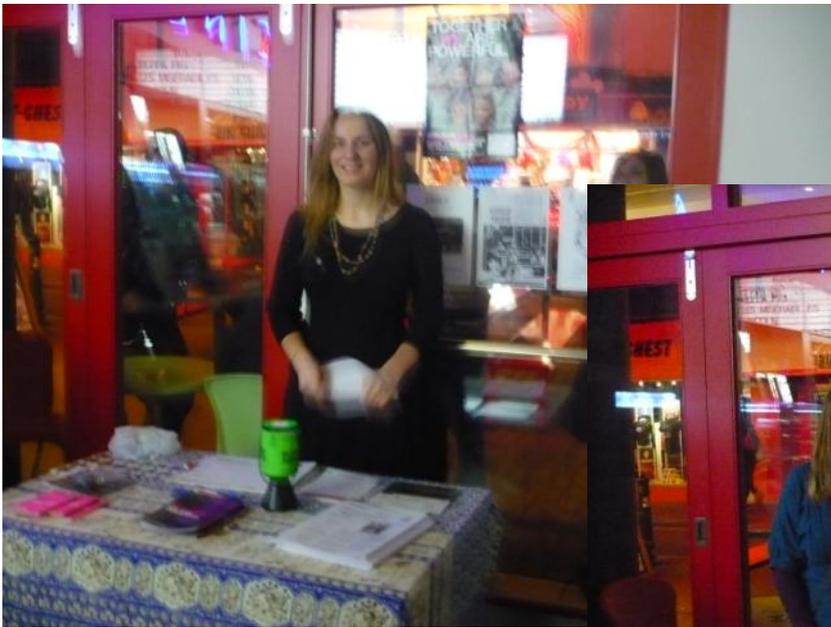
The question and answer session that followed added an extra dimension to the film, where viewers could learn and debate questions surrounding politics in Chile and South America and what the future holds for this region.

Whilst the current Chilean government is now seen to be relatively respectful of human rights, many of the perpetrators of human rights abuses during the regime have not yet been brought to justice, something which Amnesty International is working towards at the moment. Indigenous Mapuche activists have also been subject to human rights abuses over land ownership. Those interested in finding out more can visit <http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/chile>.

Luis Munoz is author of 'Being Luis: A Chilean Life' published by Impress Books Ltd.



## 'No to Impunity' February Stall



Head Office asked Emma if we could provide a stall for a premiere of the film 'No'. (Of course we could ! ) This prize-winning film, starring Gael Garcia Bernal, is about Pinochet's Chile and the advertising campaign created to defeat him. We also had the privilege of having Luis Munoz to introduce the film and answer questions at the end. Catherine has written more about the film and Luis in this newsletter.

We got 42 signatures and hope for a few more to fill up the sheets before we send them to the Human Rights Action Centre in London where they will be forwarded to President Pinera, Many thanks to all who helped with the stall and signed the petition.

We will be collecting signatures for the Tawarghas of Libya who were displaced from their town. They are our 'Prisoners of Conscience'. If you can volunteer to be on the stall for an hour or so, please contact Jill on 01273 621697.

We set up the stall in the foyer of 'The Dukes @ Komedia' in the North Laines. Posters about Chile and the old regime were provided by Dan.

Next month's stall will be outside the Amnesty Bookshop in Sydney Street as usual. It will be on Saturday 23rd March from 11am - 1pm.

*Jill*

Stall helpers had read briefing notes on the situation but had little time to talk as everyone arrived altogether and the event was sold out. (Apologies to those who couldn't get a ticket. We were surprised by the response ourselves.)

Our petition is entitled 'No to Impunity. End the lack of Justice for Pinochet's Victims.' We call upon President Pinera and the Chilean Parliament to revoke the law that grants amnesty to human rights violators including military personnel. We are also asking to preserve the historical memory and put human rights at the forefront of all policies.



## Take Action



## **BRIGHTON AND HOVE AMNESTY – OUR PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE**

Mohamed was 23 when he was killed. He held a diploma in technology and information and worked in a bakery. On the day he was killed he left home to pick up some equipment for his work and met some friends. While he was with them, they came across an injured man near Imbaba Police station. Mohamed tried to help the man by taking him to hospital. While doing so he was shot in the neck and arm, taken to hospital but died shortly after.

The next day, on 30<sup>th</sup> January Mohamed's brother Ashraf was required to sign a statement acknowledging that he did not want the body to be forensically examined or the Public Prosecutor to be notified. However, with the help of a lawyer, Ashraf requested an autopsy and submitted a complaint accusing three police officers from Imbaba Police station of his brother's killing. Shortly after, the family were visited by police officers from this police station pressuring Ashraf to

### **MOHAMED SAYED IBRAHIM ABDEL LATIF (known as Hamoksha)**

drop the case but the family refused. There have been other protesters killed in the area and their families have also been visited and bribed in exchange for dropping their cases. Mohamed's family have joined with these families killed during the uprising to protest against these unlawful killings in Tahir Square and other areas.

Shortly after Mohamed's death an Amnesty International delegation met with his family and the Secretary General of AI met his and other families later in the year. Ashraf Latif, with other families, also met the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Interior who promised that those accused of allegedly killing their sons would be detained, prior to the start of the trial. This has not happened.

In October 2011 the Public Prosecutor referred for trial before a criminal court, four police officers from

the Imbaba Police Station charged with the premeditated murder of Mohamed and others. The trial continues a year later and the officers remain free on bail. To date a number of court verdicts have acquitted police officers accused of killing protesters during the uprising in Egypt, and lawyers and human rights activists have accused prosecutors of not conducting full and independent investigations in these cases.

To date there is no further news as to whether the trial has resumed.

Please sign the attached letter to the Minister of the Interior Mohamed Kamel Amr.

Thank you.

Celia

## **BRIGHTON AND HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS**

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**Amnesty Stalls co-ordinator**—Jill Francis—01273 621697

### **Campaign Co-ordinators:**

**Prisoner of Conscience – The Displaced People of Tawargha** Jill Francis—[jrfrancis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jrfrancis@hotmail.co.uk)

**Prisoner of Conscience—MOHAMED SAYED IBRAHIM ABDEL LATIF**—Celia Stubbs—01273 593833

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**Control Arms; securing the Arms Trade Treaty** —Luke Beale—[lukebeale@hotmail.com](mailto:lukebeale@hotmail.com)

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