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| 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)Tea and cake…. and flowersSupport 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.**Books |
| **Books and Bunting – Our April town event.*****A huge success despite the very British weather!*** |

On Saturday 9th April we held a letter signing event and book stall just opposite the library in the Farmers’ market. Despite the rain it proved to be a popular event, raising £102\* in book sales and donations in just 4 hours!(\*minus the costs of postage)Thank you if you braved the weather to support AI. It was great to see that the books attracted lots of people to the stall, young and old, including many people who hadn’t heard of Amnesty International. We wrote messages on bunting triangles to girls who have fled from early, forced marriages and who are currently housed in shelters across |  |

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| May 2016Issue 2Issue 2 |
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| IN THIS ISSUE: \* Success – Our April group action “Books and bunting” event \* AGM news \* In National news.. Court clears London arms fair protesters \* Film night – Our May action for the My Body, My rights campaign  |
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Burkina Faso that are supported by Amnesty International.

33 letters to the authorities in Burkina Faso were signed and we also sent 20 letters about Alaa Brinji, a prisoner of conscience in Saudi Arabia.

If you were unable to attend the event but would like to send a letter then please contact me, Nadine Crook – njwardman@yahoo.co.uk.

**Frome AI Group’s AGM**

Our annual AGM and monthly meeting was held on Thursday 21st April 8pm at the Bridge café, Selwood Road.

A huge thank you to Kit Pharaoh who steps down as treasurer after 4 years.Thank you for your hard work.

Claire Stott has kindly agreed to take over this position.

Judy Hosegood will continue as the group coordinator and I (Nadine Crook) will take over the role of group secretary/ newsletter editor temporarily from Cath Adkins until July.

***Review of the group’s activities***

It’s been a busy year! In total 230 letters have been sent as a group and many of us have also sent letters individually in response to requests from AI on behalf of individuals or groups at risk of, or being subject to, human rights abuses, including urgent actions.

Judy has kindly written a review of Frome AI group’s activities which you should have received as an email attachment (word document) along with this newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our events this year and I hope this newsletter will inspire you to come along to our upcoming events…!

**Court clears London arms fair protesters**

Angela Ditchfield, Lisa Butler, Isa al-Aali, Thomas Franklin, Javier Garate Neidhardt, Susannah Mengesha, Luis Tinoco Torrejon and Bram Vranken were charged with willful obstruction of the highway after they attempted to block military vehicles from entering the ExCel centre in Docklands, East London. They said that they acted to stop the sale of weapons to regimes accused of human rights abuses, including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Israel. The court dismissed the charges against the 8 protestors after they along with expert witnesses from Amnesty International, Corruption Watch UK and the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy successfully argued that they had acted to stop far greater crimes from being committed using weapons from the UK. Aali, a Bahraini refugee granted asylum in Britain after he was tortured in his home country for taking part in protests against the regime, said he was delighted. (Information source: Guardian newspaper Saturday 16th April, 2016.)

Yes! A day of justice!

**Film night – Our May action** 

 **Film: ‘Difret’**

**Wednesday 25th May 7.30pm**

**1 ½ hours Cert.12 (USA/ Ethiopia - 2015)**

*Three hours outside of Addis Ababa, Hirut, a 14 year old girl on her way home from school is kidnapped. The brave girl grabs a rifle and tries to escape, but ends up shooting her would-be husband. In her Ethiopian village, the practice of abduction into marriage is traditional. A young lawyer, arrives from the city to represent her arguing that she acted in self-defence – boldly embarking on a collision course between enforcing civil authority and customary law.*

Doors open at 6:45pm, Tea/ coffee and wine available from 6:45pm. The auditorium is open from 7pm.

The film is free for Warminster and District film society members. Non-member guest tickets are £5.50 and can be booked in advance from the Box office, from the website and on the door (if still available). The box office is open Mon-Sat 10:30-1pm. The Athenaeum Theatre, 18-20 High Street, Warminster, BA12 9AE. Telephone 01985 213891. [www.theath.org.uk](http://www.theath.org.uk)

To enquire about film society membership please call 01985 219024.

Warminster film society have kindly agreed for us to have a stall in foyer. Our stall will display information from the My body, my rights campaign on the subject of early and forced marriage in Burkina Faso.

We will also have letters to sign that we will send to the authorities in Burkina Faso.

**So throw on your glad rags and join us for a night at the flicks!**

**The following excerpt is from Amnesty international UK’s most recent report on forced marriages in Burkina Faso published on 26 April 2016**

*“I am the youngest in my family. My mum had six children. My dad has four wives. I never got to finish attending even the first year of primary school, I don’t know why my parents took me out of school. I had to spend my days helping out with household tasks. About two weeks ago my dad married me to a 70-year-old man who already has five wives. My dad threatened me saying, ‘If you don’t go to join your husband I will kill you.’ I spent three days with my other co-wives at the house, then I fled. I walked for three days to get to the centre for young girls here in Kaya.” “Maria”, a 13-year-old girl, interviewed by Amnesty International at a women’s shelter in Kaya in May 2015.*

*Burkina Faso has some of the highest rates of early and forced marriage in the world, despite the fact that forcing someone to marry against their will is a criminal offence in the country.*

***Let’s make a difference to girls like Maria.. See you on 25th May!***

# Burkina Faso: Coerced and denied: Forced marriages and barriers to contraception in Burkina Faso

# <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr60/3851/2016/en/>

## **Your ideas please…..**

## **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

## **Frome Amnesty Group on Facebook?**

Please let me 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?

Please let me have your thoughts … njwardman@yahoo.co.uk

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?

Would you like to help us behind our stall for the film night event?

Then please contact Judy Hosegood at judy.hosegood@btinternet.com