

# Amnesty International Southend Group

[amnestysouthend.googlemail.com](mailto:amnestysouthend.googlemail.com)  
[www.amnesty.org.uk/southend](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/southend)



## JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER

### NEXT GROUP MEETING

Thursday  
9<sup>th</sup> July 7:30pm  
50 Merryfield Approach  
LEIGH-ON-SEA  
SS9 4HJ

### Amnes Tea

Mike & Muriel are holding an  
Amnes Tea  
at 36 Orchard Avenue, Hockley SS5 5BE,  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2:30pm – 5:00pm  
Bring a cake!!

DRINK TEA AND RAISE MONEY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



### WRITE, WRITE, WRITE, WRITE, e-mail

[Raif Badawi](#) – still at risk of flogging. Please  
send appeals before 20<sup>th</sup> July. **SEND A FATHERS'  
DAY GREETING TO HIS [FAMILY](#)**

**Two pastors in Sudan** – Rev Yat Michael and  
Rev Peter Yen held incommunicado and charged  
with offences attracting the death penalty. Please  
send appeals before 21<sup>st</sup> July. Details attached.

### Martin's Sponsored Walk

We'd welcome your company and sponsorship on  
**SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> August starting at 2:00pm** at the  
Coastguard Station to the south of Gunners Park in  
Shoebury and walking 7 miles to Leigh –on-Sea.  
There's already a small but eager band ready to  
walk in sun hats and Amnesty jackets so please  
join us.

Please let us know if you'll sponsor Martin  
[amnestysouthend.googlemail.com](mailto:amnestysouthend.googlemail.com).  
or use the sponsorship form attached  
and bring it along with you

### LEIGH FOLK FESTIVAL

We have a slot at the Leigh  
Folk Festival 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June  
Martin and Andrew need  
some support handing out  
leaflets, etc.

Please contact Andrew on  
**07837 729457** if you can help

### GROUP SUBS

Thanks to all of you who've sent in  
subscriptions and donations –  
we've received £320 so far. If you  
haven't already, please send your  
£10 subs – or support the  
Sponsored Walk or Amnes Tea

## Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Martin's home in Westcliff-on-Sea

*There were 7 of us at the meeting and we spent most of it writing appeal letters and letters and sending e-mails on behalf of two pastors in Sudan and the Saudi Arabian blogger Raif Badawi. If you want to write in their support, you can find details of these cases by clicking on the links.*

**Present:** Andrew, Richard, Audrey, Doug, Martin, Muriel & Mike.

**Apologies:** Dick, Steve & Maureen, Heidrun, Jean and Tricia.

**Last meeting** – The next Big Event is 6<sup>th</sup> September in Priory Park; Mike will try to book a place. The Leigh Folk Festival is the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June: Martin and Andrew will be there for the Group if Mike can book a slot **(HELP NEEDED - SEE FRONT PAGE!)**.

**Stop Torture Campaign** - Andrew reported that although, of the five "postcard cases", Claudia Medina Tamariz (Mexico) and Moses Akatugba (Nigeria) had been released (as has Ángel Colón in Mexico) no progress seems to have been made for Alfreda Disbarro (Philippines), Ali Aarrass (Morocco) or Dilorom Abdukadirova (Uzbekistan). Andrew's latest **Campaign Update** is on the website. A Stop Torture event is arranged for Southend High School for boys in October and he will approach other schools.

**Burma** – no recent actions.

**Prageeth Eknaligoda (Sri Lanka)** – Doug has received the case file for Prageeth Eknaligoda a journalist/cartoonist from Sri Lanka who disappeared in 2010. Actions are focussed on specific dates like the anniversary of his disappearance and Doug has some material prepared for the next meeting.

**Treasurer** – Steve has now completed the audit and the books will be returned to Heidrun when she comes home.

**Membership** – Mu reported that we had received a total of £270 (now £320) up to the day of the meeting. Thanks to everybody who has contributed.

**Fundraising** – the **sponsored walk** will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> August - 2:00pm at the Coastguard Station to the south of Gunners Park, Shoebury. Sponsorship needed **SEE FRONT PAGE**. A poster and flyer for the **Amnes Tea** on 12<sup>th</sup> July are attached. **PLEASE SUPPLY A CAKE!!**

**Secretary** – the Balmoral Centre has been booked for the Write for Rights event on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December. We've been offered a room there at £8 per hour, which we decided to accept, starting from September.

The AI UK Monthly Mailing contained information about Refugee Week (15 – 21<sup>st</sup> June – a bit late notice to organise anything!); the Save The Human Rights Act Campaign (quote "A *template press release for local media will be sent out to group media workers at the end of May*"); the My Body My Rights Campaign, which we've decided not to get involved in; and the Global Day of Action in Support of Victims of Torture on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**AOB** – why did you join Amnesty? Please tell us – write a brief note (250 – 300 words) on whatever moved you to join and we'll put it on the website and Facebook pages; it wouldn't be necessary to give your full name (phone number, e-mail and postal address!!) but it would be interesting to learn why you joined and it might stimulate somebody else to do so.

**Next Meeting:** 1<sup>th</sup> June, 7:30pm at Andrew's home - 50 Merryfield Approach, Leigh-on-Sea SS9 4HJ

*Mike Pregnall*

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