



## 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 November**  
Group Business meeting

**5th December**  
Group meeting and Christmas social

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

**21st November**  
Host Maude  
maude.casey@ntlworld.com

**Monthly Collection**  
Contact Catherine : 07828 584430 to volunteer

**Monthly Stall**  
In November we have been invited to have a stall at the following event:

**Saturday 10th November**  
Hove Town Hall  
11am to 1pm  
(at Table top sale)  
Contact Jill 01273 621697

**Write for Rights**  
Day of Action  
7th December  
Friends Meeting House  
10am to 4pm

## WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2013

Brighton and Hove Amnesty International's  
Annual Letter Writing Vigil

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013  
10-4pm

Friends Meeting House, Ship St, Brighton

*Write a message of hope  
to human rights victims worldwide*

*Live music, home-baked refreshments, winter  
Warmers...*



## Write for Rights Campaign 2013 Volunteers Needed

On 7<sup>th</sup> December we will once again be inviting you to join us at the Friends Meeting House to send a personal message to one or more of the individuals and communities that feature in our Write for Rights campaign.

These people are just like you. With mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, and friends who miss them. We want you to send them a message and let them know they haven't been forgotten. Details of all the cases are available at [amnesty.org.uk/write](http://amnesty.org.uk/write).

To make this event a success a lot of work goes into the planning and organising and we are looking for volunteers to start work on this as soon as possible.

If you are able to help on the day (setting up the room, greeting and directing people, serving cakes and clearing up), bake cakes, put up some posters, publicise the event ....

please contact Emma on 01273 232397

## **Arms Trade Treaty: Progress Continues**



*John Kerry (US Secretary of State) signs Arms Trade Treaty*

On 25<sup>th</sup> September the USA took the crucial step of signing the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). As one of the world's leading arms exporters, this is encouraging and will add to the pressure on other countries who have yet to sign the treaty, including China and Russia.

The UN meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September was called 'The Arms Trade Treaty: Towards Entry into Force' and was designed to encourage more states to sign and ratify the treaty. The meetings co-authors were Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom. That the UK is among those still actively pushing for more signatories is of course very welcome news.

As mentioned in previous updates, 50 countries must ratify the ATT before it will enter into force. At the time of writing 114 countries have signed it, and 8 have ratified it. 29 of those signatures and 4 of those ratifications (Costa Rica, Grenada, Mexico and Trinidad & Tobago) have happened since the UN meeting in September.

It is particularly important that the USA has finally signed the ATT, considering the pressure from Republicans and the gun lobby in America, which has argued (falsely) that the ATT could interfere with US citizens right to bear arms. The ATT is set to regulate the international transfer of arms, not with arms sales within any particular country.

Amnesty will continue to pressure more countries to sign, and for those that have to ratify the treaty.

*Luke  
Control Arms Campaign Co-ordinator*

### **Season's Greetings from Books for Amnesty Brighton**

Visit Books for Amnesty Brighton during the festive season to stock up on Amnesty Christmas cards and gifts including calendars and diaries.

You can also browse for presents or festive reading from our range of good quality secondhand and nearly-new books at bargain prices on subjects from Art to Philosophy, alongside an extensive range of fiction.

#### **Other ways to support us**

We are always looking for donations, so if you need to make room for an influx of Christmas gifts or are having a post-Christmas clear out, please bring us your good quality books.

If you would like to find out about volunteering in the shop please email us at [books@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:books@amnesty.org.uk). We can also be found selling online at ABE books (link from website) as well as Amazon marketplace [http://www.amazon.co.uk/shops/A21X3KLT2EM9O3/ref=aag\\_d\\_sh](http://www.amazon.co.uk/shops/A21X3KLT2EM9O3/ref=aag_d_sh)

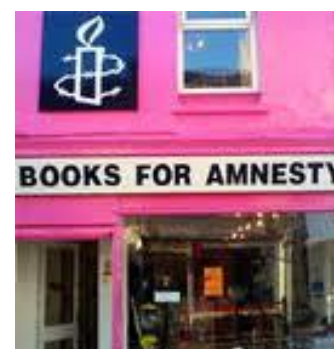
We look forward to seeing you soon,

#### **Books for Amnesty Brighton**

15 Sydney street,

Brighton, BN1 4EN Tel: 01273 688 983.

Opening hours: Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm(but often 6pm); Sun, 12pm-4pm



**Minutes of Brighton and Hove's Amnesty International Meeting  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013**

**1. 8.00pm Welcome and apologies – present** Catherine, Julian, Annie, Salah, Jill, Celia, Maude, Kate, Michael, Kafa, Jasmin, Nedd, Ban, Emma, Liz, Barbara, Julia, Maddie, John, Caroline, Gwyneth, Peter, Kato, Angela, Caroline  
**Film showing and talk – Caroline and John. Boycott, divestment and sanctions tour of Southern France**  
Caroline and John held an interesting presentation about their experiences in Southern France, touring and campaigning for BDS of Israeli goods and raising awareness of the situation in Palestine. Film footage showed them staging street drama, singing, dancing and protesting, in solidarity with Palestinians. Discussion was held over police force and violence and the use of legal observers, as well as whether the South East could host the BDS tour in 2014.

**2. Treasurers report**

Clothes swap profit: £470; Annual Street Collection: £417.66; Cheque to AIUK: £700  
Current balance: £573.80

**3. Lanes collection – Catherine**

Rota was passed around for group to volunteer to fundraise outside the Friends Meeting House on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2013 between 11-4pm.

**4. Monthly Action and mailing from head office – Liz**

The Monthly Action Coordinator Liz will sadly be moving to Lewes Amnesty Group.

Members are encouraged to put themselves forward for this role if interested. Please contact Emma on the group email for more information.

This monthly action was for the Sri Lankan Tamil Community. Although civil war has ended, repression of this group still continues. Letters were written to the secretary general of the Commonwealth as well as William Hague, in the run up to Sri Lanka hosting the Commonwealth Heads of State Meeting this year.

**5. Monthly stall – Jill and Celia**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October: Amnesty Stall for Shaker Aamer will be at 'Resisting New Racism' event at the Brighthelm Centre 1-3pm.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November: Stall for missing person from Dominican Republic will be at Hove Town Hall's Table-Top sale.

**6. Monthly letter writing evenings – Emma's house , 13 Argyle Road, Brighton, BN1 4QA – 16th October**

An evening once a month to sit and write letters with fellow Amnesty members, hosted at members houses. For more information on this event please contact Emma (01273 232397)

**7. Write for Rights – 7th December**

This writing vigil to prisoners of Conscience, families and human rights defenders is organised annually. Roles were shared out between the group to help organise it.

\*\*\*Maud: To invite VIP's

Mike: Arrange musical entertainment

Cat: Design flyers/posters

Jill: To order post cards

Celia: To invite children's choir/contact Jackie Chase

Emma: To order campaign materials from Head Office\*\*\*

\*\*\* To contact press/media in November\*\*\*

**8. JAmnesty - Music night with University of Sussex group – Annie**

\*\*\*Members from Sussex University Amnesty Group attended the meeting to put forward their plans to hold a Jamnesty. They are keen to join forces with the group to create this event, so members were invited to volunteer in helping. Contacts shared. \*\*\*

**9. Annual Street Collection (14th September)**

Feedback : This was very successful, raising over £400 for Amnesty. Emma had asked head office to email all Amnesty Members in the Brighton and Hove area details of the collection. Proved very successful and reached people who would otherwise not have been contacted.

**10. Stall at Bhasvic Charities fair – 19th September**

Feedback: Again this was a success, with lots of charities holding stalls and students voting on who the Student's Union will fundraise for throughout the year. Still awaiting the results but either way it was a good event to have a presence at.

**11. Any other business**

- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 7.30, Brighton Unitarian Church. Music for Bhopal. 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bhopal gas disaster. £12/£7.

- Angus 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party, 9<sup>th</sup> November, RSVP.

Save Shaker Aamer meeting in London report back from Maud.

24<sup>th</sup> November brings the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his imprisonment in Guantanamo. Still has not been a parliamentary debate. Need to put pressure on William Hague, MPs and Alistair Burt. Parliamentary demos will be held Wednesdays 1-3pm starting on 9<sup>th</sup> October. All welcome.

Caroline. Every Saturday there is a demo outside Soda Stream on Western Road. Palestinian Solidarity Campaign. BDS of Israeli goods.

- Mike: Herman Wallace from the Angola Three has now been released. He is terminally ill with cancer after having been held in solitary confinement for 40 years.

**12. Meeting Closed –10.00pm**

## TAKE ACTION

## Student protestors serving long sentences



Thongpaseuth Keuakoun and Seng-Aloun Phenphanh are serving 20-year prison sentences for attempting to display posters which called for political, social and economic change in Laos. They are two of the five members of Lao Students Move-

ment for Democracy who were arrested and sentenced for treason in 1999. One died in 2001 due to severe punishment, and two have been released. Conditions in Samkhe Prison are harsh, with poor medical care and food. Torture and other ill-treatment are common; prisoners are reportedly given tasks that are almost impossible to

complete and severely punished if unable to do so.

Please write in your own words or send the enclosed letter or email: [ict@mofa.gov.la](mailto:ict@mofa.gov.la)

Emma



## Benefit Concert for Amnesty

**22nd December, 6.30pm**  
**St John's Sub Castro, Lewes**

congregational carols interspersed with performance spots by musicians and poets

### **BRIGHTON & HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS**

**Chair** – Emma [brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com) Tel: 01273 232397

**New Member Secretary:** Sue Tel: 07790 755921

**Mail Secretary:** Volunteer needed

**Email Secretary:** Emma Tel: 01273 232397 **Group Email:** [brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com)

**Minutes Secretary:** Catherine 07828 584430

**Treasurer:** Catherine 07759271399

**Newsletter editor:** - Emma Parker: Tel: 01273 232397

Please email any contributions for the newsletter to [brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com)

**Lanes collection organiser:** - Catherine 07759271399

**Web Site co-ordinator:** Michael Fisher - [michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com)

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

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

**Afghanistan—Women's Rights**—Gwyneth [gwyneth.jones@ntlworld.com](mailto:gwyneth.jones@ntlworld.com)

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

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

**Security and Human Rights**—Michael—[michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com)

**Arms Trade Treaty**—Luke [lukebeale@hotmail.com](mailto:lukebeale@hotmail.com)

**Amnesty Websites:** international - [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org) AI UK - [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk) local group - [www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton)

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<http://www.flickr.com/groups/amnestybrighton/pool>

**Amnesty UK Human Rights Centre** - Tel: 0207 0331500

