



## THE BRIGHTON AND HOVE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

### Forthcoming Brighton & Hove Amnesty Group Meetings/Events

#### Clothes Swap and Sale Saturday 31st August

1-4pm  
Brighton Unitarian Church, New Road,  
Brighton

*Group meetings take place on the first  
Thursday of each month from 8-10pm  
at Community Base, Queens Road,  
Brighton*

#### 5th September

Group meeting and  
Film showing of Hamedullah  
The Road Home  
documentary about a young teenager  
returned to Afghanistan

#### 3rd October

Speaker Caroline O'Reilly  
Touring Palestinian Campaign

#### 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:

#### 17th September

Host Jill  
01273 621697

#### Monthly Collection

(next collection October)  
Contact Catherine : 07828 584430 to  
volunteer

#### Annual Street Collection

14th September  
Brighton  
2pm to 5pm  
Contact Emma 01273 232397

#### Monthly Stall

21st September  
Stalls are in Sydney Street outside the  
Amnesty bookshop  
Contact Jill 01273 621697

#### Amnesty Stall at BHASVIC charity fair

19th September  
**Write for Rights**

Day of Action  
7th December  
Friends Meeting House

## Brighton and Hove Annual Street Collection

**14th September 2013  
2pm to 5pm  
Meeting at Friends Meeting House  
Ship Street, Brighton**



Volunteers are needed for our  
annual street collection in Bright-  
on town centre on Saturday  
14th September. We have 30  
one hour slots available  
throughout the afternoon (2pm  
to 5pm)

Our annual collection is one of  
our main ways throughout the  
year of raising funds for Am-  
nesty's vital work – in addition  
to sending money to Amnesty  
headquarters to support re-  
search and campaigning inter-  
nationally we also use funds  
raised to increase awareness  
and campaigning in Brighton  
and Hove.

In order for our street collection  
to be a success again this year  
we need as many volunteers as  
possible to collect for an hour of  
their time. So if you can help  
on Saturday 14th it would be  
hugely appreciated.

**Please Contact Emma if  
you are able to join us:**

**Tel: 01273 232397  
Email:  
Brightonandhoveai  
@googlemail.com**

## Stall at Brighton Pride 2013

This year we had our stall outside the Amnesty Bookshop in Sydney Street instead of at the Pride event in Preston Park. The flamboyant parade with outrageous costumes and extrovert behaviour went down London Road which is parallel to Sydney Street. Many people made their way to the event passing our stall so it was a good position to be in.

We had three actions on the stall:-

There were letters to sign about Ahmet Yildiz, a Turkish gay man

who was killed by his father in an 'honour' killing in 2008. We are asking the Minister of Justice to investigate the murder as no action has been taken so far.

We signed a letter to send to Ahmet's partner in sympathy and solidarity with him.

We had a large rainbow flag which we signed and will send to LAMDA (Turkish gay organisation) in Istanbul to encourage them in their work for equality for gay people.



There was a joyful atmosphere and most people that were asked were pleased to join in the actions. A hundred letters were sent to the Ministry of Justice in Turkey.

Jill and Celia

### ARMS TRADE TREATY UPDATE

On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 the UN voted to adopt the Arms Trade Treaty that Amnesty and so many others have been fighting for for many years. 154 states voted to adopt the treaty, 3 voted against (North Korea, Iran and Syria), and 23 abstained from voting (including China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and India).

In order for the treaty to enter into force, 50 states must sign and then ratify it. At the time of writing, 83 states have signed it, and 4 have ratified it. This process takes some time as ratification involves action by the state at a national level, after discussion by that states government / parliament.

The 4 countries to have ratified the treaty are Antigua & Barbuda, Guyana, Iceland, and Nigeria. Of the 83 countries to have signed the treaty, the US is not yet one of them, however Secretary of State John Kerry has publicly committed to signing it. The main issue will be getting the treaty ratified by the US Senate, which will require a 2/3 majority.

The UK has signed the treaty and is expected to ratify it.

Currently the UK has one of the strictest controls on arms exports in the world, but still approves arms exports to countries such as Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Egypt - all of whom have reportedly used such weapons against their own people.

*Luke  
Control Arms Campaign Co-ordinator*

#### **ACTION:**

In light of the current violence in Egypt, call on Foreign secretary William Hague to stop approving arms sales, and to pressure the US to drop it's annual \$1.3 billion aid to the country.

Write to: William Hague MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Example text:

*"Dear Mr Hague,*

*In light of the Egyptian military's latest attacks on civilians, causing upwards of 700 deaths, I urge you to:*

*Stop approving arms sales to Egypt.*

*Use your influence to pressure the US to drop it's annual \$1.3 billion aid package to Egypt.*

*Ratify the Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible.*

*Kind regards,"*

**Amnesty International Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013-08-19**

**8.00pm Welcome and apologies**

- Attendees: Catherine, Jill, Luke B, Jess, Freya, Ester, Nisha, Julian, Mike, Jim, Liz, Madeline, Emma.
- Apologies: Gwyneth, Peter, Maud, Laura

**Minutes and matters arising**

- Hove Annual Street collection is not being run this year as the council is not allowing us to book two collections in the same month. Brighton collection to go ahead on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2-5pm.

**Lanes collection – Catherine**

- Rota passed around for this months lanes collection to be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 11-4pm.

**Treasurers Report**

- Current balance £430.44

Amnesty International Brighton and Hove have received a generous donation of £401 from a Tea Party organised by a local resident.

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

- There has been no monthly mailing sent this month (possibly not arrived yet as it is 1<sup>st</sup> August). Group agreed to do 2 monthly actions next meeting.
- The group signed letters to Eduardo Montealegre in Colombia in support of Diego Martinez and Jelson Paba, human rights defenders who have been receiving death threats after participating in an International Youth for Peace event.

**Monthly stall – Jill and Celia**

- Last months stall was successful with over 100 postcards sent to the Guantanamo hunger strikers and many donations given.
- Next stall will be at Pride Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August from 1-3pm where people will be asked to sign a flag/banner to support LGBT rights.

**Monthly letter writing evenings – Jill’s House 17th September 37 Richmond Road.**

**Prisoners of Conscience – Displaced people of Tawargha – Jill**

Jill has written to the Mayor to ask him to write to the Misrata council. It is hoped this will put higher pressure on Libya with the Mayor having more authority and influence.

**Afghan Women’s Rights –Stall at Brunswick Festival 17th August**

- There will be a stall on 17<sup>th</sup> August from 12-5 at the Brunswick festival with a head scarf for supporters of Afghan women’s rights to add purple fingerprints to. Emma has also got some blown up photographs of Caroline Lucas signing the pledge to display. The group suggested dressing up in traditional Afghani dress.

**Security and Human Rights – Michael**

- Bradley Manning - maximum penalty would be 136 years.
- Edward Snowden has received 1 year asylum in Russia.
- There has been a good public response and solidarity to the Close Guantanamo campaign.
- There are possible moves afoot to move Shaker Aamer to Saudi Arabia on his release.
- There has been a new appointment in America of Clifford Sloan whose mission it is to implement the closure of Guantanamo. Amnesty supporters can write to him at:

Special Envoy for Closure of Guantanamo

Office for the closure of Guantanamo, US Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520

**Education – Freya**

- Freya has been speaking in a number of secondary schools around the county, none of which had Amnesty groups but most had some form of human rights education.
- Jess expressed an interest in talking to youth groups/Nisha re. Brighton Youth Centre.
- Freya has also produced 2 x 30 min radio programmes aired on Radio Free Brighton which had very positive feedback.

**Media – Jim**

- Nisha has produced a press release for the Guantanamo stall and is happy to do a press release for the clothes swap.
- Brighton and Hove Amnesty International now has a personal facebook account as well as a group.
- Jim has also produced a guide of ‘Ways to promote Amnesty Events’ which was circulated.

**Fundraising event (Clothes Swap) 31st August – Freya, Cat and Laura**

Organisation for this event is well under way. All donations of clothes will be gladly accepted from 12 mid-day on the day, or alternatively if you can’t make it but wish to donate we can come and collect from you prior to this date so long as it is around the Brighton and Hove area. Just contact [brightonand-hoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonand-hoveai@googlemail.com)/ [\\_crforman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:_crforman@hotmail.co.uk)/ [laura\\_hadwin@live.co.uk](mailto:laura_hadwin@live.co.uk).

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

- We are only having a Brighton collection this year. Emma has booked the Friends Meeting House as a base for volunteers to meet and will send out letters to all previous collectors for help.

**Any other business**

- Hiroshima Day Commemoration organised by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 8.15-9.15pm, Queens Park in Brighton.
- Freya will be moving to France for 9 months so next meeting will be her last for a few months. Group agreed to bring wine and nibbles to share at the end of the meeting.
- Discussion re. future speakers. Ideas mentioned were Luis Muñoz from Chile, The Burma Campaign and a DVD about an Afghan asylum seeker.

**Meeting Closed**

## **URGENT ACTION – EGYPT MEANS TO DEPORT REFUGEES INCLUDING CHILDREN**



The Egyptian authorities are preparing to deport 13 Syrians to Turkey and 28 Palestinians from Syria to the Gaza Strip. The group which includes at least 13 children and 10 women, had sought refuge in Egypt after fleeing conflict in Syria. Under international law, Egypt has a responsibility to protect people fleeing the conflict.

They were arrested on 9<sup>th</sup> August near the port of El-Dekhela in Alexandria. A prosecutor ordered their release but the security forces

have continued to hold the group in El-Dekhela police station for “national security” reasons. After the immigration office classified the group, the government ordered that the 13 Syrians be deported to Turkey and that the 28 Palestinians who have been living as refugees in Syria, be deported to the Gaza Strip. The office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Cairo has confirmed that at least 8 of the Syrians are registered as refugees. All the Palestinians hold documents or file numbers showing that they are registered with the Syrian office of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East.

Anyone fleeing the conflict in Syria should be considered to be in need of international protection, including Syrian nationals and Palestinian refugees who live in Syria. The responsibility for providing this protection falls on the country where these individuals are, in this case Egypt. In particular, Egypt is a signatory to the Organisation of African Unity Refugee Convention, which regards people fleeing internal armed conflicts as refugees.

Please take action by signing and posting this letter.

Thank you.

Celia

### **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:** Liz Tel: 07598 467568

**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

**Social Media officer**— Jim Garside —[j.d.garside@gmail.com](mailto:j.d.garside@gmail.com)

### **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** Jill Francis—[jrfrancis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jrfrancis@hotmail.co.uk)

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

**End Forced Evictions: Poverty and Human Rights**—Freya - [freya\\_lyte@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:freya_lyte@hotmail.co.uk)

**Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** - Caroline—[Carolineoreilly1972@gmail.com](mailto:Carolineoreilly1972@gmail.com)

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

