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| |  | | --- | |  | | Amnesty International  Frome Group Newsletter  **WE ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE WORLD STANDING UP FOR HUMANITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS** Website: [www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/frome](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/frome) |  Book sale and letter writing event -our September group action On Saturday 24th September 9 -1 we will be holding a letter signing stall in the market place, just opposite Frome library, near to the footbridge.  On 10th October it is World Day against the Death Penalty and so in anticipation of this we will be highlighting the case of Matsumoto Kenji**[Matsumoto Kenji](http://webmail.amnesty.org.uk/_act/link.php?mId=J9188503018817142680428756342922&tId=219443573)** We will be sending letters to Japan’s Minister of Justice calling on him not to execute Matsumoto Kenji and to introduce a moratorium on executions in Japan. Please click on this link for more information  <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/sites/default/files/september_2016_monthly_group_action_-_matsumoto_kenji.docx.pdf> |  | |  | | --- | | **September 2016****Issue 6** Issue 2 | |  | | IN THIS ISSUE: \*September book sale / letter signing event \*Write for rights \*The ‘Syria campaign’ talk | |  | |  | |

**Write for rights campaign**

We will be participating in the *Write for Rights* campaign which will be launched nationwide on 1st November. 12 cases of people whose human rights are being abused will be featured in a booklet produced by Amnesty and there will be more cases online. This year Amnesty also has a new website for the campaign….

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/>

…. and it’s not just letters. Go online and you’ll find petitions, emails, you can tweet or post on Facebook. Do whatever you feel will make the biggest impact.

Last year Louisiana prisoner Albert Woodfox was one of the people who featured in the write for rights campaign. He walked free on 19 February 2016 (his 69th birthday), 44 years after he was first put into solitary confinement. More than 200,000 people took action for Albert during the write for rights campaign in 2015.

**We will be holding letter writing events. Dates and venues are yet to be confirmed but enquiries are currently being made… Watch this space!**

**SYRIA CAMPAIGN talk**

On Tuesday 30th August Judy, Claire and I (Nadine) attended West Wiltshire’s Amnesty group for a talk by Jim and Tabitha Ross (husband and wife team) about their work with the SYRIA CAMPAIGN.

## The Syria campaign is an independent advocacy group campaigning for a peaceful and democratic future for Syria. The talk was both an informative and heart wrenching account of the current situation in Syria. The talk covered the background to the current humanitarian crisis in Syria and the work of the Syria campaign to get the message out about what is happening in Syria currently. They explained the tactics used by the Assad regime to crush peaceful opposition and drain morale, for example, barrel bomb attacks, and targeting of medical facilities. They also highlighted the work of the ‘White Helmets’ – the Syrian Civil Defence, who have been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to save lives following air strikes.

## Watch out for a film soon to be released on Netflix called ‘*The White Helmets’.* The West Wiltshire group are planning to show this film. Watch this space!

## For more information and to sign up to the email list, please go to

## <https://thesyriacampaign.org/?akid=326.7306.X55Qfb>

# Thank you for supporting our August group action

On Saturday 6th August we held a letter signing stall, a book sale and also asked people to sign our Refugee pledge placard which will be going to the ‘Welcome Refugees March’ in London on 17th September.

The pledge calls on the Prime Minster to lead in delivering a humane and effective response to the global refugee crisis. Amnesty groups from across the UK are asking people to sign the pledge and are promoting this action in the media and online to demonstrate that there is widespread support for refugees.

We raised £67.93 from donations and the sale of books and sent 33 letters in total, 15 letters to Brazil and 18 letters to the United Arab Emirates. The placard was also fairly well covered in signatures by the end of the morning.

## **Your ideas for the newsletter…**

If you have any feedback about the group newsletter or would like anything included in the next issue then please feel free to contact me – Nadine Crook

[njwardman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:njwardman@yahoo.co.uk)

**Our group meets on the third Thursday of each month**

**at the Bridge Café, Selwood Road, Frome, BA11 3BS at 8pm.**

**Our next meeting is: Thursday 15th September 2016**