

Action

September 2015



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*

3rd September 2015

Group business meeting
And trainer on Mr Body My Rights
Campaign

1st October 2015

Group Business meeting

Letter Writing Evenings

An evening once a month to sit and
write letters with fellow Amnesty
members. Date and venue to be
confirmed for September
Please contact Peter 01273 607110

Monthly Collection

17th October
21st November
Contact Julian
julianwatmore@gmail.com
07469776295

Monthly Stall

5th September
Re Shaker Aamer
Sydney Street
Contact Jill 01273 621697

Street Collection

26th September 2015

Write for Rights

5th December
10am to 4pm
Friends Meeting House
Ship Street
Brighton

Fundraising update



Silent Auction:

A fantastic result from this years' silent auction. We
raised an amazing £533.91

Many thanks to everyone who took part. All those who
bided and to the many local businesses who made such
generous donations.

We are already looking forward to silent auction 2016

Street Collection:

The Street collection date has changed to 26th Septem-
ber.

Please contact Peter on 01273 607110 if you are able to
take part in the years' biggest fundraising event.

We have 30 one hour collecting slots to fill between 2pm
and 5pm all in central Brighton.

Hiroshima Memorial Event Thursday 6th August 2015

On Thursday 6th August 2015 I attended a memorial event for the seventieth anniversary of the dropping of the "Little Boy" atomic bomb on Hiroshima, organised by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Sokka Gakkai International (Buddhist Action For Peace). It was held in Queen's Park. Councillor Lynda Hyde, Mayor of Brighton and Hove was present, and spoke movingly about the necessity of ridding the world of nuclear weapons. There were also speakers from the WILPF and from SGI. The SGI speaker read

out a powerful statement from one of the survivors, who was pulled from the rubble that morning as a ten year old schoolgirl. At 8.15pm, just at sunset (the bomb fell on Hiroshima at 8.15 am, corresponding to 12.15am our time), we walked in silence around the lake. We placed our lights around a small tree on the green slope above the water, and stood in silence. The International Court of Justice interprets Clause VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (1968) as a clear obligation on nuclear and non-nuclear states "to pur-

sue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control." And yet Nuclear Disarmament is still as far away as ever. Read the SGI statement on the Seventieth Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings in full here: <http://www.sgi.org/in-focus/2015/Statement-70th-Anniversary-WWII-End.html>

Gwyneth

Solidarity and Self-organisation for Calais

Events of recent weeks have been bringing the UK border in Calais to more people's attention. The attitude of the UK government to its responsibilities for this border has caused shame in many people's hearts, as has the behavior of much of the media on Europe's eastern borders, whose headline-hungry journalists think nothing of approaching flimsy rafts full of terrified people so as to point cameras into the faces of the children as they lurch precariously in the open sea.

According to recently released UN global trends figures for 2014, there are now 59.5 million people moving across the globe, displaced by western military intervention and power-play (<http://unhcr.org/556725e69.html>). Half of these are unaccompanied children. 13.0 million were displaced during 2014 alone. The vast majority of these people are welcomed by neighbouring countries: Turkey (1.8 million from Syria alone) Lebanon (1 million from Syria alone), Pakistan (1.5 million) Iran, Ethiopia, Jordan; even Iraq, itself at war, has welcomed 220,000 people from Syria. Ac-

cording to the figures of Frontex, the EU border force, so far this year nearly 340,000 people in these circumstances have crossed Europe's borders: 0.045 percent of Europe's total population of 740 million. There are approximately 3,000 at England's border in Calais, of whom half are children, including a squat full of self-organising nine - and ten-year olds.

Here in Brighton we have heard from volunteers working in solidarity with the women, children and men of Calais, that the generosity of people in the UK to the current disgraceful situation has been overwhelming and inspirational. All over the country, teams of people are self-organising: booking time off from work and family, organizing (continued on page 3) collections, hiring vans and setting off, sometimes in convoys. Here in Brighton there is a catering team and a medical team about to set off. This is a story not being told in the mainstream media.

Anyone who wants to self organize is recommended to contact one of the following three charities before doing anything.

The situation in Calais is chaotic and these charities are experienced in organizing the storage and distribution of donations. It is particularly important to contact them before collecting anything, in order to ensure that the right things are being collected and that they will arrive and be distributed safely.

L'Auberge des Migrants. A

local association which does a lot of good work in the jungle. <http://www.laubergedesmigrants.fr/laubergedesmigrants@hotmail.fr>

Secours Catholique. Catholic charity that provides many services to migrants in Calais. <http://pasdecalais.secours-catholique.org/pasdecalais@secours-catholique.org>

Medecins du Monde. "Doctors of the World", who are organizing healthcare in the jungle, and also other social services.

<http://www.medecinsdumonde.org/gb/En-France/Calaismi-grants.npdc@medecinsdumonde.net>

Solidarity and Self-organisation for Calais (continued from page 2)

Finally, here is an article, from a surprising source, which aims to give a more accurate depiction of the situation in Calais:

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/not-migrant-hordes--people-6165167>

Maude

ABDUCTIONS IN LIBYA

Amnesty has produced a new report about abductions of civilians by armed groups in Libya called "Vanished off the face of the earth". The report describes how, on a daily basis, people are taken away by armed groups because of their ethnic or tribal identity, their religion, or their opposition to human rights violations. Among the more than 600 people known to have been abducted in Libya in the past year are civil society activists, journalists, members of the judiciary, public officials, aid workers and foreign nationals. Members of the Tawargha community, which was displaced in 2011, have also been targeted for abductions based on their political affiliation and origin. The fate and whereabouts of some 21 Tawargha men, who were abducted in December 2014 while fleeing the violence in Benghazi, is still unknown.

In the absence of political and civil authority and the rule of law in Libya, these abductions are taking place in a climate of impunity, where no one is being held responsible for violations of human rights although attempts to end the political vacuum in Libya continue.

Please send the attached email to secretary@aladel.gov.ly

Thank you. The hashtag for Twitter actions is #EndAbduction. Celia

Creating A Hostile Environment in the UK

1) Many of you will know that the UK is the only country in Europe to practice indefinite detention, which is prohibited by international law. During the last parliament, there was a Parliamentary Inquiry into the use of detention, which called for a limit of 28 days. Some of the panel members called for a backbench debate on the Inquiry and this will now take place on the 10th September.

The Detention Forum have put together a briefing **to encourage people to write to their MPs to ask them to attend**. Please write to your MPs. The Detention Forum briefing is here: <http://ow.ly/QO1SZ>

2) The Home Office has issued a consultation proposing reform to the support offered to those whose asylum claims have been rejected (consultation document available here: <http://ow.ly/QO0GW>). It is of concern that people held in indefinite detention are one of the key targets of the proposals, specifically the abolition of Section 4(1), which allows people in detention to access bail addresses.

Here are some suggested comments from Detention Action to send in response to the consultation document:

<http://detentionaction.org.uk/10th-sept-parliamentary-debate-on-the-detention-inquiry-2>

The deadline for responses to the consultation is 9th September.

Maude

Brighton Amnesty Social Media: summary

Facebook:

Our group's Facebook group is www.facebook.com/groups/BrightonAmnesty

If you have a Facebook account, you can press "join" and become a member. Members are able to post links, photos and information about group activities.

Twitter:

Unlike the Facebook group, our Twitter account is public and can be accessed and read without having a Twitter account. We post information about our group and broader human rights news.

The page is www.twitter.com/AmnestyBrighton

Webpage:

Our group's webpage (www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/brighton-and-hove) is where you can find the monthly newsletter and information about upcoming events, including our meetings

BRIGHTON & HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS

Chair – Peter brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com Tel: 01273 607110

New Member Secretary: Sue Tel: 07790 755921

Group Secretary—Catherine brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com 07759 271399

Treasurer: Sue—07790 755921

Newsletter editor: - Emma Parker: Tel: 01273 232397

Please email any contributions for the newsletter to brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com

Lanes collection organiser: - Julian julianwatmore@gmail.com 07469776295

Web Site co-ordinator: Michael Fisher - michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com

Amnesty Stalls co-ordinator—Jill Francis—01273 621697

Campaign Co-ordinators:

Prisoner of Conscience – Celia Stubbs—01273 593833

Security and Human Rights—Michael—michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com

Stop Torture—Michael Fisher - michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com

My Body My Rights—Jess 07740344832

Amnesty Websites: international - www.amnesty.org AI UK -

www.amnesty.org.uk local group - www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton

Follow us on twitter @AmnestyBrighton

See our photos on Flickr—

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

Amnesty UK Human Rights Centre - Tel: 0207 0331500

