



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Bromley & Orpington Group December 2019 Newsletter



COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS

*Tuesday 10 December
Tuesday 14 January*

*Human Rights Day – 2019 Greetings Card Campaign
Campaign Meeting*

Our thanks to Dr Roger May of Orpington for sponsoring this month's Newsletter

Seasons Greetings!
'Send A Message of Hope'
On Human Rights Day 2019
Amnesty Greetings Card Campaign
Tuesday 10th December at 7.30 pm - Mince Pies. All Welcome.

Monthly Action

Rabie Lablak ended his 45 day long hunger strike on 31 October 2019 which he started after alleging torture and ill treatment at the hands of Moroccan security staff. He had been detained for peaceful protest as part of the Hirak El-Rif protests following the death of local people protesting about infringement of their rights. Rabie, a journalist, has been sentenced to five years in prison for spreading false information. Amnesty has shown the trial to have been unfair and has expressed grave concern for his health. Despite a doctor stating he was critically ill, the Moroccan authorities have denied him access to treatment. We wrote calling for his unconditional release and access to proper medical care.



Group Meeting Dates 2020

Tuesday 14 January	30 th <i>Group Social</i>
Tuesday 11 February	21 st <i>Amnesty Jazz</i>
Tuesday 10 March	24 th <i>AGM</i>
Tuesday 14 April	
Tuesday 12 May	
Tuesday 9 June	
Tuesday 14 July	2 nd <i>BLT Charity Preview</i>
Tuesday 8 September	
Tuesday 13 October	
Tuesday 10 November	
Tuesday 8 December	

Hong Kong: Escalating Violence

We wrote to **Carrie Lam**, Chief Executive of Hong Kong, decriing the escalating violence used by the Hong Kong police against pro-democracy protestors. The shooting at close range of a student brings the prospect of a fatality that much closer. We quoted Amnesty's statement condemning the dis-proportionate response by the police, and the reckless use of violence to quell demonstrations. We called for an independent investigation into the police handling of the demonstrations, and urged her to check police violence before there is a fatality.

Amnesty Jazz Returns!

With the Nic Beston Quartet

Friday 21st February 2020 at 7.30pm
Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, BR6 9JH

Tickets £12.00 in advance (£13.00 on the door)
Available from David Howkins 01689 823793

Group Finance

Balance brought forward	£513.23
Income	£20.00
Expenditure	£5.49
Balance at 12 th November	£527.76
CHANGE	£14.51

Prisoner Action File



Patrick introduced our new Prisoner Action File which we will work on as a Group for the next few years. The case centres on Argentinian taxi driver **Jorge González Nieva**, 54, who was first arrested in March 2007 charged with involvement in a bank robbery the previous year where a person was killed. In 2010 Jorge was sentenced to 25 years in prison after a trial that fell far short of international standards. An appeal with fresh evidence was lodged but a court ruling has been pending since 2015 with Jorge meanwhile held in prison awaiting the outcome. He has

therefore been held in pre-trial detention for 12 years. Amnesty has shown there to be many irregularities in the evidence presented against him, with an eye witness saying he was not involved in the crime. The arresting officers were subsequently convicted of organising a cover up, giving false testimony and attempting extortion. The Prosecutor was also suspended for demanding money from defendants. AI has concluded Jorge has been denied his right to a fair trial and is being held for a crime he did not commit. Separately, the case brings into stark relief the poor quality of Argentinian justice. The law sets a limit of two years on pre-trial detention, but there are now over 76,000 people being held in custody in pre-trial detention. The primary objective is to have Jorge released, and then to have the final sentence issued swiftly. We began working on this case by sending letters to the Supreme Court. We are also copying all correspondence to the Embassy in London. In December, we will also send messages of solidarity to Jorge as part of the Greetings Card Campaign.

AMNESTY SOCIAL: Save the Date!

Thursday 30th January 2020 at 7.30pm
Venue to be confirmed.

Present on 12th November: Neville White; Vivien Glanz; Wendy Simmons; Waltraut Gilchrist; Patrick and Carolyn Nield; Rindi Bakker; Ted Burke; Peter Martin; Gladys Edmonds.

Apologies: David Howkins; Vivienne Andrews.

Meetings are held in the Wesley Room, Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington commencing at 7.30pm. **E-mail** amnestybromley@gmail.com **Website:** www.amnesty.org.uk/bromley

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