

# Amnesty International Southend Group

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[www.amnesty.org.uk/southend](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/southend)



## MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

Our next meeting is at  
7:30pm on Thursday  
13<sup>th</sup> April  
at  
The Balmoral Centre,  
Salisbury Avenue,  
Westcliff-on-Sea  
SS0 7AU

### Dates for your diary

13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September- Display and Letter-writing at The Forum Southend-on-Sea (Provisional)

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September - Fundraising Meal at "East", Alexandra Street, Southend-on-Sea. 6:30pm for 7:00pm, £15 per head

### ACTIONS

**Ali Arrass** has been held in solitary confinement in Tifelt II Local Prison in Morocco since October 2016. His health has sharply declined. In his trial the court relied on a confession obtained by torture. Please write to the Moroccan authorities on his behalf. [Details and addresses here.](#)

**Eren Kesken** is a human rights campaigner in Turkey who has been subjected to death threats, physical violence and judicial harassment. After last July's attempted coup she faces charges for her human rights work that could lead to a death sentence. Please write to the Turkish authorities on her behalf or send her a message of support. [Details and addresses here.](#)

Please send an e-mail asking the Russian and American governments to use their global influence to ensure that independent monitors are allowed in to investigate conditions in **Syria's torture prisons**. For details of Al's report **Slaughterhouse: mass hanging & extermination in Syrian prisons** published on 7th February and how to take action follow this [Link](#)

Sign up to AI UK's [Trump Watch](#) for **breaking news, expert analysis and urgent actions** you can take to fight President Trump's assault on human rights.

# Amnesty International Southend Group

## Notes of meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017

**Present:** Doug, Andrew, Dave, Clare, Helen, Muriel and Mike

**Apologies:** Heidrun, Tricia, Martin, Audrey, Gemma, Steve and Maureen.

### Anything from the last meeting?

- **Clare** had visited East and we can buy meals at £11 for 25 people or £9 for 35. We decided to go for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 6:30pm for 7:00pm. **Clare** will confirm with East.
- **Heidrun** had found that we could book the foyer of The Forum Library for £20 for a week. We decided we'd have a week-long exhibition leading up to letter-writing day or morning on the day of the meal. **Mike** to contact Southend Council to book The Forum foyer.

### Letters and Petitions

- We wrote letters of support to the Group's IaR, **Hakan Yaman**. **Doug** related how Hakan had been mistaken for a rioter in 2013 and badly beaten up by the police. He wasn't expected to live, but is alive and not in prison. The aim is to get the authorities to open an investigation into his treatment and to get him justice.
- We also wrote on behalf of Ali Arrass in Morocco and Eren Keskin in Turkey. More details of these cases on the front page along with an action in relation to murder, disappearances and torture in Saydnaya prison, Syria.

### Secretary

- the Jamnesty! photos are at last on the Group's Facebook page
- AI UK's monthly mailing
  - announces the publication of [AI's Annual Report](#)
  - introduces [Trump Watch](#)
  - has monthly actions in relation to Syrian prisons and Eren Keskin (see front page)
  - reminds us that bookings for the AGM & National Conference close this weekend
  - notes that "[Real Lives](#)" Spring 2017 is now available and
  - gives details of local [Pride festivals](#)
- there's a conference – "Global Terrorism- The Peace Movement Response" on 25<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon at Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU
- we are now part of the Amnesty East Anglia Google Group, a mechanism for sharing e-mails between the Groups in the region
- the region now has a Media Support Officer
- we decided not to take part in this year's Castle Point Show
- In view of the length of it, **Mike** hasn't time to complete the Local Group Survey

**Treasurer.** **Steve** has completed his check of the Group's accounts and found them satisfactory; **Heidrun** has completed the annual Group Financial Return, which has been sent off and after postage, etc. expenses for 2016 there is £754.32 in the Group's account

**Fundraising** It hadn't been possible to set a date for an Amnestea but **Mu** will try again.

### AOB

- In view of the worsening situation in Bahrain, **Andrew** will approach the Bahraini group who came to talk to us last year to see if they're available to come again later this year.
- **Andrew** will also look at booking a stall at this year's Leigh Festival (22nd-25<sup>th</sup> July)
- Mike and Muriel will miss the April meeting but will make arrangements for the papers and pens to be brought to the meeting.

### Next Meeting

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 7:30pm at the Balmoral Centre.

*Mike Pregnall*

Group Secretary  
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