

SOLIHULL AMNESTY GROUP
Meeting on Monday 15/05/2017 at 8pm

Present Celia, Janet, Pauline, Bernard, Cathy, David, Naomi, Lucy Parton

Apologies Heather

1. Visiting Speaker Chris Peel Amnesty Area Co-ordinator for Indonesia

Chris had met with Celia at the recent AGM and Celia invited him to visit the group and bring us up to date on the current situation regarding Johan Tetterissa . Chris talked about

- the current Human Rights situation in Indonesia. Several areas are causing concern:
 - Failure to properly investigate past human rights violations
 - The national human rights framework does not meet the requirements of international human rights law and standards
 - The death penalty
 - The dreadful working conditions, treatment and pay of people working for International companies in palm Oil production..
 - The excessive force being used by the government against campaigners in West Papua

He then spoke about Johan Tetterisa, which is a campaign that Solihull have been part of for several years. He suggested following key dates :

29/06 Anniversary of his arrest

17/08 National Independence Day

31/12 Johan's birthday

Members asked about other groups taking part in the campaign and if we could contact them direct as we would like to work together on an action for the campaign . Chris replied that there were only possibly 3 groups that would respond to us. He confirmed that there was no reason why we could not be given the generic email address for these groups but did not supply them. He said that he was planning an action for all groups to take part in e.g. a protest outside the Indonesian Embassy in London. He promised to get in touch with the group as soon as he had firm plans. We thanked him for taking the time to visit us.

2. Recent Events

- Street Collection- in spite of the shortage of collectors we raised more than £400. This demonstrated once again that it is essential to select locations and time for collectors carefully. **REMINDER** -please contact Ralph Braunholz next year
- Alderbrook 6th form enrichment course – Anna Alan, the course leader was very pleased with the input of Amy, Pooja and Celia and invited the group to take part next year.
- David has received an invitation to return to Ruckleigh School to talk about Amnesty and human rights
- 18-9th April National Conference and AGM: East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham Celia, Pooja and Janet attended.
 - Homelessness resolution was withdrawn.
 - .Resolution on the Eviction of Chagossian people was put forward to International Secretariat.
 - Resolution on Detention of Asylum Seekers in UK was passed but we need something specific to campaign on

- Janet went to workshop on labour abuses in the Palm Oil industry. Wilmar is the biggest wholesaler but all wholesalers are international companies.
- Solihull Fun in the Park 2017, Sunday 17th September. Pitch booked near to the central arena.
- Amnestea Sunday 23 July 2017 proposed and agreed.

4. **Secretary's Items**

- **Monthly Action:** Letter to parliamentary candidates. This applies to Solihull and Meriden constituency. This is very short notice

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: No meeting in June as too many members on holiday. Next meeting will be Monday 19th July