

Amnesty International Southend Group



amnestysouthend.googlemail.com

www.amnesty.org.uk/southend

MAY 2017

NEWSLETTER

Because The Balmoral Centre is used as a Polling Station we have had to change the date of our next meeting. The meeting is at 7:30pm on **Thursday 1st June** at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

Dates for your diary

Saturday 24th June – stall at Leigh Folk Festival. Please go and support Andrew and Martin

13th – 19th September- Display and Letter-writing at The Forum Southend-on-Sea

Tuesday 19th September - Fundraising Meal at “East”, Alexandra Street, Southend-on-Sea. 6:30pm for 7:00pm, £15 per head.

ACTIONS

Write on behalf of **Hakan Yaman**, an “Individual at Risk” in Turkey or send him a letter of support. Hakam was severely beaten by security forces at a demonstration in 2013. He suffered life changing injuries and lost an eye.

Send an appeal **before 25th May** on behalf of **Thomas Arthur**, on death row in Alabama, USA, since 1992.

Send an appeal **before 21st June** on behalf of Salomé Abaalodo in Togo. Salomé is a farmer and community leader detained in April 2017 for exercising her right to freedom of expression.

Go to the [Group Website](#) for more details, addresses and suggested appeals.

Notes of meeting on 11th May, 2017

Present: Doug, Dave, Martin, Audrey, Muriel and Mike

Apologies: Heidrun, Andrew, Tricia, Steve and Maureen.

Anything from the last meeting?

- The Forum is booked for a display and letter-signing from Wednesday 13th to Tuesday 19th September. We can show a PowerPoint and maybe a video during the display; nearer the date Mike will make sure we have a good supply of leaflets and in the meanwhile will try to find out if AI UK will have a suitable poster display available. Martin will check to see if AI UK have an Art Installation Video. Dave will check on the display daily.
- The Meal at “East” Is booked for 19th September. Mike to contact Clare about publicity.
- Stall booked at Leigh Folk Festival on Saturday 24th June. Andrew and Martin are making the arrangements but will appreciate help and support on the day

Letters and Petitions

- We wrote letters on behalf of and a card in support of the Group’s IaR, **Hakan Yaman**. The anniversary of the attack on Hakan is in June so we’ll write again at our next meeting on 1st June
- We also wrote on behalf of Thomas Arthur in the USA and Salomé Abaalodo in Toga.

Secretary

- AI UK’s monthly mailing
 - 2017 General Election campaign “Raise Your Voice”: Doug agreed to deal with it and took the materials
 - The Great Get Together/ Refugee Week – we decided not to act on these
 - The Spring edition of Group News is being sent!
- Kate Allen has sent an e-mail to Groups highlighting some successful recent actions – the release of Chelsea Manning, a review of legal aid cuts in the UK, Hamid Ahmadi taken off death row in Iran and Sara Beltran released in El Salvador.
- Chelmsford Group needs help at its stall at Essex Pride in Central Park, Chelmsford, on Saturday 24 June. Contact Barrie Hay aichelmsford@yahoo.com

Treasurer. Heidrun is on holiday!

Fundraising It hadn’t been possible to set a date for an Amnestea but Mu will try again. Audrey and Andrew may also try to arrange one.

AOB

- Andrew is still trying to arrange another visit by the Bahraini group who came to talk to us last year.
- We decided to unsubscribe from The Burma Campaign UK

Next Meeting

Thursday 1st June 7:30pm at the Balmoral Centre. THIS IS THE FIRST THURSDAY IN THE MONTH – The Balmoral Centre will be a Polling Station on 8th June.

Mike Pregnall
Group Secretary
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