

Amnesty International Southend Group

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www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/southend/



SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

STOP PRESS

Thanks to everybody who supported the meal at "East". We raised £61.

Next Group Meeting

Thursday 12th October, 7:30pm at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



We're holding our annual card and letter-writing event at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU on Saturday 9th December 10:00am – 1:00pm

Letter-writing guidance, pens, paper, envelopes provided – along with tea, coffee, soft drinks and cake.

It only takes a few minutes to write a card, letter or e-mail but those minutes can make a big difference to somebody whose human rights are being abused. Come along for a few minutes, half an hour – or all morning!

Ask Turkey to release **Taner Kiliç** and **Idil Eser**, the Chair and Director of Amnesty Turkey. Details and suggested letter text on the [Group Website](#).

Write to the Chinese authorities about **Huang Qi**, arrested for "leaking state secrets". He's been ill-treated in prison. Details on the [Group Website](#).

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27TH SEPTEMBER

Amnesty International Southend Group

Notes of meeting on 14th September 2017

Present

Martin, Heidrun, Doug, Muriel and Mike

Apologies

Tricia, Clare, Steve and Audrey

The Forum Display

The display is up; Heidrun had seen it and felt it was good. She'd done a bit of tidying up and felt the "No to Indefinite Detention" petition needed a bit more explanation (Mike subsequently left a note, in case of queries, explaining that the objective was to get a time limit established, as in other European countries). There had been a hiccup with the PowerPoint slides that had been sent nearly three weeks before the display but hadn't appeared and we'd had an unhelpful response from the Library which it was agreed Mike would challenge.

Letters and Petitions

We wrote letters on behalf of Huang Qi in China and on behalf of Taner Kiliç and Idil Eser, the Chair and Director of Amnesty Turkey. **SEE FRONT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS.**

Secretary

AI UK monthly mailing (i) AI UK is calling on the government to ban the import of Israeli Settlement goods - no enthusiasm to join the campaign; (ii) there is a Human rights Defenders Campaign ([BRAVE](#)) skillshare in Manchester 7th October; (iii) there is a documentary on "Syria's Disappeared" on [Youtube](#) (iv) on 10th October, the International Day Against the Death Penalty, AI UK is launching an activist-led Death Penalty Project; there is an [event in London](#) and we've signed up to receive news of the project; (v) Write for Rights materials can be ordered and (vi) there's notification of the National Conference & AGM 2018 on 7th-8th April at Swansea University (more details later).

Other Groups' Events

Diss – an evening of presentations and videos on The Human Rights Act Monday 9th October, 7:30pm United Reformed Church, Mere Street, Diss.

Ely – talk by Terry Waite "Out of the Silence", Sunday 1st October, 7:00pm, Ely Cathedral.

Treasurer.

No change in the bank balance of £519.32.

Fundraising

Audrey's AmnesTea on Saturday 19th August raised £130, which has been sent to AI UK.

AOB

Regional Conference 23rd September at Chelmsford – Martin is going and will give a lift to anybody else who wishes to go.

Next Meeting

Thursday 12th October, 7:30pm at the Balmoral Centre.

Mike Pregnall

Group Secretary
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