

Solihull Amnesty Group

Minutes of Meeting held on 16th October 2017

PRESENT: Cathy, Celia, Janet, David, Pauline, Bernard

APOLOGIES: Zayn, Pooja, Naomi

MINUTES AND ACTIONS

- Celia reported back that the petition to the foreign secretary asking for a ban on the sale of Israeli products in UK markets is to be sent to Farshid by March 2018.
- We discussed the showing of the film 'Syria's Disappeared' at the September meeting. Central group have already shown it. Celia will ask the country coordinator for Syria to send the DVD well in advance so that Pauline can show it at our January meeting.

RECENT EVENTS

Stall at Solihull F E College enrichment event: Celia and Pooja spoke to students about the work of AI and gave out temporary tattoos showing the candle and badges and stickers saying 'Stand together against hate'. There was a positive response from students. One member of staff asked if we would consider contributing in some way to college courses.

FUTURE EVENTS

Write for Rights stall to mark International Human Rights Day:

We agreed to pay for the use of Manor House entrance hall as last year. We will run this card signing event from 11.30 to 2.30 on Tuesday 12th December. Pauline will book the space from 11 till 3.

David will contact Caroline Spelman to ask if she will attend a card signing event outside Tesco in Knowle on Saturday 9th December.

SECRETARY'S ITEMS

- Monthly Action: We are asked to write to the prime minister of Cambodia calling for the release of Tep Vanny, who has been detained for her peaceful activities defending the right to housing.
- Amnesty Catalogue: If our group order amounts to more than £75 we will get a 20% discount and free postage. Orders should be brought to the November meeting.
- December meeting: We will have a social get together at 7.30 on Monday 18th December at Cathy's house – 2 Creynolds Close, Cheswick Green.
- Talk on Myanmar: Anna Roberts from the organisation Burma Campaign will speak on The Plight of the Rohingya Muslims and politics of Burma at Leamington Spa Baptist Church at 12.15 on Saturday 28th October. Celia has further details.

CAMPAIGN REPORTS

- Johan Teterissa, Indonesia: Bernard has drafted an email to AI groups who may be campaigning on behalf of Johan asking if they are interested in participating in a joint letter writing action directed at him and the Indonesian authorities on the occasion of his birthday on 31st December. We agreed that this email should be sent to the groups identified by Chris Peel.
- Sombath Somphone, Laos: David had nothing to report.

SITUATION IN PALESTINE

Pauline showed the film 'The Balfour Declaration' which was made as part of the Balfour Project with the aim of educating people about the origins of the current situation in Palestine. She also gave us information from a talk she had attended by two Palestinians which highlighted the unequal living conditions suffered by Palestinians and the impossibility of achieving a two state solution because of the development of extensive illegal Israeli settlements.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 20th November

Cathy will talk about the situation in Sudan