

SOLIHULL AMNESTY GROUP

Minutes of meeting held on 15 JANUARY 2018

Present: Celia, Cathy, David, Janet, Bernard & Pauline

Apologies:

Minutes & Actions

Visitors – We were pleased to welcome Luisa Rosina and Megan Lloyd who are teachers at Solihull School. We have not seen Zayn for a few months but he still wishes to be part of our campaigns and the AI Group at his school is still active. Claire who came to November meeting has decided to join the Moseley AI Group as it is more convenient.

Recent Events

- **Write for Rights card signing stalls to mark International Human Rights Day.** There were 2 sessions of card signing. The first was on 10 December and was in Knowle. Caroline Spelman apologised because she did not manage to get to our stall for a publicity shot. It was very successful and we obtained lots of signatures. The second session was on 13 December outside the Manor House. We were not charged for the hire of the Manor House Lobby. The weather was poor but we managed to obtain a good many signatures. Thank you to Maggy Jennings for her help.
- **Social Evening** – Many Thanks to Cathy and Lyn for hosting the event which was enjoyed by everyone.

Future Events

Street Collection 07/04/18 - This clashes with the AI Annual Conference in Swansea. The only members free that day are Pauline, Bernard and Janet. It was decided to approach SMBC for an alternative date. **ACTION: Bernard to enquire of SMBC for alternative date and report back to Celia**

Secretary's Items

- **Monthly Action**
BRAVE Campaign – to defend Human Rights Defenders – AI have produced a MOOC live on line until 24 Jan then to be archived **ACTION: Celia to write and ask if the basic will be available after that date**
Urgent Action given out.

Campaign Report

- **Laos:** We have been writing letters for 5 years but nothing has resulted from our efforts. It was agreed that we should abandon this campaign as does regional co-ordinator Duncan. **ACTION: David was asked to write to Duncan to ask for another prisoner to campaign for.**

Coordinated Group Action for Johan Teterissa

- Bernard contacted Chris Peel for an update but nothing new is known. The campaign appeal, organised by Solihull, for members to send birthday greeting to JT went to Germany, and USA.

AOB PM circulated information on a Palestinian Campaign to provide Olive trees for planting by Palestinian Farmers. Each tree costs £15, you are advised of its location and will be updated. Final date 31/01/18. **ACTION: PM to buy a tree on behalf of Solihull AI Group.**

- **FILM** Celia has obtained a copy of the DVD 'Syria's disappeared' . This was shown to members but instead of lasting 20 mins it was over an hour. Such a long film deserves to be projected onto a screen and to have amplification.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MONDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2018 (Apologies from Pauline and Bernard)

Minutes – Teas