



**Aylesbury Amnesty International Group**

**Monthly Group Meeting, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 7.30pm**

**Friends Meeting House, 9 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury, HP20 2RT**

**Present:**

Carol Tarrant

Bob Corn

Annelies Varsey

Sallyann Thilthorpe

David Barnard

Fran Booth

**Apologies:** Bronwen Lee, Jim Edwards, Katherine Danflous

**Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting on such a cold evening; she thanked Annelies for having run the successful 'Write for Rights' evening in November 2018.**

**1.0 Previous Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018** – Following on from the successful Write for Rights evening – Carol explained her intention to table three months of Group post swiftly and firstly to celebrate all Prisoner of Conscience (POCs) recent releases.

**2.0 Report for 2018 from Amnesty International UK (AIUK) Director, Kate Allen:** Carol read the report to all – a very encouraging report which among other items included references to nine released Prisoners of Conscience including our own Individual at risk for the last twelve years Johan Teterissa ( who we discussed ) – the work canvassing 100 MP's to vote for the Refugee Family Reunion Bill, the Police's racially biased 'Gangs Matrix' withdrawal and work on behalf of Human Rights Defenders. Sallyann requested a list of the Write for Rights POC's to check the current situation on releases.

**3.0 Urgent Actions:** Bob had prepared Urgent Action letters in support of Aliaksandr Zhylinikan and Viachaslau Sukharo (Belarus), who are both under sentence of death, and Hoda Abdelmoniem (Egypt) who has 'disappeared' – all present signed the letters, Bob to post.

**4.0 Two Reports received from Chair of AIUK's Board Ruth Breddall:** Carol read a precis of the reports which she had received which referred, among other things, to a proposed modest rise in subscription fees to AIUK, safeguarding activists generally, AIUK's aspirations as a Human Rights Group, sub-group activities and a name change to certain of the sub-groups – Carol will circulate both this report and that from Kate Allen (above) to our group. Carol also spoke about emails which she had written to both Ruth Breddall and Kate Allen concerning West Papua and this last year's AGM resolution to request some help for their desire to vote freely for their own future – including George Monbiot's own report, (tabled by David) although she had received no reply from either!

**5.0 Note from Amnesty International Australia:** Carol read a very welcome note of thanks she had received from Amnesty Australia in relation to our work in support of Human Rights Globally, listing the six campaigns which we had supported them with: **Exposing** the 13 Myanmar military leaders responsible for ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya people; **Rallying** the Australian Government until sanctions were imposed against key perpetrators; **Championing** fair and accessible community sponsorship for refugees in Australia; **Protecting** children on Nauru, and bringing them to safety; **Saying No** to locking up 10 year olds in Australian prisons; **Demanding the freedom** of hundreds of brave individuals around the globe.

**6.0 Activism in relation to West Papua:** Carol referred to three areas of activism relating to West Papua – Reading Group Member Sean O'Leary's Resolution to the 2019 AIUK AGM which seeks clarification of Amnesty International's Policy concerned with peoples who seek self-determination; a West Papua Action Network campaign asking for relaxation of Treason accusations against three activists who have been sentenced to ten months in jail; Police accountability in a shooting incident – a student was shot and killed on his motorcycle, this incident leading to a series of 'tit for tat' arrests and killings – the Indonesian military are not addressing the initial murdering of the student by police, simply tackling the later killings. Other freedoms continue to be challenged by the Indonesian occupation of West Papua – including the bizarre removal of Human Rights Documents by the Indonesian Attorney General

immediately prior to a meeting with Amnesty Indonesia earlier this month. Carol asked that Group members consider the West Papua difficulties, perhaps, so that they can make a question themselves and bring it or send it to the group and from this we can formulate a question which we send to AIUK – or indeed prepare a resolution to put before an AIUK AGM.

Carol had prepared a synopsis of a report she had received from Amnesty International Netherlands which refers to Human Rights issues in Indonesia – the elements relating to Papua are attached to these notes in this synopsis (includes reference to Johan Teterissa).

- 7.0 **Group Members Activism:** The meeting discussed how we tackle current AIUK Campaigns – and taking the AIUK Website, the following areas are to be considered by members:

Sallyann – Reproductive Rights; Bob – North Korea; Carol – Israel and Occupied Territories; Annelies – Activism for Individuals; David – Human Rights in the UK; Fran – LGBTI and Women's Rights.

- 8.0 **Lord Alf Dubs:** The Group watched a short video of Lord Alf Dubs speaking of his experiences as a 'Kindertransport' refugee – reflecting on Holocaust Day – which sparked off an interesting discussion.

- 9.0 **Any Other Business:**

There was no other business

- 10.0 **NEXT MEETING: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019** at 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 9 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury HP20 2RT.

Bob Corn, Minutes Secretary, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

## **Weekly update of Human Rights in Indonesia sent from Amnesty International Netherlands - MM**

### **1 . Police Accountability 23rd Oct 2018**

Student of theology Daud Oyorni 27 years old was murdered by being shot unaccountably as he passed by on his motorbike in Waroki Village Nabire Barat Regency Papua, to collect water by one military member standing as one of three military by the roadside. The two other military ran away leaving the military assailant who tried to ride away on the dead students abandoned bike but failed to restart it and so hid behind, was found and himself killed and now the arrests are mounting for any students and neighbours with police using trickery, but no further consequence for the unprovoked original murder of the Papuan student.

. **Greenpeace** accused of harming the Indonesian economy by opposing deforestation (Palm-Oil production related but not targeted.)

### **2. Demos in West Papua customary day of original independence plans**

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 Ternate Papua**, 99 Papuans were arrested.

**Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018 537 Papuans arrested in several cities**, attacked by stoning whilst peacefully marching to protest their lack of free speech which is their legal right.

Amnesty Indonesia steps in to help to influence release of 537 Papuans arrested several now wounded by the stoning from Indonesian citizens.

**3. 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018** West Papuan Liberation Army, living up in the mountains for years now as defenders of west papuan freedoms before occupation, claims responsibility for killing 16 'construction workers' but whom the WPLA call brutal Indonesian occupying Army, casualties in a war against the unvoted for Indonesian government.

. **Komnas Ham demands transparency** on 'Papuan Massacre'.

. West Papua Conflicting reports surround attack, dispute over Indonesian soldiers masquerading as Construction workers.

### **4 Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 page 3**

. **300 Papuan villagers flee** the fighting brought to them by vengeful Indonesian soldiers. They climb a 4,750 metre Trikora peak mountain and hide in the cold forest. Three babies it is claimed have died immediately related to their exposure after having been born whilst in hiding with no access to food and health support.

. **Impunity** – explained as a historical constant.

### **5 Freedom of Religion 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018**

. **Amnesty Indonesia has been invited by the Parliament's Commission 111 (Overseas Legal Affairs) – to discuss the human rights situation in Papua.**

. **Papuans** wish to spend celebrate Christmas in peace as nationwide security is beefed up by Indonesian Govt.

. **Police and security forces accountability.**

TNI threatens Papua governor with legal action after call for Nduga troop withdrawal.

### **6 Johan Teterissa has been released! HURRAH!**

. **page 2** Rights group condemns **ban on 'kamisan' protesting in Papua ( peaceful, silent Thursday call on govt to resolve past HR abuses).**

. **Page 3 Prabowo**, current presidents opposition leader, says it is **"better to violate Human Rights than let the country disintegrate."** Interesting article.

**7. Page3 1 Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 2019 Attorney General returns Rights investigation dossiers, yet again,** denies violating mandate.

**Page 3 . Release of Johan Teterissa** (links.....all in Bahasi.)

**Page 5 TNI Police seize the Free West Papua HQ** built by them on land given to them, destroy its contents and make it into a **TNI Army Post.**

### **Task:**

Please will all members of Amnesty Aylesbury write a single sentence question that we will combine and send to AIUK on Amnesty unexplained aversion to members campaigning on Papuan HR issues.