

**Amnesty International**

### **Blackheath and Greenwich**

### **Newsletter**

# March 2018

## Group Meeting 13.3.2018

1. **Introductions & Apologies.**  Introductions, with Ben from Dartford Boys’ Grammar School

**Present:**

Amanda Kipling

Brigitte Hurrell,

David Webbe-Wood

Geoff Torry

Ruth Wild

**Trevor Dodd**

**Ann Hillary**

**Amanda Kipling**

**Ben Mphablele**

**Elisabeth Neumeier**

**Roger hardwick**

**Apologies**

David Weekes

Dee Weekes

Olwyn Pearson

Rachel Errington

Eileen Smith

Angela Dock

Graham Dock

Simon Ware

Nancy Sarre

Newsletter writer: Brigitte, Roger in the chair

1. **Presentation on Palestine and Israel**

Our speaker spent 6 months with an organisation involved in Palestine and Israel to monitor human rights abuses, engage with and support vulnarable Palestinian communities as well as Palestinian and Israeli peace activists. She painted a vivid picture of her meetings with a family, where a 14 year old Palestinian boy had been arrested and detained illegaly for 5 months in Israel. She also tried to intervene when a farm worker was prevented from access to .

There were a number of questions raised at the end, about the role of the UN (it seems to be powerless), about the presence of the organisation in Gaza (Israel does not allow access to Gaza)

1. **Campaign Updates**

**Ruth** reported on the situation in **Cambodia** which is now ruled by a former Kmer Rouge leader. After an opposition party had some success in local elections it was outlawed by the Government and the National elections this Summer are a farce. Western international monitors were withdrawn in protest, only for countries such as China to step in. The UN raporteur is not going to report till September and seems to be too close to the Government.

**Brigitte** had since an email from Nola Werwaag to say that she is leaving the country and that **James Lovat** is taking over as Country co-ordinator for **Myanmar**. He has already emailed a BBC/AIUK report that the Myanmar military are bulldozing Rohingya villages and converting them into military bases.

**Roger** reported from **El Salvador** that a womwn has been released from prison after 15 years (cut down from 30!). She was jailed after a still birth accused of murdering the child..

**4. AIBG resolutions for the upcoming AGM:**

Roger had circulated a summary of the rsolutions about policy and the group dicussed and instructed Brigitte, our group rep at the AGM to vote as follows:

 **B1 For the International Secretariat to develop a policy on homelessness:**

 Against

**B2 The Right of self-determination for the people of West Papua**

Leave the decision to the group rep after listening to the discussion at the

 AGM

**B3 Human Rights and International Trade**

Support

**C1 Freedom of Religious Expression**

Support

**C2 The Right to live with your spouse or civil partner**

Leave it to the group rep to decide aftern listening to the discussion.

**C3 Dicrimination based upon Caste using the Equality Act**

Support

1. **Local Group Mailing: fundraising and data protection issues**

There does not seem to be a problem with asking for book donations and we no longer add phone numbers or email addresses to our newsletter. All commnication goes via our group email address.

1. **Booksale Sale**

To be discussed at the April Meeting

1. **Letter Writing**

As usual on the 4th Tuesday, this time on the 27th but David needs to recieive the copies by the previous Thursday, March 22nd at lunchtime!!!!

**7. Future Meetings**

As announced in he Feb Newsletter two representatives from Lewisham

 Refugee support will update us on the latest development, Amanda

 offered to invite councillor Kevin Bonavia, who has responsibility for

 refugees.

1. **AOB**

Book offers from private donors need to be ckecked for suitability.

Brigitte offered feedback from the AIUK AGM and Conference

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  **EVENTS 2018** |
| Tuesday, 10th April | Group Meeting,  |
| Tuesday , 24th April | 7.30 Letter writing at he Greenwich Tavern |
| 7-8th April | AIUK National Conference and AGM in Swansea |
| Saturday, 16th June | Book sale at the Church of the Ascension (9-5 pm) |

Group Meetings: Second Tuesday every month (apart from June) at 7.30pm in the crypt of St. Margaret’s Church, Lee Terrace, SE13 5DL

Letter writing evenings: Fourth Tuesday every month (apart from December)

Book Sale: A Saturday mid-to-late June; a Saturday after Remembrance Sunday in November; both at Church of the Ascension (COA), Dartmouth Row, SE10 8BF

Human Rights Action Centre (HRAC): 17–25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA; for any official events please register via the website at [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/) or tel: 020 7033 1675

|  |
| --- |
| AIBG Contacts |
| **Position**  | **Name**  | **Phone**  | **E-mail** |
| Chair  | Rachel Errington |  |  |
| Deputy Chair | Roger Hardwick |  |  |
| Secretary (enquiries contact) | Geoff Torry |  |  |
| Treasurer | Dee Weekes |   |  |
| Membership | David Webbe-Wood |  |  |
| Publicity | Simon Ware |  |  |
| AIBG Website | David Webbe-WoodElisabeth Neumeier  |  |  |
| London Region Representative  | vacant |  |  |
| Newsletter | Rotating: Ken Ryder, Ann Hillary, Brigitte Hurrell,Roger HardwickGraham DockElisabeth Neumeier |  |  |

**Email List**: aibg@googlegroups.com (posts to **all** subscribed members)

**Website**: [www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/blackheath-and-greenwich](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/blackheath#_blank)