

# Amnesty International Southend Group

[amnestysouthend@googlemail.com](mailto:amnestysouthend@googlemail.com)  
[www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/southend/](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/southend/)



## OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

### Closure of Southend Amnesty Group

Attendance at meetings has been poor for some months as has support for events like the Amnestea. At the last meeting we decided that, unless something new cropped up in the way of support, we would not continue meeting in the New Year. The meeting on 14th November will probably be our last apart from the Write for Rights event on Saturday 14th December. So, we hope that this event will be well supported and look forward to seeing many of you there. If the Group does close, or continues in some fashion, we'll let you know.

**Next Group Meeting 7:30pm  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November  
The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury  
Avenue,  
Westcliff-on-Sea  
SS0 7AU**

**Write for Rights 2019  
Saturday  
14<sup>th</sup> December  
10:00am – 1:00pm  
The Balmoral Centre  
Salisbury Ave,  
Westcliff SS0 7AU**

### LETTERS and E-MAILS

Please write on behalf of **Jorge Gonzalez Nieva**, held in pre-trial detention in Argentina for 12 years and on behalf of **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, sentenced to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes for her human rights work. More information attached or on the [Group website](http://www.amnesty.org.uk). There's also an [on-line petition](#) on behalf of Nasrin.

**Amnesty International Southend Group**  
**Notes of meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019**  
**at The Balmoral Centre Westcliff-on-Sea**

**Present:** Martin, David, Andrew, Muriel & Mike

**Apologies:** Tricia, Jose, Doug & Steve

**Letters and Petitions** We wrote:

Letters to the Argentine Ambassador (3) and Argentine Supreme Court (1) on behalf of **Jorge Gonzalez Nieva**, held in pre-trial detention for 12 years

Letters to the Ayatollah Khameni (3) and the Iranian Ambassador (1) on behalf of Nasrin Sotoudeh, sentenced to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes for her human rights work as a lawyer

Postcards (4) about the Death Penalty in Singapore

**Details of these actions can be found on the front page of the Newsletter and on the Group website.**

**Secretary**

- AI UK Local Groups monthly mailing contains a thankyou to everybody who's worked on the "Families Together" Campaign, support for which is growing; a promise of campaign material to promote human rights as part of a likely election and news of other vents.
- The latest Amnesty Shop brochure has arrived – Group members can get a **15% discount and free p&p** if you order [ON-LINE](#) using **Code AGP20** (you'll need to set up an account).

**Treasurer** Our account balance stands at £168.15.

**Write for Rights** Mike to order materials for 14<sup>th</sup> December. Andrew to confirm the booking of the room with The Balmoral Centre. Dave will contact the Shoebury Justice and Peace Group to find out what is the extent of the human rights activities.

No details of this year's campaign from AI UK yet but the order form for materials suggests a similar format to previous years. Hopefully publicity material, etc., will be available for the November meeting.

**Future of the Group** We had (another) discussion about the failure of the Group to attract new members and the flagging attendance at meetings. It was felt that the format of the group is now a bit out of date, support from AI UK and the region had declined and the monthly cost of hiring the room for meetings wasn't sustainable. We would meet again in November but, unless a new way of working became apparent, that would be our last Group meeting and the Write for Rights event on 14<sup>th</sup> December would be our "last fling".

**Next Meeting** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at the Balmoral Centre at 7:30pm.

*Mike Pregnall*

Group Secretary  
01702 204748