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**Amnesty International**

### **Blackheath and Greenwich**

### **Newsletter**

# 11 July 2023

1. **Introductions, Apologies, appointment of Newsletter Writer.**

**Present:**

Anne F. Chair

David Wi – Secretary

Ann H.

Brigitte

Angela

Graham

Jennifer

Roger

**Apologies:**

Rachel

Ken

Amanda

David We

Unfortunately, at short notice, our speaker, Nabila Hanson, was unable to be with us. Roger wrote this newsletter.

**2. Country/regional campaigns.**

Anne F has taken over West Africa from Geoff but as yet has nothing to report.

China. No news.

Mexico & Central America. The country coordinators have met with Mexican land rights protestors and the UK ambassador to El Salvador. An AI campaign re the latter is being planned. No real changes elsewhere.

Europe Petition about deaths of migrants attempting to cross border into the Spanish territory of Melilla. We sent photo of our group support for Pride Istanbul. The Greek swimmers who assisted migrants are still faced with legal action. In UK there were protests in Falmouth about using a barge to house migrants and we sent letters protesting against the new immigration bill.

Myanmar Petition against the jewellery company Bulgari buying blood gems and thus funding the war against the Rohingya.

Iran Honoring Sarina Esmailzadeh, Iranian protester and YouTube creator, on her 17th Birthday**.** Sarina was one of thousands of children who took part in the unprecedented uprising that swept Iran last year. She would have turned 17 on 2 July 2023. Her death serves as a reminder of the Iranian authorities’ all-out crack down on protesters. The death toll of those unlawfully killed on the streets following the popular uprising that rocked Iran from September 2022 is in the hundreds, with at least 44 individually identified children killed.

The BBC 2 documentary ‘Inside the Iranian Uprising’ is recommended.

**3. Guantanamo actions.**

Anne F reported on the meeting with 2 ex prisoners at the Human Rights Action Centre (HRAC). Also attended by Julie. An emotional experience. The film ‘The Mauritanian’ on Amazon Prime is recommended. Anne also went to the vigil on 5th July which attracted attention from tourists and 2 MPs.

**4. AIUK NEWS** 1)AIUK AGM. Attended by Brigitte, Graham and (remotely) David Wi. Well attended mainly remotely. Finances in surplus at the moment but will decrease in 2024. Options regarding the expense of the HRAC are being explored.  All resolutions were passed including the one from the Manchester group regarding joint criminal enterprise which was initially opposed by the board. Likely to be fewer and smaller local groups in the future. Graham met Hazel from Manchester with whom we have been in contact re anti-racism.

2) Anti-racism Network Committee

1. Take action and email Prime Minister Rishi Sunak – demanding he puts a STOP to the cruel immigration bill.Rishi Sunak's government has voted to remove vital protections for those fleeing persecution and exploitation. Take Action:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/stop-cruel-bill-email-rishi-now?utm_content=132889&utm_campaign=MEMA5122S_ARN%20Newsletter%20June&utm_medium=email&utm_source=amnestyuk>

1. UK: Passing of new public order laws 'marks a dark new era for peaceful protest'
2. We are introducing **three mandatory trainings** for lead activists in:
* Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism (IDEA)
* Safeguarding
* Data Protection

You are a lead activist if you are an Activism Representative, a local group's chair (co-chairs), a secretary and a treasurer. All Amnesty's Committee members and Country Coordinators are also lead activists.

**5. Fundraising.** 1) It was agreed to go ahead with a jazz concert at Mycenae House on June 14th or 15th 2024. Band to be decided. Action Brigitte.

2) Film at Catford Mews. Anne F will continue to investigate. She has spoken to the manager who requires a date before quoting a price.

**6. Social Media.**  We need to define what we want to achieve through the use of Social Media. One suggestion how to keep in touch with recently resigned members - a subsidiary mailing list? (Needs a longer agenda time or a subgroup).

**7. Future activities.** Summer Social to be on Sunday 3rd September 1.00 pm at The Squirrels, Belmont Hill courtesy of Jennifer and Amanda. Bring refreshments.

AIUK digital campaign training. David Wi will attend and feed back.

Nabila Hanson has been asked for a new date. August or September.

**8. AOB** It was agreed that the newsletter writer for the next meeting should be decided at the previous meeting and that all members should take a turn, except fot the Secretary.

The letter to Belarus was returned to Birgitte.

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**Tuesday 25th July 2023:** Letter writing

Location: The Greenwich Tavern, 1 King William Walk, Greenwich, London SE10 9JH

Time: 7.30pm

**Tuesday 8th August.** 7.30 pm. General meeting. The crypt, St Margaret’s Church, Lee Terrace

**Tuesday 22nd August** Letter writing. Location: The Greenwich Tavern, 1 King William Walk, Greenwich, London SE10 9JH

Time: 7.30pm

**Sunday 3rd September. Summer Social.** The Squirrels, Belmont Hill. 1.00pm.

**Tuesday 12th September.** 7.30 pm. General meeting. The crypt, St Margaret’s Church, Lee Terrace

* **Speakers / events tbc** Nabila Hanson date to be arranged.

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| **AIBG CONTACTS** |
| **Position**  | **Name**  |
| Chair  | Anne F |
| Vice-Chair | Brigitte |
| Secretary (enquiries contact) | David Wi |
| Treasurer | David We |
| Publicity & Social Media | Jennifer |
| Membership & AIBG Website | David WW & David Wi |
| Letter writing co-ordinator | Brigitte |
| Newsletter writer / provider of meeting refreshments | All members see Agenda 8 |