

Amnesty International Blackheath and Greenwich

Group Meeting Tuesday 10th October 2023, in the crypt at St Margaret's Church, Lee

Meeting chair Anne F, notes writer: Brigitte

The meeting noted with concern the terrible events taking place in the Middle East

1	<p>Introductions, welcome to visitors / new members, apologies for absences, appointing newsletter writer</p>	<p>No introductions needed. Present: Amanda, David Wi, Rachel, Graham, Ken, Ann H, Brigitte, Anne F, David W-W, Illona, Apologies for absence: Jennifer, Angela</p>
2	<p>China Campaigns – Debrief from discussion at August meeting (Angela, All)</p>	<p>Angela China: Angela has contacted Nabila about planning to use an IFTA to make contact with the Pakastani diaspora in UK and raise awareness AI and the plight of the Uyghurs in China. There is a written that will be sent to us to explain the IFTA procedure. A flagship IFTA is planned that will involve all London AI groups and Sadiq Khan and other notables next year, probably in March but the exact date will be revealed after discussions in November 2023. Visits to other local IFTAs will be encouraged by joining with other groups to raise funds. Angela will join an IFTA call on 16th October.</p>
3	<p>Country/regional campaigns – updates from Country Contacts (All) Update on Guantanamo vigil (Anne F)</p>	<p>Africa (W&C) – Anne F reported: DCR (Democratic Republic of Congo) The expansion of industrial scale cobalt and copper mines (needed for most lithium-ion batteries!!!) has led to enforced eviction of entire communities and greivous human rights abuses including sexual assault, arson and beatings Action: Please send a message to the President via AI Urgent Actions Sierra Leone: Violent episodes during election campaign as well as accusations of vote tampering involving both major parties have led to the USA refusing visas to anyone involved. Niger: Since the military overthrow of the government in Juy Jihadist assaults on the aermly have increased, about 20 troops have recently been killed. Nigeria: 4 Nigerians were sentenced in France to between 10 and 10 years in prison for forcing young Nigerian women into prostitution. Stanis Bujakera arrested on Sept 11th – any letter? China – see above. Europe - Brigitte reported on the conviction in Poland of Justyna Wydrzynska for helping a pregnant woman getting access to an abortion pill Action: Brigitte to prepare a letter to the Prosecutor General asking for the conviction be overturned Mexico & C. America – Roger absent Iran: Graham joined an AIUK video call on 14 September with Paul Dawson, CC Middle East & Gulf, Assaneh Coleman, CC Iran, and Graham B , Sutton. AIUK had been quiet on the ‘Left Behind’ campaign at the request of the Families. This was born out a few days later when Morad Tabas among others was released by a deal with the USA, circulated to the group on 19 September. In other news, protester Abbas Deris is at urgent risk of execution in relation to the November 2019 nationwide protests in Iran</p>

		<p>Action:A letter will be prepared about Abbas Deris for October.</p> <p>Guantanamo vigil - Anne F to attend the vigil postponed till Oct 11</p>
4	<p>AIUK (standing item) - Proposal for London groups meeting for the Mayfair& Soho group's 'Annual Act of Witness' Sun Tues 12th December 2023 at Amnesty HQ, London and bimonthly meetings of all London groups</p>	<p>Action: David Wi to contact Nabila about attending –David and Anne F to attend –rest of the group normal meeting time at the crypt to send ' Write for Rights' messages plus mince pies and drink</p> <p>Action: David W to stay in touch with Joseph Patemba about bimonthly meetings starting in November</p>
5	<p>Future fundraising initiatives (standing item) Jazz concert (Brigitte, Graham, Angelap Screening of "The Mauritanian" –</p>	<p>Jazz Concert – Mycenae House still not able to provide a date: Action: Illona offered to go and see the manager Mark Angela and Graham found another possible Jazz ensemble: the YouthSayers, a young Brixton group Film screening: The Mauretianian at Catford Mews: : Action Anne F to liaise about possible date of 28th November, replacing letter writing</p>
6	<p>Social media (Jennifer)</p>	<p>Our new email address: AIBGinformation@ gmail.com to be used with the old one (for some time) Action: Jennifer to send password to David W and Rachel, David to let AIUK have our new address</p>
7	<p>Arrangements for future meetings Other speakers and guests – Gra</p>	<p>. Action: David W to circulate Graham's list of possible speakers (without names and email addresses) to the group Can we have hybrid meetings? Not with poor access in the crypt Action: David to investigate portable booster</p>
8	<p>AOB Appointment of letter writer for November meeting</p>	<p>Action: David WW volunteered, if available Rachel proposed to move letter writing to a more accessible venue, ie Blackheath Village Action: Illona offered to do a 'pub crawl' and find a possible host</p>

FUTURE EVENTS

- **Tuesday 24th October 2023:** Letter writing
Location: The Greenwich Tavern, 1 King William Walk, Greenwich, London SE10 9JH
Time: 7.30pm
- **Tuesday, November 14th:** Group Meeting at the crypt of St Margaret's Church

AIBG CONTACTS

Position	Name
Chair	Anne F
Vice-Chair	Brigitte
Secretary (enquiries contact)	David Wi

Treasurer	David We
Country Contacts	
Publicity & Social Media	Jennifer
Membership & AIBG Website	David WW & David Wi
Letter writing co-ordinator	Brigitte
Newsletter writer / provider of meeting refreshments	To be rotated between all members of the group - volunteers please!