**Amnesty International Blackheath and Greenwich**

Monthly Meeting Notes

**Tuesday 14th November 2023, in the crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee**

Meeting chair: Anne F Note-taker: Graham

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Introductions**, welcome to visitors / new members, apologies for absences, | No introductions needed.  **Present:** Angela, Anne F, Brigitte, David Wi, David WW, Graham, Illona, Jennifer, Rachel,  **Apologies for absence:** Amanda, David We, Roger |
| **2** | **Country/regional campaigns** **–** updates from Country Contacts (All) | **Africa (W&C)** Anne F No update.  **Central America and Mexico.-** Ann read out an informative report that Roger had circulated before the meeting. He will produce letters arising from it for January letter writing.  **China** – Angela reported on two items.  JIMMY LAI, media mogul on trial for national security offences in Hong Kong. Lai, 76. Faces life imprisonment. ANDY LI, one of the original Hong Kong Activists is a key prosecution witness in this high profile trial. Mr Jimmy Lai will become an Amnesty IAR case later this month.  KENNY LATUNDE-DADA (AIUK CC) has sent a link to a letter requesting the release of a N. Korean woman forcibly repatriated from China last year. Link will circulated to the group by email.  **Europe** – Brigitte No update  **Iran**. Graham reported on two items.  In a press release on 22 Dec 2023, AIUK stated that the Swedish-Iranian academic AHMADDREZA DJALALI is at grave risk of ‘retaliatory’ execution since A Swedish court upheld a life sentence against Hamid Nouri, a former Iranian official implicated in prison massacres.  UURGENT ACTION: Risk of protest-related executions amid killing spree. At least five individuals in Iran are under sentence of death in connection with the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising of 2022, while at least 15 others are at risk of the death penalty and eight have been arbitrarily executed following grossly unfair sham trials.Graham will produce two letter for later this month. |
| **3** | **AIUK (standing items)**  **-** Act of Witness event, Dec 12 2023 – feedback (Anne F, David Wi)  **AIUK (standing items) cont.**  -London Region Meetings | David and Anne joined about 30 members from four or five London groups. During the evening about 200 names and brief background stories of individuals that the groups had supported were read aloud. Joseph Patemba, Region Activism Rep for AIUK was also present.  These are being planned as online events probably every two months. David felt that our participation will be important since future activism will likely involve working with other groups. |
| **4** | Screening of “The Mauretanian” (Anne F, Rachel)Target  Location: Catford Mews | Management at Catford Mews have not confirmed the 27th February date so Anne will recontact and ask for the 26th of March. |
| **5** | **Future fundraising initiatives** (standing item)  Jazz concert (Brigitte, Graham, Angela)  Proposed dates/location  Mycenae House, Blackheath, SE3 7SE | Brigitte has not yet heard back from Mycenae house. Illona knows the manager and will pop in to see them. |
| **6** | **Arrangements for future** **meetings**  Other speakers and guests – | David Wi will follow up the list agreed at the November meeting. |
| **8** | **AIBG AGM**  Date: 13th February 2024, 7.30pm  Location: Crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee Terrace, London SE13 5DL | Please think how you would like to be involved with the group in the coming year; please consider putting yourself forward for one of the officer positions or other roles;  For discussion – priorities and direction of the group in 2024 and beyond. Anne will ask Thea at AIUK whether a Local Group Planning pack has been produced for 2024. |
| **8** | **AOB** | Brigitte suggested that we should hold a winter social as we have done in the past. Illona generously volunteered to host at her home in Blackheath on the **31 January at 7pm**. Hopefully as many of the group as possible will attend bringing food and drink. Please let either Illona or David Wi know if you plan to go and they will supply the address. |

**FUTURE EVENTS**

* **Tuesday 23 January 2024 7.30pm**- Letter writing at The Princess of Wales, Blackheath SE3
* **Wednesday 31 January 2024 7.00pm** Winter social at Illona’s home.
* Tuesday 13 February 2024, 7.30pm AIBG AGM & Monthly Meeting at St Margaret’s Crypt.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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.** |