**Amnesty International Blackheath and Greenwich**

**Meeting notes Tuesday 13th February 2024, in the crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee**

Meeting chair and notes writer: Anne F

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| **1** | **Introductions**, welcome to visitors / new members, apologies for absences, appointing newsletter writer (Anne F) | The meeting welcomed Faruk, a possible new member  **Present:** Ken, David Wi, Graham, Angela, David We, Brigitte, Anne F, Rachel, Faruk  **Apologies for absence:** Roger, Ann H, Illona, Amanda, Jennifer |
| 2 | **Country/regional campaigns** **–** updates from Country Contacts (All) | **China** – Angela had an online meeting with Nabila (China coordinator) about the screening of a new documentary about the Uyghurs, “All Static and Noise”, which will be shown at AIUK HRC (EC2A 3EA) on Saturday 27th April. 4 members of the group have so far volunteered to support this. More info to follow.  Nabila had also sent info about supporting a particular case (details to follow at the letter-writing meeting).  35th anniversary of Tiananmen Square massacre - there are plans to commemorate this in central London on Tuesday 4th June, and the group will continue to mark the date at Maryon Wilson Park, probably on Saturday 8th or Sunday 9th June (exact date TBC)  **Africa (W&C)** – Anne F had nothing to report  **Iran** – Graham had not received any news from the Iran country coordinator, but noted that there is an AIUK campaign in support of Mehran Raoof  **Europe** - Brigitte had received a detailed report on the shipwreck of the Adriana, and on the 3 young men on trial for terrorism in Malta, after they acted as translators when the El Hiblu ship got into difficulties.  **Myanmar** - Brigitte reported that there are complaints that the UK has been to slow to act in imposing sanctions on the military in Myanamar |
| 3 | **AIUK (standing item)**  **London Region Group meetings**  **Direction of AIUK** | Following the December 12th meeting of several London AI groups, a London Region AI group will be set up  **Action:** David Wi is waiting for Graham Bisset to take this further  Anne F had received a reply from Thea answering some of our questions (see below)\* |
| 4 | **Screening of “The Mauritanian” at Catford Mews** | This is still on hold, as there is a question over the rights to the film. The manager is on holiday at the moment.  **Action:** Anne F to follow up with him once he is back |
| 5 | **Jazz concert at Mycenae House SE3 7SE**  **Friday 31st May 2024**  (Brigitte, Angela, Graham, Illona)  Booking of music group | The date has been confirmed. However, **Youthsayers** are not available, as the date is during half term and the members are not free  **Adam Glasser** was available when last contacted, but now needs to confirm the availability of the other members of the group.  There was a long discussion about the cost (approx £1000 for group + sound engineer)  Soothsayers was another possibility that was discussed.  **Action:** Anne F to contact Adam Glasser and confirm.  David Wi to set up a sub-committee to meet on Zoom on Tuesday 2oth February. |
| 6 | **Arrangements for future** **meetings**  Other speakers and guests – Graham B’s list of speaker events | Daid Wi had contacted 4 of the organisations from the list supplied by Graham B. The “Death Penalty Project” had responded positively  **Action:** David Wi to contact re attendance at next meeting |
| 8 | **AOB**  Appointment of newsletter writer for March meeting  Draft resolution for the AIUK AGM from Ulrike S - see below\*\* | David We to write the notes and supply refreshments  The meeting voted to support the resolution. |

**FUTURE EVENTS**

* **Tuesday 27th February:** Letter writing

**Location:** The Princess of Wales Pub, 1a Montpelier Row, London SE3 0RL

**Time:** 7.30pm

* **Tuesday 12th March:** Next meeting
* **Location:** The crypt, St Margaret’s Church, Lee Terrace, SE13 5DL
* **Time:** 7.30pm
* **Friday 31st May: Jazz concert**

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| **AIBG CONTACTS** | |
| **Position** | **Name** |
| Chair | Anne F |
| Vice-Chair | Brigitte |
| Secretary (enquiries contact) | David Wi |
| Treasurer | David We |
| Country Contacts | TBC |
| Publicity & Social Media | Jennifer (TBC) |
| Membership & AIBG Website | David WW (TBC) & David Wi |
| Letter writing co-ordinator | Brigitte |
| Meeting notes writer / provider of meeting refreshments | Suggestion that this be rotated between all members of the group in turn |

**\*Direction of AIUK - Response from Thea Ioannou**

There will be a list of 2024 priority campaigns in the January local group mailing. Most of the campaigns from last year’s list will carry over to this year such as Protect the Protest, End Israeli Apartheid and Prevent.

AIUK priorities are influenced by the Global Assembly and also our own AGM. The role of the International Board is to ensure that the global AI movement is acting within the remit/Mission and Vision [**https://www.amnesty.org/en/about-us/our-leadership**](https://www.amnesty.org/en/about-us/our-leadership)**.**

The group planning pack hasn’t been produced for quite a few years now. You will be able to see a list of the 2024 priority campaigns in the next mailing. You can order campaign resources **here:**[**https://amnestyuk.wufoo.com/forms/aiuks-activism-resource-order-form/**](https://amnestyuk.wufoo.com/forms/aiuks-activism-resource-order-form/)**.** You can also find the latest Campaign Framework, Organising Model, and Events Program for 2024 here: [**https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/local-groups-activism-framework-and-support-programmes?utm\_content=&utm\_campaign=MCFR1162S\_Local%20\_groups\_Dec\_23&utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=amnestyuk**](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/local-groups-activism-framework-and-support-programmes?utm_content=&utm_campaign=MCFR1162S_Local%20_groups_Dec_23&utm_medium=email&utm_source=amnestyuk)**.**

**\*\*2024 AGM Draft Resolution**

**Ulrike Schmidt 1**

**Resolution Title (20 words max)**

Support, empower and re-vitalise Local groups to meet the Human Right challenges of the present and future

**Resolution Summary**

The AGM requests that urgent measures are taken to support, grow, empower and expand local groups.

**Resolution Text (200 words max)**

The AGM requests that Amnesty takes urgent measures to support groups and help them to expand across the generations through:

1. Training programs for Amnesty activists to prepare them to take organisational and leadership roles

2. 5 Regional organisers (at least part-time paid) to support groups, organise inspiring regional conferences, help coordinate large-scale protests, stunts and campaigns.

3. Maintain and grow democratic decision-making processes for local groups.

**Background Notes (400 words max)**

Local groups have been the life-blood of Amnesty for many years. Through local groups we can reach deep into communities to shape the narrative, to make the case for Human Rights. Local groups can carry, spread and expand Amnesty campaigns and win MPs as well as communities throughout the country for our causes. Recently though many groups have been shrinking, many have closed down. While there are vibrant and active student groups, there seems to be a widening gap emerging between local groups in towns and cities and student

groups.

Note to Ulrike: we believe that the Swedish and Italian Amnesty Sections

operate such Regional Coordinators. We believe these are full-time paid.