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| **Amnesty International Blackheath and Greenwich****Meeting notes Tuesday 9th April 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 Ali, a possible new member, who volunteers at the Welling Dialogue Society**Present:** Graham, Angela, Brigitte, Anne F, Ann H, Illona, Jennifer, Ali (possible new member)**Apologies for absence:** Rachel, David We, Ken, David Wi, Roger, AmandaAnne F suggested taking the shorter agenda items first to give more time for the planning of the Jazz concert. |
| 2 | **Country/regional campaigns** **–** updates from Country Contacts- Iftar, Friday 5th April, Mile End (Angela, Anne F, Brigitte)- London screening of ‘All Static and Noise’: Uighur crisis (Angela) | **Human Rights Iftar** – Angela (with Graham, Brigitte and Anne F) Four of us attended at The Art Pavilion, Mile End. It was a huge, well organised event with a relaxed atmosphere of friendliness and inclusivity. The sharing of excellent food enabled conversation and discussion after a panel of speakers presented prepared statements on HR issues and a positive call to unite and move forward on these matters.**China** – Angela reported that the London screening of film on the Uighur crisishas been postponed until the autumn**Central America** - Anne F reported back on behalf of Roger. Bertha Gisela Gaytán, a candidate running to be mayor in Celaya, one of Mexico’s most violent cities, has been killed on the first day of her campaign. Adrián Guerrero, another candidate for the city council, was also reportedly killed in the attack.They were the latest killings on the road to the 2 June elections, with [at least 22 mayoral candidates murdered](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://animalpolitico.com/elecciones-2024/estados/guanajuato/aspirantes-asesinados-violencia-electoral-partidos&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1713337686555659&usg=AOvVaw3Z1iH0CGSWGbzRAhaRQpYU) since September 2023.[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/02/mexico-mayor-candidate-killed-celaya](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/02/mexico-mayor-candidate-killed-celaya&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1713337686556147&usg=AOvVaw1IdO_QX3Ap_g1HNSesp_WQ)**Africa (W&C)** – Anne F had nothing to report**Iran** – Graham AIUK Press Release on Iran 04/04/2024. 853 people executed last year after surge in use of death penalty in drugs cases. New report shows Iranian authorities also used executions to tighten grip on powerafter 2022’s mass protests. Feared Revolutionary Courts handed down nearly two-thirds of death sentencesFive child offenders among those executed. ‘Without a robust global response, the Iranian authorities will feel emboldened to execute thousands more people in the coming years’ - Diana Eltahawy**Europe** - Brigitte reported 2 bits of good news for a change.1. There are now four people responsible for Europe rather than the two previously.
2. In Italy the Iuventa case has been resolved. To be honest, I have not actively participated in the 2020 AIUK campaign to stop criminal investigation of crew members of the Iuventa migrant rescue ship operated by Médecins sans Frontières and Save the Children. They had been accused of aiding and abetting illegal immigration, serving as a taxi for migrants, and colluding with Libyan traffickers.

The Iuventa crew had been given the human rights award by AIUK in 2020 for saving more than 14,000 lives. After 6 and a half years of court proceedings the case has finally been dropped. |
| 3 | **AIUK (standing item)** **London Region Group meetings** | No further meetings held so far.**Action:** David Wi or Anne F to upload the jazz concert info to this group on WhatsApp. |
| 4 | **Screening of “The Mauritanian” at Catford Mews** | **Action:** Anne F to consult with David Wi/Rachel on whether this should continue to be a standing agenda item. |
| 5 | **Arrangements for future** **meetings** | Agreed that this should be on hold until after the Jazz concert. Graham and Anne F wondered if Ali (new attendee) could be persuaded to give a talk about Turkey. |
| 5 | **Planning - Jazz fundraising event at Mycenae House, May 2024 (Brigitte, Angela,****Graham, Illona, Anne F, David Wi)****- Location: Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath, London SE3 7SE****- Date: Friday 31 st May****- Time: doors open at 7.30pm (see detailed timetable below)****- Music group: The Adam Glasser Group** [**http://www.adamglassermusic.com/**](http://www.adamglassermusic.com/)**- See link on MH website:** [**https://mycenaehouse.co.uk/events/the-adam-glasser-group/**](https://mycenaehouse.co.uk/events/the-adam-glasser-group/)**- Ticket price: £15 + 10% booking fee (concessions - 20 tickets available for students @****£12 + 10% booking fee)****- Ticket sales – status? (Illona?)****- Timings:****7.30pm: doors open****8.00pm to 8.40pm first live music session****8.40pm to 9.20pm interval (prerecorded music provided by Adam’s group)****9.20pm to 10.00pm second live music session****10.00pm raffle draw****10.30pm doors close****- Publicity:****o AIBG website – David Webbe-Wood to upload event info, incl. flyer****o Support from AIUK (Anne F)****AIUK April newsletter****Richard Glynn, AIUK****o London AIUK Groups – Anne F / David Wi****o AIBG Facebook page – flyer uploaded (but need to add more info)****o Flyers – distribution around local (Please would whoever has the flyers bring****them to Tuesday’s meeting so they can be distributed to group members****for further circulation – Anne F? Illona?)****o other****- Food / refreshments****- Raffle****o local businesses to contribute prizes****o South Africa shop in Covent Garden****o Raffle tickets****2****- Photography of the event - Vincent****- Campaign stall (Angela, Brigitte)** | **Ticket sales** - Illona reported 4 tickets sold so far. **Raffle tickets** - Brigitte will buy raffle tickets. Agreed that payment for the raffle tickets to be in cash or by card using the Zettle machines. We agreed £3 for one strip of five tickets and £5 for two strips to encourage people to buy two strips.**Raffle prizes -** Illona has secured two definite offers of luxury prizes, plus one possible.Graham and Angela to visit the South African shop in central London to request a donation for the raffle.**Flyer/Publicity** - Illona has already visited several places near the Royal Standard; several have agreed to display the flyer. Brigitte to visit Blackheath shops. A new batch of flyers to be distributed at letter writing meeting on 23 April.**Campaign stall** - Angela and Brigitte to organise; the letter/petition will be for the Chinese prisoner previously mentioned. This will also provide publicity for the upcoming commemoration of Tiananmen Square.**AIUK support on the day** - A short introduction to Amnesty will be given at the beginning of the concert along with the health and safety indications. It was agreed that an official Amnesty presence was not needed.**Food and refreshments** - organisation will be done a few days beforehand and there will be a vegan option for the bass player in the band. Illona to reconfirm with Mycenae House following next group meeting on 14 May.  |
| 6 | Appointment of newsletter writer for May meeting | TBC |
| 8 | **AOB** | Anne F reported back from the Guantanamo vigil. One of the other groups had been struggling to recruit new members, but had found a new lease of life after several members of the Turkish diaspora started attending.  Our group is hopeful that a similar positive outcome will occur following the recent attendance by 2 possible new members, Faruk and Ali. |

**FUTURE EVENTS*** **Tuesday 23rd April 2024: Letter writing**
* **Location: The Princess of Wales 1a Montpelier Row Blackheath SE3 0RL.**
* **Time: 7.30pm**
* **Friday 31st May: Jazz concert**
* **Speakers / events - TBC after 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 | China - Angela, Graham - Iran, Europe - Brigitte, Roger - Central America, Anne F  - Central and West Africa |
| Publicity & Social Media | Jennifer (TBC) |
| Membership & AIBG Website | David WW & 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 |

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