**Amnesty International Blackheath and Greenwich**

**Meeting notes Tuesday 9th July 2024, in the crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee**

Meeting chair and notes writer: Anne F

| **1** | **Introductions**, welcome to visitors/new members, apologies for absences, appointing newsletter writer for next meeting: Brigitte | **Present:** David Wi, Graham, Angela, Brigitte, Anne F, Amanda, David W-W  **Apologies for absence:** Rachel, Ann H, Illona, Ken, David We, Jennifer |
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| 2 | **Fundraising event at Mycenae House**  **Debriefing**  **Repeat next year?** | David Wi had prepared a thank-you letter to be sent to all raffle prize donors. Those present signed each letter and the names of those absent who were part of the organising committee were added.  David Wi to send photos to David WW for uploading to the AI website.  Payment not yet received from Mycenae House. David Wi to follow up with Illona and David We, and then to contact Mark to thank him and other members of staff.  **Next year**: agreed that Youthsayers would be a good choice. Possible dates - Friday 25/04/25, 09/05/25 or 16/05/25. |
| 3 | **Country/regional campaigns** **–** updates from Country Contacts (All) | **China** – Angela had nothing to report  **Africa (W&C)** – Anne F had nothing to report  **Iran** – Graham reported back (see below)\*\*  **Europe** - Brigitte gave a detailed report, with particular focus on the ship incident off the coast of Malta and the ongoing case against 3 of those on board. Action: Brigitte to prepare a letter in support of the El Hiblu 3. |
| 4 | **Write for Rights - December (Brigitte)** | Brigitte suggested a stall in the Lewisham Centre. Tentative date around 10th December. To be followed up. If we went ahead, we would need more volunteers. |
| 5 | **AIUK (standing item)**  **London Region Group meetings** | HRAC event (An Evening with Amnesty International) Thursday 11th July - focussing on AI’s response to the Israel-Gaza conflict, and AI’s approach to the general election. Anne F is attending and will report back at the next meeting. |
| 6 | **Arrangements for future** **meetings (David Wi, All)**  Other speakers and guests | Daid Wi suggested dates for the summer social. Agreed **September 8th** at **The Squirrels** |
| 7 | **AOB** | 1. Social media - Amanda to check with Jennifer that she is still willing to take on the role, and then to contact Simon W re the AIBG facebook page.  2. Amanda had seen an Amnesty table with various freebies for children (??) at an event at Wellington College and will follow up with a contact in due course. |

**FUTURE EVENTS**

* **Tuesday 23rd July:** Letter writing

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

**Time:** 7.30pm

* **Tuesday 13th August:** Next meeting

**Location:** The crypt, St Margaret’s Church, Lee Terrace, SE13 5DL

**Time:** 7.30pm

* **Sunday 8th September**: Summer social

**Location**: The Squirrels, SE13 5DR

| **AIBG CONTACTS** | |
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| **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 | Rotated between all members of the group in turn |

**\*\*Iran**

**Toomaj Salehi** (Persian: توماج صالحی; born 3 December 1990)[1] is an Iranian rapper mainly known for his protest songs concerning Iran's societal issues and the policies of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In July 2023, the Iranian Government sentenced Salehi to six years in prison for participating in the 2022 Iran protests. On 24 April 2024 Salehi was sentenced to death for charges linked to Iran's 2022–23 Woman, Life, Freedom movement, before it was overturned in June 2024. Retrial ordered by higher court.