

Swindon and Marlborough Amnesty International Group

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 10th January 2013

Present: Lottie; Emma B; Livio; Judith; Heather

Apologies: Liza; Mark; Anthony

1. **Secretary's report:** the monthly information and actions had not been received by the time of the meeting
2. **Treasurer's report: Judith** to contact Chris M to receive the annual financial report
3. **Election of officers:**
 - Judith to continue as Chair
 - Emma B to continue as Secretary
 - Heather standing down as Campaigns Coordinator, with Livio to take on the role
 - Lottie to continue as Press Officer
 - **Judith** to contact Chris M to find out if he is able to continue as Treasurer
4. **New prisoner of conscience:** Dr. Tun Aung has been held incommunicado since his arrest on 11/6/12 for "inciting violence" during the clashes between Buddhist and Muslim ethnic groups in Burma. He is a prominent and highly respected Muslim community leader, and was actually asked by the authorities to try and help calm the situation. Despite his attempts to help, he was arrested and is now being held 170km from his home. He is not allowed to receive visitors or phonecalls and has no choice of lawyer. Action: **Emma B** to check on website for postcards and download them for signing at meetings. Possible One World Week event: Burma play – Tony Fairman has details
5. **EGM:** Heather no longer able to attend on behalf of the group. Emma has sent in a proxy vote form to the EGM chair in accordance with the decision taken at the December meeting.
6. **Holocaust Memorial Day:** 27th January. 12:00 at war memorial; 12:30 at FMH. Theme: "Communities Together – Build a Bridge". Judith and Liza unable to attend. Emma B, Livio and Lottie will try to attend. **Judith** to email Matt to say that Amnesty is hoping to be represented. Emma B to contact Liza to ask to publicise
7. **Campaigns:**
 - Manal Boualagi – Tunisia: 3 letters signed
 - Individuals at Risk – Hakamada Iwao – Japan: 5 postcards signed

8. **February meeting: Heather** to contact Trevor Trueman from Malvern Hills Amnesty to confirm his talk on human rights abuses in Ethiopia and the plight of refugees, and to request further information for publicity purposes. **Liza, Judith** and **Lottie** to publicise. **Heather** to publicise at the Harbour Project
9. **Forced Evictions exhibition: Livio** to find out about West Swindon Library for March. **Judith** to find out about Pilgrim Centre for April. **Emma B** to prepare boards and contact Ros about a Forced Evictions workshop for the first half of the year.
10. **AOB:**
 - **Emma B** to chase up Bombay Lounge for money from fundraising night.
 - **March meeting:** discuss events and fundraising for 2013: summer festivals; picnic; quiz night

Next meeting: Thursday 14th February