**Minutes of Solihull AI Group Meeting on 15/10/2012**

Present: Pauline, Bernard, Maurice, Rosie, Celia, Janet, Cathy & Janelle

Apologies: David & Phil.

1. **Matters outstanding from previous meet**i**ng**:
	* + 1. The group has decided to maintain two email addresses - the new and preferred email address: Solihull@gmail.com whilst retaining, mainly for AIHQ communications, the old address: aisol@blueyonder.co.uk.
			2. Suggestions for a new format for the monthly meeting were invited.
2. One idea was for all present to contribute to a joint letter; one benefit of this would be to allow people new to the group to participate immediately.
3. Another idea was to organise more speakers to address meetings. Possible speakers to be approached: **by Bernard** – a contact within the Baha’i faith-& **by Janet** –a Quaker contact to speak about pacifism.
4. For meetings without a speaker it was suggested that the 10” item could be expanded. The group agreed to adopt a flexible approach.
5. It was also suggested that the Treasurer’s item need only appear every six months, when considering the donation to central funds.
6. It was agreed that the Minutes would be posted on the website & also sent to members.
7. **Paul Hainsworth**, Campaign Co-ordinator for Indonesia, has confirmed to Celia his intention to speak at the group’s **November meeting**. **‘Freedom from Torture’** was identified as a possible source of a speaker for the January meeting (TBC).
8. There was a brief discussion on the benefits of Twitter. **Pauline agreed to purchase a dongle.**
9. **Pruning of the contact list.** In the next Newsletter **Rosie** will request recipients to confirm, by email or by post as appropriate, that they wish to remain on the mailing list.
10. **Human Rights Day - 10 December** Celia established that there are no units available in Touchwood. Nor is there any space in the December Farmers’ Market, which is limited by the German Market. Celia advised the group that Johan Teterissa is one of the cases being highlighted in the Write for Rights campaign. **Bernard will contact the Town Centre** **Management team** to try to secure a space for Saturday, 8th December or Monday, 10th December. **Celia will enquire about Touchwood/library space.**
11. **Solihull School & Dickens Heath AI groups - Bernard will attempt to contact the former & Celia the latter.**
12. **Collection** Possible substitution of Shelley Farm for Dorridge. Bernard has submitted the group’s request for all Saturdays in March. **Bernard will pursue this** as appropriate.
13. **Laos:** nothing further to report. **Pauline** to speak to David to clarify.
14. **Fun in the Park** We discussed the usefulness of this event, at which less than £10 was raised and the petition was not widely supported, although the ‘car game’ was a great success. Celia suggested making available an A5 flier for any future participation.
15. **Rosie’s 10” item on Chad.** Rosie shared with the group an article from the New York Times about this large, poor, central African country rich in mineral resources which were being squandered by a corrupt & violent regime. Rosie outlined the appalling conditions being suffered by the large number of refugees in Chad, from various conflicts around the region.
16. **Prisoner of Conscience**  - There is nothing specific to report. The President of Indonesia is due to visit the UK at the end of the month. A peaceful demonstration is being planned as well as a petition.
17. **Secretary’s Item: Monthly Action** - on website. Pauline printed a shortened version & letter in support of Hakamada Iwao who has been sentenced to death in Japan. Pauline circulated a letter-writing guide.
18. **Website proposals** – Some members have no email access so alternative access must be maintained. Minutes should be posted & archived after 12 months. Accounts and personal details should not be included. Ideally all members should be responsible for the website. Possibly 10” item to be added by the member responsible. Broader access will have to be considered.
19. **New Year Meetings** - January speaker TBC. February speaker – possibly Kath on Burma! March – Fair Trade – **Pauline to try to arrange (possibly from the Co-op).**
20. **Catalogue –** orders to Pauline by the end of the month please.
21. **Next Meeting : Monday 19th November 2012**

Minutes Cathy Tea & Talk Janelle