

## Solihull Amnesty Group

MEETING ON MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2016

### **MINUTES**

Present: Celia, Cathy, Heather, Bernard, Pauline, Ruth, Janet, Amy

Apologies: David

#### 1. Recent Events

- David sent a report on his talk to Alderbrook sixth form. There was a disappointing response from the students who did not engage with the subject matter.
- Write for Rights: Cathy read parts of the campaign summary recently received. The level of participation was very good. Israa Al-Taweel (Egypt) whom we wrote to has now been freed.

#### 2. Future Events

- Street Collection on 27 February: Bernard has had no response from other groups about planning to collect. Unless he hears this week he will cancel Christ Church room booking. Bernard gave out tins. David has learnt that Dorridge Sainsburies will allow charity collections during 4 week-ends each year. Probably too difficult for us to man a collection throughout a week end.
- AMNESTEA This event will be held on Sunday 26 June in Celia's garden. Money raised will go to AI's project to prevent female genital mutilation (FGM) and Early Forced Marriage (EFM) in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone.

#### 3. Secretary's Items

- Monthly Action: We signed a petition asking the Prime Minister to suspend transfer of arms from UK to coalition carrying out attacks in Yemen and for an international investigation into the human rights violations committed by all sides in Yemen.
- Celia confirmed that our response to Group Planning Pack questions re Individuals at Risk, Monthly Actions and Urgent Actions will be the same as last year.

#### 4. Finance

Anna has sent a financial statement for 2015. Everyone thanked her for the work she does as treasurer.

We all noticed what a considerable financial contribution David makes by giving talks and we thanked him for this.

#### 5. Campaign Reports

Johan Teterissa, Indonesia: Janet will contact Nola Weerwag (country coordinator) asking for contact details for all other groups working on the Johan Teterissa case in order that we can put more pressure on the Indonesian authorities by sending simultaneous emails.

Future letter writing rotas will include contact details of Indonesian ambassador in London so that our communications can be copied to him. ACTION JANET

Sombath Somphone, Laos: David has received a copy of letter to Lao president from directors of all AI international offices expressing concern about the disappearance of Sombath Somphone nearly 3 years ago. This was read out.

Some of us feel unclear about the background to this case, David to be asked to recap briefly at next meeting. ACTION DAVID

#### 6. Yemen: Pauline gave an interesting and informative talk about the country's recent history and the current situation and gave out helpful hand outs.

#### 7. Any other business

David has found old group publicity leaflet. We will discuss updating this at next meeting.

NEXT MEETING Monday 14 March

Celia Rimington 23/2/16