**SOLIHULL AMNESTY GROUP**

**Minutes of meeting on Monday 21 July 2014**

Present: Celia, Janet, Cathy, David, Ruth, Andrew

Apologies: Pauline, Bernard, Aisha

Minutes & Actions:

* Celia has contacted Halesowen Welcome Group and a speaker, re asylum & freedom from torture issues, will be available for the next meeting.
* Cathy forwarded the ‘Love football, love human rights’ photos to AI Brazil and received an acknowledgement. This also appeared in the Solihull News; Celia will obtain a copy for the press book.
* Cathy sent off the consultation exercise to AI but included a letter stating our disappointment with the lack of time to complete it. No reply received.

Future Events

* AMNESTEA, cake & croquet in Celia’s garden 17 August 2014. Flyers to be distributed by members and Ruth to email Solihull News and several members will bake. It was decided a suggested donation of £5 would be appropriate. Also we will display some info about the group, who we are, what we do, our campaigns. The event will be cancelled if the weather is terrible.
* ‘Fun in the Park’ on Sunday 17th September. We will have flyers to publicise the group. Other than this, the focus of the stall will be torture. We chose two AI action card cases to focus on Moses Akatugba (this month’s action) & Alfreda Disburro. Celia will send for more cards, so we can ask people to send them and possibly for donations for the postage costs. Celia is going to look into borrowing a cage to draw attention to the realities of victims of torture.

Secretary’s Items

* Skill share training day Saturday 4 Oct, if anyone is interested in attending get in touch.
* Stop torture videos from experts or survivors, will try to obtain facility to watch for next meeting.

Monthly Action

Stop Torture – Moses Akatugba, Nigeria, was arrested & tortured by Nigerian army. David, Janet & Andrew to send letters of support. Ruth, Cathy & Celia letters to Governor of Delta State.

Campaign Update

Johan Teterissa - No contact from Paul Hainsworth yet. The presidential election has taken place, votes being counted, when result is announced we can hopefully recommence letter writing.

Laos – David had info from David Booth, AI coordinator for some of South East Asia, re some successes from letter writing campaigns. 2 prisoners should be released after negotiations with UN members, he will try to obtain current info as we may want to keep up pressure on these cases to ensure releases.

Most people being held are cases of people talking to journalists etc. He found a couple of fairly recent cases that he will follow up to find us a campaign to take up.

Group Publicity Lealets

We discussed possible appearance/info to feature on the leaflets and Celia brought past examples to consider. We decided on a 2 sided, flat sheet, card, possibly A5. To include short, sharp statements, bold colours, not too much info, to grab attention. We discussed using the wording of particular human rights, possibly choosing 4, with an image that people could relate to. On the reverse of this a little info about the group, what we do, contact info, website for further info. Ruth will work on a design & email possible designs.

Date of next meeting: Monday 18 August 2014

Tea etc: Celia Minutes: Aisha