



# DERBY AMNESTY

Amnesty International (AI) Derby and District Group Newsletter

<http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/derby-and-district>

November 2013

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## Greetings Card Campaign Sat 7th Dec



Write for Rights

Make a difference!

### Support the Campaign in Derby

We invite our readers to attend our annual event to be held in St Peter's Centre, St Peter's St., Derby on Saturday 7th December between 10 am and 4 pm.

### Global Campaign

The Amnesty International launched its annual Write for Rights/Greetings Card campaign in early November. From now until the end of December Amnesty supporters in the UK and globally will be sending a message of hope to the people featured in this year's campaign, and also sending letters of appeal on their behalf.

### The tortured, the abused, the condemned

People featured in the campaign come from a range of countries and have suffered different forms of human rights abuse. They include prisoners of conscience, people under sentence of death, human rights defenders under threat because of their work, and others at risk. For example, Ethiopian journalist Eskinder Nega is serving 18 years in prison for criticising the government.

Torture survivor Miriam Lopez, was abducted after she dropped her children off at school in Tijuana, Mexico. Three years on Miriam is yet to see justice.

### Thousands of cards

The campaign, which runs to 31 January, offers hope and encouragement to the people who receive cards. In previous years many hundreds of cards including hundreds from Derby, have been sent from people in the UK.

### Bring Hope

The cards give hope to those who receive them – people realise they are not forgotten and that others care about their plight. Prisoners can be released as a result of the volume of appeals.

### Make a space in your day

Cards, pens and paper will all be provided. Spare a little of your day to join in and help and please invite your friends and relatives. We also need people to help run the event. We start setting up at 9am. If you are free to help in any way, or can contribute towards the anticipated high cost of postage, then please fill in and return the coupon below.

### Reply Slip Greetings Card Campaign, Saturday 7th Dec 2013 9 am – 4.00 pm.

I would like to help on Saturday 7th Dec and can help between ..... and .....

I am unable to help at the Flag Day but enclose donation of ..... towards the cost of postage (*Cheques to Amnesty International*)

Name.....Address.....

Email ..... Phone .....

Please return by Sat. 30 Nov Sept. to James Lam, 196 Mansfield Road, Derby, DE1 3RB, or email [dr\\_j\\_lam@hotmail.com](mailto:dr_j_lam@hotmail.com)



## Diary Dates . . . Diary Dates . . . Diary Dates .

Group Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Friends Meeting House (FMH), St Helen's St. Derby All welcome.

- Tue 12 Nov** Group Meeting 7.30pm FMH  
Planning of Greeting Card Event
- Sat 7 Dec** Greetings Card Campaign, 10am – 4pm. St Peter's Centre, St Peter's St., Derby. Send a card to a prisoner. Please publicise.
- Tue 10 Dec** Human Rights Day. Group meeting FMH. 7.30pm
- Sat 15 Apr** Annual Bumper Book Sale. Guildhall Clubroom, Derby 10.30 – 2.30.  
Books and help will be needed! Phone D 766536

## Flag Day 2013

Our Flag Day on Sat 28th September raised a total of £492.77, which will be used to support Amnesty's work. Many thanks to all who collected, or sent donations in lieu.

The flag day is one of our major fund-raising events and this total was a bit more than last year, but less than in the past. We need as many collectors as possible each year, so please make a note of next year's date (when I get it!) in your diary and come along for an hour or two. It's a chance to catch up with people you haven't seen for years as you stand with your tin in hand – a social event not to be missed!

(Since Flag Day we have received another welcome donation in lieu of collecting and this has brought the total to over £500! - good news for AI funds!) AF

## Mig's Art - Private View and Exhibition

Thanks to all members who attended the private view or the exhibition on another day. We were rewarded with a chance to see some stunning textile art using recycled materials and Amnesty benefited to the total of £174.83 from the sale of works and postcards.

We would like to thank Mig for all her hard work and her generous donation of half the proceeds from the event and for the opportunity to see what beautiful work can be made from discarded curtain rufflette tape, amongst other things. AF



## Quaker Open Day

Group members staff the Amnesty stall at the recent successful Quaker Open Day, which featured the work and activities of many tenants of the Friends Meeting House.



## Kate Allen visits Melbourne

Melbourne AI Group invited AIUK Director Kate Allen to a meeting at Church House, Melbourne on Thursday 26th September.



Amongst those present were Carol, Ann and David from Derby group.

Kate brought us up to date with developments within the Global movement. At an International Council Meeting [ICM] in August 2013 a motion was upheld, which first saw the light of day at an ICM meeting in August 2011. Namely that AI Sections in the Northern Hemisphere i.e. UK; France; Germany; Holland; USA; Canada etc. will increase their contribution annually to the Global movement from 30% to 40% of income.

### Southern Hemisphere

The rationale behind this move is to inject more capital into the Southern hemisphere where the majority of new campaigns are launched.

Already there has been a movement of staff at the International Secretariat in London, to new offices being set up in Hong Kong; Dacca [Bangladesh] and Johannesburg. New offices are soon to be operational in Bangkok; Mexico City and Brazil.

The result of the changes has been 19 voluntary redundancies at HRAC in London, including the two training managers.

### Encouraging News

Other news from Kate was very encouraging, The USA finally signed The Arms Trade Treaty on Wednesday September 25th, more news to come from this quarter as and when it develops.

Guantanamo Bay.....AIUK's main campaigning thrust will in future be centred on British Citizen Shaka Ahmed. There are still 150 being held in prison there without a trial, despite President Obama's pledge when he came into power to release all prisoners.

Syria.....We don't take sides. We have researchers that have spent recent time in Syria, collecting evidence of abuse. However, the big question there is.... Where is the respect for Human Rights?

Egypt.....We have a researcher based permanently in Cairo !

And finally, AIUK has a new Chairperson...Sarah O'Grady, appointed from the Board after the previous Chair Ciarnan Helfery resigned.

*Dave Callow*

