**Amnesty International**

### **Blackheath and Greenwich**

### **Newsletter**

# MAY 2016

## Group Meeting 10.5.16

The meeting began with Ann Garrett and Geraldine Cowan from the Beckenham group and Rae Lewis-Ayling of “The Rioters” presenting their poems and music which form part of “Electronic Candle”, a compilation of writing produced by members of Amnesty Creative Writers (now Human Rights Creative Writers). Angela then read two of her poems and Roger his. The poetry and songs had been written in reponse to human rights issues, “above all to utilise the immense power of the written word, to inform, provoke debate and ultimately entertain”. The presentation was warmly received. To find out more visit Website: AmnestyCreativeWriters.wordpress.com

**Present:**

Angela Dock

Ann Hillary

Brigitte Hurrell

David Webbe Wood

David Weekes

Geoff Torry

Graham Dock

Guy Ottewell

Joseph Oladuso

Ken Ryder

Roger Hardwick

Sarah M

Shelagh Vouillemin

Simon Ware

Tilly Lavenas

**Apologies:**

Amanda Kipling

Dee Weekes

Katie Dick

Mary-Jane Tsang

Katie Dick

Miki Flannery

Olwen Pearson

Rachel Errington

Rachel Errington

Roger Hardwick

**Campaign Updates**

**China:** Angela reported that there was an urgent action for activist Yang Maodong and she would write a letter for 24 May Letter Writing evening.

**Burma:**  David W said there was nothing to report.

**Mexico & Central America**: Roger said the main news was four people had been arrested and are in prison awaiting trial for the murder of Berta Cáceres.

There is now an extra AI co-ordinator for Central America, making four in all.

**Death Penalty:** David W reported that there were 1634 executions in 25 countries in 2015, up 54% from 2014. 89% occurred in 3 countries: Iran 977, Pakistan 326, Saudi Arabia 158. 6 countries resumed executions: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Oman, Chad and South Sudan. On a positive note, 4 countries abolished the death penalty in 2015: Madagascar, Fiji, Suriname and Congo.

**Stop Torture:** The campaign officially closed this month.

**Book Sale**

**(a) Decision on Autumn Sale**

Simon invited everyone to make a contribution. Considering the issue that more time could be spent on campaigns without the November sale, several people made the point that our campaigns at the Book Sales touched a captive audience and were particularly effective. It was also said that little campaign material came from AIUK now. After everybody’s input a vote was taken. The result was to continue the November Book Sale and not to waste time continually discussing it.

**(b) Planning for June Sale**

A collection will be made this Friday, 13 June, and the Dartmouth Row garage keys should be collected from Lisa who is having further copies made. Keys should then be with Brigitte. On Monday, 16 June, cars are needed from 7pm to collect books from Rachel’s garage (Hillmore Court, 32 Belmont Hill, SE13 5AZ). Ken and Ann will put up category signs in the Dartmouth Row garage from 6.30pm. Then sorting/pricing will start.

**Letter Writing** will be on Tuesday, 24 May, Greenwich Tavern, King Williams Walk, SE10, from 7.30pm.

Letters to David WW, please.

**AOB**

1. starting time of meetings to be discussed at next group meeting.
2. Olwen sent thanks to the group for her card and said £194.72p was collected for Amnesty at her celebration. She has invited AIBG group to hers for the Summer Social: Sunday, 28 August.
3. London Region, next meeting: 7pm, 1June, at the Human Rights centre.
4. Amnesty will have a presence at the Pride parade, 25 June.
5. The Beckenham AI group will have a stall at the Penge festival, 11 June.

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|  | **EVENTS 2016** |
| Tuesday 24 May | 7.30 pm Letter writing, Greenwich Tavern, King William Walk, SE10 |
|  | NO Group monthly meeting. Book sorting/pricing. |
| Monday 16 May to  Saturday, 18 June | 7-9pm weekdays, 4-6pm, weekends: BOOK SORTING/PRICING, Garage below Church of the Ascension, Dartmouth Row, SE10, till  9am – 5pm, BOOK SALE |

Group Meetings: Second Tuesday every month (apart from June) at 7.30pm in the crypt of St. Margaret’s Church, Lee Terrace, SE13 5DL

Letter writing evenings: Fourth Tuesday every month (apart from December) 7.30pm currently at Greenwich Tavern, King William Walk, SE10

Book Sale: A Saturday mid-to-late June; a Saturday after Remembrance Sunday in November; both at Church of the Ascension (COA), Dartmouth Row, SE10 8BF (see EVENTS 2016 above)

Human Rights Action Centre (HRAC): 17–25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA; for any official events please register via the website at [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/) or tel: 020 7033 1675

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| AIBG Contacts | | | |
| **Position** | **Name** | **Phone** | **E-mail** |
| Chair | Simon Ware |  | simontware@gmail.com |
| Deputy Chair | Rachel Errington |  | rerrington852@btinternet.com |
| Secretary (enquiries contact) | David Webbe-Wood |  | David.webbe-wood@ntlworld.com |
| Treasurer | Dee Weekes |  | weekesdee@hotmail.com |
| Membership | David Webbe-Wood | 020 8244 0995 | [david.webbe-wood@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.webbe-wood@ntlworld.com) |
| Publicity | Simon Ware |  | simontware@gmail.com |
| AIBG Website | David Webbe-Wood |  | david.webbe-wood@ntlworld.com |
| London Region Representative | Simon Ware |  | simontware@gmail.com |
| Newsletter | Rotating:  Ken Ryder,  Ann Hillary,  Brigitte Hurrell,  Roger Hardwick  Graham Dock | 020 8856 5377  020 8853 3405  020 8852 6080 020 8852 5225  020 8699 9980 | anneliz.hillary@btinternet.com  [brigittehurrell@gmail.com](mailto:bhchurrell@tiscali.co.uk)  [roger2543@aol.com](mailto:roger2543@aol.com)  g.dock@btinternet.com |

**Email List**: [aibg@googlegroups.com](mailto:aibg@googlegroups.com) (posts to **all** subscribed members)

**Website**: [www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/blackheath-and-greenwich](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/blackheath#_blank)