**Amnesty International**

### **Blackheath and Greenwich**

### **Newsletter January 16**

**Meeting 12/1/16**

1. **Tea and Coffee**

**2. Welcome and introductions**

Simon welcomed Mandy! He will attend the next London Regional Forum meeting at 7pm on Feb. 3rd at The Human Rights Action Centre, anyone wanting to go along, contact Simon.

**Present:**

Geoff Torry

Ann Hillary

Brigitte Hurrell

David Weekes

David Webbe Wood

Mandeep Clair

Graham Dock

Joseph Oladuso

Ken Ryder

Pat Ransford

Olwen Pearson

Amanda Kipling

Rachel Errington

Roger Hardwick

Sheelagh Vouillemin

Simon Ware

Peter Francis-Mullins

Angela Dock

Graham Dock

**Apologies:**

Dee Weekes

**3.Campaign Updates**

**Stop Torture**: Graham pointed to a new petition on the AIUK website to Barrak Obama regarding Guantanamo.

**Burma**: Brigitte to take on

**China**: Angela: more restrictions of freedom of expression,more torture, more repression, critics branded as groups of criminal gangs.KBritain obtaining millions of pounds in Chinese investments at the price of silence.

**Death Penalty**: Joseph offered to help Dave .

**Former Sovjet Union**: Jim usually prepares some letters

**Central America**: Roger had no news from AIUk, mentioned re-arrest of drug baron in Mexico

**Individuals at Risk**: Peter had no news, will contact AIUK

**4. Letter writing**

David. To draft Saudi letter, any others please let everyone know to avoid duplication and pass to David by Monday 25th Jan for duplication.

**5 Change of financial Year**

Dee proposed change to calendar year, AGM also needs moving from Sept to February. To be put to the next AGM in Sept as it requires change of constitiution.

1. **AIUK Annual Conference and AGM in Nottingham, April 8-10**

Any motions? Suggestions to David.

David, SImon and Rachel to go as well as Joseph as our Group representative.

**7.Future Book Sales**

Discussion of viability – we need **more volunteer helpers** in May and June **pre** Book Sale!

Simon to ask Farshid about contacting national members in the locality regarding volunteering for helping with collections, sorting and pricing at the garage as well as clearing up after the sale.

Same message to go to our contact e-mail list as well as into local papers, other groups (Amanda), Church newsletters (Rachel – Alan Race, Rector at St Margaret's, Chris Moody, Vicar at St Alfege's)

Joseph can offer volunteer jobless people between 9-5. Roger offered to train them. We could open the garage during the day a couple of times in the week. More people need to be responsible for opening and closing the garage: Ken to contact Lisa and Geoff regarding having 2? more keys cut to be held by designated key holders

**Report back at February meeting.**

**8. January Social**

This will be held at Sheelagh’s on Saturday 16 January from 7pm at **139 Lee Park, Blackheath:** Please bring food and/or drink.

1. **AOB**

Pat is taking a year out, Brigitte thanked her for her hard work, the details of her work at the Sutcliff Park Summer Fair are with David.

Dave informed about the Chinbrooke Dog Show on 21st August – do we want to heve a stall, donate chidren's books?

Simon announced the HONOUR VIOLENCE film at the HRAC on Jan. 28th from 7-10pm, entry free but booking required via the website

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|  | **EVENTS 2016** |
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| Saturday 16 January | Christmas Social at Shelagh's from 7pm, 139 Le Park, Blackheath, bring a bottle and/or food |
| Tuesday 26 January | From 7.30 pm: Letter Writing, Greenwich Tavern (by the Park gates) |
| Thursday, Jan 28th | HONOR VIOLENCE: film and discussion at HRAC  7-10pm, booking required |
| Tuesday 9 February | 7.30pm Group monthly meeting St. Margaret’s crypt |
| Tuesday, 23rd Feb | From 7.30 pm Letter writing at the Greenwich Tavern |

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)

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

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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**Website**: [www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/blackheath-and-greenwich](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/blackheath)