Amnesty International

### Blackheath and Greenwich

### Newsletter

### February 15

**Group Meeting 10th Feb 15**

**Present:**

David Weekes

Graham Dock,

Ken Ryder,

Simon Ware

Miki Flannery

Rachel Errington

Brigitte Hurrell

Ann Hillary

Peter Francis-Mullins

Roger hardwick

**Apologies:**

Olwen Pearsopn

Dee Weekes

Angela Dock

David Webbe-Wood

**1.2. Tea, coffee , apologies,** Simon to chair and Brigitte to do newsletter

 **3.** **Updates on campaigns:** **Urgent Action** :**Graham** to continue with urgent action and to attend the Stop Torture event at the Human Rights Centre, **Raif Badawi:** flogging may have stopped- Graham to follow developments, we may have to do more letters.

At the charity concert in St Alfege last week we had a stall, **Roger and Shelagh** got 17 letters signed and may have recruited a new member( Roger to follow up)

**Dave** on death penalty: Latest state 2013:

778 known executions (excluding China)-- 15% up from 2012

China: in the thousands

Iran: 369

Iraq: 169

Saudi-Arabia: 79

USA: 39 (down 10%)

Some countries re-instated executions:Indonesia, Kuwait, Nigeria and Vietnam are reviewing

Positive: 98 countries have abolished the death penalty (almost half)

Some are making moves towards abolition:

In the US Maryland has abolished

Pakistan has suspended carrying out executions.

Several African countries are reviewing the death penalty:Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone.

**Simon** on Social Media: Amnesty and especially our group are doing very well on Facebook Twitter and Blogs ( Sorry, Simon, I did not get the details)

 **4. Book Sale**: Rachel investigated a **credit card machine** but it turned out to be much too expensive.

**Volunteer** helpers: **Simon** to contact a volunteer centre and Dave offered to contact local time bank.

**Banner** for railing in Blackheath advertising the book sale: need to ask the Highways Agency, not Lewisham

**Stickers** for your diary reminding of book sale: size and numbers too big (4cm and 2000 minimum) and too expensive

**5. Deputies and Information Sharing;** All job details, contacts etc to be brought to next meeting. Each job to have a deputy who can take over at short notice.

**6. Group Planning Pack:** Rachel had a questionnaire:

Do we want to take on another region?--No, we have enough.

Do we want another Individual at risk?--Yes, we nee to replace Noxolo Nogwaza, **Peter** offered to take one on from anywhere except China.

Urgent Action? --Yes, continue.

 **7. Contact with other Groups:**  not much happening

 **8. Letter Writing : Rachel**  needs letters by Friday; **Roger**  to prepare letter for Dominican Republic, **2 Urgent** **Actions**:: **Dave** to take on Iran and **Ann** Sudan.

Brigitte to pass on surplus letters to Ascension Church ( Trevor), to St Alfege (Chris Moody) and to offer to St Margaret 's (accepted by church secretary and letters delivered)

Graham took the notice board.

**9. AIUK AGM & Conference, delegate and motion:** if no one comes forward **Simon** will be our delegate , as he is already attending. We don't have a motion.

 **10** . **Meeting format and speakers, work shops, films etc**

 Publicity about the AFRIL talk in March: **Simon** to announce on Social Media sites and **Brigitte** to take invitation leaflets to the 3 churches (where we take letters) and ask the vicars to announce the meeting. ( done)

Future activities: **Dave** to ask AIUK for a training session on death penalty, maybe for a talk by a rep of a country with high levels of execution.

**11. AIBG Group Secretary:**

Urgent need for a new secretary as April will be Rachel's last. Can we share more of the secretaries work amongst us?

**12. AOB :**  Need for photo copying facility for letter writing as Rachel unable to continue: approached AFRIL but they need to charge 10p to cover costs.

Any other ideas?

Questions for Parliamentary candidates: next meeting

AIBG web site: not user friendly enough : keywords have to be worded in a very specific way to get results -it is often easier to get the answer via Google.

David Webbe-Wood to approach AIBG

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| The group's social media presence : Blog - [www.amnestybg.wordpress.com](http://www.amnestybg.wordpress.com/) Facebook - [www.facebook.com/amnestybg](http://www.facebook.com/amnestybg) Twitter - [www.twitter.com/amnestybg](http://www.twitter.com/amnestybg) And the website is still the best place to find the essential news on group activities, newsletters and meetings at [www.amnesty.org.uk/blackheath](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/blackheath) If group members have items they want uploaded to social media please email them to aibgsocialmedia@gmail.com - i.e. photos, links to actions, newsletters, template letters for actions, event information etc.  |

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|  |  **EVENTS 2015** |
| Tuesday Feb 24th | Letter Writing, Picture House Greenwich, SE10 |
| Tuesday, 10th March | Group Monthly Meeting , Talk about AFRIL |
| 26th May – 19th June | Book sale preparation |
| Saturday, 20th June | Book Sale, Church of the Ascension |

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) 8pm in the bar (1st floor) at Greenwich Picturehouse, Greenwich High Road, SE10 8NN

Book Sales 2015: Saturday 20th June; 9am to 5pm, Saturday 21st November, 10am to 4pm, both at Church of the Ascension (COA), 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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| AIBG Contacts |
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**Email List**: aibg@googlegroups.com (posts to **all** subscribed members)

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