Amnesty International

### Blackheath and Greenwich

### **Newsletter**

### **November 2016**

**Tuesday 8 November 2016, 7.30pm**

**Present**

Amanda Kipling

Angela Dock,

Ann Hillary

Brigitte Hurrell

David Webbe-Wood

 Elizabeth Nieumeier

Geoff Torry

Graham Dock

Ken Ryder

Rachel Errington

Roger Hardwick

Simon Ware

Tilly Lavenás

**Apologies:**

David Weekes

Miki Flannery

Olwen Pearson

Dee Weekes

1. **Introductions & Apologies, Newsletter writer, Roger.**

We welcomed Elizabeth Neumeier who also attended the last letter writing.

**2. Campaign Updates:**

**China**: Angela reported the release of Yuau Ying another of the **Six citizen journalists** from the Sichvan-based website “64 Tianwang” who were detained for covering protests in relation to the G20 summit. International pressure including that from AI is credited. One, Qin Chao, remains in detention without access to lawyers and is at risk of torture. Letter will be prepared.

**Mexico and Central America:** Based on Tilly’s newsletter Roger reported that 3 themes predominate. Environmental Defenders, Disappearances and Refugees.

Murders of environmental activists are reported from Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua with one piece of good news that the government of El Salvador have won a court case against Oceana Gold, a mining company that was denied a concession to drill and claimed compensation. There is a new report from AI We are Defending the Land.

Tilly was one of the organisers of the empty chairs demo outside the Mexico embassy to mark the 2nd anniversary of the disappearance of 43 students. The demo was widely reported in the Mexican press. The Iguala chief of police who is believed to have been involved has been arrested after 2 years on the run.

AI have published a report ‘Home Sweet Home? Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador’s role in a deepening refugee crisis. Deportations of people from these countries by Mexico have increased by 180% since 2010.

The Central American Women’s Network is closing after 25 years because of funding problems. There will be a final event at HRAC on Friday 25 Nov. 3.30 to 6.15pm talks; 6.15 to 9.00 party. RSVP campaigns@cawn.org

Tilly’s full report can be obtained from Roger.

**3. Book Sale preparations: The sale is on Saturday, 19 November.**

 **Publicity:** flyers were distributed, social media active.

**Campaign:** some difficulties obtaining Write for Rights material but Graham has it in hand.

**Credit Card Machine:** Roger will discuss with Dee. Mary-Jane not available.

**Books half price all day:** this means half the stated price! Books and signs will show the full price, then halved at the till.

**Church from Mon-Sat.** Simon has negotiated with Dean as Vicar has resigned. Ann will meet Dean on Monday 14th at 12.30.

 **Monday, 14 November:**

From 5.30pm: Ann, David Weekes Angela and Graham will set up Church. 7pm: Amanda, Ann, Roger move books from Olwen’s to Church. David W-W will assist with loading. It was discussed whether to have van for moving books from Rachel’s garage, where the majority are. It was agreed that Brigitte’s son will hire Zip Van. **Helpers required at church to unload.** David W-W and Rachel will load at her garage.

**Putting out books:** Church will be open 7.00 to 9.00pm Mon. Tues. Weds. If contacted about donations they can be accepted these days only until 8.30pm. Church will be opened by Ann at 9.30 am on Saturday.

**Books left over:** no skip will be hired. AI bookshop, Happy Fish and Age Exchange will collect. They have been warned that there are likely to be large quantities.

**Clear-up Team:** Graham emailed AIBG members for volunteers but the response has been poor. **It is vital that more people come forward. Please contact Graham.**

**Refreshments:** Olwen, Amanda and Angela will assist. Ann appealed for cakes.

**4. Write for Rights: Saturday 10 December 2.30 to 4.30pm.** Tilly and Guy have kindly offered to organise this at their house in Greenwich, making a charge of £2 for refreshments. Graham will supply materials. Ann is organising cups and saucers, offers needed. Cup cake style gateaux required. Please tell Tilly. Amanda will help with logistics. Ann, Ken, Graham, Angela, Brigitte, Elizabeth and Rachel will help on the day. There is an option to sell left-over books.

**5. Possible Charity Meal:** Graham will invite Brian and Jane Sullivan,

who own Hamilton House on the Heath to a future meeting to discuss plans.

**6. AFRIL Quiz:** 7.30pm 23 November, 14 December at “The Talbot”, 2 Tyrwhitt Road,

SE4. Several members attending on 23rd. Please email your interest – Rachel has information.

**7. Letter Writing:** 22 November at the Greenwich Tavern, King William Walk, SE10 Letters to David W-W by Monday 21 November. Email group which letter you are writing. Roger and Angela will have letters.

**8. Arrangements for future meetings:** December: Christmas drinks/food, Write for Rights; AIUK AGM. January: our AGM. February: refugees welcome. Greenwich MP to be invited. March: Guatemala co-ordinator, Courtney Howe. April: Burma, Nola Weewag.

**9. Winter Social.** David W-W will liaise with Sheelagh about a suitable Saturday in January, Brigitte also volunteered to host.

**10. AOB:**

**Refugees:** Brigitte is hoping to house a student refugee. Donations of food, clothing and toiletries welcome at all meetings and letter writing.

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|  |  **EVENTS 2016 - 2017** |
| Saturday, 19th November | Book Sale |
| Tuesday 22nd November | Letter writing |
| Saturday 10th December | Write for Rights |
| Tuesday 13th December | Group meeting |
| Tuesday 10th January | Group meeting |
| Tuesday 24th January | Letter writing |
| Saturday in Jan. to be arranged | Winter Social |

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

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