Amnesty International

### Blackheath and Greenwich

### Newsletter

### Sept 15

**Group Meeting 8.9.15**

**Present:**

Kinnari Bhatt and father

David Webbe-Wood

Graham Dock,

Ken Ryder,

Simon Ware

Rachel Errington

Brigitte Hurrell

Ann Hillary

Peter Francis-Mullins

Roger Hardwick

Amanda Kipling

Pat Ransford

Ktistina Blagojevich

**Apologies:**

Olwen Pearson

Dee Weekes

Angela Dock

David Weekes

Eileen Smith

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

 **2. Kinnari Bhatt** sp[oke about plight of **Chagos islanders** (US military base Diego Garcia in Indian Ocean) who were removed by the British Government and are fighting for their return. The so called 50 year lease by the Americans is about to expire and their case needs support. More info at: www.chagossupport.co.uk

 **3.** **Officers' reports:** Simon asked everyone about their highlights: the book sale came out top. **Kristina** presented the treasures' accounts, it was accepted and she was thanked for her many years as treasurer. It was decided to donate £6000.- to AIUK now, more after the Autumn book sale.

 **4. Election of Officers**:

 **Chair: Simon Ware**

 **Treasurer: Dee Weekes**

 **Secretary: David Webbe-Wood**

 **Vice chair: Rachel Errington**

Other roles:

  **Media: Simon**

 **Newsletter: rotating Ann, Ken, Brigitte, Graham, Roger**

 **Membership: David WW**

 **Website: David WW**

 **London Regional Rep: Simon, Rachel and Graham to support**

 **Book Sale: On the Day: Ken, Book Collection: Brigitte, Amanda to support**

Campaigns:

 **Death Penalty: Dave W**

 **Stop Torture: Graham**

 **Former USSR: Jim**

 **Central America: Roger**

 **Burma: Kinnari**

 **China: Angela**

 **Individuals at Risk: Peter (**has not heard from AIUK since February!**)**

**5. Bank Account:** Dee to decide on whether to change etc

**6. Campaign Updates:**

 **Roger on Guatemala:** former President indicted for corruption, new election

 imminent:a non-military candidate in with a chance.

 **China:** message from Angela: activists still detained, need **more letter writing**

 **Stop Torture: Graham:**Trade in torture equipment: more letters to write to

 minister, last minute info: **Action Tuesday, Sept 15th** (Weapons Trade Fair at the

 EXCEL)12-3pm, Graham and Brigitte to liaise.

  **Monthly Action: Sign Ribbon Campaign for My Body My Rights** for letter writing,

 David WW to send details to Brigitte

  **London Region**: **Conference on Sat, Oct 3 at Human Rights Action Centre**, talk by

 Kate Allen and workshops, booking free.

 **Sutcliffe Park Festival, AI Book Stall:**  Big Thankyou to Pat for taking this on and David

 WW, Amanda and Sheila for helping. It made over £40.- Before deciding on

 whether to continue Pat to ask the organiser whether they want us there next

 year.

**7.Letter writing:** as well as ribbon action (see above) new ' Real Lives' listing for Autumn,

 Graham to circulate, please select a case, notify the group to avoid duplication, send

 to David WW for photo copying by noon on Monday, Sept 21st.

 Please ensure the letter has **Sender:** and **Date:** at the top as well as **Signed:** at the

 bottom

 Graham to get notice board from Dave W.

**8. Joint project with AFRIL:**  **Welcome Lunch** for refugees on Sunday, Oct 4, 1-3pm:

 Brigitte to host if no one else offers their house. **Anybody prepared to attend?** Let

 Brigitte know.

**9. Kate Allen's visit to our group:** Questions to her about better support for local groups,

 better communication with country co-ordinators. If she does not come to the

 October meeting, we will show the documentary **Who is Dayani Cristal**

**10. Inventory of assets and cloud storage:** postponed

**11. AOB :**

 **Disposal of books after the Autumn book sale:** Pat to liaise with Sarah Manvel

 about accepting the offer of AB Books to come at 4.30 on the day, take the surplus

 away, sell what they can and send the rest to landfill. Brigitte to contact Zoe at the

 Human Rights Centre to ask her to also come with a van at 4.30 on the day and take

 away what she can.

 **Consultation on the AIUK Constitution:**  12 page copy in Autumn magazine,

 Graham to circulate, response by Nov 2nd, no time for group response, please

 respond individually.

  **Rocky Horror Show Live** on 17th Sept. At the Greenwich Picturehouse, David WW

 volunteering to hand out Action Cards, **anyone joining?**

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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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|  |  Future **Events** |
| Tuesday, Sept 15th | Action against Torture Equipment, contact Graham or AIUK about details |
| Thursdayday, Sept 17th | Rocky Horror Show Live at Greenwich Picturehouse and Odeon, Penninsula, in aid of Amnesty International, hand out Action Cards, volunteers to contact AIUK |
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| Sat, Sept 26th | Embassy Crawl organised by Wandsworth Group, My Body My Rights, meet at 11am outside Baker Street tubestation |
| Saturday, October 3rd | London Regional Conference at Human Rights Action Centre |
| Sunday, Oct.4th | Welcome Lunch for Refugees, venue tbd |
| Tuesday, Oct.13th | Group Meeting at 7.30 at the Crypt of St Margaret |
| Saturday, November 21st | Book Sale at the Ascension Church, Dartmouht Row, 10-4pm |

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 21st November, 10am to 4pm, 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**: [www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/blackheath-and-greenwich](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/blackheath)