

## Minutes of Meeting – Solihull Amnesty Group 20 April 2015

Present: Pauline, Bernard, Janet, Celia, Ruth, Cathy, David.

Recent Events: Meeting with the Conservative candidate Julian Knight 16/03/2015 – Members felt it had been an interesting evening and were glad The Welcome Group had attended. Email addresses for visitors were collected to invite them to future/summer events, a network of human rights interest outside of the group.

Street Collection : Wasn't as successful this year, seems to relate to the weather (cold) and amount of collectors was depleted. David found the Sainsbury contact difficult to get in touch with and will remember to start trying to contact sooner next year. There was concern from some collectors not wanting the amount individuals had collected to be compared against others. It was agreed to send details to a representative from other groups so they can feed information to their members as they wish.

### Future Events:

- 26 June 2015 International Day for Victims of Torture. Celia will contact other groups to suggest collaborating, to mark this date.
- 23 August 2015 This date was agreed for the Amnestea to be held at Celia's.
- 20 September 2015 Fun in the park. We will book a slot for this event again and possibly borrow the cage again.

### Secretary's Items:

- Monthly Action – Write letter or email to authorities in United Arab Emirates requesting release of human rights lawyer Mohammed Al Roken, who was educated at Warwick University and jailed for speaking out on human rights cases, currently serving 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 10 year sentence.
- Invitation from Alderbrook Sixth Form College who are looking for speakers fortnightly on Tuesdays 11.15-12.15, to broaden the children's outlook. David volunteered himself as he has done similar talks before. He usually asks for a donation towards AI and will do so here if possible.

### Treasurer's report:

- Fixed fee of £70 has been paid to AI.
- It was agreed to donate a further £500 from the street collection/fund raising.

### Campaigns:

- Johan Teterissa - Janet's rota is ongoing until June. She will create new rota next month to include Johan himself, as new information states this is OK to do again.
- Sombath Sophone – David is working on a new rota, very hard to obtain information on the situation so just continue with letter writing.

### Other Matters:

- Extended 10 minute tea talk. It was decided that the subject of ISIS was very broad, so everyone will bring a small amount of info to the next meeting and discuss.
- Feedback was given from Celia, Pauline and Bernard regarding the AI conference they attended. Some elements they found interesting, others were frustrating, but all agreed it had been worthwhile to attend the event.