

SOLIHULL GROUP - AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
MINUTES OF GROUP MEETING - 18-4-16

Apologies - Ruth, Janet **Present** - David, Bernard, Heather, Amy, Pauline
Cathy, Celia

Minutes and Actions of meeting March 21st -

- DH - to ask his church to borrow 5 tables for AMNESTEA Sun.26th June
- Cathy - Reply received from Caroline Spelman MP (Meriden) re our letter concerning human rights matters in Syria. No reply yet from Julian Knight MP (Solihull).
- - - Celia - Human Rights Act - Celia has informed AI that we will not contact Caroline Spelman until after the consultation document has been published
- New list for group members (addresses, etc.) sent out by Celia to those listed -
- Celia - short discussion re Amnestea 26th June
- Fun in the Park 18th Sept.- further planning at future meetings

Monthly Actions

- emailed info and petition action re Iranian human rights issues sent by AIUK to all members. Members also asked to write to Iranian authorities -items and issues to be raised by members mentioned in email.
- Discussion on ARMS TRADE issues following letter sent by Celia re UK arms sales (Saudi action in Yemen). Need for protest to UK Govt. re statements by David Cameron re arms trade and protection of human rights which were then compromised for commercial (and political?) reasons by UK entering new arms trade deals.
- Talk 26th Apl. at Quaker meeting house in Birmingham city centre re a recent visit made to the Migrants' Camp in Calais.
- Celia, as well as the Monthly Action on Iran, Celia read out a reply from our MEP's foreign policy advisor re European Parliament policy on limiting exports of equipment used for torture

Campaigns - DH - new letter writing rota for May - Aug. re Sombath Somphone (Laos) - still no news from any source re his abduction in 2012 - Lao authorities seem to be 'dragging their heels' on this matter and not showing any real commitment to investigate this matter. Letter of concern sent to Lao Govt. Dec. 2015 signed by 47 Amnesty sections. Diplomatic concerns also expressed by Govts. of several countries.

- JW - new letter writing rota for May - Sept. re Johan Teterissa (Indonesia) - recent news that he is at last, now receiving medical treatment for serious health issues. No news of immediate release in spite of years of letters to Govt. authorities in Indonesia

Solihull Amnesty Group - New group information/publicity leaflet being prepared by Cathy ready for use at any occasion when our group members meet with members of the public - eg. Street Collections, Fun in the Park , etc.

General Discussion - re whether there is any way to tackle the expansion of IS (esp. Libya) . Also western and now eastern commercial exploitation of 3rd World countries.

TIBET - Talk and video presentation by HEATHER about the Chinese take-over of Tibet and the total repression of the Tibetan way of life. - destruction of 90% of the monasteries - Exploitation of Tibet's mineral wealth - destruction of the environment. Very

interesting talk - clear and informative . Also
the failure of countries (incl. UK - David Miliband 2008) to support the Tibetans, largely due to the economic and political power wielded by China in the world today - info sheets and cards distributed to members. Also info. re the campaigning group 'Free Tibet'.