**Amnesty International Cambridge City Group**

**Meeting Thursday 8th November 2012, 7.45pm**

Present: Angie McKerral, Sarah Oliver, Kenny Latunde, Peter Hague, Liesbeth ten Ham, Lissy Klarr, Diana Paulding, Naomi Sklar, Jo Harbour, Evvy Edwards, Andrea Brandt von Lindau

Apologies: Dave Clarke, Sue Woodsford, Sheila Hakin

1. **Welcome and introductions**
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting were approved
3. **Campaign/events update:**

Israel/Palestine

* There was an urgent action about a conscientious objector, but no time to take part in this
* Update on 2 recent urgent actions regarding 2 men on hunger strike: one has been released from prison and the other one has called off his hunger strike, pending transfer to a prison in Pakistan
* Peter had a reply from the Israeli ministry of justice following a recent letter

Anti-death penalty

* No news

North Korea

* Kenny gave a talk at the Salisbury amnesty group on the prison camps in North Korea and has received very positive feedback from them, they would like to support the campaign, e.g. during North Korea Freedom Week in April
* The ai North Korea Coordinator has resigned and Kenny has applied for the role

Regional conference

* We need to encourage as many people as possible to come to the debate
* Sue and Angie volunteered to take responsibility for lunch which will be food that people bring along plus a few things from Sainsbury, others will help out too
* Evvy to help with lunch and speakers
* We are expecting about 40-50 people
* Colin has arranged the speakers and chair
* A message has been sent to youth groups and student groups and Liesbeth was contacted by Essex University who are coming
* Other regional amnesty groups have said they would come but none have returned their forms yet
* Kate Allen is thinking of attending, although there will be an AIUK board meeting on that day too
* It was suggested that during/before lunch, there could be a meeting about the EGM

Letter writing

* At the last letter writing evening only one person came and seven letters were sent
* Letter writing will start again in January and the following people volunteered:

January: Angie

February: Kenny

March: Sarah

April: Evvy

Stall

* The stall has made £167.38 so far this year
* Selling bracelets now
* The film festival made £35.70
* The next two dates for the stall are 17th Nov and 8th Dec, Peter and Andrea are going to be at both
* The group’s old market stall, which had been bought for £175 ten years ago, was sold for £120 on ebay

1. **Chair’s report**

* The group voted whether to request an EGM to include the membership in discussions around AIUK’s current restructuring process: 7 votes in favour / 3 abstentions
* Liesbeth to complete a form on behalf of the group and send it off

1. **Secretary’s report**

* The monthly action asked our MP to oppose the Justice and Security Bill, to be debated in the House of Lords this month
* Evvy to send a copy of the letter to Diana from South Cambs group
* Amnesty has launched a lottery

1. **Treasurer’s report**

* Our current balance is £400.14
* Most income comes from the stall/book sales
* Expenses have been the bracelets (which will bring money back in) and ink cartridges

1. **Next meeting**

* The next meeting will be on Thursday, 13th December
* This will be the greeting card campaign, so please bring along greeting cards and food/drink

1. **AOB**

* It was agreed to buy a display board for the market stall
* We are still waiting for confirmation from the speaker for our February meeting
* Naomi offered to run a greeting cards campaign for amnesty at the Cambridge City WI December stall and to see whether we could do a talk at one of their meetings
* We will have a stall at the concert on 2nd Dec, manned by Evvy and Peter, Evvy to get in touch with the organiser and Liesbeth will send out an email to ask for volunteers