

**Amnesty International Salisbury Group**

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Thursday 12th December.**

**7.30 pm at 4, Victoria Road.**

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|  |  | ACTION |
| **1** | **Chairman’s welcome**  Andrew, Tony, Dick, Eddie, Peter, Lesley, Michael P, Emily, Michael S, Fiona and Karen |  |
| **2** | **Apologies**  Ursula and Daphne |  |
| **3** | **Minutes of the November meeting**  One amendment; the students who attended the Amnesty workshop at the Citizenship Conference found it was thought provoking and enjoyable, often their favourite session of the day. |  |
| **4** | **Treasurer’s report**  £522.41 in the Amnesty account, with 2 lots of £30 expenses to be paid. The £25 from Barminster Investments for advertising in the newsletter has been paid in. | MP |
| **5** | **Update on Campaigns**  **DEATH PENALTY SUMMARY**  **General**  • Reggie Clemons  o Letter received from Reggie Clemons.  Cards returned with request to remove stickers.  Returned cards to Reggie with letter.  o Response from AIHQ to Reggie Clemons petition – they advised national campaign continues, and to hold further signings as wished.  • Death Penalty Workshop – February 13th confirmed with Gill Cleverley  **Executions**  • Indonesia - 17.11.13 – execution by firing squad of Pakistani, Muhammad Abdul Hafeez who was convicted for drug smuggling. This is the 5th execution this year and carried out in secret.  • Iran - 4 Ahwazi men executed end Nov/beginning Dec (recent U.A.) Families not told in advance, were not given info where buried and barred from holding memorial events.  Urgent Actions (U.A.) there have been 6 this month:  • Iraq  o UA 297/12 – Ahmad ‘Amr ‘Abd al-Qadir Muhammad at risk of imminent execution.  Circulated to DPLWG – 15.11.13  o UA 317/13 – Khaled Khalifa Mahmud confessed under torture - at risk of imminent execution – circulated to DPLWG – 5.12.13  • USA  o Florida – UA 321/13 – Askari Abdullah Mohammad – Governor signed death warrant.  On death row since 24 he is now 62.  Long history of mental health problems.  Circulated to DPLWG – 27th Nov  o Florida – UA 319/13 – Frank Walls – mental impairments – has now exhausted appeals.  Final appeal for clemency to be sent to Governor and Parole Board – his last chance.  Circulated to DPLWG 9th Dec – this month’s Group Urgent Action  • Iran – UA 137/12 – update – 5 Ahwazi men transferred to new location – suggests imminent execution – circulated to DPLWG 11.12.13  • Bangladesh - UA 330/13 – Abdul Quader Mollah – senior member of Opposition Party at imminent risk of execution after warrant for execution issued on 5th December.  UA to ensure he has right to appeal.  Circulated to DPLWG 12.12.13  • Japan - Hakamada Iwao  o AI monthly action for Dec - petition on line – circulated by Fiona  o Update to petition – discovery of DNA evidence, which may help prove Hakamada’s innocence – please go on line to sign.     * Another Urgent Action (UA) came in after publishing the above December list. It was noted that there seems to be a large increase at present. * Fiona checked that it was still agreed she would select one UA per month for the group to write on and all other death penalty UA’s would continue to go to Lesley. Fiona will now email the chosen UA each month to the 35 addresses on the minutes’ mailing list. * Peter suggested setting up a sub group to thrash out a range of different email lists to decide who gets what information and how wide to make the contact groups, e.g. do we include Nuala at Bishops and Wendy in Bath? Tony, Fiona, Peter, Andrew and Karen offered to be in the sub group.   **INDIVIDUAL AT RISK**  Note from the International Secretariat that there is no change in situation of Ponciano Mbomio Nvo, he remains suspended from the bar. If not before, his suspension should be lifted on 27th April 2014 when the resolution to suspend was passed. Please continue action.  **NORTH KOREA**   * A Sub group meeting was held, courtesy of Ursula, on the 6th of December. It reviewed all the 2013 activities and the public’s response to them. The 2013-year planner and feedback forms were completed ready to return to Kenny as the end of year report and presented at the monthly meeting. * These were then used to start 2014 planning. It was agreed that Karen would contact Kenny to request information for next years planning such as fund raising activities for radios etc. that could be smuggled into NK (based on information from Yodok Stories and Dispatches documentary). Plus if there was any national action planned to coincide with the publication of UN Commission of Inquiry report in March, at present we are awaiting a reply. * The NK group have produced a flexible 2014 plan and suggested discussing this with the other campaign groups to coordinate any events that might be in the planning stage for 2014. * The quantity and detail of information on NK is improving, both from Kenny and through Kim Joo Il’s (the speaker from Yodok Stories) online daily news bulletins [www.nknews.com](http://www.nknews.com) that Karen has subscribed to. There have also been articles in the Telegraph, Guardian, BBC news and a Dispatches documentary, all focusing more on human rights rather than nuclear issues. If anyone comes across information, film etc. please take notes and pass on to Karen or Tony. * Tony agreed to produce a Fact File for all members and anyone showing interest at petition signing etc. He will look at the history leading to present day political, economic and human rights situation. The plan is to update this every month from minutes of meetings. * Other background info included: China has announced it will close the re-education camps similar to North Korea. AI has released new satellite images of Kwanliso 15 & 16 and is calling for the NK authorities to acknowledge their existence and close them. Vice chairman of NK National Defence Commission Jang Song Thaek and uncle to Kim Jong Un was publicly arrested, believed to be detained without trial. NK has begun selling large amounts of gold to China in a bid to tide over its economic crisis. Lastly, China has increased its security along the NK border these could be preliminary measures to prevent increase in NK refugees fleeing to China and/or being ready to react if the regime becomes unstable. | LC  FD  PC  AH  KB  TM |
| **6** | **Film at Salisbury Arts Centre**  **It was a sell out!** Everyone agreed it was a great film and good to have a petition signing afterward that complimented the issues in the film. Consequently there was approx 50% signup of the exit petition. It was mentioned that although there were 2 e-petitions (Arts Centre has free wifi) and three sheets to sign there were still queues so next year possibly even more members with clipboards would boost signatures.  The group gave their thanks and congratulations to Fiona for planning, hosting and introducing the film due to the last minute withdrawal of the planned speaker (for the second year!)  The Arts Centre advertised a speaker with the film, so next year will need to ensure we secure a reliable speaker.  The issue of resale of tickets was brought up; Fiona volunteered to check their policy. | FD |
| **7** | **Greetings card signings**  The rota’s for manning the stalls Tuesday and Saturday were finalized. |  |
| **8** | **Publicity: letter to John Glen on Human Rights**  The human rights letter sub group discussed the proposed meeting with John Glen and agreed to meet in January to hone their questions, the aim being to draw him out without alienating him to AI. The bill of rights commission has already reported suggesting they should look at getting rid of HRA could be replaced with HRA+. |  |
| **9** | **Reports on Website and Newsletter**  The next Newsletter is due in February, so please start working on articles, letters, replies etc. and send to Peter.  Emily offered to pass on to Peter a teaching presentation on Wordpress. | PC |
| **10** | **Monthly Action**   * The Hakamada petition is on line now; it is the second as there is new DNA evidence putting the conviction into question. * National Conference and AGM at Heriot Watt date April 12-13th 2014 * Panorama programme response about misuse of funds in Comic Relief, Save the Children, Amnesty etc. AI has had very little bad publicity in the press after the screening, Kate Allen’s response is on our website. * Nomination are being requested for Regional Reps if anyone is interested please contact AIUK |  |
| **11** | **School Human Rights Essay (Peter)**  3 essays have been received (no girls) although there was approx 50/50 split at the conference, next year there are plans to widen the competition to more schools. Peter has acquired a Big Cheque for first prize but is still deciding on a winner and will look at the publicity for the presentation in the New Year. | PC |
| **12** | **Other forthcoming events**   * The Amnesty Christmas tree will be taken to Downton. * Jonathon is coordinating the Carol singing on 19th. Jonathon, Tony? Thomas, Peter and Lesley attending. * Confirm DP workshop in the February meeting. Lesley will look at The White Hart as a venue. The aim is to give us idea’s to help plan a campaign, as there is little support from AIUK. * Michael P has booked a date for the White Elephant Stall in 2014 will confirm at next meeting. | FD  JP  LC  MP |
| **13** | **Introduction to Facebook and Twitter (Emily)**  Many thanks to Emily for her presentation on how to use twitter to break into the social media world with emphasis on getting younger people following our exploits, ideas and comments. Rather than trying to record everything in the minutes (at least 10 pages) Emily has offered to make a brief PowerPoint of explanation and examples.  This was Emily’s last meeting with us, everyone wished her well in her move to London and the new job. |  |
| **14** | **AOB**   * It was suggested and agreed that we would start a Directory of Contact details for regular members, with as much or as little information as people are happy to provide. A spreadsheet will be circulated at the next meeting and it will be decided to whom the information will be supplied. * It was also proposed that the group might like to start a Photo Gallery of members especially those with responsibilities, it would be useful for new members in starting to put names and areas of responsibility to faces and being able to follow the minutes more easily. | KB  KB |
| **15** | **Next meeting**  Thursday 9th January 2014. 7.30 at 4, Victoria Road  **Vertical banner and Tabards**  Are living with Peter and Lesley this month. |  |

Group website: [www.amnesty.org.uk/salisbury](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/salisbury)

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