

Glasgow West Amnesty International Meeting Minutes
Thursday 10th May 2012

Present: Eleanor Simpson, Paul Dunlop, Merle Read, Allan Young, Margaret Martin, Carol Puthucheary, Christine Alison, Ian Craik, Claire Crossan, Julia Anne MacDonough, Malcolm Dingwall-Smith, Julie Allen, Karen Wylie, Rob Timson, Rebecca Quinton, Barbara Henderson, Joanne Felton (Chair).

Apologies: John Gerrard, Jim Gilles, Sarah Nash.

Events Report:

- **AIUK AGM and Conference (13th – 15th April):** Jo Felton, Malcolm Dingwall-Smith and Sarah Nash from the Group attended. All motions (which had been discussed at the April meeting) were passed. Both Jo and Malcolm were impressed by the new Director of the Edinburgh Office, Shabnum Mustapha, who is keen to have closer links with local groups.
- **Comedy Night (18th April):** Another very successful night which raised £1,000. Christine will liaise with Heather over booking with the Stand for next year.
- **Trafficking and Prostitution Conference (4th May):** Jo and Claire Crossan attended the conference organised by the Paisley Amnesty Group. Both found it interesting, if one-sided.
- **May Day Stall (6th May):** It was agreed the venue, the Royal Concert Hall, was not ideal with the stalls being separated from the rest of the events. However, signatures were collected on several petitions and £40 was raised in the collecting cans.

Upcoming Events:

- **Control Arms March, Edinburgh, 12th May**
- **Counter Power talk by Tim Gee, 18th May**
- **Refugee Week, 18th – 24th June**

Updates on these events and planning for those still to occur will be on the agenda for the June meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Group has £1299.07 in the bank. It was agreed to send £150 now to AIUK, with the possibility of sending more later in the year. It was reported from the AGM that AIUK is keen for local groups to increase their fundraising efforts this year.

If any Group member is owed money for postage or attending the AGM please speak to Jim.

Campaigns:

- **Control Arms:** Petition to David Cameron on the AIUK website - https://protectthehuman.amnesty.org.uk/petition_actions/disarm-dictators/?utm_source=aiuk&utm_medium=Priorities&utm_campaign=Arms&utm_content=ATT_petition.
Several meetings have been organised to lobby local MPs and MSPs. Those still to take place – Tom Harris (Glasgow South), Friday 1st June and Anne McKechnie (Glasgow North), TBC. If you are interested in participating speak to Jo.
- **China:** Letters were sent to the Chinese Ambassador to London calling for the Chinese authorities to end the harassment of Chen Guangcheng, who at the time of the meeting was still in the US Embassy in China.
- **Individuals at Risk:** Syrian brothers Ghassan Mustafa Ma'lul and Ahmad Mustafa Ma'lul were arrested at a checkpoint in northern Syria on 20 November 2011 and have been held in incommunicado detention since. On 13 April 2012, they were shown on Syrian TV “confessing” to murder. Amnesty International believes they are at serious risk of torture or other ill-treatment. For more information and details on sending appeals go to <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/040/2012/en>.
- **Urgent Action, Sudan:** On 21 April, Alawiya Osman Ismail Kubaida, an activist from the opposition party Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N), was arrested in her home by plainclothes agents of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). She is being held incommunicado and is at risk of torture and other forms of ill-treatment. For more information and details on sending appeals go to <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR54/016/2012/en>.
- **Urgent Action Good News:**
 - **Patrick Okoroafor, Nigeria, Released:** After 17 years in prison, and being sentenced to death at the age of 16, Patrick walked free on 30 April 2012. For more on this and to send Patrick Okoroafor a message of support, go to http://action.amnesty.org.uk/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1194&ea.campaign.id=8624&utm_source=Social&utm_medium=Twitter&utm_campaign=IAR&utm_content=patrickOfree.
 - **Khader Adnan, Palestinian Detainee Freed:** Palestinian administrative detainee Khader Adnan was released on 17 April. He spent four months in detention without charge or trial. For 66 days of this period, he was on hunger strike in protest at his ill-treatment and administrative detention. He is now back with his family in the occupied West Bank. For more on this story, go to http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/sites/default/files/ua3112_4_israel.pdf.

AOB:

Protection of minors training: Jim had spoken to Mr Frank Hay of the Woodlands Methodist Church who was the contact on the letter informing the Group of the need for this training. He said there are no more courses planned at the moment but he would let Jim know when there were.

Women's Rights in Afghanistan:

Steffi Keir facilitated a workshop on the situation faced by women in Afghanistan, and the undermining of their human rights. Amnesty is working with women's groups in Afghanistan to amplify their voices and try to ensure their human rights are not traded away in any peace negotiations with the Taliban and other Afghan groups. Amnesty intends to continue this campaign until 2014.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 14th June, 7.30pm, Woodlands Methodist Church.

- Chair: Karen Wylie
- Minute-taker: Ellie Simpson