



Aylesbury Amnesty International Group

Meeting 26th February 2014 7.30pm

Friends Meeting House, 9 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury, HP20 2RT

Present:

Carol Tarrant
Bob Corn
Frances Booth
David Barnard

Henry Mayer-Gross
Annelies Varsey
Jim Edwards
Jim Cobley

Apologies: Bronwen Lee, Gwyn Jenkins, Katherine Danflous

Bob offers apology for the quality of these notes – he has misplaced his hand-written notes taken at the meeting, and is having to compile these formal notes now from memory, and from Carol's Agenda pencilled margin notes!

Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.0 Previous Minutes – Agreed

2.0 AIUK AGM and National Conference:

- 2.1 To be held in Edinburgh on 12th/13th April 2014 – Carol and Bob are going – any other members to considering going, although discounted places are probably now filled – Jim Edwards pointed out that, as a non-national member, he was not now in a position to go!
- 2.2 Carol will be chairing the Group discussion on the AGM Resolutions at our March meeting.

3.0 Financial Report to AIUK:

- 3.1 Carol handed a Financial Report Form to Jim Edwards for his attention, and £70 collected by Bronwen at the Hale Leys 'Write for Rights Campaign'! The meeting agreed that we should be considering fund raising, since our funds are reducing.
- 3.2 A brief discussion ensued as to the charges levied by Hale Leys for our presence in the Shopping Centre - £200 – which we needed to pay before our appearance in the Centre.
- 3.3 The Meeting agreed that we should change our Bank Account from Lloyds Bank to the Cooperative Bank, since there now is a branch in the Market Square, Aylesbury – Jim Edwards to progress the change.

4.0 Johan Teterissa, and Indonesian Human Rights Abuses:

- 4.1 Jim Cobley gave a brief update on our supported Prisoner of Conscience – the Malukan Teacher, Johan Teterissa; Jim will send the address of the Prison which is currently housing Johan to Carol, for her to circulate to members. (**Note** – during the week or so after our meeting, AIUK Country Coordinator Paul Hainsworth sent a request for members to hastily write through Johan's solicitor, who is visiting Johan in Prison – Carol and Bob quickly put a letter of good wishes together, with a photograph of the Group incorporated into the letter, signing on behalf of the Group).
- 4.2 Carol gave an update on information received from several sources which gave details of recent information on Human Rights Abuses perpetrated on the indigenous folk of West Papua, by Indonesian Police and Military.
- 4.3 The meeting was updated on the proposed Demonstration and Protest to be held in front of the Indonesian Embassy on 2nd April 2014 – in concert with TAPOL and Survival International (and, we hear recently, Free West Papua Campaign); it will be held at noon, for one hour. Carol asked everyone who could, to attend the demo wearing an Amnesty Tee-Shirt or Tabard. (**Note** – during the past week, AIUK CC

Paul Hainsworth has asked Carol and Bob to prepare placards and 'chest' posters for the **TEN** POC's which AIUK now recognise, despite TAPOL having identified in excess of **SEVENTY!**

- 4.4 Carol will write to the new AIUK Director of Campaigning and Activism, Kerry Moscogiuri, asking for support from Head Office for the 2nd April 2014 Demonstration.
- 4.5 The meeting watched two 7minute clips of video of West Papuan presentations to the European Parliament, which were protesting at the treatment being handed down to West Papuans by Indonesia, and asking for EU support.

5.0 Directional Activism Update:

Kerry Moscogiuri, AIUK, had given an outline of AIUK's immediate agenda, which includes monitoring the Arms Trade Treaty, Migrants' Rights, North Korea (possibly the worst regime on the planet), Human Rights defenders, crisis work, and upholding basic rights in sporting organizations. Headline campaigns will centre on Women in Afghanistan, a Global Stop Torture Campaign, Syria and a new effort on "My Body, My Rights". The meeting agreed that we should decide on our own Group's response after we receive the AIUK 'Groups' Planning Pack for 2014, which asks for us to prioritise our supported campaigns.

6.0 Web-Site Activism:

- 6.1 Carol gave a brief outline of the possibility of supporting Activism through the AIUK web-site – Bob demonstrating the access to the AIUK web-site, and the ability to access a (typical) clip of video re-the current savagery going on in the Central Africa Republic.
- 6.2 A discussion ensued around the improving quality of the AIUK web-site, although there are still reservations – particularly with the Local Groups Template.

7.0 Urgent Actions:

- 7.1 Several letters had been written by individual members – all signed by members present – Bob to photocopy for Group record, and post.

8.0 Moazemm Begg:

- 8.1 Carol reported that AIUK had been in touch with the Group, since Guantanamo released prisoner Moazemm Begg had been arrested for allegedly supporting International Terrorist Activity in Syria; Moazemm had attended our Group Meeting a couple of years ago, and it seems that AIUK are establishing facts. The meeting expressed surprise at the arrest, and hoped that things would work out satisfactorily.

9.0 Sex Workers Consultation:

- 9.1 Bob reported that he had received documents from AIUK asking for Groups to give feedback on alternative stances in putting a policy together – evidently the British Government are now discussing criminalisation of sex workers, or criminalisation of folk who purchase sex. After discussion, the meeting felt that AIUK should have no policy on sex workers – they felt that aspects of trafficking, slavery, coercion, etc., were covered elsewhere in AI Policy – we should not be taking on the role of policing British Government Law.

10.00 Any Other Business:

Bob gave a brief report of a very well attended meeting held by High Wycombe Group 'Human Rights and Social Justice in the Middle East' held on 20th February 2014; speakers included ex-Israeli Soldier Ben Yeger, Syrian Aid mission worker Amjad Iqbal, and Kings College Lecturer Richard Schofield.

11.0 NEXT MEETING: 26th March 2014 at 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 9 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury HP20 2RT