



## **Aylesbury Amnesty International Group**

**Group Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 7.30pm**

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

**Present** Carol Tarrant

Bob Corn

Jim Cobley

David Barnard

Jim Edwards

Annelies Varsey

Frances Booth

Gwyn Jenkins

Henry Mayer-Gross

**Apologies:** Bronwen Lee, Hugh Cousins, Katherine Danflous

Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting – outlining the evening as predominantly supporting the 'Write for Rights' campaign, arranged by Annelies.

**1.0 Previous Minutes** – Approved.

**2.0 Johan Teterissa:**

Jim Cobley gave a brief update on Johan's current position – and noted that he (Jim) had written to David Lidington MP on the matter, asking for it to be raised with the Indonesian President during his visit to the UK 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012. Jim had received a reply from David Lidington – disappointingly dated after the President's visit – to say that Mr. Lidington will be sending Jim's letter to the FCO! Evidently, Johan had been moved to a gaol in central Java – at CilaCap – and Jim has prepared a postcard of solidarity to be sent to Johan – signed by us all. He is also writing to Ifdhal Kassim, a Human Rights Activist in Indonesia.

Also, Jim noted that a UN Human Rights Representative had visited Indonesia to report on the condition of Human Rights in the country – effectively reporting that the written commitments were in place, but they really do need to put these commitments into practice. Jim will continue with his putting pressure on various bodies to support Johan Teterissa, on behalf of the Group.

**3.0 North Africa:**

Carol tabled a brief update received from the AIUK North Africa Team, referring to two Prisoners of Conscience – both included in the 'Write for Rights' Campaign.

**4.0 Afghanistan:**

Material and a poster had been received as part of this month's monthly action – 'No Peace without Women's Rights'.

**5.0 West Papua:**

Carol noted that non-Amnesty Demonstrations will be held in front of the Indonesian Embassy on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012. She ran through the Petition document which we had all previously signed re-the Indonesian President's visit, and noted that the signed Petitions will be delivered shortly to the Indonesian Embassy in London – probably by AIUK Country Coordinator Paul Hainsworth, hopefully accompanied by Champa Patel, AIUK Head of Activism.

**6.0 Secret Justice:**

Carol tabled copies of the 'Secret Justice' letter which AIUK had prepared and sent through – each member agreed to sign and send to their individual M.P.

**7.0 Write for Rights Campaign:**

Annelies reported that Bronwen has written to her expressing her disappointment at the lack of response from the Friars Square Shopping Centre re-her asking for a stall space for the anticipated Greeting Cards Campaign – no-one was able to suggest an alternative location for the stall. Bronwen had offered to man the Card shop opposite to the Methodist Church, to help Annelies' Campaign. Annelies introduced the evening's Campaign – noting that we should ask

AIUK to make materials available earlier in the year in future, so that fuller planning can be more productive. All of the Group wrote letters, and promised to complete the individual support – direct cards or letters to individual Prisoners of Conscience and suffering people; Annelies made sure that everyone had a copy of the AIUK information booklet, so that they have full information, addresses, etc.

#### **8.0 EGM and Regional Conference:**

Bob explained the call for an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) by a significant section of AIUK membership, in response to the 'Delivering the Role' strategy document which had been issued by AIUK Management, indicating the intention to donate more cash to the International Secretariat – and the changes, including planned redundancies, proposed at AIUK Head Office – which would make this possible. Many UK members had indicated serious disquiet with these proposals – not least since it was felt that the membership had not been properly consulted. Bob ran through the proposals being put in front of the EGM – running through them individually by reference to the email from AIUK which detailed the proposals – displayed via internet on a large screen. After discussion, Group members voted unanimously in favour of the Resolutions being put forward at the EGM.

Carol will re-send emails to the greater Group Membership which detail the EGM (to be held at the Methodist Central Hall in London, on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013, 12.00noon to 5.00pm.), and the Resolutions to be considered.

As to the Regional Conference, this will now be held at the Aylesbury Multi-Cultural Centre, as the Oxford City Group had decided that they had no time to arrange the Conference in Oxford, as had been decided at the 2012 Regional Conference. So far, Kate Allen, Director of AIUK, and Sarah O'Grady, Board Member of AIUK, had agreed to speak with reference to the 'Delivering the Role' proposals, and the EGM outcomes. The date for the Regional Conference will be 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013, between 10.00am and 4.30pm.

#### **9.0 DRC:**

Fran gave an update on her activism re-the DRC, and tabled letters which the Group signed in support. The meeting noted that there had been several references to Human Rights issues in the DRC and Rwanda, on the BBC's Radio 4, recently.

**Next Meeting:** 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013, 7.30pm – Friends Meeting House, 9 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury HP20 2RT; a social gathering will be arranged during January via emails / telephone prior to the Regional Conference (Conference planned for 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at the Aylesbury Multi-Cultural Centre), so that we can plan our arrangements for the Conference.

Bob Corn, Minutes Secretary, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012