



## **Aylesbury Amnesty International Group**

**Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 7.30pm**

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

### **Present:**

Carol Tarrant  
Bob Corn  
Frances Booth  
David Barnard  
Jim Copley

Gwyn Jenkins  
Henry Mayer-Gross  
Annelies Varsey  
Katherine Danflous  
Bridgitte Glanville

**Apologies:** Bronwen Lee, Jim Edwards – Fran apologised for being very late – completing urgent letters!!

**Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

**1.0 Previous Minutes** – Agreed

### **2.0 Urgent Actions:**

- 2.1 David, Katherine, Jim Copley, and Fran had prepared letters or cards in support of folk in Iraq, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Honduras, Philippines and the DRC – illegal imprisonment, murder, disappeared – serious Human Rights abuses of many kinds. Everyone present signed the letters for Bob to post.
- 2.2 Carol requested support for work on West Papua – where the Indonesian genocide continues; she will circulate internet links.

### **3.0 Feedback on our various actions:**

- 3.1 'Long Walk to Freedom' – film directed by Bridgitte's son in law, Justin Chadwick – Group visit with prior meal; everyone really enjoyed the evening, and suggested that we follow up with similar visits – perhaps wearing the Aylesbury Amnesty Group tabards and tee-shirts where relevant. All hoped for great success with the Nelson Mandela film.
- 3.2 Write for Rights - Annelies gave a summary of her work both at our November meeting, and at her Church, and of the hard work put in by Bronwen and her team in Hale Leys Shopping Centre. Annelies also read an exchange of emails between Bronwen and AIUK re-queries on some messages written in some cards. Carol had received a 'Write for Rights Report' from AIUK which was all very positive.
- 3.3 South Midlands Regional Conference – Bob gave a brief report on the day, which he thought was enjoyed by those present – well attended, around 70 delegates although 86 had registered. Speakers were Kate Allen, Director of AIUK; Kerry Moscogiuri, Director of Campaigning and Activism, AIUK; Country Coordinators Hugh Sandeman and Paul Hainsworth; Helen Wildbore of the British Institute of Human Rights, who joined us for the late afternoon Panel Discussion. Oxford City Group had put together an 'Ice-Breaker' (discussion groups formed of individuals from separate groups) which seemed a bit forced, but it did achieve the aim of different groups talking with each other. Carol will synthesise everyone's notes into a brief report if possible for Bob to circulate; Bob will circulate the new AIUK 'Family Tree' for members to understand the new structure. Finally – two clips of film which were shown at the Conference were shown to the Group – Nelson Mandela, and 'What is Amnesty?'

### **4.0 Financial Update:**

- 4.1 Carol displayed a Financial Breakdown report form which AIUK have requested – she will send to Jim Edwards for his comments

## **5.0 Directional Activism Update:**

As spoken of by Kerry Moscogiuri at the Regional Conference, there do appear to be several 'focused' campaigns for the coming year – AIUK's immediate agenda 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."

## **6.0 DRC:**

- 6.1 Fran reported that she has been in touch with Ollie Sprague at AIUK re-Ukrainian helicopters being used to kill civilians in the DRC; also that the UN Peace Envoy, Mary Robinson, has spoken at length on her concerns in the DRC; Fran has written several letters (as item 2.1 above) on matters including Rwanda, the FDLR, lack of transparency, etc.

## **7.0 Death Penalty:**

- 7.1 David spoke of the execution recently of a Mexican citizen in Texas, USA – apparently illegally; the International Court of Justice is deeply concerned over the issue and has challenged the USA for a detailed response.

## **8.0 Post Bag:**

- 8.1 An invitation to an Amnesty / Quaker joint event in High Wycombe has been received, although we are not clear as to when, where, theme, etc. – Bob will pursue. (later clarified as 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014, 7.30pm at the Wesley Methodist Church, Priory Road, High Wycombe HP13 6SE)
- 8.2 A call for suggestions for Youth Awards?
- 8.3 The AIUK National Conference / AGM is to be held in Edinburgh on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014.
- 8.4 Bob to send around the 'On-Line' Monthly Action advice from AIUK.
- 8.5 Carol reported more serious Human Rights abuses suffered by the indigenous population of West Papua at the hands of the Indonesian military and police – she has compiled a summary of all that she has received – Bob will email the Group, with hard-copy for Gwyn and Henry.

There was no other business.

**9.0 NEXT MEETING: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014** at 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 9 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury HP20 2RT