



Aylesbury Amnesty International Group

Monthly Group Meeting, 29th October 2014 7.30pm

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

Present:

David Barnard
Bob Corn
Katherine Danflous
Frances Booth
Henry Mayer-Gross

Apologies: Carol Tarrant, Bronwen Lee, Jim Edwards, Gwyn Jenkins, Annelies Varsey, Brigitte Glanville

Bob welcomed everyone to the meeting, explaining that Carol needed to have an evening off – she had become exhausted with her voluntary work in the Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub!

1.0 Previous Minutes – Agreed.

2.0 Urgent Actions:

2.1 Letters had been written to Egypt – where 5 Gazan Refugees have been held at Cairo Airport for some weeks; also to Egypt – where 22 Human Rights Defenders/Activists have been convicted of no internationally recognised crime, but have been imprisoned; to the Russian Federation in support of three individuals; and to the Yemeni Ambassador asking for the Yemeni Legal Age of Matrimony to be established at 18 – since an 8 year girl and a 13 year old girl had recently died after arranged marriages, also referring to a catalogue of other issues relating to marriage and sexual abuses. Everyone signed the letters – Bob to post.

3.0 Katherine introduced the names of **Country Coordinators for States which are now independent states after leaving the Soviet Union** – as attached.

4.0 News: Iranian Reyhaneh Jabbari, sadly, had been executed; more kidnappings by Boko Haram in Nigeria – although good news – Thankgod Ebhos had been released after 19 years on Death Row in Nigeria! David suggested a Press Release!

5.0 Monthly Actions: Bob had received the November Monthly Action from AILUK – mostly working around Write for Rights – Bob to email Annelies re-her Church, and will preliminarily order materials – he will also liaise with Bronwen, Other matters in the Monthly Action include the Autumn Groups News, the National Conference and AGM 2015 (which will take place on 18th/19th April 2015 at Warwick University – all as attached.

6.0 Raffle Tickets: Bob tabled a pack for the current AILUK Raffle – everyone indicating that they did not wish to take part!

7.0 Stop Torture: Noted that there is to be a talk at Hertfordshire University, hosted by St.Albans Group, on 11th November 2014.

8.0 AILUK Governance Review: The Group went through the Governance Review – using Bob's AILUK web site access as a model – all to consider carrying out their own reviews on-line when they can, but before 1st November 2014! The meeting then had a look at the Group's Facebook Page and Web Site – to see how they can interact with them.

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

Bob Corn, Minutes Secretary,
1st November 2014

Sent: 29 October 2014 19:19:47

To: FSU_AIUKdistribution (barrie.hay@amnesty.org.uk); FSU_RF_Distribution (barrie.hay@amnesty.org.uk)

Dear Fellow FSU Activist

We thought you'd like an update on what's been happening and who to contact in the Former Soviet Union regional team. You're receiving this email because we understand you have an interest in our region, and please forgive this very general email as some of you have been working on the FSU for longer than any of the four Country Coordinators!

For those who didn't know, we are sorry to tell you that **Gitti Dunham**, our longest-serving country coordinator and indefatigable champion of Amnesty and Central Asia, has had to retire through ill-health. Gitti had recently been the coordinator on the AIUK team for the **Stop Torture campaign**. We remain in touch, and I'm sure I can pass on your good wishes for her speedy recovery.

We now have Country Coordinators for each of the 12 countries in the FSU. We are working on how best we can help you (and you, us), but each of us are primarily responsible for the countries as follows

South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

Ade Couper ade.couper@amnesty.org.uk
Joined Feb 2014. Ade works for the NHS, lives in Bristol, was the group secretary and now chairs the local group. Has been a local group rep on the Activism Subcommittee (ASC: a subcommittee of the AIUK Board), and is now the Trainers Rep.

Russian Federation

Barrie Hay barrie.hay@amnesty.org.uk
Joined 8 years ago and was the South Caucasus CC until Ade joined when Barrie took on the Russian Federation. Lives in Chelmsford, worked in the NHS, and is the group secretary. Barrie is currently the CC Rep on the ASC. As the FSU Region Coordinator, he attends the CC Steering Committee (with the other 12 Region Coordinators).

Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

Chloe Tennant chloe.tennant@amnesty.org.uk
Joined this month and is our newest Country Coordinator. In her final year at Birmingham University, Chloe has a wealth of experience with other voluntary organisations at university and spent a year in Russia as part of her degree. With Uzbekistan one of the five countries featured in the Stop Torture campaign, Chloe will be in touch later with details of the Country Coordinator led **Stop Torture conference on 14 February** next year but please make a note in your group calendar.

Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

Pauline Uytendaele Pauline.uytendaele@amnesty.org.uk
Also joined in Feb 2014. Pauline lives in Tunbridge Wells and is a freelance translator. Trained in international and human rights law. Lived in Spain for many years and actively involved as a Country Coordinator in the Spanish Section until moving to the UK 3 years ago.

As a newly reformed team, we intend to get in touch with you before the end of the year to make sure we have the group's up-to-date details including any casefiles you hold and how we can help each other.

We plan to send you regular (but not too frequent) updates on the FSU countries and, of course, individual updates on the casefiles you have, as well as the Urgent Actions produced by the International Secretariat.

We'd like to come to a group meeting, either about the region, specific countries, the **Stop Torture campaign**, or your cases.

With best wishes

Barrie

Barrie Hay

AIUK Former Soviet Union Region & Russian Federation Country Coordinator

Dear Local Group member

Welcome to your November monthly mailing. This month's mailing includes:

MONTHLY ACTION - CALL ON THE USA TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

To mark the 25th anniversary of adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we are asking you to write to the USA Ambassador in London calling on the USA to finally commit to protecting the rights of children by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

For more information on this action and the petition, please visit: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/groups/activity-pack-november-2014-convention-rights-child>

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2014 (1 November to 31 December 2014)

Join Write for Rights 2014 campaign. Please note that Information & Materials will be available from 1 November. Please visit http://www.amnesty.org.uk/sites/default/files/wfr_order_form_2014.pdf to see the full list of available materials & how to order them. For information on this campaign please visit <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/Write-for-Rights-2014>

Please see attached sample 'letter to editor' and template 'Press Release' that you can use to publicise your Write for Rights events.

AUTUMN GROUPS NEWS

Autumn issue of Groups News covers great activities that Amnesty groups have organised from campaigning on Women's Rights in Afghanistan, Stop Torture Campaigning to Regional conferences and Fundraising. Please visit <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/groups/activity-pack-november-2014-autumn-groups-news> to download a copy of the Autumn Groups News.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2015

Amnesty's national Conference & AGM takes place on 18-19 April 2015 at Warwick University. All Amnesty International members can attend and vote. Please visit <http://amnesty.org.uk/agm> for more information and how to book your place - details and booking will be available from Monday 1 December.

AMNESTEA

Write for Rights and AMNESTEA events work together perfectly. You have a ready-made audience who are interested in human rights and are likely to work up an appetite from signing all those letters and writing all those cards! All you need to do to add an AMNESTEA component to your Write for Rights event is to ask the bakers in your group to bake some cakes and have someone else bring tea/coffee making facilities to your event. You could display the tea and cakes with the Write for Rights packs and invite guests to take a slice in return for a donation. You could use the money you raised to cover Write for Rights postage costs and donate any profits to Amnesty.

Other ideas:

Follow the example of the Liverpool Amnesty Group and invite other community groups with an interest in human rights. They invited the Liverpool Friends of Palestine to their last AMNESTEA event. Partner with local or student groups in your area. Dundee University Group and The Dundee Amnesty Group are holding a joint AMNESTEA on 9 November.

Order an AMNESTEA kit: www.amnesty.org.uk/tea

The full content of this mailing can be found at our local group pages: www.amnesty.org.uk/groups

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to e-mail us at activism@amnesty.org.uk or call us on 020 7033 1675.

Farshid Talaghani
Community Organiser - Local Groups
Amnesty International UK

UNSUNG HEROES

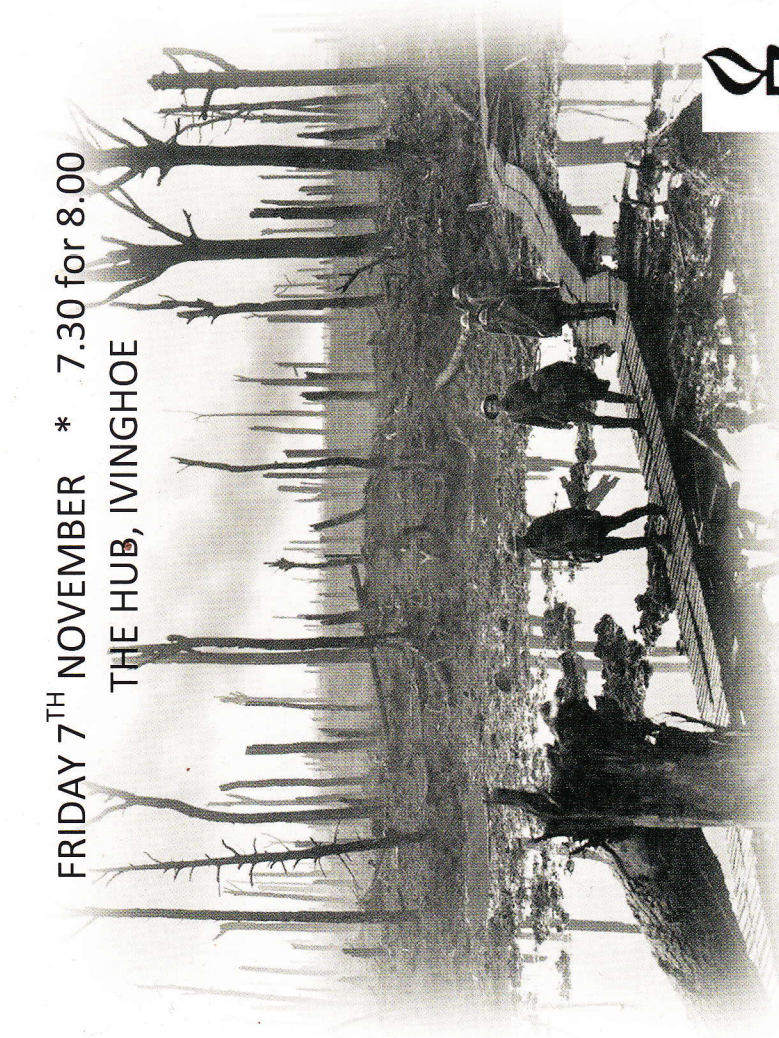
Of the many witnesses to the First World War, the poets have achieved international recognition for their contribution to the narrative of war. But what of the many composers who also had their lives shattered by global events in 1914? Some survived and went on to compose great works – others were silenced on the killing fields of France. None were untouched by their experience. Unsung Heroes tells their stories and presents music by familiar composers such as Vaughan Williams and Frank Bridge, but also those whose music died with them in the trenches.

THE RIDGEWAY ENSEMBLE

Judith Sheridan – Voice
Margaret Richards – Cello
Valerie Ashworth-Pirillo – Piano

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER * 7.30 for 8.00

THE HUB, IVINGHOE



Suggested Donation £5 to include refreshments
Proceeds in aid of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

To reserve seats

Contact: Bob Corn – Tel 01296 661666 email ivinghoeoldschool@btconnect.com

Beacon
community choir

SONGS FROM

“OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR”

BEACON COMMUNITY CHOIR

A selection of songs and readings from the choir's highly acclaimed concert first performed in March 2014

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER * 4.00pm * THE HUB,

IVINGHOE



Suggested Donation £5 to include refreshments
Proceeds in aid of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

To reserve seats

Contact: Bob Corn – Tel 01296 661666 email ivinghoeoldschool@btconnect.com