



Aylesbury Amnesty International Group

Annual General Meeting 30th April 2014 7.30pm

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

Present:

Carol Tarrant
Bob Corn
Katherine Danflous
David Barnard

Henry Mayer-Gross
Jim Edwards
Jim Cobley

Apologies: Bronwen Lee, Gwyn Jenkins, Frances Booth, Annelies Varsey

Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.0 Previous Minutes – Agreed

2.0 Reports from Officers:

- 2.1 **Chair's Report:** Carol gave a full report on what has been a full year – as attached. Carol was thanked for her Chairmanship during the year – David proposed acceptance of the report, Jim Edward's seconded – carried.
- 2.2 **Treasurer's Report:** Jim Edwards gave a good summary of Group expenditure and income – indicating a broadly static position in that we maintained just over £1,700 at the bank (report attached). Jim Edwards made the point that members should charge for group expenses – at least note the expense and perhaps grant a donation – so that we know the real cost of running the group. He noted that annual subscriptions were now due. Jim Edwards was thanked for his continued efforts as treasurer, and Jim Cobley proposed acceptance of the report – David seconded – carried.
- 2.3 **Media and Minutes Secretary Report:** Bob outlined the increased use of the renewed Amnesty International UK's website – and of the not-too recently established Group website using the AIUK website template, which has limitations. He also noted the increased and fuller use of the Group's Facebook Page – Jim Edwards suggested linking the Group Website to the Group Facebook Page, which Bob will investigate.

3.0 Election of Officers:

- 3.1 **Chair:** Carol was proposed by Bob, seconded by Jim Edwards – Carol accepted the role
- 3.2 **Treasurer:** Jim Edwards proposed by Katherine, seconded by Henry – Jim Edwards accepted the role.
- 3.3 **Media and Minutes Secretary:** Bob was proposed by David, seconded by Jim Edwards – Bob accepted the role.
- 3.4 Jim Cobley agreed to continue in leading support for **POC Johan Teterissa** – proposed Carol, seconded Jim Edwards.
- 3.5 David agreed to continue to lead the Group's **Death Penalty** campaign work – proposed Carol, seconded Bob.
- 3.6 We hope that Annelies and Bronwen will be able to lead our **Write for Rights Campaign and Greetings Card Campaign** – to confirm later.
- 3.7 David to bring milk to future meetings, Jim Edwards to bring biscuits – Carol took temporary charge of the 'Tea and Biscuit' bags.

4.0 Report from AIUK AGM:

- 4.1 Photographs and two video clips of the weekend were shown, and Bob and Carol gave a brief verbal report of what was a full and rewarding weekend – resolution debate outcomes are attached.

5.0 Indonesian Embassy Demonstration:

5.1 Jim Edwards, Carol and Bob had joined approximately 100 activists from Amnesty International, Tapol, Survival International and the Free West Papua Campaign on 2nd April 2014, in front of the Indonesian Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London – in support of 76 West Papuan Prisoners. Photographs of the event were shared with the Group – it was gratifying to join what proved to be a worldwide demonstration in support of who are now recognised as the 76 Prisoners of Conscience.

6.0 Debate re-2014 AIUK Groups Planning Pack:

6.1 Due to shortage of time on this evening, it was agreed that we should discuss our Group approach to the Groups Planning Pack at the May 2014 Meeting.

7.0 Urgent Actions:

7.1 Letters to the Indonesian Attorney General and to the Indonesian Ambassador to the UK were signed, in support of ten Malukan Peaceful Demonstrators who had been arrested and imprisoned, without their families knowing where they had been imprisoned.

7.2 Jim Cobley had prepared a supportive card for Johan Teterissa, which was signed by all – Bob to post.

8.00 Any Other Business:

8.1 Discussion was had as to our approach to the now recognised 76 Prisoners of Conscience in West Papua – Carol to circulate information.

11.0 **NEXT MEETING: 28th May 2014** at 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 9 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury HP20 2RT

Aylesbury Amnesty International Group

Chair's Report 2013 - 2014

These pages represent the year just gone by, with all the extraneous stuff taken away and just our activism remaining - this should be the **30 mins report!**

From this to create a **five minute report** I have extracted the obvious patterns for a '**group profile**'. We meet **ten months out of twelve** - though we have two social occasions one of those ten meetings being our **picnic social in the summer season of July**..... So our **actual July 2013 Meeting** - was a Social in Jim Edwards' Garden - 10 were present at this the '**Grand Summer Picnic**'! Everyone brought something to share & Annelies brought interested guests." Thanks Jim!

The other social - conversely as a wintry get together this year, being our **December non-meeting supper and film** - a social occasion supper near a log burning pub and film 'long walk to freedom' on Nelson Mandela's personal journey - directed by our own group member Brigitte's son in law Justin Chadwick.

That leaves nine meetings, five of which are taken up with specific yearly tasks. The first of these specific task meetings in our April to April year format, is our **November meeting for Write for Rights** letter writing, led superbly by **Annelies Varsey** each year on top of her brilliant 'refreshmenting' of us all every month, and as this writing is our special group 'penchant' we make quite a meal of letters to prisoners by following it up **with Bronwen's 'Messages of Hope and Greeting'** stall in a shopping mall during January which raises our local group and Amnesty profile and presence, as well as the support it affords many prisoners.

Later that month we always have the January **Regional Conference** and its feedback....**this year's South Midlands Regional Conference** - being hosted by **Oxford City group**, instead of ourselves - which was reportedly 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, after a more random plenary session. We are unsure whether this will be repeated or drop back to Aylesbury or somewhere completely fresh as yet, but continue to thank Bob our Group Secretary for being such a great Regional Rep for a score of Amnesty groups, forming very strong Amnesty connections, chats with the director, etc - that we continue to enjoy very strong regional Conferences wherever they occur .

The **pre National AGM resolution debate and voting process is in March and my favourite meeting**, and lastly of the 'set pieces meetings' is the **National AGM month of April** this year and the feedback from that which follows this **Group AGM item on our April Agenda tonight**....followed by our **year planning** which should really be spread over two or even three meetings to give it the elbow room it deserves.....and in past years of earlier AGM's has taken up March, April and May meetings. However this April has been **demo, AGM and our own AGM, feedback and planning**.....so we might need a calmer meeting in to follow this in May!

Traditionally we have **four meetings with general activism** each year - two of which come next in May and June and then our annual summery picnic in July, as mentioned earlier ...then a summer break during August....when some do '**festival activism**' and then back to another general, activism month in September - which last year was run by the members because Bob and I were away in the Canadian Rockies. A group of five members ran a productive meeting and entertained a visitor Ollie Palmer who wrote a very complimentary email after this to thank you all....and disappeared!

When we say '**general activism**' we are not alluding to something rather '**safer and bland**'...because for our group our greatest strength seems to be the mainstay of Amnesty.....**speaking truth to Nations** - via prisoner support letters, urgent actions to powers that control the destiny of prisoners of conscience, supportive messages to those same prisoners, and diplomacy to governance and industry on Human Rights issues. Last year, many of these issues were driven through strongly via much hard work on her own part by our own Francis Booth. **Her coup over Coltan and SOCO was amazing!** Reading any of these **general activism** monthly profiles from May, June, February and March will illustrate this writing strength strongly in its content. **Thank you for this important activism - well supported by all of our group members.**

Jim Cobley continues to support strongly our highest profile POC in Maluku - School Teacher **Johan Teterissa**...and we bring up the vanguard with 75 more POC's now from Indonesia and countless other issues in Russia through Katherine; POC's worldwide through Annelies Varsey and Bronwen Lee; and Death Penalty through David Barnard.

Then there was the **Arms Trade Treaty** which confirmed that the Treaty was open for signature from 3rd June 2013 in New York – it needed to be signed by 50 states before being brought into UN Law. **Carol and Bob had attended a celebratory function at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in early May**, and had used the opportunity to discuss some of our Group's concerns with international officials present.

Every year we manage to organise a demo and this year we organised two - Firstly we received an invitation to take part in a demonstration on **6th July 2013** outside the Indonesian Embassy in London, to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the Biak Massacre, West Papua. It was intended that the demonstration would have representatives from several NGO's, be a mass rally, and have speakers. Carol would make an 'impunity' banner piece within our own group banner ready for the demo. Our demo was then cancelled by strict request of the International Secretariat, who wished instead to accept the proffered invitation by the new Indonesian Ambassador to come into the Embassy instead of the planned demo and 'parlez'. All the plans were regretfully reversedWe were invited by the IS to attend a feedback debriefing later the same 6th July day. Our debriefing feedback was full of promises but also **understandable concerns** on the likelihood of such promises bearing any substance or Human Rights fruit for those suffering at present. We continue to watch and wait and this created added impetus to drive our next plan forward like a coach with many horses. **'Release Political prisoners' - Indonesian Embassy Demonstration planned for 2nd April 2014:**

Hours were spent on designing and making the props beforehand and on the day Bob, Carol, and Jim Edwards our hard working treasurer, made their way to Grosvenor Square where we **did the deed**. 17 folk were needed from Amnesty International to become surrogate 'Prisoners of Conscience' – wearing photographs of the now AI recognised 17 West Papuan prisoners of conscience; 15 had previously pledged to attend, and Bob anticipated more from other Groups. TAPOL were supporting 76 Political Prisoners, as against the 17 AIUK supported Prisoners of Conscience! We met in front of the Indonesian Embassy just before noon on 2nd April 2014 – Carol had prepared the 17 A4 'chest' images for demonstrators to wear, and 4 x A2 placards which spoke of the HR issues regarding those Prisoners. 100 demonstrators supported the action, from AIUK, TAPOL, Survival International and the Free West Papua Campaign.....the governance of AIUK were all fully aware of our demo at the AGM discussions days afterwards as **three AIUK HQ top activism team** had made up our numbers and it is worth recounting that this week the IS has made **all 76 Prisoners into Amnesty Prisoners of Conscience**, and created some urgent actions and press releases!

So that brings us back to this April now.....and our profile is that we meet 11 times a year once a month, averaging 8 members a meeting - twice socially, five times strategically for specific deeds, two Conferences prep and feedback, leaving June, September, October and February for our very good letter writing activities, demos and less strong - **speakers, awareness raising and fund-raising**. This **last awareness raising** combined with fund raising is something we have done much more of in the past and might be something we could plan to do more of again this year **echoing the National Human Rights campaigns as we do it**.....here in Aylesbury and the surrounding villages. Market stall presences are falling away and could be re-strengthened – additionally we might decide on acquiring a very good speaker and sharing that with our community. When we plan our year later tonight and detail it next month we could remember those areas to strengthen and create those opportunities.....but only after we have given each other a hearty hand shake and a slap on the back for this last year and all its diverse campaigning strengths as we go! **WELL DONE ALL OF YOU!**

Chair – Carol Tarrant

Treasurer – Jim Edwards

Minutes Secretary – Bob Corn

Media Officer – Frances Booth

Prisoner of Conscience Support Officer – Jim Cobley

Death Penalty Officer – David Barnard

Write for Rights Coordinators – Annelies Varsey and Bronwen Lee

And lastly thanks to Annelies Varsey for all that comforting refreshmenting!

PLANS FOR COMING YEAR 2014 – 2015:

April **demo, Group AGM and AIUK AGM Feedback**

May **year plan detailed**

June

July Summer Social

Sept

Oct

Nov **(and Jan) Write 4 Rights + Greetings Card Campaign**

Dec Winter social

Jan **Regional Conference and feedback**

Feb

Mar **pre-AIUK AGM resolutions**

Planning the year's agenda which must cover Amnesty's main focus:

Monitoring the Arms Trade Treaty

Migrants' Rights, North Korea (possibly the worst regime on the planet)

Human Rights defenders

Crisis work

Upholding basic rights in sporting organisations

Headline campaigns will centre on:

Women in Afghanistan

Global Stop Torture Campaign

Syria

"My Body, My Rights"

6:20 PM
30/04/14
Accrual Basis

Amnesty International Aylesbury Group **Profit & Loss** April 2012 through March 2014

	Apr '12 - Mar...	Apr '13 - Mar...	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Gifts and Donations Income			
Restricted	50.00	0.00	50.00
Unrestricted	118.95	201.57	320.52
Total Gifts and Donations In...	168.95	201.57	370.52
Membership Dues	80.00	90.00	170.00
Total Income	248.95	291.57	540.52
Expense			
Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	72.00	72.00
Licenses and Permits	0.00	252.00	252.00
Postage and Delivery	41.20	41.40	82.60
Printing and Reproduction	24.95	0.00	24.95
Subscriptions	144.00	0.00	144.00
Supplies			
Catering	53.97	0.00	53.97
Total Supplies	53.97	0.00	53.97
Total Expense	264.12	365.40	629.52
Net Ordinary Income	-15.17	-73.83	-89.00
Profit for the Year	-15.17	-73.83	-89.00

Amnesty International Aylesbury UK Balance Sheet - Standard As of 31 March 2013

6:28 PM
30/04/14
Accrual Basis
31 Mar 13

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash at bank and in hand	
Current	1,954.87
petty Cash	-170.71
Total Cash at bank and in	1,784.16
Total Current Assets	1,784.16
NET CURRENT ASSETS	1,784.16
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,784.16
NET ASSETS	1,784.16
Capital and Reserves	
Opening Bal Equity	1,262.17
Retained Earnings	537.16
Profit for the Year	-15.17
Shareholder funds	1,784.16

Amnesty International Aylesbury UK Balance Sheet - Standard As of 31 March 2014

6:27 PM
30/04/14
Accrual Basis
31 Mar 14

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash at bank and in hand	
Current	1,954.87
petty Cash	-244.54
Total Cash at bank and in l	1,710.33
Total Current Assets	1,710.33
NET CURRENT ASSETS	1,710.33
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,710.33
NET ASSETS	1,710.33
Capital and Reserves	
Opening Bal Equity	1,262.17
Retained Earnings	521.99
Profit for the Year	-73.83
Shareholder funds	1,710.33

Amnesty International UK 2014 AGM			
AGM Resolution Debate Outcome: 13th April 2014 – subject to confirmation:			
	Approved	Rejected	Comment
	✓	✓	
Working Party A:			
A1 Sex Work - Decriminalisation	✓		
A2 Sex Work – Partial Decriminalisation		✓	
A3 Sex Work – No Position	✓		*
Working Party B:			
B1 Human Rights Act	✓		
B2 Garment Workers in Asian Countries	✓		
B3 Guantanamo	✓		*
B4 Guatemala	✓		
B5 Sri Lanka Human Rights	✓		
B6 Sri Lanka and the UN	✓		
Working Party C:			
C1 Special Resolution Nominations Committee co-option International Council Meeting	✓		
C2 Nominations Committee Terms of Reference	✓		*
C3 Governance Training Budget	✓		
C4 Governance Task Force Extension	✓		
C5 Location of AIUK Annual General Meetings	✓		
Working Party D:			
D1 Secret Policeman's Ball	✓		*
D2 Secretary General's Global Council	✓		*
D3 Linking Members with Local Groups	✓		
D4 Scottish Independence	✓		*
D5 Strategic Goals Consultation	✓		
D6 Global Transition Program	✓		
*COMMENTS:			
A3 – Card vote – 507 for, 502 against (Board to determine action, since this resolution directly opposes resolution A1).			
B3 – Amended to remove the subject from Global Torture Campaign, since resources are already available.			
C2 – Amended so that co-opted members have no voting rights.			
D1 – Amended ensuring reflection of members'/groups' views.			
D2 – Amended replacing phrase 'high net worth individuals' with 'individuals of repute & influence with fundraising capacity'.			
D4 – Amended to allow the Board to support Scotland Amnesty until April 2015, if necessary.			