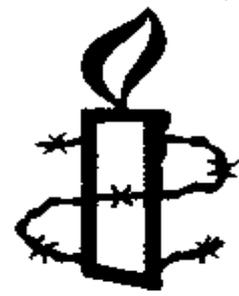


Amnesty International Southend Group

amnestysouthend.googlemail.com
www.amnesty.org.uk/southend



MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

NEXT GROUP MEETING

Thursday
11th June 7:30pm
154 Beedell Avenue
Westcliff-on-Sea
SS0 9JP

Martin's Sponsored Walk

Martin needs your company and sponsorship on SUNDAY 2nd August starting at 2:00pm at Gunners Park and walking 7 miles to Leigh –on-Sea. Please let us know if you'll join him or if you'll sponsor him. amnestysouthend@googlemail.com. There's a sponsorship form attached. Sun hats and high-viz Amnesty jackets to be worn!

IS THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT WORTH SAVING?

AI is trying to create wider public support for the Human Rights Act. There are a lot of myths and misinformation about the Act. Read some of the [background](#) and the answers to [FAQ's](#) and you might want to sign the [on-line petition](#). **But hurry – a bill is likely to feature in the Queen's speech next week. You could also sign the [38 Degrees petition](#).**

Amnes Tea

Mike & Muriel are holding an **Amnes Tea** at 36 Orchard Avenue, Hockley SS5 5BE, Sunday 12th July 2:30pm – 5:00pm
There's a poster attached. Please pin it up somewhere if you can.

GROUP RUNNING COSTS

The annual running costs of the Group are over £400, mainly postage. Last year we spent almost £400 on postage, almost entirely airmail for appeal letters and letters of support. This year the minimum cost of an airmail stamp has risen to £1.

Thanks to all of you who've sent in subscriptions and donations – we've received £160 so far but we will need to find more if we're to keep going. If you haven't already, please send your £10 subscription – and support one of our fundraising events, the Sponsored Walk or Amnes Tea

Meeting on 14th May 2015 at Audrey's home in Benfleet

There were 8 of us at the meeting and we spent most of it writing appeal cards and letters and letters of support for or on behalf of [Moses Akatugba](#) who features in the Stop Torture Campaign; a 12 year old pregnant child in [Paraguay](#); an Urgent Action Case relating to forced eviction in [Burma/Myanmar](#); and [Mahhdi Abu Dheeb](#) in Bahrain and [Mohammed Al Roken](#) in the UAE. If you want to write in their support, you can find details of any of these cases by clicking on the links.

Present: Dick, Andrew, Audrey, Jean, Rachel, Martin, Muriel & Mike.

Apologies: Richard, Steve & Maureen, Heidrun and Tricia. We decided to send cards to Maureen and Richard, both of whom are unwell.

Last meeting – Jean has contacted the chairman of the local Zimbabwe group and is waiting to hear back from him. It was suggested that the content of the Ely and Ipswich Groups' websites be looked at. Mike will find out the dates of the next Big Event and Leigh Folk Festival with a view to us having stalls at these. He will also try to find out why we seem to have dropped off the SEC Freshers' Event mailing list.

Stop Torture Campaign - Andrew reported that Claudia Medina Tamariz (Mexico) had been released and while some progress had been made with the campaign against Moses Akatuba's death sentence, that had now stalled. We decided to send more cards on his behalf. There's also an on-line [petition](#). Andrew's latest [Campaign Update](#) is on the website.

Burma – nothing to report except the Urgent Action relating to forced eviction.

Treasurer – we now have access to on-line Banking at the Co-op; Martin and Mike have the Group's security tokens. Martin has obtained copies of last year's statements, which Mike will pass on to Steve for auditing purposes.

Membership – we have received some cheques for subscriptions but only £140 up to the day of the meeting. We need more contributions and support for our two fundraising events.

Fundraising – the date for the proposed **sponsored walk** was turning out to be inconvenient and a date at the end of July or beginning of August would be chosen instead. A walk from Shoebury to Leigh was felt to be better than Hockley Woods (could have been influenced by the number of pubs en route?). Sponsorship forms needed – walkers must have funny hats and high-viz Amnesty jackets!! A poster and flyer for the **Amnes Tea** on 12th July are attached. **PLEASE SUPPLY A CAKE!!** Mu to investigate the possibility of a Waitrose cooking demo.

Search for a new Home – Heidrun has visited a number of possible locations for a regular Group meeting place – all have proved too expensive. Mike to check on the Balmoral Centre (and also book it for Write for Rights in December) and Westcliff High School for Girls.

AOB – Dick took away the cards and labels with our current meeting details.

Next Meeting: 1st June, 7:30pm at Martin's home - 154, Beedell Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 9JP.

Mike Pregnall

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