

Amnesty International Southend Group

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



May 2016 Newsletter

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is
Thursday 9th June
at 7:30pm

at
**The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury
Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea
SS0 7AU**

East Anglia Group Events Ely Group

Sunday 5th June 3:00 – 5:30pm
Ronnie Scott's comes to the Old Palace, Ely
Tickets £15
<http://www.wegotickets.com/event/359788>

Diss Group

Is Prostitution a Choice? A talk from
specialists about prostitution and trafficking
Monday 20th June 7:30pm
URC, Mere Street, Diss
Free entry, all welcome

"JAMNESTY"

We're holding a fundraising
concert on 24th September at
the Clifftown Theatre, Nelson
Street, Southend (former
Clifftown URC).

Any style of music
welcome – we're aiming
for as wide a range as we
can get!

Do you play or sing, do you
know somebody who can? Or a
band willing to support
Amnesty? **Get in touch with
Mike on 07798948236**

Action

Write on behalf of **Khadija Ismayilova**, Azerbaijan, an award-winning Azerbaijani investigative journalist and an outspoken government critic who has published numerous articles on human rights issues. She has been targeted by the state-controlled media and had trumped-up criminal charges against her, including tax evasion, embezzlement and illegal business. She was detained on 5 December 2014 and was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years of imprisonment on 1 September 2015. Details attached to e-mail.

RELEASED 25TH MAY NO MORE LETTERS PLEASE

Amnesty International Southend Group

Notes of meeting on 14th April, 2016

Present: Andrew, Doug, Martin, Muriel and Mike (Chair).

Apologies: Tricia, Heidrun, Steve and Maureen.

Anything from the last meeting: Mahdi Abu Dheeb, on whose behalf we've written on several occasions, was released on 4th April.

Letters and Petitions:-

Stop Torture Campaign – Although this campaign officially end on 31st May we may continue to send cards on behalf of Ali Arrass and Alfreda Disbarro. During the course of the campaign we have generated 400 post cards and letters to and on behalf of the featured cases; three of the featured cases have been released. Andrew reminded us that Raif Badawi was sentenced to 10 years detention and 1,000 lashes – he is still at risk of further flogging. Thanks to Andrew for his commitment and hard work on this campaign.

Burma - Nothing to report.

Prageeth Eknaligoda, Sri- Lanka – Doug has found that we are encouraged to write to Prageeth's wife on a monthly bases and he will sort out addresses, etc., for the next meeting.

AI UK Monthly Action - write on behalf of **Khadija Ismayilova**, Azerbaijan. On line petition as well. More details on front page.

Urgent Action from AI UK website – **Atena Farghadani**, Iran **RELEASED 3rd MAY**

Secretary

- The AI UK Monthly Mailing includes information about Refugee Week 20th – 26th June – more information at www.refugeeweek.org.uk
- I've received notification of a couple of events at other E Anglia groups – see front page
- Sarah Grady, outgoing Chair of AI UK has written to all Groups (and individuals/) to say thank you for their support

Treasurer – Heidrun is away. Group funds currently stand at £572.20.

Fundraising

- **Jamnesty!** Andrew, Steve, Martin, Muriel and Mike visited a couple of possible venues for the proposed concert – the Balmoral Centre and Clifftown Theatre. The latter is the more expensive but it's a modern hall with lots of multi-media facilities; we're currently negotiating the final price but we all agreed that it's the better option. The date will be 24th September. Ticket price likely to be £10 and £8 for under 16s. We'll hopefully confirm the details soon and will also send out a "booking form" for performers so we can get a programme together. **IN THE MEANTIME PLEASE TRY TO FIRM UP POSSIBLE PERFORMERS FOR 24th SEPTEMBER. We're looking at 15 – 20 minute slots, groups with loads of equipment not the first choice; microphones & pa available as part of the hire.**
- Think about inviting Ice & Fire back next year – to the Clifftown Theatre if the Jamnesty Concert works out OK
- We'll probably have another Amnestea this summer (provisional date Sunday 14th August) and Andrew is looking at another sponsored walk (provisional date Sunday

Any Other Business

- Leigh Folk Festival 23rd – 26th June. We had a successful stall last year and should do it again this year on the Saturday and Sunday.

Next Meeting: - at the Balmoral Centre on the 9th July at 7:30pm. We will have a meeting in August this year as we'll need it to organise the Concert.

There is currently a problem with the AI UK website and therefore with our, as our's is just a page of the national site. Nothing can at present be posted on our website.

Mike Pregnall

Group Secretary
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