## Amnesty International Southend Group

<u>amnestysouthend.googlemail.com</u> <u>www.amnesty.org.uk/southend</u>



# OFFOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

### **Next Meeting**

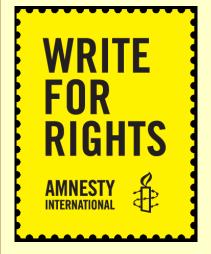
Our next meeting is
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November
at 7:30pm at
The Balmoral Centre,
Salisbury Avenue,
Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

## AMNESTY

Thanks to everybody who performed, helped, gave raffle prizes and paid at our Jamnesty! Concert on 24<sup>th</sup> September. A really enjoyable evening that raised £380 for Amnesty. We hope to have photos and a video available soon.

### **Actions**

Please write to the government of Sudan on behalf Elias Wava Nvipuoch. who for more than three months, has remained in detention in military barracks in South Sudan, without charge or trial and to the government in Iran on behalf of Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe, sentenced to 5 years in prison, though the charges she was convicted of had still not been revealed to her, her family or her lawyer.



## Write for Rights 2016

Our annual Write for Rights card and letter-writing event this year coincides with Human Rights Day, Saturday 10th December. We'll be at The Balmoral Centre from 10:00am till 1:00pm that day. Come and write a letter or card. Pens, paper, stamps, envelopes and guidance notes all provided – along with tea/coffee and mince pies

## Amnesty International Southend Group Notes of meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

Present: Andrew, Heidrun, Martin, Doug, David, Steve, Muriel and Mike

**Apologies**: Tricia and Maureen.

#### Anything from the last meeting?

- Jamnesty! It had been an enjoyable and successful evening and we'd made a profit
  of £381.93. If we do it again, we should maybe focus on a couple of acts, deal better
  with the interval and refreshments and try to encourage better backing from the
  Group's supporters. Thanks to everybody who contributed. We agreed to send £200 to
  the Amnesty International UK Charitable Trust.
- 2. **Stand Against Hate** We'd agreed to write to the Town Clerk about this but it seemed more likely to attract attention if we got a Councillor to propose a motion. Mike to ask Julian Ware-Lane to help

#### **Letters and Petitions:-**

We wrote on behalf of **Elias Waya Nyipuoch**, who for more than three months, has remained in detention in military barracks in Juba, South Sudan, without charge or trial and on behalf of **Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe**, sentenced to 5 years in prison in Iran, though the charges she was convicted of had still not been revealed to her, her family or her lawyer

#### **Secretary**

- Al UK has offered us 2 alternative Individuals at Risk in place of Prageeth Eknaligoda.
   We decided to take on the case of Haka Yaman, a Turkish minibus driver apparently assaulted by the police. Doug will be the Group's contact for this case.
- Write for Rights 2016 material will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> November. We have already booked the conference room at the Balmoral Centre for 10<sup>th</sup> December, which is Human Rights Day. Mike to order the necessary materials and arrange publicity with Tricia.

#### **Treasurer**

Heidrun reported that taking the Amnestea and Jamnesty! Concert receipts into account along with payments to Al UK Charitable Trust, Clifftown Theatre and likely expenses for postage etc over the year, we'll have over £600 in the bank to cover the costs of Write for Rights and that will leave sufficient to cover our activities next year.

#### **Fundraising**

No more concerts for a little while please!

#### AOB

Al UK has published, in the Groups Newsletter, an article written by Andrew about the visit of the Bahraini Group to our July meeting. This can also be found on the <u>Group's website</u>.

#### **Next Meeting**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 7:30pm at the Balmoral Centre. Mike and Muriel will be away but will pass the papers etc to Andrew. No Thursday meeting in December, just Write for Rights.

Mike Pregnall
Group Secretary
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