**SOLIHULL AMNESTY GROUP**

**Meeting held on Monday 20th June, 2016**

**MINUTES**

Present: Cathy, Celia, David, Amy, Heather

Apologies Janet, Pauline, Bernard

1. Actions from May meeting

* Khadija Ismayilova, Azerbaijani investigative journalist, has been released from detention. Monthly action on her behalf not required.
* New leaflet for our group is now ready and copies have been displayed on AI stall at Leamington Peace Festival.

1. Future events

* Final plans made for Amnestea on Sunday 26 June. Celia will put information on board about money raised going to campaign to reduce incidence of FGM and EFM in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone.
* Fun in the Park, 18 September. Plans to be made at July meeting.

1. Secretary’s Items

* Monthly Action This is to show solidarity with the LGBTI community in Tunisia. We will write individually to the Tunisian authorities urging them to publicly condemn all forms of sexual and gender based violence against LGBTI people. A photo was taken of us displaying the message ‘Love is a human right’. Amy will send this to AI headquarters to be sent on to Tunisia

**ACTION** everyone to write letter

* Celia has received an email from Elena Ruston who is extremely concerned about forced harvesting of organs from prisoners of conscience in China, and particularly about Falun Gong practitioners who have been victims of this practice. She would like us to show the film ‘Hard to Believe

Celia will write to AI to ask whether they are taking any action about this. She will circulate links so that everyone can find out more and discuss the issue further in July. **ACTION** everyone to research topic

Celia to write to AI

1. Campaign Reports

* Laos: There has been a change of prime minister. Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, no. 4 on the list, is now prime minister (no 2 on list) New foreign minister not yet named.
* Johan Teterissa, Indonesia

Janet has circulated an email petition to stop imminent execution of 14 people in Indonesia.

Country coordinator, Christopher Peel, has informed Janet that he will tell other groups working for Johan that we are happy for them to have our email address. We need to discuss how to further communication with other groups at July meeting.

1. Celia talked about the practice of female genital mutilation in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone and gave out some information about early forced marriage in both countries.

6 Date of next meeting: Monday 18 July.

Cathy - teas, Amy – minutes

Celia Rimington

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