**Minutes of Solihull AI group meeting on 20/05/13**

**Present**: Pauline, Bernard, Phil, Cathy, Maurice, Celia, Janet, David, Ruth and Andrew.

**Speaker**: Estevao Cabral on “Human Rights in East Timor” He was accompanied by his partner Marilyn.

Estevao explained that between 1975 and 1999 ,Indonesia occupied East Timor, a former Portugese colony. During the occupation there were many Human Rights abuses. In the 1999 election 78% of East Timorese wanted to break away from Indonesia. The main issue is that no perpetrators of abuse have yet to be put on trial. Although now human rights abuses are more under control it is left to NGO’s to keep the historic abuses to the forefront and international NGO’S to keep the issue in the international forum.

**Matters Arising**: none

1. Sadly Gladys Pemberton has died. She has been an AI member and an active letter writer for many years.
2. Fundraising discussion : Agreed to give Fun in the Park a miss this year.

ACTION: Celia, Pauline and Cathy to meet to plan an Amnestea following the success of last year.

1. Monthly Action: Mahdi ‘Issa Mahdi Abu Dheeb, Bahrain. Please see online.
2. Parcel of Christmas cards collected for the Write for Rights campaign have been returned undelivered. ACTION: Pauline to return to AI.
3. Johan Teterissa : Celia has received information from 2 other AI groups who are supporting Johann. This raised the issue of contacting our own government to put pressure on Indonesian government. ACTION : Celia will start by contacting Lorelei Burt.
4. Anas Al-Shogre: Phil has started a new campaign for Anas who was arrested in 2011 for demonstrating for political reform. Please see sheets for information and letter writing rota.
5. Bernard raised the issue of womens’ human rights in Afghanistan.

AGM speaker raised the issue of what will happen when withdrawal takes place . Already there have been riots in the Afghan parliament when they tried to pass a bill giving extended rights to women.

1. There has been no response to Pauline’s question to members re wanting printed version of the newsletter.

ACTION : Newsletter will cease. Use of website to be a priority and all members asked to make contributions if they can

Next meeting:17th June 2013 Minutes: Janet

Tea and talk: Celia

Cathy Harris 27/05/13