**Minutes of Solihull AI group on 17th June 2013**

**Present**: Maurice, Ruth, David, Celia, Cathy, Joanne.

**Apols**: Bernard, Pauline, Janet, Phil, Andrew.

Welcome to Joanne Brown, who joined us for the first time.

**Business**:

1. Monthly Action: Dr Tun Aung, arrested in Burma on 11 June 2011, tried to calm the situation when riots broke out in his local Mosque in Rakhine state. He was arrested for inciting violence. AI consider him to be a prisoner of conscience, targeted because he is a Muslim community leader. Please send messages of support to his family via the Myanmar team ,AI ,London WC1X 0DW.

**ACTION** : As above – more information on line.

1. Group Planning pack: Key campaign priorities for our group:

* Womens’ Rights in Afghanistan
* Zimbabwe

Group News reduced to 2 per year

Amnesty Magazine

**ACTION**: Celia to complete Planning form re priorities , request 2 copies of group news and 1 copy of AI magazine for group.

1. Prisoners of conscience
2. Johan Teterissa

ACTION:Celia and David to send letters to Lorelei Burt and Caroline Spellman resp., asking them to raise Johan’s situation with the appropriate minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth office , asking that they raise with the Indonesian authorities.

1. Anas Al-Shogre

Faxing letters is not straightforward. Celia has attempted without success.

ACTION: Check with Phil

1. Arms Trade Treaty – David

ATT is now going forward after years of discussion. There is a commitment from 156 countries but not yet ratified. Russia, Syria and North Korea voted against the treaty.

The campaign starts now.

**AOB**: Celia has received response from Lorelei Burt re asylum seekers. Lorelei has passed to Mark Harper MP.

10 min slot – Maurice re declaration of rights for dolphins/whales – newspaper article .

Urgent Action – David (on Janet’s behalf) explained re Urgent Action and the process which is now celebrating 40 years.

Appeals Worldwide will draft letters on behalf of human rights victims who are subject of AI campaigns – see online for more information.

**July meeting cancelled**

**August** meeting – 19th August 2013 8pm – activity – letter writing

Cathy Harris 26-06-13