



# Amnesty International Guildford Group

## Activities Report, 2008

### Monthly Meetings

- **14 January.** Colum McAndrew, AIUK Board Member, reported on the 2007 **AI International Council Meeting**, held in Mexico.
- **11 February.** *Group business and planning meeting*
- **10 March.** **"Promoting Women's Rights in the Majority World."**  
*Speaker:* Mary Saunders, of Oxfam; just back from study visit on women's rights in Bangladesh. With video presentation.
- **14 April.** *Guildford Group AGM, and report on AI National Conference.*
- **12 May.** **"Israel – Palestine"**. Discussion on Guildford Group's "Action File" on forced evictions in the two Palestinian villages of Hadidiya and Humsa. *Speaker:* Hilary Stephenson, group member responsible for the Action File.
- **9 June.** **"Asylum Seekers: destitution and the new rules in the UK"**. *Speaker:* Tim Finch, Director Communications, the Refugee Council. (Joint meeting with the Farnham AI Group to mark "Refugee Week".)
- **14 July.** **"Israel – Palestine"**. Talk on eviction, house demolition, destruction of farms and shortage of water in the Jordan Valley (which includes Hadidiya and Humsa). *Speaker:* Fahti Khadarit, Coordinator of the Jordan Valley Solidarity Campaign.
- **August:** no monthly meeting.
- **8 September.** *Group business and planning meeting.*
- **13 October.** *Group business and planning meeting.*
- **10 November.** **"Human Rights in Tibet"**. *Speaker:* Stephanie Brigden, Director, Free Tibet Campaign.
- **8 December.** **"Greetings Card Campaign"**. See Events, below.

### 2. Other Meetings

- **26 January.** Members of the Guildford Group attended the annual **AI South East Regional Conference**, held this year in Redhill.
- **34-6 April.** Members of the Guildford Group attended the **Annual National Conference and AGM**, held this year in Nottingham.

### 3. Letter-writing sessions

- **Letter-writing sessions** continued on the last Saturday of each month (except August and December) in the Café-Bar of the Electric Theatre.

### 4. Other Events

- **24 May.** **Street Stall and Collection Day.** Guildford High Street
- **14 July.** **Social Evening.** Bar of the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre (following the monthly meeting earlier that evening).
- **4 September.** Showing of film **"Persepolis"** as part of the Electric Theatre Film Festival.
- **20 October.** **AI Event at Guildford Book Festival.** *Speaker:* Tariq Ali on his new book "The Dual: Pakistan in the Flight Path of American Power".
- **25 November.** **60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.** Concert and public meeting. *Speakers:* Bruce Kent, Carole Seymour-Jones (Chair, "Writers in Prison" Committee, English Pen), Gill Hinshelwood (Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture), Andy Worthington (Author, "The Guantánamo Files"), Caroline Lucas, MEP (video message), interspersed with video clips on human rights issues, and music by the Laudamus Chamber Choir.
- **8 December.** **Annual Greetings Card Campaign.** Social evening during which AI members and friends come together for a festive drink and to sign greetings cards.