

## **Solihull Amnesty Group**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 15th June 2015**

1. APOLOGIES - Bernard and Pauline. PRESENT - Amy , Cathy , Celia, David , Janet

2. MAY - MINUTES AND ACTIONS - General discussion about ECHR... which was continued in Agenda item 6.

3. FUTURE EVENTS - AMNESTEA at 26, St. Bernard's Rd. 23rd August 2.30pm (ish) - Celia requests assistance in the setting up of the event before 2.30pm.

FUN IN THE PARK - Sunday 20th September. - Setting up time 10am - We will request loan of the Cage from Warwick Amnesty group - discuss further matters re this event next time.

4. SECRETARY - 1) 15th - 21st June REFUGEE WEEK - we will be able to use Twitter to engage in this

2) Film: 'The Look of Silence' ..... is being screened at Midlands Arts Centre - 8pm. Tues. 30th June and Thurs. 2nd July . Booking is advised.

3) Good News! Moses Akatuba ( Nigeria) listed in 20124's Write for Rights has been released with a full pardon.

Bad News! - in spite of recent hopeful events re Raif Badawi ( Saudi Arabia), his sentence to 15 years prison and 1000 lashes punishment has been confirmed after a new hearing. We need to renew our letter writing ,etc. in his support. Even great international publicity of his unjust treatment has been insufficient to make the Saudi Govt. change it's policies.

4) ' Block the Factory' - Demo. action requested on Mon.6th July outside Elbit Sytems factory, Shenstone ( Sutton Coldfield ) who supply weaponry to Israel which the Israelis may have used in the Gaza offensive. Ask Celia for further details.

5. CAMPAIGN REPORTS - Janet, (Indonesia Campaign) distributed a new letter writing rota re JOHAN TETERISSA. This campaign has been

running for some years now and still the Indonesian authorities are obdurate.

David, (Laos campaign) gave good news supplied by Duncan Booth (AIUK Coordinator for some of the S.E. Asia countries) re 2 LAO CITIZENS who have now been released after 3 or 4 years of their 15 year sentences for helping a foreign journalist who was investigating the plight of ethnic Hmong people in Laos. But there is still no news re the disappearance of SOMBATH SOMPHONE in spite of the pressure from Swedish Govt. and other countries too. Our writing campaign continues. *(nb. for both these writing campaigns our group supplies stamps, envelopes, address lists and case notes)*

6. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT - AIUK has been campaigning in favour of the retention on the Human Rights Act. In a general discussion amongst members present, using some newspaper cuttings, etc, it became clear that there is growing disquiet even within the Govt. re the Bill of Rights legislation which the Govt. has proposed for this parliamentary session.

7. UKRAINE - another discussion was undertaken re the case of UKRAINE during which Celia was able to outline some of the background and the current state of affairs. It has a complex historical origin and as yet has no clear resolution. At this point the group are not in a position to take any particular action.

8. AOB - Group Meeting July 20th - possible topic for discussion - Myanmar and the issue of the Rohingya people.