

Solihull Amnesty Group

Minutes of Meeting Monday 18 July 2016

- 1 **Present. Cathy, Celia, Janet, David, Pauline, Bernard, Heather**
Apologies. Amy

2. Minutes & Actions from June meeting -

- David gave a talk to Year 6 at Ruckleigh School. They were interested and knowledgeable because Human Rights is now part of the curriculum. He had suggested a donation of £50 but received a cheque for £75. He may approach other schools to offer talks which relate to this element of the curriculum.

3. Future Events -

- **Amnestea** has been rearranged for Sunday 31st July at Celia's home. Celia has arranged for £500 to be sent to AI to be matched by the Govt for the campaign against FGM (18th July midnight deadline) - this will be reclaimed from donations made on the new date and from some already received.

There will be a poster to be signed and sent to the Prime Minister asking for an effective and humane response to the global refugee crisis.

There will be a Stand Against Hate petition to be sent to the local council asking them to discuss measures to be taken against the recent increase in hate crimes.

- **Fun in the Park** Sunday 18th September, we will plan this at the August meeting. The theme will be "Refugees", everyone to come along with ideas.
- **AI UK March, London** Saturday 17th September, "Refugees Welcome 2016"
- David has been talking to someone from South Africa, her husband may give a talk about SA today at a future meeting.

4. Monthly Action -

- **Brazil** Jorge Lazaro is seeking justice for the murder of his sons.
Pauline and Celia will write letters to the Governor of Bahia state
Cathy & Janet will write to the President of the National Council of Justice
David, Bernard & Heather will send solidarity cards to Jorge Lazaro

5. Campaign Reports.

- **Johan Teterissa.** David had received information as part of the monthly appeals, so he handed out a suggested letter for us to send. Janet has continued to try to get in email contact with other groups. As Janet needs a break from co-ordinating this campaign for our group, Pauline & Bernard have offered to take over.
- **Sombath Somphone.** David has had a reply from Duncan with information about new contacts; he handed out these details to the group.

6 AOB

Celia had told us last month about 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. Celia has written to AI asking whether they are aware of these concerns but has been told that they are not currently taking any action. We had all researched the subject so were able to share information and have a group discussion. We have decided not to show the film Hard To Believe, which had been offered by Elena, as there are videos available on YouTube. Celia will write back to her, saying that we have all looked into it and thanking her for raising our awareness of the issue.

Next meeting 15 August 2016