**SOLIHULL AMNESTY GROUP**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 19 May 2014**

Present: Celia, Cathy, Andrew, Ruth, Janet

Apologies: David, Pauline, Bernard

Matters Arising: It was decided not to proceed with the a stall at the Leamington Peace Festival because of lack of time.

Cathy

Recent Events – Meeting with Kate Allen re Asylum Issue

This was a well-organised meeting and the good attendance of 19 people made it clear to Kate Allen that the need to act on this issue was important. Eventually it was decided that a fact sheet will be produced and the issue of asylum seekers will appear regularly in the Amnesty magazine. It was explained that the delay had in part been caused by the resignation of the Board member responsible for this resolution who has now been replaced. It was pointed out that the International Secretariat sets the priority campaigns, which this is not.

Future Events

It was agreed to ask Halesowen Welcome group to provide a speaker for our September or October meeting. **(action Celia).**

Celia has kindly agreed to host a tea party on 17 August. (Time 3.pm).

It was agreed to have a stall at Solihull Fun in the Park (Tudor Grange) on 21 September **(action Celia)**

We will have a petition and also produce a 'recruitment card' for the group **(action Ruth)**

This might be followed by an open meeting based around Johan Teterissa and Indonesia.

Secretary's Items

Celia has updated the contact list of members and will bring copies to our next meeting

Our monthly action relates to a woman who has been gang raped and could now be caned for adultery.

Celia has copies of the 2014 National Conference and AGM papers for reference.

Financial Statement The bank balance is £1,215.23. It is decided to send £600 to head office.

Campaign Report Johan - Teterissa Amnesty have issued an appeal for the release of recently arrested activists, indicating that what happened to Johan Teterissa years ago is still happening.

Syria Caroline Spelman has forwarded a reply from the Foreign Office. The gist is that Britain should send humanitarian aid, but the policy is consider asylum applications on a case by case basis, specifically the most vulnerable. and not all those seeking asylum.

Group Planning Pack

We agree to opt into the 'Women in Afghanistan', Torture and Tactical campaigns.

We also discussed Amnesty's requirement to prioritise future campaigns for period 2016 – 19. And also considered the 'big picture' of events currently shaping the world. We listed climate change leading to displaced people and food shortage; disparities of welth, and religious extremism leading to wars.

We thoughy Amnesty should focus concentrate on a specific country or region to highlight these concerns.

To add value to Amnesty's work they should highlight research and publicise this positively via Google etc.

Cathy will collate our thoughts for further consideration at the next meeting (**action Cathy)**