

Amnesty International Salisbury Group

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Thursday 11th June, 2015
7.30 pm at 4 Victoria Road.

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| 1 | Chairman's Welcome Present: Andrew, Fiona, Michael S, Tony, Eddie, Peter, Lesley Apologies: Michael P, Karen | AH |
| 2 | Minutes of previous meeting – these were agreed | LC |
| 3 | Treasurer's Report Current account - £621.29; Cash - £30.06 Money from last Coffee Morning to be collected. Ben Rawlence's travel expenses (Magna Carta Debate) will be re-funded. | MP |
| 4 | Campaign Reports Death Penalty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moses Akatugba has been pardoned and released. A brief article referring to the contribution made by the people of Salisbury in signings on World Day against the Death Penalty and other events has been sent to the Salisbury Journal [this was published on July 2nd] Nebraska, USA have abolished the death penalty The Saudi Government has advertised posts for 8 additional executioners to cope with the increase in beheadings. Urgent Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pakistan – Shafqat Husain – circulated to DPLWG 5.6.15. Husain received his fourth stay of execution in five months No Death Penalty Urgent Actions were received from AIHQ this month. There will be no group monthly UA. Campaigning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saudi Arabia – a letter has been sent to John Glen, MP for Salisbury, drawing his attention to President Hollande's call in the course of his visit to Saudi Arabia for an end to the death penalty in that country, and expressing the hope of a similarly robust approach from the British Government. Reggie Clemons – we continue to await the final Court judgement. | LC |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Day Against the Death Penalty – a signing will be held on the morning of Saturday 11th October – details and requests for support to follow in due course. <p><i>Please see the website for the full report.</i></p> <p>North Korea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kun Dun's case has been re-opened by Amnesty <p>Stop Torture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Moses Akatugba</i> – the good news of his unconditional pardon and release has been partly attributed by the Governor to AI's campaign. His letter of thanks is now on the display board in the Cathedral cloisters. [letter published in the Salisbury Journal] • <i>Ali Aarrass</i> – the case is undergoing investigation by the police in the Philippines, and the Senate are to open an enquiry into wide-spread abuse • <i>Claudia Medina</i> – all charges have been dropped and she is now free. • <i>Dilorom Abdukadirova</i> – thanks from the family have been received by AI. The case continues. <p>Individual Prisoner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIHQ have sent a list of possible prisoners but have not identified a particular one, or said that the group would need to pick one from this list. It was agreed that the current campaigns (HRA and Torture, together with the Magna Carta coverage) are extremely time-consuming. The group of active members is now also smaller. It was agreed the group would not identify a prisoner at this stage, but would re-consider the possibility at the end of the year for 2016. | KB |
| 5 | <p>Report on Website and Newsletter</p> <p>Twitter is proving to be the interesting site, with a high and growing number of 'impressions'. The web site now has 80 followers and has passed 2,700 views.</p> <p>Items for inclusion in the web site are always welcome and a plea once again for members to retweet where they can and include the web site address in documents and emails etc</p> <p><i>Please see attachment for full report.</i></p> | PC |
| 6 | <p>Magna Carta Events</p> <p>The final two events in which the group is involved take place on Monday 15th June:</p> | PC FD AH |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sixth Form Conference in the morning. Kate Allen will be participating. The group have had no involvement in the Conference • The Talk at the Playhouse at 2.00 pm in the afternoon. Edward Fox will be reading passages from the Magna Carta, together with a general panel discussion with Kate Allen, Prof Guy Standing and Ben Rawlence. The event will be for 1½ hours. So far, ticket sales are modest, but the Playhouse hopes they will increase over the last couple of days. The 11th June edition of the Salisbury Journal carried an article on the event but – regrettably – opportunities to publicise it further have been missed. <p>The display in the Cloisters continues, but attendance has revealed little interest in our, or indeed any of the stands. The exhibits are too far apart and most visitors seem more interested in taking photos of the spire, and walk past the display and the video.</p> <p>To date Group members have manned tables at two lectures and the Citizenship Ceremony and have collected over 60 signatures. Thanks are due to those who have offered support. It is important to check the timings of any future dates as these can be subject to change.</p> | |
| 7 | Market Stall This will take place on Saturday, 13 th June from 8.00 am to 12.30 pm. | MP |
| 8 | Monthly Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Refugee Week</i> – it was agreed that the timespan was too short to allow the Group to participate meaningfully. Future issues of the Monthly Action to be sent out with the Agenda – this will give Group members time to consider any possibilities • <i>The Human Rights Act</i> – this will be a major focus for the Group but we need more information on the Government's plans. (The Act was not included in the Queen's Speech). <p>In the meantime, the website RightsInfo provides useful information on the myths surrounding the Act, and how they might be countered, as well as ideas for possible events. It was agreed that the AI suggestion of an 'Amnestea' would be likely to attract only the 'already converted'.</p> <p>It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Press once it was clear what the Government were proposing.</p> | AH |
| 9 | Film The Amnesty film, 'Timbuktu', will be shown at the Arts Centre on Thursday, 3rd December . Thought will need to be given to a suitable | FD |

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| | speaker. The film is set in Mali but the speaker would not necessarily need to have specialist knowledge of the Country. Possibilities to explore included a medieval scholar, or an academic or journalist with expertise in Islam or Jihadism, or in the current situation in the Middle East. | |
| 10 | Regional News The Tapestry is on view on the SW Region's website. Caroline is considering bringing it to display in Salisbury. The Group agreed that the Arts Centre would be a more suitable venue than the Cathedral. <i>Note – Fiona has contributed a panel for Clause 18</i> | FD AH |
| 11 | AOB - None | |
| 12 | Forthcoming Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Day Against the Death Penalty Stall – Saturday 10th October • Citizenship Day at Bishops – Wednesday 21st October • Talk at St Mary's, Shaftesbury – Friday 13th November • Amnesty Film at the Arts Centre – Thursday, 3rd December | |
| | Next Meeting: Thursday 9th July 2015 Time: 7.30 pm Venue: 4 Victoria Road Group website; www.salisburyai.com AIUK website: www.amnesty.org.uk Group twitter site: @salisburyai Campaign box and banner: Karen | |

Appendix

Web statistics: May 2015

This is a fuller report of the web site and Twitter activities for May.

Web site

There were 261 views in the month compared with 189 in April. Most popular posts, as far as can be determined, were the Repeal of the Human Rights Act and the Death Penalty Report.

Country statistics (May) are:

UK: 38; US: 20; Brazil: 5; and France: 3

Total number of views is now over **2,700** and we have 80 followers.

Top 10 country statistics for 2015 so far are:

| Country | View |
|-----------|------|
| UK | 561 |
| USA | 342 |
| Brazil | 129 |
| Italy | 33 |
| Russia | 30 |
| France | 27 |
| Germany | 17 |
| Australia | 11 |
| India | 8 |
| Portugal | 6 |

Twitter

Impressions:

| May | April | March | February | January |
|-------------|-------|-------|----------|---------|
| 3063 | 2886 | 525 | 449 | 675 |

As can be seen, a big increase in the last two months due possibly to putting more interesting titles into the title field in the blog post which is picked up by Twitter. Most popular tweet was the protest about Indonesian executions which had 157 impressions.

North Korea

The YouTube video has been viewed 393 times and the photo of the event has had 1,624 views on Flickr see https://www.flickr.com/photos/peter_curb/15813142841/in/photolist-