

 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL	<p style="text-align: center;">Amnesty International Salisbury Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Thursday 14th April 2016 7.30 pm 4 Victoria Road</p>	
1	<p>Chairman's Welcome Present: Eddie, Tony, Andrew, Fiona, Peter Apologies: Michael P, Jonathan <i>Date format: day/month/year</i></p>	AH
2	<p>Minutes of previous Meeting - These were agreed</p>	LC
3	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bank balance: £998.12 Cash: £30.06</p> <p>MP had confirmed the Group had paid its annual subscription to AI, and they were aware he was now the Treasurer.</p>	MP
4	<p>Campaign Reports</p> <p><i>Death Penalty</i> <i>Please see the Salisbury Group Website www.salisburyai.com for the full international update, covering Saudi Arabia, Cameroon, USA, Malaysia, Japan, UK, Iran and Pakistan.</i></p> <p>Of particular note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al's Death Penalty Report for 2015 – The highest number of executions in a single year for a quarter of a century were carried out; however, 4 countries abolished the death penalty for all crimes. It was encouraging to see the report was covered widely across the media of all political persuasions. • The UK Government and FCO were criticised by the Foreign Affairs Committee and Shadow Foreign Secretary for generating the perception that work on Human Rights is less important, and for failing to speak out against the Death Penalty. • In the USA a number of death sentences are being appealed on the grounds of racism, claiming this to be a violation of the defendant's constitutional rights to a fair trial. <p>Urgent Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iran – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UA 72/16 – Himan Uraminejad was sentenced to death at the age of 17, following his conviction for 	LC

murder. Now aged 21, he has been told he will be executed following the end of the holiday period on April 1st. His trial was unfair and there are allegations of torture and other ill-treatment. (*Circulated to DPLWG on receipt on 31.3.16*)

- UA 39/16 – Amanj Veisee – see last month's Group Urgent Action – we continue to receive requests to write to the Iranian authorities.
- **Bangladesh** – UA 66/16 – Motiur Rahman Nizami, leader of the political party Jamaat-e-Islami, is at imminent risk of execution following the Supreme Court's decision to uphold his death sentence. Should his appeal be rejected, he could be executed in less than two weeks. (*Circulated to DPLWG 31.3.16*)
- **USA** –
 - *Virginia* – Ivan Teleguz, a Ukrainian national, was scheduled to be executed on 13th April. He maintains his innocence. Two of the witnesses have recanted their trial testimony, and the threat of the death penalty was used to secure the co-operation of a third, whose blood matched that found at the apartment. (*Circulated to DPLWG 31.3.16*). *Ivan Teleguz was granted a stay of execution on 4.4.16 as the State had been unable to obtain a supply of lethal injection drugs.*
 - *Georgia* – Kenneth Fultz, an African American, was due to be executed on 12th April. He was sentenced to death for murder, despite the claims made of inadequate legal sentencing, intellectual and mental health issues and a signed sworn statement from a juror that he had voted for the death penalty because 'that's what the n***** deserved.' (*Circulated to DPLWG 1.4.16*). *Kenneth Fultz was executed on 12.4.16.*
- **Japan** – UA received from AI Australia. Kho Jabing was due to be executed for murder last November. There were serious doubts surrounding the evidence, and the Judges were divided. He is now facing execution again, and appeals to save his life are to be sent to the President, Tony Tan Keng Yam. (*Circulated to DPLWG 11.4.16*).
- **Belarus** - UA 265/15 – The death sentence of Ivan Kulesh, convicted of murder, has been upheld by the Supreme Court of Belarus. His only hope now is to appeal for clemency to the President, but this is likely to be rejected. (*Circulated to DPLWG 12.4.16*)

Campaigning

- An email was sent to Farshid Talaghani at AI on 21st March to raise the possibility of a nationally organised Monthly Action in respect of the death sentences imposed in Iran on those who were juveniles at the time of their arrest. Farshid has responded that he will pass this suggestion on to the Communications Group for their agenda.
- World Day Against the Death Penalty – 10th October 2016 – Farshid has advised that the October Local Group Monthly Action will include an action related to the Death Penalty. This could possibly form the focus of our Group event.
- There is no further news regarding Reggie Clemons. We continue to monitor the situation.
- This month's Death Penalty letter writing action for the Group will be on behalf of Himan Uraminejad, sentenced to death in Iran at the age of 17 – UA 72/16. *Please write immediately. The execution was due to take place at the end of the Easter holiday but there has been no further news.*
- USA – 14.4.16 – A Notice of General Public Interest has been received from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation advising us that the **written public comment period regarding proposed amendments to the California Code of Regulations regarding the administration of the death penalty by legal injection has been extended to 5.00 pm on 15th May, 2016.** *Please go to the Salisbury Group's website to see the original Urgent Action – UA 287/15 - if you wish to comment.*

North Korea

Progress continues to be made with the making of a video on North Korea. Clare Moody MEP has agreed to be filmed on 22nd at the Chapter House in front of the tapestry but the Cathedral has asked that no reference is made to the location.

Fiona Bruce MP – Co-Chair of the all-party Parliamentary Group on North Korea – has agreed to an interview and we will film her outside the House of Commons on 21st. We hope to get some footage from the visit by the Mid Glos group on 17th but this will have to be done somewhere other than the Cathedral.

FD suggested an opening title sequence involving changing letters from North Korea into 'No Human rights OK' which PC will work on. The video should be available for publication in May.

TM/PC

Visit of Mid Glos Group – Sunday 17th April

The Group will be arriving at 1.00 pm and will be met by the Salisbury Group in the Cathedral Refectory before going on to visit the AI Tapestry. The group will be asked if they would be willing to be interviewed and videoed about the enforced repatriation by the Chinese of North Koreans who have fled the Country - this will need to take place away from the Cathedral. FD will be providing a large poster for the background.

Members of the Mid Glos Group will be attending Evensong at the Cathedral.

6 Social Media Report

PC

Web and other media statistics, March 2016.

Headlines: second highest monthly hits on the Web site and we went through 5,000 views during the month. Views of the North Korea video have now gone through a 1,000.

Web site

Busy month and the second highest number of views since we started at 314 only narrowly missing the previous record. The figures are:

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
288	244	205	314

Views

All time: **5, 076** and **we broke through 5,000** during the month

Country views, top six (2016)

UK	USA	Germany	Canada	France	Netherlands
352	309	21	21	15	13

Other countries include: Argentina; Laos; Israel; Singapore; Ukraine; Turkey; Russia

Top post was the item on Kenneth Fults who was nineteen years on death row and was executed on 12th April. The death penalty report was the second most viewed post.

Followers: **80** an increase of 6 from last time

Twitter

Impressions:

Please visit one of our Web, Twitter, Facebook or YouTube pages and click 'like' if you can!

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
268 0	516 1	373 2	446 2

Top tweet was on Ali al Nimr and allegations he was tortured which got over 200 impressions. The item on the UK's involvement in torture was also well viewed and Amnesty has published a report of 'credible' evidence to that effect. This story gained traction when papers from the head of MI5 were discovered in Libya following the overthrow of Col Gadhafi.

We took part in three Thunderclap events this month which are joint twitter actions to campaign on a specific action on a particular day.

65 followers, an increase of 3, and 123 following.

North Korea

The demonstration outside the Guildhall still bears fruit. On Flickr, the still image has had **2,457** views and the video, **430** – both good increases. On YouTube it has **623** views giving a total of **over a thousand at 1,053**.

This illustrates the lasting value of a video.

Tapestry

The tapestry video is up to 316 views on Flickr with a small number on YouTube taking it to around 400. www.flickr.com
www.YouTube.com

7 **Human Rights Week of Action – 9th-16th April**

AH

As part of the national campaign, a letter from the Chair had been sent to the Salisbury Journal but was not printed. This was disappointing as the Letters Page was thinner than usual. The letter can, however, be seen on the Group's website.

8 **Monthly Action**

FD/AH

- To campaign for the release of Phyoe Phyoe Aung. (Note – we are pleased to report she has now been released)
- Refugee and Migration Rights update – the global campaign will be launched in September. 2 Urgent Actions can be found on line – Greece/Macedonia and a Syrian detained in Turkey
- Pride - from May 2016 – an opportunity for AI groups to raise the Human Rights profile
- Urgent Actions can now be viewed on line

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AI are working with the fundraising team to put together an action to support fellow activists in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone. This involves matched funding from DfID and will run from 18th April to 18th July. 	
9	The Market Stall – 11th June Items to be collected. AH will organise a rota following the May meeting.	MP AH
10	World Day for Refugees – 20th June. Possibilities for an action/event in the course of the week will be discussed and finalised at the May meeting. AH will contact JP to investigate the possibility of linking in with an event at St Thomas's.	AH
11	School Talks AH has written to the 6 th Form College and University Technical College but received no replies. He will follow these up, and check the date of the Bishops/South Wilts Citizenship Day.	AH
12	Amnesty Film FD will continue to liaise with Patrick Bliss at the Arts Centre regarding the choice of film and date. 'Dheepan' has been excluded from the list of possibilities as the Arts Centre have a date for showing it. Films currently under consideration are 'A War', 'Mustang', 'The High Sun' and 'Mediterranea', with 3 documentaries – 'I am Sun Mu', 'Hooligan Sparrow' and 'Sonita'.	FD
13	AOB: None was raised	
14	Forthcoming Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit of Mid Glos Group – pm 17th April Video with Claire Moody – 21st April Video with Fiona Bruce – 22nd April Coffee Morning – TBC – L and PC to investigate the URC World Day for Refugees – 20th June – details TBC Amnesty BBQ – August – details TBC World Day Against the Death Penalty – 10th October - TBC Arts Centre Film – likely to be December 	
	Next Meeting: Thursday 12th May, 2016 Time: 7.30 pm Venue: 4 Victoria Road Group website; www.salisburyai.com AIUK website: www.amnesty.org.uk Twitter: www.twitter.com/salisburyai Facebook: www.facebook.com/salisburyai	

	Campaign box and banner: Peter and Lesley	
--	---	--