

## Amnesty International Salisbury Group

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Thursday  
7.30 pm at 4, Victoria Road.

1	<b>Chairman's Welcome</b> <b>Present:</b> Eddie, Fiona, Tony, Andrew, Peter, Lesley <b>Apologies:</b> None were received	AH
2	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> – these were agreed	LC
3	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> – None was received.  The market stall, with additional donations, made £287.80, a significant increase on last year's figure of £162.00. A cheque has been sent to AI for the Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone appeal. All monies collected for this campaign will be doubled by the Government.	MP
4	<b>Campaign Reports</b>  <b>Death Penalty</b>  <i>Please see the Salisbury Group Website <a href="http://www.salisburyai.com">www.salisburyai.com</a> for the full international update, covering the USA, the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, Egypt, Malawi, Malaysia, Iran, Nigeria, China, Manilla and the Maldives.</i>  Of particular note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Draft Programme of the Democrats for their National Convention later this month indicates that they will call for the end of the Death Penalty.</li> <li>• A number of States in the USA are involved in debates over the constitutionality of the Death Penalty, and/or in concerns over irregularities in the imposition of death sentences.</li> <li>• California will vote in November on the repeal of the Death Penalty, but this bill is set against a counter-proposal to speed up the process.</li> </ul>	LC

- The Maldives Government has re-introduced the death penalty, with a prisoner on death row now facing execution – the first to do so for more than 60 years.
- Against a background of increasing nos. of executions for drug-related offences, the UK has confirmed its decision to cease funding of the UN Counter Narcotics Campaign. A number of countries are set to follow.
- The latest blog from Catherine Dunmore – currently working as a volunteer with Amicus in Florida – can be read on the Website.

### **Urgent Actions**

- UA 162/16 – **Georgia**. John Conner, whose abusive childhood and possible learning difficulties were not made known to the Jury at the time of his trial in 1982, was due to be executed on 14<sup>th</sup> July. Neither his young and inexperienced lawyer, nor the judge, explained the importance to him of such mitigating evidence being presented. He had a history of depression and had tried to kill himself. In the course of his 34 years on death row he had become a positive role model and was said to make 'prison safer for everyone'. (*Circulated to DPLWG 9.7.16; this month's Group DP UA circulated and put on line in advance of the meeting*). **Note: 13.7.16 – the Parole Board denied the appeal for clemency. 14.7.16 – The execution took place late in the evening, bringing the nos. executed in Georgia in 2016 to 6.**
- **The Maldives** – an email UA from AI Australia on behalf of Hussain Humaam Ahmed, the first death row prisoner to face execution for more than 60 years (following the reintroduction of the death penalty – see International Update and Campaigning). (*Circulated to DPLWG 11.7.16*).

### **Campaigning**

- A letter was sent on 7.7.16 to Salisbury MP John Glen on behalf of the local Group, asking him for information regarding our Government's response to the implementation of the death penalty in the **Maldives**. As a member of the Parliamentary Group concerned with Human Rights issues in the country, he has been asked to use any influence he has to support the reversal of this policy and the commutation to a term of imprisonment for the prisoner now under a death sentence.
- An email has been sent to Farshid Talaghani asking for early notification of AI London's national action for World Day Against the

	<p>Death Penalty to enable the Group to plan an event which would tie in with this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Farshid Talaghani has been reminded of the Group’s request for a nationally coordinated action to campaign against the sentencing to death of juveniles in Iran.</li></ul> <p><b>North Korea</b></p> <p>It was reported that President Obama has sanctioned Kim Jong un and 10 others in North Korea because of human rights issues.</p> <p>Progress continues with the video:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The two introductory sessions look good</li><li>Clare Moody’s section is complete</li><li>A new date has been offered by Fiona Bruce – 26<sup>th</sup> July.</li></ul> <p>It should then be possible to complete the video</p>	TM PC																														
5	<p><b>Social Media Report</b></p> <p>Web and other media statistics, June 2016</p> <p>A dramatic pick-up in activity this month especially with Facebook which has exploded. What is interesting is that – in contrast to the Web site – most of the new activity is from Salisbury and the surrounding area.</p> <p><i>Web site</i></p> <p>Slight improvement in activity. The figures are:</p> <table><tr><th>Dec</th><th>Jan</th><th>Feb</th><th>Mar</th><th>April</th><th>May</th><th>June</th></tr><tr><td>288</td><td>244</td><td>205</td><td>314</td><td>286</td><td>152</td><td>171</td></tr></table> <div><p>Views</p><table><tr><th>Month</th><th>Views</th></tr><tr><td>Dec</td><td>288</td></tr><tr><td>Jan</td><td>244</td></tr><tr><td>Feb</td><td>205</td></tr><tr><td>Mar</td><td>314</td></tr><tr><td>April</td><td>286</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>152</td></tr><tr><td>June</td><td>171</td></tr></table></div> <p><i>Views</i> All time: <b>5, 631</b></p> <p>Country views, top 5 (2016)</p>	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	288	244	205	314	286	152	171	Month	Views	Dec	288	Jan	244	Feb	205	Mar	314	April	286	May	152	June	171	PC
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	UK	USA	Croatia	Ger- many/Canada	Russia	France
April	129	88	8	7		
May	58	39		4	10	6
June	64	77		4		3

Other countries include: Italy, Indonesia, Malaysia and Switzerland.

Top posts:

- Why do they hate the Human Rights Act?
- Stall funds to Africa
- Joining
- F1 in Azerbaijan

Followers: a big increase of over 20 and we now have **103**.

### *Twitter*

Impressions:

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
2680	5161	3732	4462	1727	3431	4510

Top tweets:

- Rethinking China friendship (retweet) 353
- Arms trade and its effects 250
- Human rights diminished if we leave the EU 240
- What happens now to the HRA? 239
- Councils urged to act against hate crimes (retweet) 226

We now have **88 followers**, an increase of 10, and 151 following, an increase of 20.

### *Facebook*

Facebook has seen an explosive rise in activity this month by no less than **2,430%!** This has largely been by increasing the number of followers and partly this has been Jonathan's help. It emphasises that followers clicking on 'like' or spreading the word can make an enormous difference. The other surprising fact is that nearly all the followers are in the Salisbury area with only a few from further afield.

Impressions	608
Reach*	253
Engagements	98

*\*an increase of 2,430%*

The most viewed posts were:

	Saudi Arabia blackmails the UN	38	
	Effects on the HRA of the Conservative election	33	
	Five lessons we urgently need to learn following the Referendum	23	
<i>North Korea</i>			
The demonstration outside the Guildhall still bears fruit. On Flickr, the still image has had <b>2,646</b> views and the video, <b>490</b> – both good increases. On YouTube it has gone through a thousand views at <b>1,274</b> views giving a viewing total of 1,764.			
<i>Tapestry</i>			
The tapestry video is up to 377 views on Flickr with 61 on YouTube taking it to 438.			
<a href="http://www.flickr.com">www.flickr.com</a> <a href="http://www.YouTube.com">www.YouTube.com</a>			
<i>Group actions</i>			
We have taken part in two group mailings over the period:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Following the murder of Jo Cox MP, an item about hate crime</li><li>• A twitter retreat also on the subject of hate crime and contacting local authorities</li></ul>			
Web site: <a href="http://www.salisburyai.com">www.salisburyai.com</a>			
Twitter: <a href="https://www.twitter.com/salisburyai">www.twitter.com/salisburyai</a>			
Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/salisburyai">www.facebook.com/salisburyai</a>			
<i>If you can manage to go onto any or all of these sites it will help. Contributions to the Web site or Facebook are welcome. You can engage with the Facebook page if you wish. You can also retweet on Twitter or click 'Like</i>			
6	<b>The Tapestry</b> The Tapestry had been dismantled and taken to Caroline Butler. It is hoped to install it for a period in Bristol Cathedral.	<b>PC</b>	
7	<b>Relations with the Cathedral</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PC had attended a meeting with Sarah Ricketts</li><li>• The Cathedral are planning to hold a Magna Carta Day on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017, and annually thereafter. They would like the Group's involvement.</li></ul>	<b>All</b>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are thinking of repeating the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Conference – Kate Allen could be a possible speaker.</li> <li>• Anthony Lester (author of ‘Five Ideas Worth Fighting for’) and Frances Klug (LSE) were suggested as possible speakers for an Amnesty event.</li> <li>• A date and speaker for the Amnesty Evensong need to be agreed – possibly in November. AH to contact JP re liaising with Tom Clammer.</li> <li>• The possibility of holding an Amnestea prior to Evensong was raised</li> <li>• The possibility of linking the Evensong Service to the Refugee campaign was discussed. FH to enquire regarding possible speakers from AI in London</li> <li>• A Working Group will need to be set up for the Magna Carta events.</li> </ul>	
8	<b>Monthly Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brazil – Jorge Lazaro - to write to the Brazilian authorities in support of a father seeking justice for his sons.</li> <li>• Welcome Refugees London March – 17<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• Skillshare Day on the Refugee Campaign – London – 22<sup>nd</sup> October</li> </ul>	FD AH
9	<b>Regional News</b> – None has been received	FD AH
10	<b>BBQ</b> Providing the weather is good, this will be held at Great Durnford at Peter and Lesley’s on Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> August from 5.00 pm. Details will be sent out in a separate email.	
11	<b>Citizenship Talks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JP to confirm his availability</li> <li>• Bishops/South Wilts – 21<sup>st</sup> October</li> <li>• St Mary’s and new 6<sup>th</sup> Form College to be offered sessions</li> <li>• AH to contact Wiltshire College re Freshers’ Week</li> </ul>	AH FD EB JP?
12	<b>Film</b> FD is continuing to search for a speaker to introduce the film. SOAS has been approached, also Dr Eylem Atakav at the University of East Anglia. She has responded positively but the date may clash with a Conference. As a third option, FD will pursue the possibility of a speaker through the Amnesty Turkish Campaign Coordinator.	FD
12	<b>AOB</b> – None was raised.	
13	<b>Forthcoming Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBQ – 11<sup>th</sup> August – <i>will not take place if wet</i></li> <li>• <b>AGM – September Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> September</b></li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Day Against the Death Penalty – 10<sup>th</sup> October - TBC</li> <li>• Citizenship Day at Bishops/S.Wilts – 21<sup>st</sup> October</li> <li>• Evensong at the Cathedral – TBC (November?)</li> <li>• Amnesty Film at the Arts Centre – 15<sup>th</sup> December</li> <li>• Write for Rights – details following September meeting.</li> <li>• Carol Singing – TBC</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Next Meeting: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>  <b>Time: 7.30 pm</b>  <b>Venue: 4 Victoria Road</b></p> <p><i>Please note there will be no August meeting – replaced by the BBQ. The September meeting will be preceded by the Group's AGM.</i></p> <p>Group website; <a href="http://www.salisburyai.com">www.salisburyai.com</a>  AIUK website: <a href="http://www.amnesty.org.uk">www.amnesty.org.uk</a>  Twitter: <a href="http://www.twitter.com/salisburyai">www.twitter.com/salisburyai</a>  Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/salisburyai">www.facebook.com/salisburyai</a>  <b>Campaign box and banner:</b> Lesley and Peter</p>	