 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL	Amnesty International Salisbury Group Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Thursday 9th March 2017 7.30 pm 4 Victoria Road	
1	Chairman's Welcome Present: Tony, Andrew, Fiona, Effie, Eddie, Peter, Lesley Apologies: Michael P, Michael S.	AH
2	Minutes of previous Meeting – These were agreed	LC
3	Treasurer's Report - £1,119.00 (Bank Account) £30.06 (Cash) Funds will be required for the Speaker's travel and the refreshment expenses for the North Korean Evening on 16 th March	MP
4	Amnesty UK have published their <u>Annual Report</u> for 2016-17 – The State of the World's Human Rights . It warns that an 'us v them' narrative of blame, hate and fear is undermining the very foundations of universal human rights and leaving the global response to mass atrocities and the refugee crisis perilously weak. 5 A shocking new AI report <u>Slaughterhouse: mass hanging and extermination in Syrian prisons</u> , published in February, exposes the mass hangings that have taken place in Saydnaya military prison between 2011 and 2015. There are clear indications that this is ongoing as part of an extermination strategy pursued by Assad's forces. A petition is available to download. 6 Campaign Reports Death Penalty Report <i>Please see the Salisbury Group Website www.salisburyai.com for the full international update, covering the USA, Burma, Turkey, the Philippines, Malaysia, Jordan and Iran.</i> Of particular note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iran —Child bride Zeinab Sekaanvand Lokran is no longer facing imminent execution. Zeinab was abused by her husband, who refused to divorce her. She ran away but was disowned by her family and ignored by the police. At 	LC

17 she was arrested and ‘confessed’ she had killed her husband. She was tortured by police and sentenced to death after a grossly unfair trial. AI are continuing to push for a fair re-trial. *Many thanks to all who took action on her behalf.*

- **USA** – Judge Breyer has expressed his concern at the ‘arbitrary role that geography plays in the imposition of the death penalty’, believing that this calls into question the constitutionality of capital punishment itself. Numbers of States continue to have issues regarding the constitutionality of their procedures or in procuring supplies of permitted lethal injection drugs. Arkansas plans to execute 8 prisoners prior to the expiry date of their supply.
- **The Philippines** – The Bill to reinstate the death penalty has passed its third and final reading in the House and will now go to the Senate. At this stage, proposals to include ‘grave offences such as rape, treason and plunder’ have been dropped, and it will cover drug-related crimes only.
- **Malaysia**– Doan Thi Huong, who is Vietnamese, and Siti Aishah, who is Indonesian, are to be charged with the murder of Kim Jong Nam, the half-brother of Kim Jong-un. Murder carries a mandatory death penalty in Malaysia.
- **Jordan** – 15 Jordanian prisoners, including 10 convicted of terrorism and 5 of rape and sexual assault, are reported to have been hanged, the largest round of executions in Jordan for many years. Jordan had imposed a moratorium on capital punishment between 2006 and 2014.

Urgent Actions

- **Iraq** – UA 45/17 – Two brothers, Mahmoud Tale’ Nayef and Taleb Tale’ Nayef, were convicted in 2016 of terrorism-related offences and sentenced to death. Their convictions were based on ‘confessions’ extracted under torture. Taleb Tale’ Nayef has since retracted his confession but faces further charges, and both brothers say they have undergone further torture. *Circulated to DPLWG 22.2.17.*
- **Malaysia** – UA 53/17. Brothers Suthar Batumalai and B. James Batumalai were due to be executed on 24th February. It is believed they were granted a last-minute stay, but remain at risk of imminent execution. They were convicted of murder in 2010 on the basis of circumstantial evidence alone and sentenced to the mandatory death penalty. *Circulated to DPLWG 2.3.17.*

- **Belarus** – UA 16/17 – Update – Kiryl Kazachok has decided to not to appeal his death sentence and is at imminent risk of execution *Circulated to DPLWG 6.3.17. (This month's Group Urgent Action)*

Campaigning

- **Reggie Clemons** – The cards and letter sent to Reggie over the Christmas period have been returned, marked 'NSW (No Such Number) – Unable to forward'. We continue to await a response to our request to AI London for a current address, but have now contacted Justice Watch for Reggie Clemons for help with this.

There is to be a hearing by St Louis Circuit Judge Rex Burlison on 15th March

The website <http://www.justicewatch4reggie.com/> is a useful source of up-to-date information. Posts from this site will be linked to the Group's Facebook page. It is understood that Reggie's re-trial remains set for August 2017.

North Korea

Arrangements are in hand for Jihyun Park's talk on 16th March. The session will take place in Activity Room 1 at the Five Rivers Leisure Centre and will commence at 7.30 pm. Light refreshments will be provided. Press releases have been sent to Valley News and The Salisbury Journal. It is hoped to record a video interview prior to the session.

Information on the current situation in respect of Human Rights in North Korea can be found in the Amnesty 2016-17 Report.

The Group noted

- The excellent work in raising funds for their North Korean campaign by Sue Rickards of London and their monthly 'Spud Night' and other activities
- The publication of a new book on life in North Korea and how the information underground may be changing life there for the better – *North Korea's Hidden Revolution* – by Jieun Baek – cost £20.00.

Refugees

In response to UA 15/17, AI had received a reply from the Serbian Ministry of Interior expressing a commitment to accommodate everyone. Members of the Group who had taken action on this UA had also received responses from the Ministry.

TM

AH

Amnesty state that, at the moment, although hundreds of people were referred to reception centres, 800 are still sleeping rough, and newly arriving people are still at risk of being left homeless. The situation will continue to be monitored.

The Group expressed their difficulty in calling on overseas governments to do more for refugees when our own Government's response continues to be so limited.

Update on Possible Actions

- No response has as yet been received from the Studio Theatre regarding the possibility of a joint production of the *Asylum Monologues*.
- The Travelling Photographic Exhibition appears to be online only but – should we wish to mount an exhibition in the Library Gallery, it is fully booked until the end of the year.
- The Vigil on the City Hall steps has been provisionally agreed for Refugee Week 19th-25th June – possibly Saturday 24th June (TBC). This will involve inviting members of the public to be photographed holding a panel in support of the fair treatment of refugees.

A planning meeting is to be held at 2.00 pm on Monday 3rd March.

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Social Media Report

Web and other media statistics, February 2017
A quieter month on all social media platforms.

Web site

A good month. The figures are:

Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
167	211	201	275	189	274	268

Views

All time: **7 429**

Country views, top 4.

USA	109
UK	104
Canada	13
Australia	7

Top posts:

1. Observer letter. This was a letter by a large number of lawyers in favour of the European Court

PC

2. February minutes
3. The 'About us' page

Followers: a further increase of 2 this month and we now have **185**.

Twitter

Quieter month partly because we had less to tweet

Impressions:

Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
1784	3050	3045	3633	5101	6505	2856

Top tweet:

- The last death penalty report which had 627 impressions

We now have **122 followers**, an increase of 4, and 182 following, the same as last month.

The North Korean video also continues to attracted interest. Forming the link to the south region showed some activity this month. In amongst the copious data produced by Twitter is the one for the age profile of those looking at tweets and by far the biggest cohort is the 18 – 24 year olds who make up 40% of our viewers.

Facebook

Peter looked at a different statistic this month as he was not at all sure of the meaning of the previous figures. Looking at the 'reach' as they term it, these totaled 328 nearly double last month's figure the leading ones being:

1. The Observer letter as above in the web page figures
2. The case against human rights which was picking up on an article by an American academic and answering his points


Tumblr

We have 6 followers on Tumblr an increase of 1. We have 17 followers. No change.

North Korea

The demonstration outside the Guildhall still invites interest. On Flickr, the still image has had **3,048** views and the video, 630 –

	<p>both increases. On YouTube it has 1,557 views giving a viewing total of 5,235.</p> <p>The North Korea video on YouTube involving Fiona Bruce MP has shown an encouraging increase in views following the email to Kenny who circulated it. It now has been seen 126 times.</p> <p>www.flickr.com www.YouTube.com</p> <p>Group actions</p> <p>There was one group action during this period: the twitter action on Ali al Nimr.</p> <p>Web site: www.salisburyai.com</p> <p>Twitter: www.twitter.com/salisburyai</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com/salisburyai</p> <p>As ever, contributions to the sites are welcome. Engaging with the sites also helps build profile. Please try and visit one of the sites at least and click 'like' or 'forward'.</p>	
8	<p>Monthly Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fight for your Rights – Join Trump Watch</i> – individuals within the Group will respond to this as they wish • <i>End the horror in Syrian prisons</i> – a petition is available to be downloaded, and will be used at the NWR session on 5th April and for a Street Signing on Saturday 22nd April; • an email action is available, calling on <i>Russia and the USA</i> to use their influence to ensure independent monitors are allowed in to investigate conditions in Syria's torture prisons. • Appeal letters can be sent to the Turkish Minister of Justice on behalf of the lawyer, <i>Eren Kesken</i>. • Groups are invited to organise an event such as a street party to commemorate <i>Jo Cox</i> and to celebrate community and overcoming intolerance. 	All
9	<p>Arts Centre Films</p> <p>The double bill of <i>Incendies</i> and <i>War Witch</i> will be shown at the Arts Centre on 9th June. Timings TBC but are likely to be 6.00 pm and 9.00 pm. The Refugee petition will be available to sign.</p>	FD

		
10	The Freedom Festival This has been postponed until 2018, and a new venue will be sought.	FD
11	NWR Meeting A meeting has been held with members of the Committee to finalise details of the session. This will take place at 7.45 pm (arriving 7.15 pm) on 5 th April. The Syrian petition will be available to sign.	LC PC
12	Market Stall The provisional date of 27 th May has not yet been confirmed.	AH
13	Grapevine Session AH will be finalising the session, which will take place at St Thomas's House on 26 th April.	AH
14	Magna Carta Event – 15th June PC and FD had attended a meeting at the Cathedral on 21 st February <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The theme is Memory and Identity • It may be possible to use the video of the interview with Jihyun Park, which would play on a loop • The Cathedral hope to have a Magna Carta Lecture. Philippe Sands has now been suggested as a possible speaker – PC to contact • The Cathedral would be happy to display the HR tapestry • It is hoped to run a 6th Form Conference • The sculptures <i>Shadows of the Wanderer</i>, currently at Chichester Cathedral, will be on display. The Cathedral are happy for Amnesty materials to be made available. 	PC

15	Google Group A Google group enabling Amnesty local groups in the South to share information on events and talks has been set up. It was agreed that the Salisbury Group should join.	FD
16	Licence for Carol Singing The letter of authorisation has not as yet been received from Farshid.	AH
17	Romsey Amnesty Members of the Group have been invited to two talks organised by the Romsey Group. The meetings are being held at the Abbey Hall, commencing at 7.30 pm. (See below for details)	All
18	Forthcoming Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Legislation talk – Romsey Amnesty – 20th March • Talk by Jihyun Park – 16th March • Refugee Meeting 3rd April • NWR Session – 5th April • Talk about Aleppo – Romsey Amnesty – 24th April • Grapevine Session – 26th April • Market Stall – 27th May (TBC) • Incendies and War Witch – 9th June • Magna Carta Event – 15th June • Vigil – 24th June (TBC) 	All
	Next Meeting: Thursday 13th April Time: 7.30 pm Venue: 4 Victoria Road www.salisburyai.com www.twitter.com/salisburyai www.facebook.com/salisburyai Campaign box and banner: Andrew	