**Amnesty International Blackheath and Greenwich**

Monthly Meeting Notes

**Tuesday 13 August 2024, in the crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee**

Meeting chair: Anne F. Note-taker: Brigitte Refreshments: Brigitte

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| **1** | **Introductions**, welcome to visitors / new members, apologies for absences, | No introductions needed.  **Present:** David Wi, Anne F, Brigitte, David WW, Illona,  **Apologies for absence:** David We, Rachel, Amanda, Jennifer, Angela, Graham, Ann, Ken |
| **2** | **Fundraising event 24 at Mycenae House** | David We reported:  Takings: £522.14 in cash and from Zettle (unable to specify raffle takings)  Ticket sales: £1324.-  Total: £1846.14  Outgoings: Sundry: £70.99  Band: £900.-  Total: £979.99  Total profit:£866.- |
| **3**  **4** | **Fundraising Event 25**  **Country/reginal campaigns** - updates from country contacts | Illona to talk to Mark (Mycenae House) about dates for 2025 (9/05, 15/05 or 25/04)  Possible alternatives to be investigated: David WW Colfe’s School, Brigitte Charlton House Library  WEST&CENTRAL AFRICA Anne F, no report received  Brigitte.FRANCE: The HIJAB BAN in French sports reveal discriminatory double standards.  TURKEY: a post card for the GEZI SIX to be prepared for the letter writing -The SATURDAY MOTHERS had their 1000ds vigil in May but harassment and arrests going on and a letter o be prepared for the letter writing on August 27th.  SAMOS: Illegal detention without sufficient food, water and medical service in an EU funded refugee camp.  FINLAND: Emergency legislation on immigration seems to give a ‘Green Light’ to violence and push back at the border with |Belarus- a 200m exclusion zone does not allow any help given to refugees stuck at the border.  RIGHT TO PROTEST IN EUROPE: AIUK published a detailed report on the right to protest in 21 European countries.  IRAN no report, Graham recommended a Film NO EVIL about Iran at the GARDEN CINEMA (WC2B 5PQ) on Wed, 25th Sept  CHINA no report  CENTRAL AMERICA; no report |
| **5** | **AIUK (standing item)**  **-London Region Group meetings (Anne F, David Wi)**  Second London regional co-ordinator | Anne and David Wi attended **An Evening with Amnesty** International at the Human Rights Centre on 11th July, which focussed on AI’s response to the Israel-Gaza conflict and the upcoming election.  Anne and Rachel attended the **Achieving Justice in Syria** evening at the HRC on July 30th which focussed on Militia on Campus: Crimes of the National Union of Students (NUSS) at the university of Damascus. Apparently the Syrian government recruits future leaders from this organisation. Amongst several speakers was Dr Yaman Al-Qadri, a clinical psychologist now working in the UK with victims of torture, who is herself a survivor of violations of the NUSS. One small success: The Syrian Paralympic organiser Omar Al-Aroub was removed from his position because he had been the head of the NUSS! |
| **6** | **Right for Rights:**  **Dec 7th in Woolwich** | Amnesty UK organising a Human Rights Festival in the Woolwich Fireworks Factory on Dec 7th inviting local groups to participate: Anne to submit our Right for Rights stall to the committee |
| **7** | **Arrangements for future** **meetings**  Other speakers and guests – | European Team have offered to come and talk to groups: Brigitte to offer them our October 7th meeting. Ulrike Schmidt has agreed to come and speak on the Right to Protest in 21 European countries. |
| **7** | **AOB** | Contact with SImon re Facebook account, has Amanda made contact? |

**FUTURE EVENTS,**

* **Tuesday 27th August 2024 7.30pm**- letter writing at The Princess of Wales, 1a Montpellier Row Blackheath SE3 0RL
* **Sunday 8th September 2024 Summer Social at The Squirrels, Belmont Hill, SE3**

Time tbc

* **Tuesday 7th October atbn7.30**: Group Meeting at the Crypt of St Margaret’s Church with
* Speaker: Ulrike Schmidt on the Right to Protest in 21 European countries.

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| **AIBG CONTACTS** | |
| **Position** | **Name** |
| Chair | Anne F |
| Vice-Chair | Brigitte |
| Secretary (enquiries contact) | David Wi |
| Treasurer | David We |
| Country Contacts |  |
| Publicity & Social |  |
| Membership & AIBG Website | David WW & David Wi |
| Letter writing co-ordinator | Brigitte |
| Newsletter writer / provider of meeting refreshments | **To be rotated between all members of the group.** |