**Amnesty International Blackheath and Greenwich**

Monthly Meeting Notes

**Tuesday 8 October 2024, in the crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee**

Meeting chair: Anne F. Note-taker: Graham. Refreshments: Angela

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| **1** | **Introductions**, welcome to visitors / new members, apologies for absences, Note taker for next meeting | Khia and Tatum received a very warm welcome from the group!  **Present:** Amanda, Angela, Anita, Anne F, Ann H, Brigitte, David Wi, Graham, Jennifer, Ken, Khia, Rachel, Tatum, Ulrike  **Apologies for absence:** David We, Illona  Brigitte volunteered to be next note taker |
| **2** | Human Rights in Europe – Ulrike Schmidt, Europe Representative, AIUK | Ulrike talked about her very real concerns about threats to human rights in Europe, particularly the right to protest. She drew on the recent Amnesty International **“Protect the Protest Research Briefing”**:  <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/freedom-of-expression/protest/> for worrying examples and illustrations of the erosion and suppression of the right to protest in Poland, Netherlands, France, Germany and the UK. After a lively question time, Anne warmly thanked Ulrika on behalf of the group for raising our awareness of this very serious issue. |
| **3** | Fundraising event 2025 | Brigitte reported on the visit that she and Illona made to the John Ball Primary school in Blackheath to explore the possibility of holding a jazz concert there next year (see Illona’s report attached to the agenda for this meeting). Brigitte said that the school was very enthusiastic and that although their preferred date was 31 May (end of half-term) they were willing to consider other dates. The meeting agreed that Brigitte should proceed with this once a band had signed up.  Angela and Graham reported that they had spoken to Robin, the manager of the Youthsayers, <https://youthsayers.net/>. He thought that given sufficient notice, they might well be able to play on that date. He will get back to us shortly. The meeting agreed that we should proceed with negotiations.  Tatum said that she had many music contacts and would be willing to help track down a group if needed. Khia volunteered to help with publicity on social media. |
| **4** | Country/regional campaigns – updates from Country Contacts | **China:** Angela reported first on the 22/10screening at the HRAC of **“All Static and Noise”,** directed by David Novak, produced by  Janice Englehart about Uyghurs in re-education camps. A moral call to action attended by Anne, Angela and Graham for the group.  Secondly: **Urgent Action: Hakamada Iwao** acquitted of murder and robbery in 1966. However, prosecutors will meet 10 October to quash this. Send text to [camp@amnesty.or.jp](mailto:camp@amnesty.or.jp)  asking prosecutors to cancel appeal  **Iran:** Graham reported that humanitarian worker and civil society activist **Pakhshan Azizi,** is now at risk of execution. He will prepare a letter for 22 October  On the 25 September, Anne F, Angela and Graham went to see the film “**There is no Evil.”** at the Garden Cinema, Convent Garden. This Persian-language drama was directed and written by [Mohammad Rasoulof](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammad_Rasoulof). Banned in Iran, the film relates four stories concerning the [death penalty in Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment_in_Iran) and is a powerful statement about the terrible corrosive effect on the lives and relationships of those that carry out the executions. |
| **5** | Woolwich Event December (Anne F) | Anne reported that it now looked questionable whether our application to run a WfR stall at the event would be successful. Members of our group that wished to attend probably needed to purchase tickets. |
| **6** | Write for Rights – December (Brigitte) | Brigitte said that if we could not have a stall at Woolwich, we needed to take a different approach to WrR this year. |
| **7** | AIUK (standing item)  London Region Group  (Amanda, Anne F, David Wi) | Amanda stated that perhaps the most important point to take from the online meeting on 24 September was the need to complete the Group Health Check by the 18 October. (see David’s note attached to the Agenda for this meeting). Amanda and Anne agreed to do this together. |
| **8** | **Arrangements for future** **meetings** (David Wi, All)  Other speakers and guests | None |
| **9** | **AOB** | The group posed for a photo to help free Ilham Tohti in China. |

**FUTURE EVENTS**

* **Tuesday 22nd October 2024: Letter writing**

Location: The Princess of Wales 1a Montpelier Row Blackheath SE3 0RL. Time: 7.30pm

* **Tuesday 12th November 2024: Monthly Meeting**

Location: Crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee Terrace, London SE13 5DL Time:7:30pm

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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 Media | Jennifer |
| Membership & AIBG Website | David WW & David Wi |
| Letter writing co-ordinator | Brigitte |
| Note writer / provider of meeting refreshments | **To be rotated between all members of the group.** |
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