**Amnesty International Blackheath and Greenwich**

**Group Meeting Tuesday 10th December 2024, in the crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee**

Meeting chair and notes writer: Anne F

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| **1** | **Introductions**, welcome to visitors / new members, apologies for absences, appointing note taker for January meeting/AGM (TBC) | **Present:** Graham, Angela, Amanda, Jennifer, Illona, David Wi, David WW, Rachel, Brigitte, Tatum, Anne F  **Apologies for absence:** Ann H, Ken |
| 2 | **Write for Rights** – letter and message writing(Brigitte) | We did this at the end of the meeting, with refreshments. Graham had prepared a letter for urgent action in support of Verisheh Moradi, a dissident from Iran’s oppressed Kurdish minority, who is at risk of execution following a grossly unfair trial. Her appeal is pending. We all signed copies of the letter. |
| 3 | **Fundraising event 2025** - Graham, Brigitte, All | Discussion re possible venues and capacity. Agreed that it could not be too big as we could risk not having a big enough audience.  **Action:** Possible venues at the end of the notes with names of those undertaking to investigate – separate email sent out  **Action:** Illona to contact John Ball Primary School to explain that we do not feel the venue is appropriate and to thank them for all their help |
| 4 | **AIUK’s Amplify Human Rights Festival (Sat 7th December)** - feedback (Brigitte, All) | Brigitte and Rachel reported that the event was definitely worthwhile, with more than 40 cards and letters signed. Those who attended the range of sessions on offer (Guantanamo, Richard Ratcliffe, housing, Gaza, women in Afghanistan) all said how good they were.  However, AIUK CEO had not seemed interested in Rachel’s concerns re the out-of-way position of the AIBG campaign table and the limited access this offered.  **Action:** Amanda to contact Graham Bisset to ask whether he had the same concerns and to liaise on a possible complaint from the group. |
| 5 | **Country/regional campaigns** **–** updates from Country Contacts | **Africa (C&W)** – Anne F - No updates.  **China** – Angela - No updates.  **Iran** – Graham reported that the rapper Toomaj Salehi had been released from prison. There is a new compulsory veiling law for women that carries severe penalties.  **Mexico & C. America** – No updates.  **Europe** - Brigitte had received the Europe newsletter the day before the Amplify event, so will report on it in January. |
| 6 | **AIUK (standing item)**  **-** London Group meetings (Amanda)  - Petition to delay sale of Human Rights Action Centre (All) | Amanda reported back on the second online meeting and will resend the notes that seem to have got lost in various email threads.  Some discussion about this. David WW pointed out that until we knew about AIUK’s financial circumstances, we could not take a view on whether the sale was justified or not.  **Action:** David Wi to draft a letter similar to the one put together by the Watford group, emphasising our concern about the lack of transparency regarding whether or not members/local groups should be consulted. |
| 7 | **Arrangements for future** **meetings** (All) | The AGM will take place at the next meeting, so a decision on this was deferred. |
| 8 | **AGM- Jan 2025**  - to be held on Tues 14th Jan (same evening as Jan monthly meeting)  -notice and papers to be circulated no later than Tues 31st Dec 2024 (AIBG Constitution stipulates at least a fortnight’s notice) |  |
| 9 | **AOB**  1.Amnesty’s decision to describe Israel’s actions in Gaza & the West Bank as genocide (Anne F)  2.Standard welcome letter for new members (Anne F) | The meeting noted the decision  Action: David Wi to check |

**FUTURE EVENTS**

* **No letter writing in December as too close to Christmas**
* **Tuesday 14th January 2025:** Next meeting and AGM

**Location:** Crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee Terrace, London SE13 5DL

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Tuesday 28th January 2025:** Letter writing

**Location:** The Princess of Wales, 1a Montpelier Row, Blackheath SE3 0RL.

**Time:** 7pm for 7:30pm

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| **AIBG CONTACTS** | |
| **Position** | **Name** |
| Chair (& enquiries contact) | Anne F |
| Vice-Chair | Brigitte |
| Secretary (& enquiries contact) | David Wi – standing down in January 2025 |
| Treasurer | David We |
| Country Contacts | China - Angela, Iran - Graham, Europe - Brigitte, Central America - Roger, Central and West Africa - Anne F |
| Publicity & Social Media | TBC |
| Membership & AIBG Website | David WW & David Wi |
| Letter writing co-ordinator | Brigitte |
| Newsletter writer / provider of meeting refreshments | **To be rotated** |