**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH GROUP**

**Meeting Notes from Group Meeting**

**held on Tuesday 11th March 2025**

1. **Attendees** – Brigitte, Anne F, Graham, Angela, Amanda, Jennifer, Tatum, Anita

**Apologies** – Illona, Rachel

**Note taker for next meeting** – not decided

**Follow-up from previous meetings:**

* + Confirmation of venue for fundraising event – Pixaudio, Greenwich confirmed
	+ AIUK Amplify Event – was discussed at Feb meeting
	+ Sale of HRAC – sale has now gone through
	+ Standard welcome letter to AIBG new joiners – David Wi had sent to Anne F in Jan
	+ Resolution to AGM & comments from Graham Bisset - see below
1. **Fundraising event 2025**

*The following details have now been confirmed:*

* Venue: Pixaudio, Unit 24, 53 Norman Road, Greenwich Centre Business Park SE10 9QF

(Seating capacity: 160)

* Date: Friday 30th May 2025
* Performance by: Youthsayers

*Other details:*

* Times: tbc, but likely to be:

7pm: doors open

7.30pm – 8.10pm: 1st session

8.10pm – 8.40pm: interval

8.40pm – 9.20pm: 2nd session

9.20pm – 9.50pm: raffle

10pm: doors close

* Tickets available through: Eventbrite
* Ticket prices: Standard £15 / Concessions (low income) £12
* Food / refreshments: Pixaudio
* Publicity: AIBG/Pixaudio

 *Specific jobs/tasks for the lead-up and on the night:*

 Concert publicity (Eventbrite and flyer/poster): Graham

 Sale of tickets on door: Graham + one other

 Campaign stall: Brigitte, Angela

 Raffle: Illona to lead, but supported by others

 Raffle tickets: David Wi, Anita

 Providing directions from Greenwich mainline / DLR station: Tatum, Anne F

 Raffle prize announcer: Tatum

 Welcome / MC: Brigitte, Anne F

 Clear up at end: All,

 *Next steps:*

* Check if Pixaudio will organize ticketing on Eventbrite (Anne F)
* Publicity
* Confirm booking with Youthsayers

1. **AIUK (standing item)**
* London Group meetings (Amanda) – next online meeting to be held on 26 March
* AGM resolution and response from Graham Bisset – the text of Graham’s response had been included in the meeting agenda. Anne F read out response from Nick Hodgson. She will respond, letting him know that the group won’t have time to reword the resolution by the 14 March deadline. Also, the group felt that, because it had received information re. how to get involved with individuals at risk, it was no longer necessary to put the resolution forward.
* Sale of Human Rights Action Centre – Centre has now been sold
1. **AIUK mailings**
* Philippa Griesbach, local groups coordinator has asked that individuals contact her directly to check which mailings they’re included on
* Anne F to ask Philippa to a list of all mailing groups; Anne F to then circulate list to AIBG group
1. **Country/regional campaigns – updates from Country Contacts**

*See texts at end of Meeting Notes*

1. **Upcoming AIUK events**

Event - A Clear View of Iran and all its people – Fri 14 March, Omid Djalili and others

1. **Arrangements for future meetings, other speakers and guests**
* Richard Wild, lecturer on criminology at Greenwich University and standing for membership of an AIUK Committee. Amanda to invite him to join next meeting (Tues 8 April)
* Anne F to contact Amika George, AIUK’s new activism rep

**8 Future events**

* + **Sunday 16th March: Soup Kitchen in aid of MSF (Please RSVP to Brigitte’s email sent 3rd February**

Location: 43 Boyne Road SE13 5AL Time: 12 noon - 2pm

* + **Tuesday 25th March 2025: Letter writing**

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

**Updates from Country Contacts**

***Eastern Europe (Brigitte)***

UA re Nimet Tanrikulu already done at Feb letter writing

GEZI Park Protests: 3 acquittals but 9 still in prison.

The UN special rapporteur Mary Lawlor on the situation of human rights defenders commented: It is alarming that Counter Terrorism laws are used to target human rights defenders. 8 of them are members of the Progressive Lawyers Association defending victims of violence and torture used against those prosected for their opposition to the government.

**Serbia**

AI documents how Serbia’s routine use of Spyware, including NSO Group’s

 Pegasus spyware, novel domestically produced Android Novi spyware plus misuse of Cellebrite UFED mobile forensic tools against Serbian environmental activists and political leaders as well as journalists whose mobiles were secretely modified while the owners were questioned at police stations.

**Poland**

The film Green Borders shown at the Human Rights Centre on 16th Jan showed the plight of refugees and migrants stuck at the border between Poland and Belarus. The situation is similar in Latvia and Estonia.

Between21 and 23 ar least 55 people including children died there as a result of lack of medical care, malnutrition, exhaustion and exposure to cold and heat. In Oct 24 the Polish Government suspended the right to asylum.

The case of a group of Afghan asylum seekers is with the European Court of Human Rights.

NGOs, jounalists and medical support ie ambulances are excluded in a 3km border area.

**Greece**

The Adriana shipwreck at Pylos investigation (where over 600 people died) is very slowly progressing as information is incomplete regarding

1 Communication between the Coast Guard and the Adriana

2 Examination of mobile phone contact between the crew and the coast guard

3 Secrecy of telephone conversation between relevant staff and coast guard

Six organisations are campaigning for justice for the victims of the Adriana, including the Greek Council for Refugees and the Hellenic League for Human Rights

Expected: some solidarity action from the International Secretariat

***Mexico and Central America (Roger)***

Amnesty has launched a petition to stop mass deportation of migrants from the US. Please sign and share with your supporters and on social media.

Amnesty has extended the deadline for the urgent action for defender Sandra Domínguez and her husband Alexander Hernández, who remain disappeared. They were last seen by relatives on 4 October 2024 in their home in María Lombardo de Caso, in the southern state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Sandra Domínguez is an Ayuuk indigenous defender and a lawyer working on cases of violence against women. You can take action until 17 April 2025. There will be a letter for the next session.

Mining ban lifted

In 2017, El Salvador became the first country in the world to ban metal mining, following a long campaign to protect the country’s diminishing water sources from pollution. But despite opposition from environmental groups, the legislature has now overturned that ban in a bid to boost economic growth. Environmentalist Luis González told reporters: “The level of contamination that would be generated in the water, soil and biodiversity is unacceptable for life as we know it.”

Honduras. DESA manager confirmed as “instigator” of Berta Caceres killing

Judges at the Supreme Court of Justice have confirmed Sergio Rodriguez as the instigator of the assassination of environmentalist Berta Caceres, changing his role in the murder from “co-author” to “instigator” and ratifying the sentence of 30 years in prison. Rodriguez was a manager at DESA, the company building the hydroelectric dam, against which Berta organised protests.

***Iran (Graham)***

“The Evin Prison Bakers’ Club” by Sepideh Gholian

Describes life in Evin Prison. Sepideh has been held in Evin prison since 2028

Baked scones and cakes for the inmates

Book will be available shortly