



**Amnesty International UK
National Conference and AGM 2011**

DECISIONS

Professional Networks

This AGM notes that a contribution from an interested profession can sometimes carry particular weight in a human rights campaign, and that a network of professionals who are also supporters of Amnesty International is an effective way to facilitate such a contribution.

This AGM therefore instructs the Board of AIUK to re-establish professional networks, such as a healthcare professionals network and a legal professionals network as soon as can be done efficiently.

Proposed by: Bristol Local Group

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

UK Detainees Inquiry

This AGM notes

- The Inquiry into alleged UK involvement in the mistreatment of detainees held abroad is due to open in 2011
- The Detainee Inquiry has said that it has not been established in order to discharge the UK's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights and UN Convention Against Torture to investigate credible allegations of torture; consequently the procedures for the inquiry may not fully comply with the UK's obligation to conduct a prompt, independent, thorough investigation which is capable of leading to the identification and prosecution of persons responsible and provides for public scrutiny and victim participation.
- The UK has yet to sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (the "Convention"), that came into effect in December 2010

Calls on AIUK to

- Monitor the Inquiry and its compliance or otherwise with the UK's international human rights obligations
- Seek the support of AI members and the public, at the appropriate time, (i) to campaign for the Inquiry to deliver an independent, thorough and effective investigation which fully complies with the UK's human rights obligations, including by publishing a report and proceeding with maximum transparency; and (ii) to campaign for the UK to sign and ratify the Convention

Proposed by: Hugh Sandeman, Individual member

Seconded by: Richard Kotter, Individual member

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

LGBT Rights Campaigner

This AGM instructs the board of Amnesty International UK to increase substantially the time spent in the role of UK LGBT campaign manager (currently part-time), with the goal of appointing a full-time coordinator in due course. In addition, we instruct the Board to raise with the IS the high priority of this campaign.

Proposed by: Oxford City Local Group

The resolution was carried clearly

Arms Control

This AGM notes the disturbing news reports of the longstanding supply of military, security and police equipment by the UK and other nations to repressive regimes such as Egypt, Libya, Tunisia etc where the people have made great struggles and huge personal sacrifices in attempts to secure basic human rights which have been denied them for many years.

This AGM instructs the Board of AIUK to:

- implement significant and sustained campaign actions within the UK on the themes of arms control and of military, security and police transfers
- make formal and determined representations to the International Secretariat and the 2011 ICM, calling for the international movement to:
 - incorporate research and action on MSP transfer as a core objective and key area of work in the AI International Strategic Plan
 - devote additional resources to support research into military, security and police transfers and their negative human rights impacts
 - ensure the research seeks to identify countries who supply military, security and police equipment to regimes where it is known to be, or likely to be, used for internal repression
 - mount sustained international campaign action on the themes of arms control and of military, security and police transfers
 - ensure the campaign actions utilize the research information to secure widespread publication and publicity about nations who supply MSP equipment to repressive regimes
 - monitor more vigorously the problem of back door arms supplies to repressive countries – a process that involves the sending of arms to states with a relatively tolerable human rights record, which then supplies such arms to the target countries

Proposed by: Mike Reed, Individual Member

Seconded by: Kate Towner, Individual Member

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

Solitary Confinement

This AGM notes: that whereas Amnesty International calls for an end to long-term isolation in situations of confinement and prohibition on solitary confinement for imprisoned children.

- There are certain other category of prisoners whose specific needs demand our greater attention and should be afforded a higher priority in our campaigning
- There are currently no international laws restricting the duration of solitary confinement

Instructs the Board of AIUK to request the IEC to initiate a comprehensive study by the International Secretariat of all issues relating to solitary confinement and to ensure that the following is promoted as a matter of urgency:

1. That the use of solitary confinement should be absolutely prohibited in the following circumstances:
 - a. **For death row and life-sentenced prisoners by virtue of their sentence**
 - b. **For mentally ill prisoners**
2. That Amnesty International should actively seek to ensure that the above is protected and enshrined in International law.

Proposed by: Gitti Dunham, Individual member

Seconded by: Noa Kleinman, Individual member

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

Religious Freedoms

There is a growing intolerance of faith differences in the context of fundamentalist ideologies which place ordinary people at great risk if they try to hold to the above rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This resolution whilst recognising the wider contexts in which religious liberties are being denied focuses upon legislation that entrenches this, and upon the duty of national authorities to protect citizen's rights.

This AGM instructs the Board of AIUK to call on the IS to take the following actions:

1. Challenge Governments that deny freedom to their citizens either to practise, or not hold to a religion, and call for religious liberty to be placed upon their statute books and for violations of rights in Articles 18, 19 & 20 to be investigated and prosecuted in the courts.
2. Urge governments to repeal their blasphemy laws and find other ways to secure respect for all religious discourse
3. i) Make representations to the United Nations against any future attempt to reintroduce the Resolution on Defamation of Religions sponsored by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference on the grounds that
 - it would enshrine in international law the concept of the defamation and "*vilification*" of a particular religion, and thus can be used as a pretext for limiting freedom of expression
 - it would provide international legitimacy for national laws that punish blasphemy or conversion to another religion, etc;
 - human rights are not to be confused with rights given to religions: their belief systems, institutions or authorities. Human rights declarations already quoted protect the rights of people, not religions.ii) Lobby the UK and other governments to maintain its opposition to the reintroduction of any such resolution.
4. Make freedom of religion and non-faith belief systems and such victims of hatred and persecution the subject of an Amnesty International campaign. We believe that given the growth of intolerance Amnesty International urgently needs to support ordinary people at risk, highlight judicial oppression and support human rights organisations working for reforms.

Proposed by: Bourneville Local Group

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

Human Rights Accountability in Sri Lanka

This AGM notes that:

- it is now over two years since the conclusion of the Sri Lankan conflict, at which time about 280,000 survivors were detained for months in military-run displacement camps. Tens of thousands of people remain in the camps, dependant on humanitarian assistance;

- thousands of suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam members may still be detained in the state's 'Rehabilitation Camps'. They have not been charged with offences or produced in court and the Red Cross has not had access to them;
- Amnesty International has already and regularly called on the UN to establish a fully independent, international investigation to document the full extent of crimes allegedly committed during the final phase of the Sri Lankan conflict;
- United Nations Secretary- General, Ban Ki Moon, appointed a 'Panel of Experts' to advise him on the accountability issues. Amnesty considers the Panel of Experts should mark a beginning, not an end of a process of accounting for violations in Sri Lanka;
- the Sri Lankan Government's announcement, in May 2010, that it would establish a Commission on "Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation" (LLRC) is considered suspect. It was almost certainly intended to head off renewed calls for an international investigation of war crimes around the anniversary of the war's end. There is no reason to believe that this commission will be any more effective than its predecessors.
- On 27 April 2011, the UN Panel of Experts made public its findings against the wishes of the Sri Lankan Government, the report concluded there were "credible allegations, which, if proven, indicated that a wide range of serious violations of international humanitarian law and international rights law was committed both by the government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE, some of which would amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity", and called for both sides in the conflict to be investigated over possible war crimes.
- In response, Amnesty International has fully welcomed the publication of the report and urged the commission of a full independent inquiry.

This AGM welcomes the publication of the UN's Panel of Experts' April 2011 report on Human Rights violations in Sri Lanka and calls on the International Secretariat to make immediate and urgent representations to the United Nations that:

- the UN's Panel of Experts on Sri Lanka should avoid reliance on the conclusions of the *Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission* ('LLRC'), as set up by the Sri Lankan Government in May 2010,
- the UN's Panel of Experts should take immediate steps, drawing from its recommendations, to commence a full, independent international investigation;
- the investigation should document the full extent of alleged crimes during the final phases of the conflict as a first step towards international justice but, if necessary, extend this remit to cover all other allegations of abuses committed by any party since 1983;
- the safety of all witnesses, or potential witnesses, to the investigation should be guaranteed by the Sri Lankan government under continued monitoring by the UN;
- the UN should intervene to secure the protection of non-combatant civilians still detained in camps and their return to civilian life;
- the UN should insist that the Red Cross has immediate and continuing access to any remaining "rehabilitation camps" where suspected LTTE members are arbitrarily detained without charge; and
- demand that all detained suspects are either charged and prosecuted under internationally recognised legal processes or released immediately.

Proposed by: Kingston local group

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

AI Collaboration with Trade Unions

This AGM is gravely concerned that the list of violations suffered by trade unionists struggling to defend workers' interests continues to increase. The latest update in the *International Trade Union Confederation* (ITUC) annual survey notes a 30% increase in the murder of trade unionists reaching 101 trade unionists and labour activists murdered in 2009. The survey also provides detailed documentation of harassment, intimidation and persecution.

This AGM notes the laudable work done by AIUK and its trade union network with their memorandum of understanding with the TUC in the fight for the protection of union rights, and for promoting support and solidarity to the men and women who risk their jobs, their freedom and even their lives to defend workers' rights.

This AGM calls on AIUK to increase its collaboration and initiatives with trade unions, the TUC and their centre, and to encourage further collaboration through the International Secretariat of AI and their counterpart, the ITUC to protect the free exercise of fundamental trade union rights by independent trade unions as essential to the functioning of a democratic society and to a global economy based on social justice.

Proposed by: National Union of Journalists

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

Board Election Manifestos on the Website

In order to make Board members' aims, interests, and experience more visible to the membership, this AGM decides that in future, all elected Board members' election manifestos will be displayed on the AIUK website as part or all of each Board member's profile.

This will be implemented as soon as reasonably possible after the announcement of the 2011 Board election results.

The manifesto statements of candidates already sitting on the Board will also be displayed in the same way

Proposed by: Alex Siddall, Individual member

Seconded by: Heather Phillips, Individual member

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

Publicising AGM Positions

This AGM notes that not all of the posts involved in the running of the national conference and AGM are regularly advertised to Amnesty International UK members. In view of this, this AGM instructs the Board as follows:-

- a) The posts of the AGM chairperson and working party chairpersons should be advertised at the relevant time in newsletters or mailings to all youth, student and local groups and affiliated organisations in the Amnesty magazine and on the Amnesty website. . The advertisement should summarise the duties involved and the abilities required for these posts.

- b) The posts of AGM tellers should be advertised in a mailing sent to national conference delegates before the conference.

Proposed by: Ipswich Local Group

The resolution was carried narrowly

AIUK Strategic Direction

This AGM welcomes and approves the AIUK Strategic Direction 2011-2016 document included in the conference papers.

Proposed by: AIUK Board

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

Board Transparency

As (1.) the AIUK Board Code of Conduct states that: "Board members should be as open as possible about their decisions and action that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information when and only when the wider interest of AIUK clearly demands", and (2.) the 2009 ICM Decision 10 on Governance and Transparency has not been fully implemented by AIUK,

Amnesty International UK Section resolves that:

1. To the extent that it has not already done so, the Board of AIUK will implement forthwith its obligations on transparency as set out in the Decisions of the 2009 ICM (particularly Decision 10, Part A, Principle 5: Transparency). This will include making Board meeting agendas, and papers considered at Board meetings, available to members on request (as with the Board draft minutes). The exception to this shall be necessarily confidential papers.
2. The Board of AIUK will produce a point-by-point report to the 2012 AGM on the progress of the implementation of Decision 10 of the Decisions of the 2009 ICM, and the other steps it is taking to further develop transparency and accountability to the wider membership.

Proposed by: Alex Siddall, Individual member

Seconded by: Steven Hynd, Individual member

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

One Financial Amnesty

This AGM calls on the delegation to the 2011 International Council Meeting to continue to support the moves to allocate a greater proportion of the global movement's resources to its international work, particularly in the Global South and East, but also to ensure that such changes do not undermine the ability of AIUK to maintain a strong activist and campaigning base in the UK.

Proposed by: AIUK Board

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

Changes to International Governance

This Annual General Meeting calls on the Board to ensure that AIUK's delegation to the 2011 ICM works to:

- Welcome proposals to allow the International Nominations Committee to nominate candidates for the IEC;
- Oppose any significant reduction in the ability of AI sections and structures to propose changes to AI's Statute, its Integrated Strategic Plan, the international financial system and broad, external, global policy positions;
- Ensure that any definitions of core operational and governance standards to which sections and structures must comply, are approved by either the Chairs' Forum or the ICM;
- Welcome the development of different forms of AI entity in new countries;
- Ensure that any changes to IEC compensation and remuneration ensure transparency and retain the essentially voluntary nature of AI governance.

Proposed by: AIUK Board

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

Solidarity with Staff at the International Secretariat

This AGM notes the treatment of our colleagues at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International in the light of recent news of huge and unprecedented payoffs to the departing Secretary General and Executive Secretary General at a time when money for campaigning is tight and many research teams at IS are overstretched and understaffed.

We instruct the board of AIUK to urge the International Executive Committee (IEC) to address the concerns of the trade union representing the staff of the International Secretariat as a matter of urgency and to maintain a watching brief on the situation to ensure that the collective bargaining rights of all AI International Secretariat staff internationally are upheld.

This AGM also asks that the new Secretary General takes note of our concerns.

Proposed by: Noa Kleinman, Individual Member, Country Coordinator, North America and the Caribbean

Seconded by: Simon Bennett, Individual Member, Country Coordinator, Southern Africa

Joined by: Richard Kotter, Individual Member, Country Coordinator, European Union
Phill Wilcox, Individual Member, Country Coordinator, South East Asia

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

Transparency of Financial Information

This AGM instructs the Board of AIUK to demand that the International Executive Committee (IEC) and the International Secretariat (IS) show greater trust in the membership of AIUK. This should be demonstrated by placing online, in a readily accessible way, the information for IS listed below:

- Details of all employment contracts > £60 000
- Details of IS's expenditure against budget
- All minutes of meetings of IEC and IS directors' meetings
- Annual projected budgets produced by the IS.

The above information should be available online by end of January 2012 at the latest and each year on the same date. If it is not available at this date, this AGM asks the Board to consider withholding any further transfer of funds to the I.S. until such time as these information requirements are being met, and report back to the AGM on the decision.

Proposed by: Blackheath & Greenwich Local Group

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly

Amnesty International Governance

The recent disclosure in the 2010 Amnesty International Limited (International Secretariat) financial report, that significant payments were made to the last Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General without the knowledge of the membership and individual Sections of the movement, has caused widespread anger within the movement.

While the IEC has since provided more information, assurances that such events will not recur are unsatisfactory.

This AGM therefore calls on the AIUK Board:

- to press the IEC to carry out a thorough review of governance within the wider Amnesty body, involving the IEC, Sections and Structures, to prevent future reputational risks and ensure the membership is not deflected from its true purpose of campaigning for human rights
- to demand the IEC in future consults with Section Chairs before embarking on activities that could seriously damage AI's reputation
- to remind the IEC that it is accountable to the membership and must be open and transparent in its decision making
- to press the IEC to publish the terms and conditions of the current Secretary General and the IS senior management team
- to publish the AIUK structure and the salary ranges of the AIUK Director and Senior Management Team
- to make quarterly progress reports on the governance review through Amnesty Magazine and report results to the 2012 AGM.
- to ensure that AIUK contributes to the independent review into the payments made by Amnesty International to its former Secretary General and Executive Deputy Secretary General in 2009

Proposed by: Barrie Hay, Individual member

Seconded by: Shelagh Kavanagh, Individual member

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly