

**Amnesty International (UK) Norwich Group**  
**Open Meeting 18 January 2012**

**Apologies** David Huband, Nicky Leach, Debbie Campbell, Peter Jones, Mary Vanderpump, Roz Cadwallader **11 people present**

**Chair David F** The candle and lectern have been removed from the Anglican Cathedral and are available for use elsewhere. Currently stored with David F. Joanna will contact Gordon Darley who gave us the address of the Diocesan website and ask if it is appropriate to publicise it for use, on the website. **ACTION Joanna**

**Newsclips**

*Observer 15 January 2012 - Article* by Henry Porter suggests a shift towards secrecy in the UK courts following publication of Green Paper on Justice and Security.

Libya – Torture and rendition accusations against UK government during Colonel Gadhafi's era have been given support by a letter that has come to light. It was written on 18 March 2004 and is from Sir Mark Allen congratulating Mousser Kousser on the safe arrival of Abu Abd Allah Sadiq.

**Matters arising from 21 December 2011** - None

**Monthly Action** - None

**Information from AIUK** – 2012 Planning Pack with Joanna. Three global campaigns are

- Control Arms: Securing the Arms Trade Treaty
- End Forced Evictions
- Middle East and North Africa

We will register an interest in working on behalf Shaker Amer.

Joanna will send off group profile forms and options after committee meeting

**ACTION Joanna**

**Newsletter** Written and David F will type it up soon

**ACTION David F**

**Group website** We are very grateful to Carl who is moving us forward with the development of the site, updating it and introducing changes.

**Christmas Cards 2011** Cards sold = £693.30 Cost of cards from AIUK = £530.88  
Profit to Norwich group = £162.42 Thanks given to Lesley.

**Shaker Amer**

David F outlined the current circumstances of Shaker Amer's detention and distributed a factsheet with three possible actions:

- Send a card to Shaker Amer with a message of support to coincide with the tenth anniversary of his detention. It has to be blank and the authorities will photocopy it for him to look at only. He will not be allowed to keep it.

Using the 5 bullet point on the fact sheet:

- Send letters to the UK government, Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, copy to MP
- Send letters to US government President, Secretary of State

David identified 7 people to write to the UK authorities once a fortnight and 7 to write to the US authorities once a fortnight. (*Details with David*)

Tips for letter writing are available on AIUK website and with Joanna.

Jim asked whether, given the serious state of his health, an Urgent Action was appropriate.

David F will enquire at AIUK.

**ACTION David F**

Neil drew attention to an online petition for Shaker Ahmed. He will send details to Joanna and this can go out to database with the case sheet.

**ACTION Neil/David F/ Joanna**

He also drew our attention to the imbalance of action and interest between Shaker Amer and Ahmed Belbacher and expressed concern that Belbacher is given less publicity. Meeting agreed and when we have more detail we will include him in our actions. In the meantime we will act on behalf of Shaker Amer. Gill will get background information on Belbacher and bring it to the February meeting (*I think*).

**ACTION Gill**

### **Events**

4 February Quiz St Thomas Church Hall - Debbie and Roz are organising the evening. Not known what help is needed for food preparation. Mary V has offered. Joanna will let Debbie and Roz know.

**ACTION Joanna**

8 March - UEA Thomas Paine Centre Shami Chakrabati

12 May - Norwich City street collection

### **AOB**

**Song Cycle for Amnesty** The music can be heard on 'Sound Cloud'. South Bank are interested in the project and David F is liaising with Sian. A final concert may be performed in Shoreditch church.

Jono handed out articles from the *Jerusalem Post*, *The Palestine Chronicle*, *New York Times*, *St Petersburg News.Net*, *Haaretz.com*, *Bloomberg.com*

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

**Date next meeting**

**Wednesday 15 February**

**Catherine Grasham AIUK Ethiopian Co-ordinator.**