

**Amnesty International (UK) Norwich Group
Open Meeting 15 February 2012**

Apologies Carl Grint, Jim Massy 25 people present

Chair David F welcomed new faces particularly UEA students. Collecting tin passed round for contributions to room hire charge.

Matters arising from January meeting.

The Amnesty candle and lectern are available for loan.

No response from Gordon Darley to email asking about appropriateness of publicising it on diocesan website.

Newsletter has been distributed.

Gill has produced an information sheet about Ahmed Belbacher. Copies handed out. Gill

will ask Carl to put it on the group website.

ACTION Gill

Monthly Action

WOZA (Women of Zimbabwe Arise) Action on behalf of harassment of peaceful protesters. 10 copies handed out.

Catherine Grasham - AIUK country co-ordinator for Ethiopia and Eritrea

Catherine developed an interest in the region having worked on community projects in Addis Ababa. She is currently studying for an MA in Development Studies at UEA.

Catherine outlined the role of a country co-ordinator, which is to liaise with local groups, AIUK, AI researchers and campaigners. There are ten countries in the region of the Horn and East Africa, Sudan, Southern Sudan, Central African Republic Somalia, Chad, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Each area has a specific focus of research and campaigning. In Ethiopia the focus of work is campaigning to change recent laws that discriminate against human rights defenders.

Group AGM 21 March

We will elect a new committee and would be delighted if anyone wants to join us.

Louise has already stepped down and Mary will do so in March.

David F is standing down as Chair and David H will stand for election for the post.

David F will stand for election as Treasurer.

Sue M will stand for election to new committee.

Joanna is standing down as secretary.

We also need a co-ordinator to organise the sale of Christmas cards at the Assembly House.

Women's Campaign

Roz drew our attention to an AI website petition campaigning for Iranian women. Iran is considering replacing death by stoning to death by hanging. The website is www.amnesty.org.uk/ashtiani

Group website Chair reminded committee members to look at the website and send comments to him or Carl.

Shaker Aamer- 14 February was the tenth anniversary of his detention in Guantanamo. The group is committed to writing on his behalf on a regular basis. Action information has gone to the database and is available at the meeting.

Events and Meetings

Successful quiz held earlier in the month raising approx. £670 (£550 last year). Any feedback about the change from fish and chips, to platters, is welcome. Debbie thanked all those who supported the evening and David thanked Debbie and Roz, in particular, for their organisation of the event.

- Secret Policeman's Ball- UEA Amnesty-16 March The Hive 7.30 Tickets on door
- Choirs for Amnesty project continues with concerts
Wingfield barn 14 April
The Cut Halesworth 21 April
Salthouse Church 21 or 30 June (Concert will be recorded)
- AIUK AGM 13-15 April Manchester Closing date for applications is 2 March.
- Refugee Week 18-24 June If anyone can suggest a speaker for our open meeting which falls during the week please let Chair know.

AOB

Other organisations News

- Co-op movement - A Cambridge based group are urging all co-op members to support its campaign to put a resolution to the meeting of the Eastern region to stop buying goods from Israel occupied territories. More information with Chair.
- Maya Evans 7 March 7pm Forum The Curve
- UEA Thomas Paine Centre 8 March 6.30 Shami Chakrabati
- Andrew White Vicar of Baghdad Norwich Anglican Cathedral Hostry
26 March 7.30

Next Meeting
Group AGM 21 March 7.30