



Norwich Amnesty Group

Open Meeting - 16 May 2012

Minutes

Chair: David Huband
Minutes: Debbie Campbell

Welcome

Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

AOB items for inclusion

- Joanna Kinnaird asked to raise item.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed.

Matters Arising from Minutes of Last Meeting

- Becky Wright updated meeting on responses to her appeals concerning Shaker Amer. Simon Wright MP had passed on copies of responses he had had from central government, essentially confirming there was little the British government could achieve. Becky now intends to write direct to US.

David Huband added that he had had similar responses from central government concerning Ahmed Belbacher.

Campaigns

- **Children:**
Joanna Kinnaird had nothing to report.

- **Women:**
Roz Cadwallader had nothing to report.

- **Arms Trade:**
David Yates had nothing to report.

- **New Campaigns:**
David Ford (DF) informed the group of 3 new cases from Turkmenistan, through the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. DF will give fuller

introduction at the July meeting, but any members who are interested should contact him to begin preparations now.

Group's Treasurer's Report - David Ford

DF reported that, as agreed, he was in the process of moving the group's bank account over to the Co-op.

Monthly Action - Roz Cadwallader (RC)

This was to do with changes made to the visa system for overseas domestic workers which leaves workers (mainly women) at risk of exploitation. RC distributed letter to sign and send to the Home Secretary, asking him to restore previous rights.

Carl Grint to attach to the minutes on the website. **ACTION: CARL GRINT**

Notices - Chair reported:

- **Street Collection**
This had 15 volunteers and raised around £220 to date - likely to be more as not all amounts have come in yet. The final total will appear in the Newsletter.
- **David Roberts**
Sad death of David Roberts, supporter of Amnesty and other organisations in Norwich, died on 18 May. Chair will send condolences on behalf the group. The funeral will be at Prince's Street United Reform Church on 18 May at 11am. **ACTION: CHAIR**

Newsletter

Tom Read asked that any items for inclusion in the next Newsletter should be sent to him as Editor.

Updates from AI UK

- **Afghan TV journalist Nasto Naderi** - released from prison.
Syrian Human Rights Lawyer Abdullah al-Khalil released on 28 March
- **Shin Dong-hyuk** - escaped from North Korean prison camp to the UK. The AI website has a video in which he speaks of his experiences.
Amnesty is the only organisation of its kind to have been into North Korea and has made some progress on the issues of these camps, and continues to campaign against them.

Amnesty Song Cycle

David Ford reported on recent concert held in Queen Elizabeth Hall lobby, on London South Bank, which performed the specially-

commissioned (initiated by the Norwich group) song cycle to mark Amnesty's 50th anniversary, with choirs from across the country. This was preceded by a workshop before the main performance. The event was very well attended. A number of choirs will be putting on their own performances, both across the country and abroad.

Events of Interest

- **Concert:** to be mounted by North Norfolk group, featuring Big Sky choir, on Saturday 23 June at 7.30 at St Nicholas's Church, Salthouse. Posters available from Joanna Kinnaird.
- **Peace Camp:** David Yates informed that this will be on 23 June, and a rota was available for volunteers to help at this event.

Guest Speaker

- Evan Ruth, on '*Working for the UN Refugee Agency, and being a judge on the Immigration & Asylum Tribunal*'. Chair thanked Evan Ruth for his talk.

Close of Meeting

Chair:

- thanked all present for their attendance.
- reminded the group that members were welcome to submit items they would like the Committee to discuss at its next meeting.
- confirmed that the next meeting (20 June) would include a talk by guest speaker, Michael Kay, Manager of Still Human, Still Here, on the continuing plight of asylum-seekers and refugees.

Next Meeting

- **Wednesday 20 June, 7.30pm: Charing Cross Centre**
- **Speaker: Michael Kay, Manager of Still Human, Still Here,** talking on the continuing plight of asylum-seekers and refugees.