

**Amnesty International (UK) Norwich Group
Open Meeting 16 November 2011**

Minutes

Apologies Joanna will be a few minutes late. Approx 35 people present

Chair welcomed everyone particularly new visitors and informed the meeting of the death of Dr Edward Gibson last week. He was one of our most prolific letter writers and had worked on the cases of Akram Awan and Binyam Mohammed. Neil Macmaster will attend the funeral.

The chair then introduced the speaker Lee Marsden, Senior Lecturer in International Relations in the School of Political, Social and International Studies from UEA. He spoke about the influence of the religious right on US foreign policy and the armed forces. A lively question and answer session followed.

Business

Monthly Action from AIUK

Action aimed at MPs to campaign to reform forced removals by private security firms because of concerns about excessive force and dangerous restraint and control techniques.

Big Sky Concert Great success, finances will be sorted out in due course. At present Big Sky treasurer is in charge of all monies.

Write for Rights – All day activity planned for 10 December. Norwich Playhouse is letting us use facilities at the front of the building. David Y is co-ordinating the day.

Finances

Cheque for £160 received from Christchurch Gt Yarmouth as half proceeds from the Harvest collection. Joanna has thanked them.

Date next meeting

Wednesday 21 December 7.30

We will send greeting cards to prisoners identified by Amnesty as part of the Greeting Cards Campaign. And we will eat mince pies.