

## Amnesty International Salisbury Group

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October  
7.30 pm at 28 Atwood Road.

1	<p><b>Chairman's Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Present:</b> Andrew, Fiona, Peter, Michael S, Lesley</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Jonathan, Eddie, Michael P, Karen, Tony</p>	AH
2	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> – these were agreed</p>	
3	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> – As agreed at September's meeting, £400 has been sent to AI in London.</p>	MP
4	<p><b>Campaign Reports</b></p> <p><b>Death Penalty Report</b></p> <p><i>Please see the Salisbury Group's Website – <a href="http://www.salisburyai.com">www.salisburyai.com</a> – for the full international update, covering the USA, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Japan and Somaliland.</i></p> <p><b>Urgent Actions</b> – the following Urgent Actions have been received during the month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Missouri – UA 207/15</b> – Kimber Edwards, convicted of the murder-for-hire of his wife in 2002, was due to be executed on 6<sup>th</sup> October. (<i>Circulated to DPLWG 1.10.15</i>) On 2.10.15 his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.</li> <li>• <b>Japan</b> – this month's Group DP Urgent Action/Group Monthly Action is for <i>Matsumoto Kenji</i>. Matsumoto Kenji was arrested with his brother in 1991 and, according to his lawyers, coerced into confessing to two robberies and murders. His brother committed suicide following his arrest. Kenji has a mental disability and was dependent on his brother. The Court ruled he was fit to be tried on a capital charge, and was sentenced to death in 1991. He could be executed at any time. Members are urged to write and to sign an Amnesty on line petition.</li> </ul> <p><b>Campaigning</b></p>	LC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The FCO and the Death Penalty</b> – a follow up letter was sent to Mr John Glen MP, to which he replied, stating that the FCO had decided to ‘overhaul its approach to human rights’ on the basis of feedback from diplomats who reported ‘difficulty relating our long list of human rights priorities with the issues they faced in real life’. He said that death penalty work could come under all three of the three new ‘thematic categories’, and the changes presented ‘an ideal opportunity to apply pressure and encourage countries to enshrine respect for human rights in their laws’. He states that the broadness of the categories will enable diplomats to ‘tailor them appropriately to local circumstances’ (The full version of Mr Glen’s response can be read on the Salisbury Group website)</li> </ul> <p>Mr Glen’s response should, however, be viewed in the light of the report in <i>The Australian</i> that the UK Government secretly supported the election of a Saudi on to the UN Human Rights Council, together with the report in the Chinese paper <i>The Global Times</i> congratulating Mr George Osborne for NOT raising human rights issues in the course of his visit. Subsequently, in <i>The Independent</i> (3<sup>rd</sup> October) it was reported that Sir Simon McDonald, Permanent Secretary of the FCO, stated [Human Rights] ‘is one of the things we follow, it is not one of our top priorities’. Are we to infer from that that our Government sees trade as a higher priority?</p> <p>The issue of the commitment to and action in respect of the promotion of global human rights by the FCO and our Government has raised considerable interest amongst our Twitter followers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Death Penalty Vigil</b> – see <i>Forthcoming Events below</i></li> </ul> <p><b>North Korea</b></p> <p>A campaign planning meeting is to be held at Tony’s on 29<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm</p>	
5	<p><b>Report on Website and Statistics</b></p> <p><i>Overview</i> A busy month and some records in terms of numbers.</p> <p><i>Web</i> Record number of views at 322 after two months of low activity. The most popular items were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The item about the Calais refugees</li> <li>• Death and crucifixion in Saudi Arabia</li> <li>• Joining the group which is encouraging and the first time this has figured in the most popular list</li> </ul>	PC

	<p>Country views: UK: 210; US: 49; Germany: 6; France: 4; India: 4; Canada: 3; and Hong Kong 3. It's the first time since we started that Brazil is no longer on the list.</p> <p><i>Twitter</i> There has been phenomenal activity on Twitter! Tweet impressions were 3.967. We have 2 more followers. Most popular tweets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of the Human Rights Act by the <i>Sun</i> newspaper. This paper regularly campaigns against the act and regularly runs misleading stories about it</li> <li>• FCO's arms sales and human rights</li> </ul> <p><i>YouTube</i> The North Korean video continues to be viewed and is now at 472 views</p> <p><i>Tumblr</i> We now have a Tumblr site with a handful of items on it. Very little sign of activity with only a smattering of views. This was opened because at the media course I attended one of the presenters said this was the place to be. We'll see ...</p> <p>It is pleasing that our website and social media posts attract considerable interest around the world, particularly in the USA, but there is very little response in Africa, and disappointingly little in Salisbury.</p>	
6	<p><b>Forthcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Death Penalty Vigil</i></b> – the final planning meeting for the Death Penalty Vigil has taken place. The Vigil will be at St Thomas's on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October from 12.45 to 13.45 pm. We will be thinking in particular of young people on death row – those who were arrested and convicted of crimes as juveniles. All are welcome, and individuals may choose to come for the hour or to drop in throughout the course of the Vigil, remaining for as long or as short a time as they wish.</li> <li>• <b><i>Citizenship Day at South Wilts</i></b> – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October. The final planning meeting has taken place. Technical assistance is to be requested. A further supply of Stop Torture Cards will be Ordered</li> <li>• <b><i>Session at St Mary's, Shaftesbury</i></b> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>• <b><i>Write for Rights</i></b> – Materials will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> November. Al have sent information on the successes from last year's campaign, including for those individuals on which the Salisbury Group focused – Moses Akatugba was released; Alfreda Disbarro</li> </ul>	<p>LC JP MS PC AH</p> <p>AH FD EB</p>

	<p>remains in prison but she has received hundreds of letters from all over the world which the prison officials have had to spend time scanning. Fiona will order 4 booklets for this year's campaign from which the Group will choose 4 individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Film Night</b> – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the Arts Centre. Rhona Keen has been confirmed as the speaker. Stop Torture and Write for Rights Action cards are likely to be used for the signing.</li> <li>• <b>Greetings Card Signing</b> – this will take place in the Library Passage on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 9.00 to 12.00. Cards will be sent to our 4 Write for Rights individuals</li> <li>• <b>Carol Singing</b> – this will take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December. We will meet at Michael and Chantal's at 6.00 pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>FD</b></p> <p><b>JP</b> <b>MS</b></p>												
7	<p><b>Tapestry</b> Caroline has managed to assemble the tapestry and would like to start it off in Salisbury in view of the Magna Carta links. She has sent a photo and the dimensions.</p> <p>Possibilities for its display were discussed:</p> <p><i>Location</i> We want it to have a good showing and so we need to select the location with care. The following are the main options:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 1200 1353 2024"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Advantages</th> <th>Disadvantages</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cathedral</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fits in with MC</li> <li>• We have links there which would be helpful</li> <li>• Should be able to get help with installing it</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Big location and where will it go without being lost?</li> <li>• Problems of getting a decision with so many people involved. Would it end up in a passage somewhere?</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>St Thomas's</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good central location with high footfall</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where in the church would it go and not get lost?</li> <li>• Would they be able to help with installation?</li> <li>• Issue of theft apparently</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Play-house</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good location</li> <li>• Could link in with the plays they are planning</li> <li>• Might get the cast (or one of them) to 'open' it and hence get some publicity</li> </ul> </td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Advantages	Disadvantages	Cathedral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fits in with MC</li> <li>• We have links there which would be helpful</li> <li>• Should be able to get help with installing it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Big location and where will it go without being lost?</li> <li>• Problems of getting a decision with so many people involved. Would it end up in a passage somewhere?</li> </ul>	St Thomas's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good central location with high footfall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where in the church would it go and not get lost?</li> <li>• Would they be able to help with installation?</li> <li>• Issue of theft apparently</li> </ul>	Play-house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good location</li> <li>• Could link in with the plays they are planning</li> <li>• Might get the cast (or one of them) to 'open' it and hence get some publicity</li> </ul>		<p><b>FD</b> <b>PC</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We would be able to man it at specific times i.e. at the beginning of a performance</li> </ul>		
	<p>Arts Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would fit well with the various displays they carry out</li> <li>Have been keen to help in the past</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low footfall</li> </ul>	
	<p>It was agreed that the Playhouse and Cathedral should be approached in the first instance. Peter would contact both to set up meetings to discuss the possibilities. He would also contact Caroline to ask her to produce an explanatory leaflet and to discuss how it should be transported to Salisbury.</p> <p>Caroline wishes to bring a group to view the tapestry in the Cathedral, and the Lincoln Group would also like to put it on display</p>		
8	<p><b>Monthly Action</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the Group should combine this month's AI Monthly Action with our own Death Penalty Group Urgent Action. We will be writing letters on behalf of Matsumoto Kenji, a prisoner on death row in Japan</p>		<p><b>FD</b> <b>AH</b></p>
9	<p><b>Human Rights Act</b></p> <p>Little if any reference to this has been made recently by the Government and we are still awaiting their proposals in respect of the British Bill of Rights. Peter had attended a course run in Dorchester by the British Institute of Human Rights where the main focus had been on the use made of the current Act on behalf of individuals involved with Health Authorities and Care Homes. Fiona highlighted an article by Dominic Grieve in this month's issue of <i>Prospect</i>.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Group would discuss AI's proposals for our Involvement through the Save our Human Rights Challenge at the November meeting. The tapestry would certainly contribute to the aim of consciousness raising.</p>		
10	<p><b>AOB – there was none</b></p>		
	<p><b>Next Meeting: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015</b>  <b>Time: 7.30 pm</b>  <b>Venue: 4 Victoria Road</b></p> <p>Group website; <a href="http://www.salisburyai.com">www.salisburyai.com</a></p>		

	AIUK website: <a href="http://www.amnesty.org.uk">www.amnesty.org.uk</a> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/salisburyai">@salisburyai</a> Tumblr <a href="http://salisburyai.tumblr.com">salisburyai.tumblr.com</a> Campaign box and banner: Lesley and Peter's	
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