



Amnesty International Salisbury Group

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Thursday 13th July 2017
7.30 pm 4 Victoria Road**

1	<p>Chairman’s Welcome Present: Tony, Eddie, Fiona, Andrew, Michael C, Peter, Lesley Apologies: Effie</p>	AH
2	<p>Minutes of previous Meeting - These were agreed.</p>	LC
3	<p>Treasurer’s Report – None was received.</p>	MP
4	<p>Campaign Reports <i>Date format: day/month/year</i></p> <p>Death Penalty</p> <p><i>Please see the Salisbury Group Website www.salisburyai.com for the full international update, covering the USA, Pakistan, China, Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Ghana.</i></p> <p>Of particular note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Judgement is awaited from the Florida Supreme Court regarding the standoff between Governor Rick Scott and State Prosecutor Aramis Ayala over his decision to reassign 23 death penalty cases following her decision not to seek the death penalty. • The Federal Sixth Court of Appeals in Ohio ruled the State was free to use a 3-drug protocol to carry out executions by lethal injection. The execution of Ronald Phillips has been set for 26th July. • A death sentence imposed by a Counter-Terrorism Court in Pakistan has been imposed on a man found guilty of committing blasphemy on Facebook. Note: Since lifting the ban on capital punishment in 2014, Pakistan is reported to have become ‘the fifth most prolific executioner in the world’. • The execution of 6 people in Saudi Arabia has taken place in one day. A report published by Reprieve has found 41% of those executed to date in 2017 had been sentenced for non-violent acts such as attending political protests. • Amnesty have published a report highlighting the <u>grim conditions for prisoners on death row in Ghana</u>, with a 	LC

number recognised as mentally ill, and less than a quarter having been able to appeal their cases. The report is critical of the lack of progress towards abolition since its recommendation by the Constitution Review Commission in 2011.

Urgent Actions

- *Virginia* – UA 134/17 – William Morva, (pictured) a US-Hungarian National, was due to be executed on 6th July. Convicted of murder in 2008, he had been assessed by a psychiatrist as having a delusional disorder, and that this contributed to his crimes. The jury were not informed of his serious mental disability. *(Circulated to DPLWG: 20.6.17). Note:– Despite his serious mental disability, and the calls of more than 30,000 activists, Morva was executed on 6.7.17*
- *Saudi Arabia* – UA144/17 – Said Mabkhout, sentenced to death for murder after an unfair trial, is at risk of imminent execution. He has exhausted all his appeals. *(Circulated to DPLWG: 3.7.17.)*
- *Saudi Arabia* – UA 156/17 – Nigerian national Suliamon Olufemi remains at risk of execution. In 2005, he was sentenced to death in connection with the murder of a policeman after an unfair trial. He has exhausted all his appeals. *(Circulated to DPLWG: 4.7.17.)*
- *Iran* – UA 212/14 – Iranian spiritual teacher, Mohammad Ali Taheri is again at risk of the death penalty. He is being prosecuted for ‘spreading corruption on earth’, and has been held in solitary confinement for over 6 years. His second hearing is due to take place in July. *(Circulated to DPLWG 10.7.17.) This month’s Group Urgent Action.*
- *Singapore* – Update on UA 12/17 – The family of Prabakaran Srivijayan, a Malaysian national, have been advised that his execution has been scheduled in Singapore for 14th July. Against international law and standards, he was convicted of and sentenced to the mandatory death penalty in 2012 for drug-related offences. He has an appeal pending before the Courts of Malaysia. *(Circulated to DPLWG: 12.7.17.)*



Campaigning

- **Reggie Clemons** – an email was sent on 12th June to Farshid Talaghani asking for AIUK to re-commence campaigning for Reggie, and a follow-up email on 11th July. A response has been received – the IAR have forwarded the email to the IAR Campaigner for the Americas, and also to Amnesty USA requesting an update. *The Group will send Reggie a letter and card with good wishes prior to the start of his trial at the beginning of August.*
- **World Day Against the Death Penalty – Tuesday 10th October.** A Group Action will be identified to take place on the day. Depending on the outcome or stage reached in his trial, this may focus on Reggie Clemons. Alternatively, the action may take its lead from any national Amnesty World Day Action – decision to be made at the September meeting.

TM

North Korea

A campaign planning meeting was held on 28th June. It was clear that regime change would need to be brought about by the people of North Korea but information about the outside world was increasingly getting through. The Group discussed the possibility of providing final support to organisations providing eg radios, but this would be outside the remit of Amnesty and will not be taken further.

It was agreed that the most appropriate action for the Group was to continue to spread the word, generating awareness through films and speakers and putting pressure on China as North Korea's main ally. In the meantime, we would continue to monitor the efforts of the UN, MP's and the BBC's World Service Broadcasts, due to begin in September.

TM

Members of the Group responded to the Urgent Action for Lim Hyeon-soo, the Canadian Pastor sentenced to life in prison with hard labour.

AH

TM will ask the new Rector about the possibility of the Group providing information on a monthly basis on a particular Prisoner of Conscience (as at the Cathedral). He will also produce a leaflet on the Human Rights situation in North Korea

Refugees

- *The Vigil* – This will now be held on the Guildhall Steps from 10.00 to 12.00 mid-day on Saturday 30th September.

- *The Asylum Monologues* – Three dates have been offered by the organisers – 5th, 18th or 27th September. There will be a charge of £85.00 + travel + a meal for the four performers. Sarum College are prepared to host the event. AH will confirm the date – likely to be towards the end of September.
- *The Photographic Exhibition* – Following a cancellation, the Library have now offered the Group the month of December at a cost of £100.00. It was agreed this should be accepted.

5 Social Media Report

PC

Web and other media statistics, June 2017

A quiet month but Facebook is becoming increasingly important. Increased activity on Tumblr

Web site

A quiet month with few posts. The figures are:

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
189	274	268	405	228	184	148

Views

All time: **8,373**

Country views:

UK	55
USA	50
China	8
Germany	6

China has featured again albeit at a low level.

Top posts:

1. Films we showed at the Arts Centre
2. Group minutes
3. Forthcoming films

Followers: a further increase of 20 this month and we now have **227**. This is probably the biggest monthly increase

Twitter

A quiet month with a low number of tweets.

Impressions:

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
5101	6505	2856	3682	4505	1329	2890

	<p>Top tweet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Films we showed at the Arts Centre <p>We now have 130 followers, an increase of 2, and 185 following, a slight increase on last month.</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>Number of people who have seen any content associated with the page: 1066</p> <p>Top posts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Item about Lin Xiaobo in China 2. Group minutes/Death Penalty report =2 <p>Tumblr</p> <p>We have 17 followers on Tumblr. Slender signs of some activity here so we will be posting more material up here in future.</p> <p>Group</p> <p>Web site: www.salisburyai.com Twitter: www.twitter.com/salisburyai Facebook: www.facebook.com/salisburyai Tumblr: www.salisburyai.tumblr.com NEW!</p> <p><i>As ever, contributions to the sites are welcome. Engaging with the sites also helps build profile. Please try and visit one of the sites at least and click 'like' or 'forward'.</i></p>	
6	<p>Human Rights Celebration 2018</p> <p>A meeting was held with Staff at the Cathedral on 29th June to discuss a series of joint events to be held in 2018 to celebrate Human Rights, and in particular the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration in 1948. The precise timing is not known at present.</p> <p>The duration is likely to be approximately one week, with events taking place at the Cathedral, Arts Centre and Playhouse.</p> <p>Possible ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker events and debates – eg on North Korea • Stencils of clauses from the Declaration on pavements around the town • Banners from the tower of St Thomas's Church • Performance by Ice and Fire <p>TM will ask the new Rector at St Thomas's about the possibility of some form of son et lumière</p>	<p>PC</p> <p>TM</p>

7	Market Stall The date for next year's stall has been confirmed as 23 rd June.	AH
8	Citizenship Day This will take place on 20 th October. AH, FD and EB will deliver the session. A planning meeting will be held in September.	FD AH EB
9	BBQ – All welcome! This will be held at Peter and Lesley's at Great Durnford on 5 th August, commencing at 5.00 pm. FD will send out invitations to the membership – RSVP to welland2@btinternet.com with a note of any kindly offered contributions. <i>Please note the event will not take place in the case of inclement weather – but we will meet in a local pub – venue to be advised</i>	PC LC
10	Amnesty Film  <p>The film, '<u>The Other Side of Hope</u>', will be shown at the Arts Centre on 29th November. It was agreed that, should it prove difficult to find someone from outside to provide a short introduction to the film, FD will do so alongside her welcome and reference to the work of Amnesty.</p>	FD
11	Human Rights Alert The Government announced its ' <u>Great Repeal Bill</u> '. The Group noted with concern its statement that it will not bring the charter of fundamental rights into UK law. It was agreed the Group would monitor the situation on a monthly basis, and look to AIUK for guidance on campaigning.	All
12	Monthly Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Iran</i> - Actions on behalf of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Kamal Foroughi – letters to be written to MP's. • <i>Turkey</i> - Free Amnesty International Chair Taner Kilic – online action and letter writing 	AH

<p>13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Human Rights Defenders</i> – A Skill-Share event is to be held in Manchester on 7th October in preparation for the global campaign. <p>Note: The <u><i>Against Hate</i> briefing and report</u> were launched on 23rd June. Produced by Amnesty and the University of Leicester, it contains a review of existing legislation and case studies.</p> <p>Forthcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amnesty BBQ – 5th August • Asylum Monologues – TBC (5th, 18th or 27th September) • Refugee Vigil – 30th September • <u>World Day Against the Death Penalty</u> – 10th October • Citizenship Day – 20th October • Amnesty Film – ‘The Other Side of Hope’ – 29th November • Write for Rights 2017 – TBC • Carol Singing – TBC • Market Stall – 23rd June 2018 • Human Rights Celebration 2018 – TBC 	
	<p>Next Meeting: Thursday 14th September Time: 7.30 pm Venue: 4 Victoria Road</p> <p><i>Please note there will be no meeting in August.</i></p> <p>www.salisburyai.com www.twitter.com/salisburyai Campaign box and banner: box: AH banner: P&LC</p>	