

SHEFFIELD AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP

Minutes of meeting held on 13th May 2009

- 20 people attended
- The first part of the meeting was spent discussing the proposed Vigil to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Tiannenmen Square Massacre to be held 7-8pm Saturday 30th May. The aim will be to send a photograph of the vigil to the Chinese Embassy. MEP Linda McAvan has promised to attend. Leaflets & campaign postcards will be handed out, plus a petition, Amnesty placards, 8 lanterns and a banner with the slogan “20 Years Since Tiannenmen Square – What's Changed?”. It was agreed that mention would also be made of the Sheffield group's former Chinese prisoner of conscience.
- Action letters & cards written for Colombia (trade unionists), Kenya (forced evictions), Peru & Canada.

CAMPAIGN REPORTS	
Russia Country Action Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Petition letter signed in meeting to President Medvyadev regarding the murder of journalists. ● Letter sent regarding Ibragim Gazdiev who disappeared in Ingushetia, to follow up the case ● The UK is the last country not to sign the UN Convention against Forced Disappearances. Need to write to MPs (if not ministers) to sign EDM.
USCAN (US and Canada)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 17 detainees in Guantanamo have been cleared for release but can't go back their home country & no other country has agreed to settle them, so appeal for them to be allowed to stay in the US ● letters written regarding military trials for Guantanamo, calling for release or fair trial, especially for those who were under 18 when arrested. ● Letters to MPs to sign EDM regarding secret evidence used against people detained in Britain as part of War on Terror.
Central & West Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 17 letters sent to Equitorial Guinea from last meeting ● French petition signed for Mauretania (regarding crackdown on demonstrators). ●
Control arms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No report
Respect Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 13th June stall on Fargate is during Refugee Week, so will highlight this campaign. Please volunteer to help on the stall (contact Elizabeth if you can spare an hour).
ASSIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elizabeth & Kenneth Ubaka, who fled Nigeria in 2005, attended the meeting to draw attention to their case. Kenneth has helped ASSIST and others whilst in Sheffield. The family were sent to Yarlswood for deportation recently, but helped by the Children's Society (4 children aged 6-13). Kenneth was human rights worker in Nigeria & was shot. Needs ballistic evidence for his case, but denied the medical treatment that would provide this. Please support their appeal. ● The new Bishop of Sheffield will attend the ASSIST AGM. ● ASSIST has a new patron, Sheila Cassidy (ex. P.O.C. In Chile) ● ASSIST is always appealing for hosts and for help fundraising. It does not have to be full time and works on a pool system. If interested please contact sheffieldamnesty@yahoo.co.uk.
Stop Violence Against Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alex Jagger suggested campaign leafleting at Spearmint Rhino (has been invited through work) – putting out SVAW campaign beer mats out. Meeting suggested this might work better in pubs, but any volunteers who want to help Alex, please let him know!
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No further report – but vigil on 30th May.

<http://Sheffield.amnesty.org.uk>

group email: SheffieldAmnesty@yahoo.co.uk

<http://www.blogstoday.co.uk/bloghome.aspx?username=candlewire>

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Death Penalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See Susanne's information leaflet enclosed in the minutes
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No report
Faith Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stephen Hill Methodist Church have asked for a talk in September (tba) ● Pauline Goldsmith wrote a welcome letter from Amnesty to the new Bishop of Sheffield
EVENTS NEWS	
Events News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 16th May – Ecclesall Road collection – Thanks to those who helped ● 6th June, 7-9pm– Jazz in the Field, Medical Foundation event in Edale ● 13th June stall on Fargate, volunteers needed. ● Green Fair stall Saturday 27th June, 11am-5pm, St Mary's Community Centre, Bramall Lane, Sheffield volunteers needed. ● South Yorkshire Pride in June ● Sheffield International Documentary Festival (October) ● Amnesty Film “We are Powerful” to be shown at the Showroom tba ● Off the Shelf – we've been invited to be involved, so please contact Chisom or Andrew Madden with any suggested ideas/authors ● Chisom & Pat are going to sort out the stall material stored at Andrew Crowley's house.
MEDIA REPORT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After a young man was killed in Parson Cross the Star ran a campaign to bring back the death penalty. Graham had a letter published arguing against this. ● Graham planning to attend Radio 4 “Any Questions” in Sheffield and to put Amnesty question
SECRETARY'S REPORT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dignity campaign DVD. Plan to show the campaign film at a future meeting and to pass the full-length film on to the Showroom.
TREASURER'S REPORT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The meeting agreed that the sub would remain unchanged this year (2009-10) but reviewed once Nigel has calculated the mailing costs.

If you want to add your name to the group email list, please contact Andrew Madden at SheffieldAmnesty@yahoo.co.uk

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 10th June 2009 7.30 pm
(venue: Quaker Friend's Meeting House, St James' St, Sheffield)

Meg Pomfret, Amnesty Co-ordinator for West & Central Africa will be speaking

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