



**United Nations Association
Bury St Edmunds & Newmarket Branch**

22nd October 2010

**Press Release
for immediate release**

Flag hoisted to mark UN Day 24th October 2010

The Mayor of St Edmundsbury, The Worshipful Cllr Ian Houlder helped raise the UN flag in front of West Suffolk House this morning, October 22, which will fly during the weekend to celebrate UN Day which is on Sunday 24th October. After a welcome by the Chairman of the local United Nations Association branch, Cllr David Chappell, there were readings from the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforce Disappearance, the UN charter, and a poem by Mark Belletini. Representatives of local groups of the UN Association, Amnesty International, the Bury St Edmunds Christian Justice and Peace Group and the Unitarian Congregation read.

In his introduction Cllr David Chappell said

The United Nations remains very relevant to affairs today. As we meet today China is seeking to block release of the UN Darfur report which confirms Chinese supplied bullets were used in attacks in the Sudan on UN peacekeepers there. This makes UN Disarmament Week, which starts on Monday, particularly relevant to that campaign and provides an example of the consequences of failure to control the Arms Trade in the World Today.

The United Nations State of the World Report 2010 was launched on 20th October with its emphasis on how empowering women can help societies rebuild after being devastated by conflict.

While on a more positive note 178 governments met in August to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in August and it looks as though substantial progress will be announced at the November Conference in November with increasing signs of countries co-operating on this issue.

After her readings of Article I of the UN Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances, Gitti Dunham commented:

In 2010, we are only too aware that enforced disappearances are still very much part of the arsenal of repression used by states. Governments still engage in the crime of enforced disappearances the world over to silence dissent and to eliminate political opponents; to persecute ethnic, religious and political groups. Disappearances continue to be used to spread fear through communities. The catalogue of enforced disappearances remains global, deeply disturbing and continues to demand the attention of all concerned with the protection of human rights. The UN estimates 50,000 individual cases in 78 countries. The fate of 40,000 of these individuals remains unknown.

We are here today to remember them and their families in their anguish.

Ends

Photographs attached

1.

(left) Cllr David Chappell, Chair of the Bury St Edmunds & Newmarket Branch of the United Nations Association listens to comments from (right) Mayor of St Edmundsbury, The Worshipful Cllr Ian Houlder.

2. flag raising

3. flag flying

For more information

Contact Martin Gienke
Iceni Cottage, 46 Church St
Gt Wilbraham, Cambridge CB21 5JQ
Tel: (01223) 882426 or 0845 456 0091
email <martin@gienke.net>

Cllr David Chappell
Lodge Barn Cottage
Fornham All Saints IP28 6JX
01284 764891
davidatthewizardstower@uwclub.net