Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of Meeting held on 12 Feb 2020

1. Present: Margaret George, Melissa Ward, Georgie Wong, Hetty Tye, Else Welde.
2. Apologies: Chris Ramsey, Carole Liesse, Wailim Wong, Sally-Ann Parker, Linnea Glynne Rule, Karen Cooper, Shirley Sweeney.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th Jan 2020: agreed. As agreed, Margaret had sent £250 from the group to HQ.
4. Correspondence: Margaret had written to the new MP Cherilyn Mackrory about the government attitude to the Trump ‘Peace Plan’ for Israel and Palestine, and the fact that parliament has voted to exclude child refugees from being united with their family in the UK. Mrs Mackrory voted for both of these, and we are seeking her views. No response had arrived. The monthly action had been circulated.
5. Groups Planning Pack 2020: we discussed the contents of the pack. We are interested in the Families Together, which seems to be an ongoing campaign rather than something to sign up to. We agreed to continue with our current commitments ie, Azza Soliman as an individual case and N Africa as a region (Hetty), Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (Chris), Central America (Georgie), and former Soviet Union (Margaret).
6. Treasurer’s report: Karen reported that we have £616.92. The rent has been paid and £88.50 received in subs. It was suggested that Karen could send round a mail reminding all supporters that they are asked to pay a local sub of £7.50 per year and encouraging payment by direct debit.
7. Campaigns:

Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories: Chris had sent a letter to be signed. He had sent the newsletter by email (to be attached to the email sending out the minutes)

Central America: no recent news.

North Africa: Hetty had brought letters to sign on behalf of Ibrahim Ezz El-Din, an Egyptian Housing Rights Researcher who is in detention, and three journalist arbitrarily detained. We also did a photo action on behalf of Ali Aarrass, Morocco, who is due to be released on 02.04.20. Karen had made posters (Waiting for Ali 02.04.20) and we did a group photo, holding them up. Hetty will bring another list of possible targets for sending emails on behalf of Azza Soliman.

Former Soviet Union: no recent news.

1. Events:
2. the Regional Conference will be in Exeter on 7th March. It is being organised and run by the Exeter group. There was discussion about means of transport – Chris not sure about when he will go up as he is giving a workshop.
3. Possible AI pub quiz. Chris had agreed to check up whether the quiz is available and if it has been updated. Else had found 3 possible venues – Kings, Grapes and the Chainlocker. She will go in to Kings to look at the space there (maybe a room upstairs.) We can’t proceed until we have details of the quiz.
4. Street collection – Georgie has booked 30th May for Truro.
5. Possible AI walk was not discussed.
6. Next meeting: will be on **Wed 11 March 7pm** at Sambells Café, Truro.