Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of on-line meeting held on 9th Sept 2020

Present: Chris Ramsey, Hetty Tye, Margaret George, Melissa Ward, Carole Liesse, Karen Cooper

Minutes of meetings held on 10th June and 8th July: agreed

Correspondence: the autumn issue of the magazine had arrived with the theme ‘Black lives matter’. Write for Rights booklets can be ordered and will be available from 1 Nov. It was agreed to order 40 as Chris can distribute them to colleges when he goes to speak. We also have the order form for the Xmas cards etc, but we have some left so do not need to order more. Margaret agreed to check how many packs we have (*there are about 50 packs*. MG). If nothing else is possible, we can sell them amongst ourselves. The AI table in the cathedral is no longer in place. Margaret will ask about it in the cathedral when she has the opportunity.

Treasurer’s Report: Karen reported that we have £734.42. We have cancelled our room booking at the Methodist church until further notice. Carole has a contact who is an accountant and she will ask her if she will check our books.

Social Media: Melissa reported that our website is not linked to the AIUK one. Margaret and Chris agreed to try to contact a relevant person at HQ to sort this out.

Annual General Meeting of AIUK: this is to be held on 10th Oct and will be available to attend virtually. There are a restricted number of motions. We discussed them and agreed that we should vote:- No1 abstain, No 2 agree, No 3 agree, No 4 agree, No 5 agree.

Campaigns: Hetty reported on N Africa. She had also circulated actions for us to take, and these were sent out by email to all supporters. Azza Soliman’s appeal had been rejected and so she is still banned from travelling. Egypt is treating the pandemic as a security rather than a health risk; AI is calling for vulnerable prisoners and those in pre-trial detention to be released. Chris will send out the Israel and Occupied Palestinian territories newsletter separately. There was no report on Central America or former USSR.

Future meetings: with the ‘rule of 6’ we cannot envisage holding physical meetings for the time being. It was agreed that at the October meeting we would try to get Beverley Fawkes-Jones to speak (*this in fact has not proved to be possible for October.MG*). For November, it was suggested to ask Gary Ettle the country coordinator for IOPT. The November meeting will also need to be the AGM of our group.