Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of **on-line** Meetings held on 10th June and 8th July 2020

10th June

1. Present: Margaret George, Melissa Ward, Chris Ramsey, Wailim Wong, Hetty Tye, Karen Cooper. We also welcomed a speaker, Ulrike Schmidt and Amnesty supporters from neighbouring groups. 16 people in all were present.
2. Apologies: Georgie Wong.
3. Ulrike Schmidt, the AIUK Central Europe organiser, spoke on human rights problems and discrimination in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia where Roma are under attack. In Poland there are also attacks on women’s rights and LGBT rights. The talk was followed by discussion and questions.

Following Ulrike’s talk the Truro and District members had brief business meeting

1. Treasurer’s report: Karen reported that we have £710 in the account. It was agreed that Chris would investigate if AIUK recommends a more ethical bank as we are unhappy to have our account at HSBC.
2. Correspondence and Campaigns: newsletters had been sent out by email.
3. Regional organiser: it was agreed that we would formally nominate Cherry Bird. Margaret would sign the paperwork and forward it to Cherry.
4. Actions: letters had been circulated on behalf of activists in Egypt and Tunisia
5. Next meeting: will be on **Wed 8th July** starting at 6.30, via the internet. It was agreed that Debora Singer would speak on Amnesty campaigns in Egypt

8th July

1. Present: Hetty Tye, Margaret George, Shirley Sweeney, Sally-Ann Parker, plus our speaker, Debora Singer, and AI members from Penzance, 7 people in all.
2. Apologies: Chris Ramsey, Karen Cooper, Georgie Wong.
3. Debora Singer, the AIUK Country Coordinator for Egypt, spoke on Egypt’s crackdown on HR defenders. The talk was followed by discussion and questions. Shirley in particular recommended the TV programme ‘Hard Talk’ which deals with many of the Human Rights issues we are concerned with. We did an online action for Ibrahim Ezz el-Din.

Following Debora’s talk we held a brief group meeting.

1. Treasurer’s Report: Karen reported that our balance is £714.42. It was agreed that she should contact the Methodist Church to say that we do not plan to meet there in September (probably not at all during 2020). We still need to look in to changing our bank account from HSBC.
2. Correspondence: Margaret had received the Groups News and she will post it out to Hetty and Shirley (and anyone else, on request).
3. Campaigns: the newsletters from our various action areas have been circulated by email. Hetty had circulated an appeal letter on behalf of Patrick Zaki George in Egypt.
4. Turkey: the letter from Kate Allen with the shocking news of the guilty verdict against Taner Kilic (honorary Chair of Amnesty Turkey and Idil Esler former Director of Amnesty Turkey, was briefly discussed. It was agreed that we should have a more detailed discussion at a future meeting, maybe September. For the present, no action was suggested.
5. Future meetings: it was suggested that as few people will be going away, we might have an online meeting in August. This would be on **Wed 12th August.** This will be confirmed nearer the time.