Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of on-line meeting held on 14th October 2020

1. Present: Hetty Tye, Margaret George, Melissa Ward, Wailim Wong, Karen Cooper, Chris Clarke. There was a special welcome for Chris Clarke who has moved from the district but was able to join the online meeting.
2. Apologies: Georgie Wong, Shirley Sweeney, Chris Ramsey.
3. Minutes of meetings held on 9th Sept: agreed. Margaret had ordered the Write for Rights booklets, to be delivered to Chris. We have approximately 50 packs of Xmas cards left from last year.
4. Correspondence: we have heard from Derrick Parsons that the Launceston group has a speaker on 10th Nov – Ian Myson, S Mids Regional Rep who will give a short overview of International Human Rights Law for AI groups. We are invited to attend online. Margaret will circulate the details for supporters. The monthly news has been circulated. A new Groups Organiser has been appointed and offered to come to our group (online). Margaret has written to him/her to say that we will decide on a good date, and also to ask for help in getting our group website linked to the AI one. There has been no response to this last point.
5. Treasurer’s Report: Karen reported that we have £749.42. It was agreed that we should send £250 to HQ but this cannot be done until Karen has the financial records and cheque books back. They are currently being checked by an accountant.
6. 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.
7. Annual General Meeting of AIUK: this was to be held on 10th Oct. Margaret had sent off the group’s votes, as agreed at the last meeting.
8. Campaigns: Hetty reported on Egypt. She urged us to take action on Case 173, which includes the restrictions on Azza Soliman. We need to call for the case to be closed. Hetty agreed to circulate action on behalf of Ibrahim Ezz el-Din. On Central America, Georgie has had a letter (addressed to Karen) concerning the 43 students who disappeared in 2014. Margaret has had the letter translated and it is from the Secretary of the Commission for Truth and Access for the Ayotzinapa Case (part of the Mexican Government’s Department of Human Rights, Population and migration.) The Commission is working to establish the truth of what happened and to ensure justice for the victims and their families. Former USSR, Margaret circulates the cases when they arrive.
9. Future meetings: For November, we hope to have the input of Gary Ettle, the country coordinator for IOPT. The November meeting will also need to be the AGM of our group.
10. AOB: 1. Wailim said that he would like to take on opposition to the Death Penalty. 2. The local newspaper ‘Truro Voice’ seems a possibility for getting news items published. It was agreed to consider what items we might submit.
11. Next meeting: the next online meeting will be on Wed 11th November at 6.30. This should include a brief AGM.