Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of on-line meeting held on 14th July 2021

1. Present: Margaret George, Karen Cooper, Wailim Wong, Hetty Tye, Carole Liesse, Chris Ramsey.
2. Apologies: Georgie Wong..
3. Minutes of meeting held on 7th June. Chris and Margaret had attended the AIUK Annual Conference online. Chris gave a short report.
4. Correspondence: the groups’ monthly newsletter had been circulated. See item 10. 2 below for email correspondence on Princess Latifa.
5. Treasurer’s report: Karen reported that we have £765.99.
6. Bookstall and street collection in Truro,31st July: Hetty, Carole, Chris and Margaret agreed to sort the books at Robin’s at 10.30 on 29th. Margaret would check with Robin and confirm. Margaret was drawing up a rota and would circulate it.
7. Cornwall Pride: as no other group can help, and the national organisation also seems unable to do so, we have asked to have a stall on Sat 29th only and have asked to be charged a fee to reflect this. (update: this has been agreed and the fee set at £65.)
8. Campaigns newsletters and actions on our campaign areas are being circulated by email.

On **North Africa**, Hetty reported that in Egypt Shawkan still has to report daily to the police but has held a photo exhibition; an action on behalf of Aser Mohamed has been circulated; Hetty said that a new action was being planned for Azza Soliman; Hetty will circulate the N Africa ezine.

The newsletter for **Mexico and Central America** has been circulated.

Chris will send out the **IOPT/Lebanon** newsletter. He reported that AI is campaigning on the 14 years of collective punishment of Gaza; Recent disturbances in Israeli towns were dealt with harshly as regards Palestinian citizens; health provision on the occupied West Bank has been closed down; there has been a death of a Palestinian while in the custody of the Palestinian authorities.

Action requests related to the **Former Soviet Union** are sent out as they arrive.

Wailim reported on the **Death Penalty campaign**, which is focusing on Rocky Mayes in Alabama; in his case the jury voted 9-3 for life imprisonment but the judge over-ruled it and announced the death penalty. We are invited to send birthday cards to Rocky – Wailim will circulate the details. He also spoke about some states preparing to inflict the death penalty – for example Arizona has prepared a gas chamber, the last use of which was in 1999.

1. Future events:

Bookstall and street collection in Truro on 31st July. See item 5 above.

Cornwall Pride. See item 6.

1. AOB:
2. **Asylum and Nationality Bill** – it was agreed that we should write as a group to our MPs, voicing our grave concerns. Chris would draft a letter to send out.
3. Margaret had contacted Tiina to ask if she had any confirmation of the situation regarding **Princess Latifa**. She has replied that she had not, but sent on a statement apparently released by Princess L. Margaret read out the email in which Tiina said ‘Unfortunately I don’t have any verification on her situation or any update but you have probably seen the statement given by Taylor Wessing who have been instructed by Latifa ‘’I recently visited 3 European countries on holiday with my friend. I asked her to post a few photos online to prove to campaigners that I can travel where I want. I hope that I can now live my life in peace without further media scrutiny. I thank everyone for their kind wishes.’’ ‘ Those attending the meeting felt that this statement was ambiguous, to say the least.
4. Next meeting: the next meeting will be on Wed 8th September. There was discussion as to whether this could be in person or on-line. Chris will approach the Methodist Church to see if they have the facilities to allow a hybrid meeting, where some people could attend in person and others join in via zoom.