Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of on-line meeting held on 8th September 2021

1. Present: Margaret George, Karen Cooper, Wailim Wong, Hetty Tye, Carole Liesse, Chris Ramsey, Jimmy Jones, Georgie Wong.
2. Apologies: Shirley Sweeney
3. Talk on Turkey: Chris has taken on the role of country coordinator for Turkey and gave an interesting talk on the history and present situation in Turkey, followed by discussion
4. Minutes of meeting held on 14th July, matters arising: the bookstall/street collection on 31st July made £133.95. It was decided not to attend the Pride event in Newquay because of very high covid levels in the town, but we offered them the £65 booking fee as a donation. Re future meetings: Chris had been in touch with the Methodist church which wanted £45 for an evening, and Sambells café is not available on the 2nd Wednesday. They offered the Revolution café for £25. It was agreed to continue to meet on zoom for now, and look for another venue (maybe the former Age Concern building which is being taken over by the city council) See below for future plans.
5. Correspondence: the groups’ action newsletter had been circulated. It contains items of interest to the group
6. Groups could ask for a speaker (Nigina Istanakzai-zarafi) on Afghanistan – the group agreed to contact her and ask if she can do an input into one of our upcoming meetings.
7. Stop the Right Raid week 10-17 Oct – this is in defence of the Human Rights Act. There was a form to sign up for more details, which Margaret will do.
8. A vigil was planned for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe on 23rd Sept who will have been imprisoned 2000 days. Also a Snakes and Ladders ‘game’ has been created to highlight her case. It was agreed that Margaret would ask for a copy. There was also a vigil planned for the disappeared Mexican students.
9. Treasurer’s report: Karen reported that we have £909.94.
10. Campaigns newsletters and actions on our campaign areas are being circulated by email. Chris eould be sending out the Israel and Occupied Palestinian territories newsletter shortly.

On **North Africa**, Hetty was planning to send out letters for circulation

Wailim reported on the **Death Penalty campaign**. Papua New Guinea is now bringing back the death penalty after 64 years. The situation in Afghanistan is ongoing.

1. Forward planning: as in item 4, there was discussion on when to return to face to face meetings, and if so, where to have them. It was agreed that we should possibly look at getting back in person in the New Year. Wailim raised the idea that such meetings could be hybrid, allowing people to join in person or online. It was suggested that we should move the start of the meeting back to 7pm.

**Card Stalls/ Write for Rights**. We have stalls at High Cross booked for **27th November and 11th Dec**. Georgie had enquired if there would be a Mayor’s Charity event, but this had not been decided. Georgie and Margaret would get together to order the cards.

Future topics for meetings: as in item 5, it is hoped to have a speaker on Afghanistan.

1. Next meeting: Wed 13th October, via zoom.