Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of on-line meeting held on 13th October 2021

1. Present: Margaret George, Karen Cooper, Wailim Wong, Hetty Tye, Georgie Wong.
2. Apologies: Shirley Sweeney, Carole Liesse, Jimmy Jones, Chris Ramsey.
3. Talk on Afghanistan: the speaker was unexpectedly unavailable. It is hoped that she will be at the November meeting.
4. Minutes of meeting held on 14th July, matters arising: the Regional Conference on 9th Oct was cancelled as too few people felt able to attend. Margaret had sent off the form to be involved with the Stop the Rights Raid, but had heard nothing. Georgie and Margaret had ordered the cards, which have arrived. Margaret has a copy of the Nazanin ‘Snakes and Ladders’ game; maybe we will be able to use it at a face-to-face event in future.
5. Correspondence: the October groups’ action newsletter had been circulated. It contained an account by the Afghanistan country coordinator (Nigina) of how her family has been affected. As we hope to have her speaking in November, it is recommended that supporters read it. Georgie had received a letter in Russian from Nizhny Novgorod, which is apparently a formal reply to a case she wrote about, stating the laws that were complied with and the date (in the past) by which an appeal should be made. There was no name given which would identify the case.
6. Treasurer’s report: Karen reported that we have £924.94, before paying for the cards (which cost £241.47).
7. Campaigns newsletters and actions on our campaign areas are being circulated by email.

On **North Africa**, Hetty had circulated two cases, with letters to write on each

Wailim reported on the **Death Penalty campaign**. Saudi Arabia is increasing the execution of 16 and 17 year olds. The Taliban are also executing people in Afghanistan. In the US Ernest Johnson, a man with limited mental capacity who was found guilty in 2008, has now been executed.

1. Day of Action for Refugees, 23 Oct: Chris had circulated the information about a national demonstration in London, and local actions, calling for rights for refugees and for safe transport to be available to reach countries of refuge. Local groups are asked to create small paper boats with pictures of refugees on, which will symbolise the unsafe craft that refugees have to use to cross the Mediterranean and the Channel. The boats will be photographed and the pictures posted on social media. In Truro we are combining with the Truro Community Refugee Support Group who are holding a fundraising and publicity stall on 23 Oct at the Farmers’ Market. We will have our boats and an information poster on their stall. It was agreed that we would pay towards to cost of the stall. Margaret is liaising with the TCRS group.
2. Forward planning: we have **card stalls at High Cross booked for 27th Nov and 11th Dec**. We have the cards already. The Write for Rights material does not seem to be available yet. No Mayor’s Charity event has been announced so far, and Karen agreed to call in the Council Office to enquire if a decision had been taken.
3. Next meeting: **Wed 10th November**, 6.30 via zoom. We hope to have the speaker on Afghanistan, and this will be followed by the group AGM.