Truro and District Amnesty International Group

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

1. Present: Chris Ramsey, Margaret George, Carole Liesse, Hetty Tye, Georgie Wong, Paul Kelly. Georgie’s connection was poor, so she did not attend most of the meeting.
2. Apologies: Karen Cooper, Wailim Wong, Jimmy Jones.
3. Minutes of meeting held on 10th Nov, matters arising: Melissa has updated the website. The stall planned for 27th Nov was postponed to 4th Dec because of stormy weather.
4. Treasurer’s report: Karen had sent this report:

The balance on our account is £660.97. Our annual affiliation fee of £72 is due in January. Our bank account is now a "Charitable Bank Account" and now incurs fees, so this month we will have to pay £5.40 (£0.40 for one of the cheques paid out). All the more reason to think about changing banks but I presume that most will have similar charges? If our monthly fee is £5.00 (+ the occasional cheque) that's £60 per annum we pay towards supporting HSBC's unethical practices!

1. Regional campaigns:

North Africa: Hetty had circulated an action for Azza Soliman (and others in Case 173) who has her case due to be heard on 13th Dec, where she is calling for the travel ban to be lifted, in accordance with the previous court ruling. Asha Mohamed who was arrested at age 14 was due for a court hearing which has been postponed till January. Mohammed Baker, who spoke at our SW Regional Conference in 2018 was arrested in 2019 and features in the Write for Rights booklet as one of the cases.

IOPT and Lebanon: Garry Ettle had circulated the latest newsletter. There is going to be action proposed on the role of JCB in demolishing Palestinian homes. Jana Jihad, a young Palestinian reporter features in the W for R cases. She was doing a webinar on Friday. Olive growers are being affected by climate change. P Patel has declared Hamas to be a terrorist organisation. In Lebanon, the investigation into the enormous explosion is being hampered by state agents trying to hide the truth. A lawyer involved in the investigation, Mohamed Sablou, is under threat of prosecution.

There were no reports on the former USSR , Central America, or the Death Penalty campaigns.

1. Forward planning: 1. **card stall on 11th Dec**. Margaret is preparing the rota. It was agreed to end at 2pm as the afternoons are generally unproductive.

2. **future meetings**. In January, we will have Tilly Lavenas speaking about Mexico. Margaret agreed to contact Barrie Hay about speaking on Former USSR in February.

1. Next meeting: **Wed 12th January,** **7.00pm** via zoom.