Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of meeting held on 13th April 2022, at Moresk Centre and online

1. Present: Chris Ramsey, Margaret George, Wailim Wong, Georgie Wong, Lucy Zawadzki.

Online: Speaker Linda Ramsden, Paul Kelly, Hetty Tye, Karen Cooper(briefly). Plus John (Penzance group), Ruth (Plymouth).

1. Apologies: Carole Liesse
2. Talk by Linda Ramsden of the Israeli Committee against Home Demolitions: Linda outlined the devastating effect of the vast numbers of home demolitions of Palestinian homes. Some are ‘punitive’ demolitions, a form of collective punishment, others ‘administrative’ demolitions, where there was no permission granted for constructing the building. These permissions are never granted, and so there is no ‘defence’ against demolition. Families receive orders to demolish their own homes; if they do not they are bulldozed without warning, but the family does not know when this will happen which adds to the stress. Israeli Jews who oppose demolitions do go to demonstrate; if Palestinians do so they are arrested or shot. After a house is demolished, the family is fined, which is why some do demolish their own homes. Even olive trees are uprooted and then sold in garden centres in Israel. Linda said that action by Amnesty has prevented some demolitions. We need to put pressure on the NSPCC which gets donations from JCB – this firm, owned by John Bamford, a big Tory donor, supplies the JCBs which are used for the demolitions. The US has listed JCB as a gross violator of human rights. (We have already written to Cornwall Council about whether they are using JCB).
3. Minutes of meeting held on 9th March, matters arising: a letter received by Georgie from Mexico had been translated and summarised by Susanne Deneke. The letter was from the Mexican National Institute for Migration
4. Correspondence and Monthly Updates for groups: already circulated.
5. Treasurer’s report: Karen had computer problems and was no longer at the meeting.
6. Regional campaigns:

North Africa: Egypt. Hetty reported that Azza has her passport but still had no access to her assets. On 2nd January Aser Mohamed, in prison for 5 years, was acquitted but has not yet been released. His family has requested that no action should be taken. The country coordinator had offered to speak to groups. It was agreed that Hetty should contact her to try to arrange this for a future meeting.

Central America: Georgie reported that 8 people had been released in Honduras. She had received a letter about migrants’ rights in Mexico (See point 4 above.)

IOPT and Lebanon: Chris will circulate the newsletter, together with an urgent action for a detained lawyer.

Death Penalty: Wailim spoke of the execution of 80 people in Saudi Arabia.

1. Forward planning:
2. **Future meetings**: it was agreed that the May meeting would be a planning and catch-up meeting for the group. We hope to have the country coordinators for N Africa at the June meeting.
3. **Mayor’s Charity event, 14th May, 12.00 – 6.00**. We have a stall for this event, in a marquee on the Piazza. A table is provided. Our theme will be campaign against violence against women. We will have plants and books for sale. Hetty (am), Margaret, Paul, Chris, Georgie and Wailim can help.
4. **Street collection in Truro 28th May**: this is booked.
5. **Pride** in Truro 18th June. The theme is history and adult education. It was agreed that we would book a stall at £55 (*in fact, it will be free, as they are offering free stalls for charities*). We need our own gazebo and tables.
6. **AIUK AGM** 25th June, mostly online. Supporters can sign up via the website.
7. Next meeting: **Wed 11th May,** **7.00pm** at the **Moresk Centre, St Austell Street, Truro**, **and also via zoom**.