Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of meeting held on 11th May 2022, at Moresk Centre and online

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

Online: Paul Kelly, Hetty Tye.

1. Apologies: Carole Liesse, Karen Cooper.
2. Minutes of meeting held on 13th April, matters arising: the online talk by the country coordinators for N Africa, which we hoped would be in June, will now take place at our November meeting.
3. Correspondence and Monthly Updates for groups: Margaret had received a long letter from Cherilyn Mackrory MP, defending the government plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. She had had a copy of the quarterly AI UK magazine. Others in the group seem not to get it, and will look into it. The monthly action newsletter had been circulated. A voting paper for the AGM had arrived for the group – to be discussed at the next meeting.
4. Treasurer’s report: Karen had reported that we have £598.05. Margaret had paid for the room-booking for the Moresk Centre until the end of the year and was owed £148for this.
5. Report from the Regional Conference in Exeter: Chris, Wailim, Georgie and Paul had attended. Chris reported that there were 2 speakers – one on the Immigration Bill (which has now passed), and the other on activist campaigns, which is an initiative set up to allow activist groups to get approval for an individual campaign they will act on, which is not already an Amnesty campaign. Getting approval seems very bureaucratic. It was felt that our small group already has more than enough to do with the official campaigns that Amnesty runs.
6. Regional campaigns:

North Africa: Egypt. Hetty had circulated an urgent action for Alaa Abdelfattah. See point 3 above for speakers for our group in November.

Central America: Georgie had circulated the Mexico and Central America newsletter.

Former Soviet Union: an urgent action had gone out recently. It was mentioned that a good documentary about Navalny had been on TV(Storyville), and is available on i-player. AI UK has recognised him as a prisoner of conscience.

IOPT and Lebanon: Chris will circulate the newsletter. New Nationality laws in Israel mean that only Jewish citizens have certain rights, for example schools teaching in Arabic cannot be set up. An al-Jazeera journalist was reported to have been shot.

Death Penalty: no newsletter had been sent out recently. Wailim reported on the execution in Singapore of a young Malaysian man of low IQ.

1. Forward planning:
2. **Future meetings**: it was agreed that the June meeting will be another catch-up and planning meeting.
3. **Mayor’s Charity event, 14th May, 9**.00 to 5.00pm. We will have a few books and plants for sale. The main emphasis will be on Amnesty information and campaigns. Chris will prepare letters for signing, one for Alaa Abdelfattah, one for something connected with Ukraine. He also has postcards to sign on women’s rights in Turkey. A rota was drawn up, involving Chris, Margaret, Hetty, Georgie, Wailim and Paul.
4. **Street collection in Truro 28th May**: it was agreed to set up the stall at 9, and do 9.00 to 1.30 or 2.00pm. Margaret to contact people and draw up a rota.
5. **Pride** in Truro 18th June. The theme is history and adult education. We are able to have a stall without payment. Final arrangements can be made at the next meeting.
6. **AIUK AGM** 25th June, mostly online. Supporters can sign up via the website. We will discuss group votes at the June meeting.
7. AOB: it was agreed that we should plan for a stall on 10th Dec, International Human Rights day. The news that Raif Badawi has been released in Saudi Arabi was welcomed.
8. Next meeting: **Wed 8th June,** **7.00pm** at the **Moresk Centre, St Austell Street, Truro**, **and also via zoom**.