Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of meeting held on 8th June 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 11th May, matters arising: Money from the 2 stalls (14th May Mayor’s charity and 28th May street collection): £53.53 and £167.75. Expenses for postage of £9.25 and £13.65 made the overall total collected £198.38.
3. Correspondence and Monthly Updates for groups: Margaret had distributed the monthly groups action email.
4. Treasurer’s report: Karen had not received the monthly account. (she later reported that it stands at £460.05, after payment to MG for the room of £148 and bank charge of £5.
5. Motions for the AIUK AGM: Chris introduced the motions to be discussed at the AIUK AGM. It was agreed which to support as a group.
6. Regional campaigns:

North Africa: Hetty had circulated the ezine. She pointed out that the cost for posting is now £1.85, for up to 20g. Alaa Abdulfattah has been accepted as a case for AIUK to campaign on. He is a dual British citizen and we will be lobbying Liz Truss to take action.

Central America: Georgie spoke about the crisis in El Salvador, where 1000s of people have been arbitrarily detained, including children simply playing outside their homes. A petition has been circulated.

Former Soviet Union: as usual, urgent actions arrive between meetings and have been circulated.

IOPT and Lebanon: Chris reported that there would be an online conference on the apartheid report on 14th June. He would circulate the newsletter, which contained reports of Bedouin communities being cleared from their traditional areas. He has arranged with a woman called Jessica who has recently been on an Ecumenical Accompaniment visit, to attend our next meeting.

Death Penalty: Amnesty has recently released a report. 28,000 people are under sentence of death and this does not include countries where the number is unknown, such as China, N Korea, Egypt, Iran and Saudi Arabia. 18 (out or 193) countries carried out executions. The ‘top 5 countries were China, Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria. USA was 11th. Some countries and states have abolished the death penalty, including Virginia and the US has abolished Federal executions. An action will be sent out on Algeria. Belarus has expanded the death penalty to the crime of attempts to carry out a terrorist attack. Wailim will send out a link to the report.

1. Forward planning:
2. **Future meetings**: it was agreed that at the July meeting we will have a speaker who has recently done the Ecumenical Accompaniment visit to Israel/Palestine.
3. **Pride** in Truro 18th June. A rota was drawn up. Chris will find suitable cases. (this event was later cancelled due to bad weather.)
4. **AIUK AGM** 25th June
5. AOB: it was agreed to pay a contribution to MG for the subscription to zoom.
6. Next meeting: **Wed 13th July,** **7.00pm** at the **Moresk Centre, St Austell Street, Truro**, **and also via zoom**.