Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of meeting held on 12th April 2023

1. Present: Present: Chris Ramsey, Margaret George, Hetty Tye, Georgie Wong, Wailim Wong.
2. Apologies: Karen Cooper, Carole Liesse, Jessica McGurty.
3. Minutes of meeting held on 8th March, matters arising: none
4. Correspondence and Monthly Updates for groups: Margaret had distributed the monthly groups action email. Chris reported that the March edition has the section for filling in which areas the group will work on. As well as continuing with out ongoing areas of work, Chris will contact the students to ask if they would like to work on any specific topic.
5. Feedback from Regional Conference in Exeter. Chris reported on a very positive event with about 80 people attending. The focus is on Protect the Protest, and AIUK will be working on the situation here at home whereas normally many campaigns focus on other countries.
6. Treasurer’s Report: Karen reported that we have £275.35 in the account.
7. Regional campaigns:

North Africa: Hetty will share two actions – one for Alaa and one for a couple of HR defenders in prison and sentenced to 10 and 15 years. Chris spoke about the ongoing campaign for Mohamed Baker. He had prepared a solidarity letter for him, with a photo from when he and his wife were at the Exeter conference, and he had distributed postcards created by the Paris group, to send to President al-Sisi. (following the meeting, on 17th April we received news that Mohamed had been beaten up in prison, and when she published this fact his wife Neama Hisham was arrested. She was subsequently released.)

Mexico and Central America: Georgie had brought 2 letters to be signed, following an email from Tilly, concerning Maria Guzman in London with her mother and her son, raising awareness of the disappearance of her brother Miguel in 1993. It was agreed to have these letters on the stall at the Falmouth street collection on 15th April, together with a letter on behalf of Mohamed Baker. Chris reported on a crackdown on NGOs in Egypt; they will have a very narrow remit and this will not include Human Rights work.

IOPT and Lebanon: Chris will circulate the newsletter. He highlighted 3 issues – 1. A bill going through the Israeli parliament to make it easier to revoke the citizenship of Palestinians. 2. An increase of technological surveillance of Palestinians. 3. Ahmed Manasra, arrested when aged 13, but they waited till he was 14 to charge him. He was found not to be involved but is still in prison and given 6 months in solitary confinement. Chris had prepared an action on this case

Former Soviet Union: an action had been circulated.

Death Penalty: Wailim would circulate the newsletter.

1. Forward planning:
2. Street collections on 15th April (Falmouth) and 3rd June (Truro). Although Chris has organised an appeal to be sent out by HQ to national members in our region, no-one has contacted us. Agreed to set up a stall on Market Street Falmouth, outside the former Nat West bank. Chris will set up with Hetty. Others helping will be Georgie, Margaret, Wailim, Kirstie and Shirley.
3. The AIUK AGM will be on 24th June.
4. AOB. Chris spoke about an Activism Assembly for which a notice should go out with the notice of the May meeting
5. Next meeting: **Wed 10th May, 7.00pm** at the **Moresk Centre, St Clement Street/Kemp Close, Truro** **TR1 1EF** **and also via teams**.