Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of meeting held on 12th July 2023

1. Present: Chris Ramsey, Margaret George, Hetty Tye, Lucy Zawadzki
2. Apologies: Karen Cooper, Jessica McGurty, Georgie Wong, Wailim Wong, Angus McDonald. Izzy Adams and Carole Liesse were unable to attend online because of problems with Teams at the centre.
3. Regional Human Rights Campaigns:

North Africa: Hetty would be sending out an email with actions for Omar Radi, imprisoned in Egypt. Chris spoke about the Wharfdale group which had created a life-size image of Omar to have for letter-signing. He will contact the group to ask for details. Hetty mentioned an exhibition of photos of Western Sahara which is travelling round the country. We discussed what venue could be used in Truro to host an exhibition, where the public walks through. Chris had visited an exhibition at the Tate St Ives of artwork from the Casablanca Art School from the 1960s and 70s, which makes no reference to the repressive regime in which the artists were working. It was suggested he email the Tate to voice concern or to see if there is any scope for refence to contemporary Human Rights struggles there. Chris also reported that he had heard from the Paris group about an action they have done for Mohamed El Baker ( a stall and leafletting)..

Mexico and Central America: Georgie had circulated the newsletter, and sent a petition on behalf of environmental defenders killed in Guapinol. Those present signed the petition.

IOPT and Lebanon: Chris had circulated the newsletter. He mentioned the case of the village of Ikrit where the population was forced to leave and has never been allowed back, despite a 1951 Supreme Court ruling in their favour. The whole place has been demolished apart form a church. Lucy spoke about a tour bus which is circulating in Paris putting the case of the Palestinians. We discussed the recent Israeli attacks on Jenin, where a UN report stated over 23000 people live, including 7000 children.

Former Soviet Union: nothing recent.

Death Penalty: Wailim not present.

Feminism: Izzy had prepared an action about Iranian schoolgirl being unable to attend school because of systematic and organised gas attacks which lead to girls being ill and some hospitalised. This was circulated after the meeting as Izzy was not able to be there (see item 2).

1. Open forum: Margaret spoke about the harsh repression of protesters in Iran, many of them children, following the death of Mahsa Amini. Many have taken to the streets with the slogan Woman Life Freedom, refused to wear hijabs and even burnt them. On 29th June a BBC2 programme ‘Inside the Iranian Uprising’ was broadcast showing in graphic detail how protesters are hunted down, attacked and killed or arrested. Margaret had brought a letter to the MP which those present signed.
2. Minutes of meeting held on 14th June, matters arising: i. Margaret emailed Liberty asking for more copies of the booklet ‘I know my rights’. ii. Chris reported that all the motions at the AIUK AGM were passed.
3. Correspondence and Monthly Updates for groups: Margaret had distributed the monthly groups action email.
4. Treasurer’s Report: Karen reported that we have £435.74 in the account. This is after paying in £129.82 from the Truro street collection and paying out £94.80 for the card reader and £48.80 for room hire until the end of 2023.
5. Forward planning:
6. Book stall. It is planned to hold this on **2nd September** at High Cross. Georgie was to be asked to get the permit for this (changed from the one we already have for the 9th). Robin has agreed to store the books.
7. It was suggested we get permits for card stalls on 25th Nov and 2nd Dec. Georgie to be asked to do this.
8. Future meetings: as we have the large room booked for the November meeting, it was agreed to organise a speaker, either in person or online. Chris will look into this.
9. Next meeting: **Wed 13th September, 7.00pm** at the **Moresk Centre, St Clement Street/Kemp Close, Truro** **TR1 1EF** **and also via teams**. Please note that we do not normally meet in August.