Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of meeting held on 13th September 2023

1. Present: Wailim Wong, Georgie Wong, Margaret George, Hetty Tye. On-line: Jessica Mcgarty, Chris Ramsey.
2. Apologies:, Karen Cooper, Izzy Adams, Carole Liesse, Chris Hatfield.
3. Regional Human Rights Campaigns:

North Africa: Hetty mentioned that there are new members of the N Africa team. Beverley has indicated that she may be able to speak on Morocco to groups. It was agreed to contact her about possibly doing this for our February meeting (14th Feb). We got letters signed for Omar Radi and Alaa at the bookstall. Mohamed Baker and his wife have sent messages of thanks for the support they had while he was imprisoned. A close associate of Alaa has been released, which gives a slight hope for Alaa too. Hetty will send out an urgent action which Margaret will circulate.

Mexico and Central America: Georgie had circulated the newsletter. She would be sending off the petition about water defenders in Honduras. In Mexico, investigators looking into the disappearance of the 43 students report that they have been frustrated by the army and navy withholding evidence. Both presidential candidates in Mexico are women. Abortion there has been legalised, and there is a new law, making ecocide a criminal offence. In Brazil, there is government help for indigenous people to defend the land. In Ecuador, there has been a vote against opening up the Amazon for mining.

IOPT and Lebanon: Chris will circulate the newsletter. There is an urgent action for Walid Dagaar, a terminally-ill Palestinian prisoner who has been in jail for 37 years and then sentenced to serve another 2. Negative news concerning the very right-wing Israeli government which is emboldening the settlers. Chris mentioned the birthday on 13th Oct of Mordechai Vanunu. He has organised a webinar for our Nov meeting (at 6pm and online only – see below, forward-planning)

Former Soviet Union: nothing recent.

Death Penalty: Wailim has heard nothing recently. Chris will investigate if the group still exists.

Feminism: Izzy was not able to be present but had sent the Feminists newsletter. Margaret will circulate it, after checking with Izzy.

1. Open forum: Margaret brought an article from that day’s Guardian about the deaths of environmental activists (‘One every other day ..’). Chris would try to put a link to this on our social media.
2. Minutes of meeting held on 12th July, matters arising: the bookstall on 2nd September went well. We attracted a good number of the public to buy books, sign letters and get info about Amnesty. We took £184.04, which included £64.92 on the cardreader.
3. Correspondence and Monthly Updates for groups: Margaret had distributed the monthly groups action email.
4. Treasurer’s Report: Karen reported that we have £445.94.
5. Forward planning:
6. November meeting (8th Nov) Chris has organised an online meeting with the Parents Circle – Family Forum – an organisation in Israel which brings together Palestinian and Israeli families which have lost children to the conflict. This meeting will be at 6pm, due to the time difference with Israel.
7. Georgie has permits for card stalls on 25th Nov and 2nd Dec. Georgie and Margaret will order the cards. Hetty will order the W for R booklets (40). It was suggested to give a booklet and the info about our group to everyone who buys cards.
8. Future meetings: see above for November meeting, and in the section on N Africa for a suggestion about the Feb 24 meeting (talk on Morocco).
9. Next meeting: **Wed 11 October, 7pm** at the **Moresk Centre, St Clement Street/Kemp Close, Truro** **TR1 1EF** **and also via teams**.