Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of meeting held on 14th June 2023

1. Present: Present: Chris Ramsey, Margaret George, Georgie Wong, Wailim Wong, Angus McDonald, Elizabeth Berg, Izzy Adams, Molly Kaufman.
2. Apologies: Karen Cooper, Jessica McGurty, Hetty Tye.
3. Minutes of meeting held on 10th May, matters arising: i. Margaret had obtained a copy of the Liberty booklet ‘I know my rights’. It was agreed to try to get some more to have on out stalls, in addition to our own Amnesty one. ii. Re the barge being refitted to house asylum seekers. A protest demonstration was held on 21st May in Falmouth, which was attended by a good number of people from many different groups. We had about 6 people and a banner and placards on display. Chris sent an article and photo for Groups news and to the SW region newsletter, and there was an article in the West Briton (not mentioning Amnesty) on 25th May. iii. Street collections: the street collection in Truro on 3rd June was done from a base on Lemon Quay. We used the new card reader successfully. £130.29 was collected, which added to the Falmouth collection gives a total of £251.98.
4. Correspondence and Monthly Updates for groups: Margaret had distributed the monthly groups action email. A letter had been received from the FC&D Office in response to one on behalf of Alaa Abd El Fattah which stated that his case remains a priority. This letter has been sent out to supporters to read.
5. Treasurer’s Report: Karen reported that we have £414.14 in the account. This does not take into account the sum collected in Truro. Chris was paid £94.80 for the card reader and Margaret has paid for the room hire until December at a cost of £48.80. The issue of the wifi equipment not working for sound in the room we hire has still not been resolved.
6. Regional campaigns:

North Africa: Hetty had not yet had the ezine to send out.

Mexico and Central America: Georgie had circulated the newsletter. On Wed 21st June there was to be a webinar on journalists at risk in Mexico and Honduras.

IOPT and Lebanon: Chris had circulated the newsletter.

Former Soviet Union: nothing recent.

Death Penalty: Wailim had not received any recent newsletter, and will chase it up.

Feminism: Izzy has signed up to the feminism group but has heard nothing.

1. Forward planning:
2. Book stall. It is planned to hold this on 9thSept *(but this has been altered to 2nd)*. Margaret will circulate a request for books. Chris will check with Robin whether we can use his garage for storage and sorting.
3. The AIUK AGM will be on 24th June and members can join online. It was agreed which motions we would support as a group.
4. **Format of meetings**: Chris suggested, and it was agreed, that we should change the format of our meetings so as to start with HR issues and actions, and have the other business afterwards. **All members are invited to bring along details of any Hunan Rights issue they are concerned about, whether it is an ‘official’ Amnesty campaign or another issue they have heard about and want to bring to the group’s attention.**
5. Future action in Falmouth re the barge. We had heard that photo actions are encouraged on Thursday 15th June. Chris agreed with the Truro College students to meet them near the college with some banners/placards. It was hoped that a number of students would be willing to take part. There was to be a protest on the Moor in Falmouth on Sunday 18th. Margaret would circulate this information.
6. AOB. i. Chris announced the good news that Idil and Taner, Director and Chair of Amnesty Turkey who were both convicted on trumped up charges have both won their appeal and been acquitted. ii. Pride events. These are being held in different towns on different dates. We have not been informed about the dates, for example for Truro. It was agreed that we shall probably not be able to participate this year
7. Next meeting: **Wed 12th July, 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.