Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of meeting held on 11 October 2023

1. Present: Chris Ramsey, Georgie Wong, Wailim Wong, Izzy Adams, Molly Kaufman, Shirley Sweeney
2. Apologies: Margaret George, Hetty Tye . Carole Liesse was unable to attend online because of problems with Teams at the centre.
3. Regional Human Rights Campaigns:

North Africa: Hetty was not present but had e-mailed an Urgent Action concerning eight opposition leaders in Tunisia being persecuted for criticising the President and government. Everyone present signed a copy of the urgent action letter.

Mexico and Central America: Georgie had circulated the most recent newsletter previously and had received no further information.

IOPT and Lebanon: There was a long discussion about the dreadful events in IOPT in the last few days. Horror and disgust were expressed regarding the acts of Hamas and there was anxiety about the implications of the likely response of the current Israeli government for the Palestinians living in Gaza. Chris read out key parts of the AI initial press release <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/israel-opt-civilians-on-both-sides-paying-the-price-of-unprecedented-escalation-in-hostilities-between-israel-and-gaza-as-death-toll-mounts/> :

“We are deeply alarmed by the mounting civilian death tolls in Gaza, Israel and the occupied West Bank and urgently call on all parties to the conflict to abide by international law and make every effort to avoid further civilian bloodshed. Under international humanitarian law all sides in a conflict have a clear obligation to protect the lives of civilians caught up in the hostilities,” said Agnès Callamard Amnesty International’s Secretary General.

Chris will ask Margaret to circulate the IOPT newsletter after the meeting.

Former Soviet Union: nothing recent.

Death Penalty: Wailim expressed concern at the lack of information coming from the network eg they had failed to notify members that yesterday (10 October) was World Day against the Death Penalty so missed an opportunity for activists to campaign on this. He understands that Amnesty’s main campaigning in the near future will be in respect of Singapore where there appear to be reasonable prospects of change.

Feminism: Izzy had circulated the last network newsletter through Margaret and referred to a couple of cases in Iran that AI was working on including that of Nobel Prize winning human rights activist Narges Mohammadi.

1. Open forum: Molly reported on two good news stories that have appeared since the last meeting. a) Mauritius has decriminalised same sex relationships b) Mexico has decriminalised abortion.
2. Minutes of meeting held on 13 September, matters arising: No matters arising
3. Correspondence and Monthly Updates for groups: Margaret had distributed the monthly groups action email. Chris pointed out that this month’s mailing include the quarterly edition of the supplement Real Lives that sets out a number of Individuals at Risk cases in summary with details of where supporters can take action. He proposed that should be sent to all our Truro supporters list
4. Treasurer’s Report: Karen reported that we have £624.98 in the account.
5. Forward planning:
6. Truro Mayors charity marquee. Georgie will try to find out if one is going to take place this year.
7. Re the Write for Rights and Christmas card stalls on 25th Nov and 2nd Dec. Hetty has ordered 40 WfR booklets. Georgie and Margaret will meet to order the cards on Friday.
8. Potential AI group promotion event Spring 2024. There was discussion about holding an informal social/food/music event to promote the group in Falmouth next Spring. Initial idea: locate at the Cornish Bank. Izzie and Molly agreed to explore this with the owners of Cornish Bank.
9. 14 February 2024 Beverley Foulkes-Jones will talk to the group about HR issues in Morocco
10. Next meeting: **Wednesday 8 November. Location and timing dependent on whether the IOPT webinar with Parents Circle will go ahead. Further information to follow**