

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS CAMPAIGN 2021 - ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE (ACAT)

GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW WHEN SENDING CARDS - You do not need to send to everyone on the list – just select one or two if you like.

- Send simple messages of goodwill and support, perhaps saying that you are thinking of him/her and encourage them not to lose hope.
- Bible verses and Christian blessings are only acceptable where the information states that religious cards can be sent.
- Non-religious cards should not include a Christmas reference (not even a Christmas tree!) – use a general card or picture postcard.
- It is known that very bright coloured cards or picture postcards often bring a lot of joy to the recipients.
- Do not advance political views. Do not mention ACAT unless there is specific note that this is ok.

IMPRISONED HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND TORTURE VICTIMS

Prisoner Name and Address	Details
<p>Please send a non-religious card/greeting giving him encouragement and reminding him that he is not forgotten.</p> <p>Do not mention ACAT.</p> <p>Yousef Nadarkhani Evin Prison Saadat Abad Tehran Islamic Republic of Iran</p>	 <p>Yousef Nadarkhani and three of his church members were sentenced in 2018 to ten-year prison sentences on charges of “acting against national security” and also of “promoting Zionist Christianity.” The men are all members of the Church of Iran. A Christian since the age of 19, Yousef had already spent nearly three years in prison after being sentenced to death for apostasy in 2010 but was acquitted in September 2012. A second arrest followed in 2016 and he was sentenced in 2017/18. Yousef is known to have been beaten in detention. In June 2020 his sentence was reduced to six years.</p> <p>His wife is also a convert and the couple have been fighting for over ten years for their two boys to be recognized as Christians. For the past several years the boys have been denied certificates showing they completed their studies because they refused to take Islamic classes.</p>
<p>Please send a non-religious card/greeting.</p> <p>Do not mention ACAT to:</p> <p>Ms Zhang Zhan Songjiang Women's Prison No.1601, Zhang Jing Road Sijing Town Songjiang District Shanghai, China</p>	 <p>Freelance journalist Zhang Zhan, a well-known activist for human rights in China, was detained in May 2020 as a reprisal for her coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic. She reported on the detention of other independent journalists in Wuhan and the harassment of families of victims seeking accountability.</p> <p>Her licence to practise as a lawyer has been revoked. During July and August 2021 she was hospitalised due to her deteriorating health as a result of an ongoing hunger strike begun in June 2020. Tied to a bed and force-fed, Zhang Zhan is in extremely poor health, suffering weight loss and severe malnutrition. She was later transferred back to the Shanghai Women's Prison, where she is currently believed to be held.</p> <p>Zhang Zhan's family have no direct physical contact with her. After seven months of pre-trial detention, on 28 December 2020, the Shanghai Pudong People's Court found Zhang Zhan guilty of 'picking quarrels and provoking trouble' and sentenced her to four years in prison. Zhang Zhan attended her trial in a wheelchair and was force-fed via a nasal tube during her detention.</p>

Prisoner Name and Address	Details
<p>Please send a non-religious card/greeting. Do not mention ACAT</p> <p>Ashfaq Masih District Jail Lahore Ferozepur Road Shadman 1 Shadman Lahore Punjab 54000 Pakistan</p>	 <p>Ashfaq Masih (34) has been in prison in Pakistan since 2017, when he was accused of blasphemy. He is still awaiting trial as his court hearings have been cancelled repeatedly because the judge or witnesses failed to appear.</p> <p>A bicycle mechanic from the Christian Mariam Colony in Lahore, Ashfaq Masih was accused of blasphemy after he was involved in a dispute with a Muslim customer over payment for repairing a bicycle. It is not unusual in Pakistan for Christians to be targeted in this way over minor business disputes that escalate into religious disputes. The customer claimed to be a poor sadhu (holy man) demanding a rebate on the cost of the bicycle repair.</p> <p>A crowd gathered and Ashfaq was accused of blasphemy for reportedly insulting the Prophet Muhammad by telling the bicycle owner that Christians believe Jesus was the final prophet. Police were called and arrested Ashfaq, who is imprisoned in the District Jail (aka Camp Jail), Lahore. Ashfaq's family is very poor but his older brother is hoping to start a small business.</p>
<p>Please send a non-religious card/greeting. Do not mention ACAT</p> <p>Min Nyo Pyay Prison R6HC+P8Q, Pyay Bago Region Myanmar</p>	 <p>On 3 March 2021 journalist Min Nyo was arrested and severely beaten by police while he was covering a pro-democracy protest against the military coup in Pyay, Bago Region, Myanmar.</p> <p>On 12 May 2021 a military court in Pyay Prison found him guilty of attempting to 'hinder, disturb, damage the motivation, discipline, health and conduct' of soldiers and civil servants and 'cause their hatred, disobedience or disloyalty toward the military and the government' (Penal Code, Article 505-a) and sentenced him to three years in prison.</p> <p>He is currently detained at Pyay Prison, where he is at risk of being tortured, and is appealing against the verdict.</p>

More information at www.acatuk.org.uk

Victims of torture, human rights groups and individuals under threat and persecuted Christians need our support and our prayers. Please take part in this Campaign and bring a little light into a prisoner's life. It is usually quite safe to add one's address, and does give prisoners a slightly greater link to the sender. It is unknown for there to be any comeback to the sender from an oppressive government. Cards tell the authorities that prisoners are not forgotten and can result in improved prison conditions, in a new investigation leading to a retrial and, on occasion, to freedom. A reply is occasionally received, but this should not be expected. If a reply is received, it is important that the ACAT office is informed; give the prisoner's name, prison address and country.

Postage overseas (outside Europe) for a card (up to 24cm x 16.5cm) and up to 20g costs £1.70