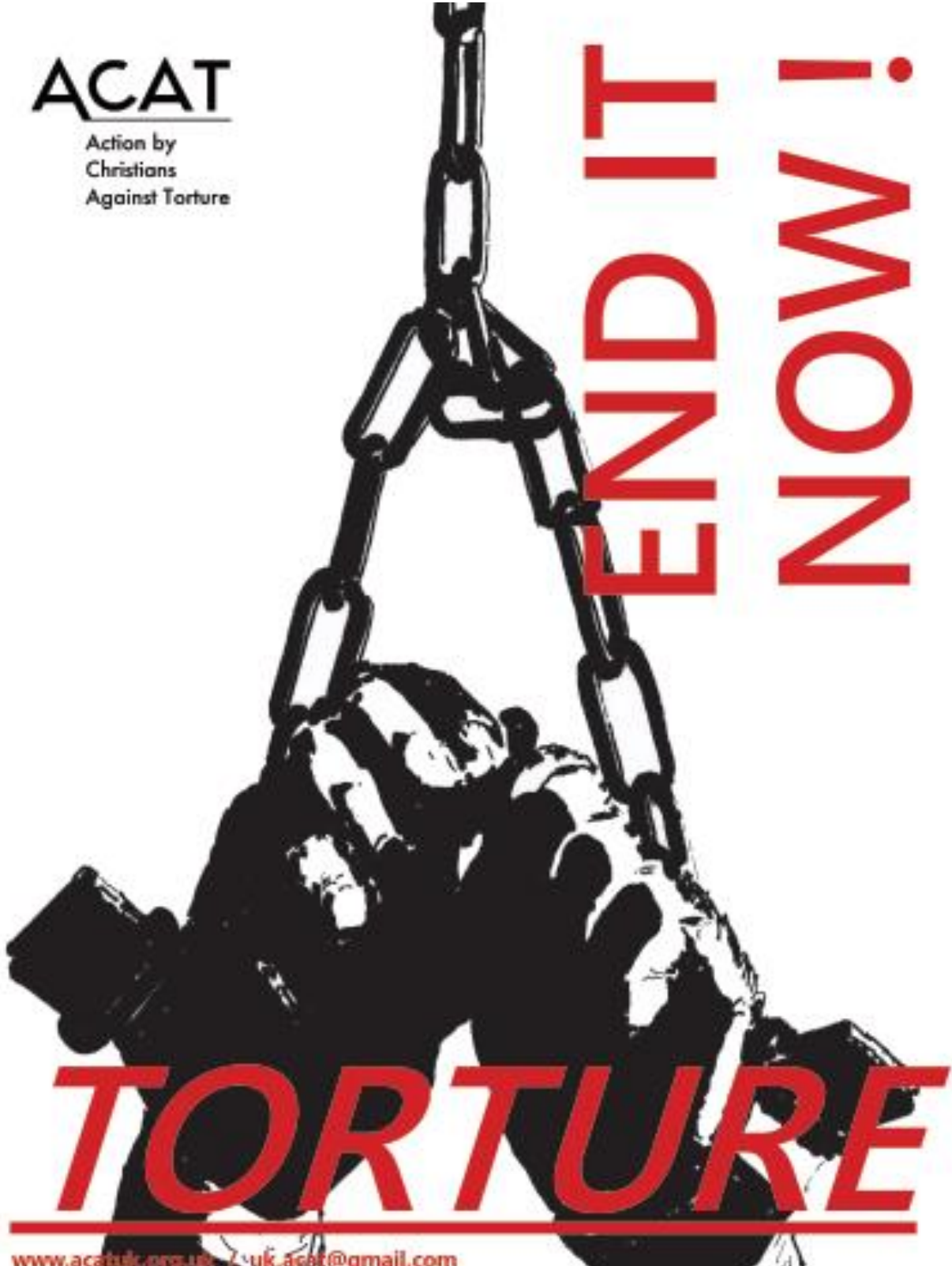


**Action by Christians Against Torture  
Christmas Greetings Campaign 2023**

**ACAT**

Action by  
Christians  
Against Torture

**END IT  
NOW!**



***TORTURE***

[www.acatuk.org.uk](http://www.acatuk.org.uk) [uk.acat@gmail.com](mailto:uk.acat@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS CAMPAIGN 2023

For this campaign please write a simple card or greeting to the individual saying, for instance, that you are thinking of him/her and/or perhaps urging them not to lose hope (or words to that effect). A picture postcard — in an envelope if you choose — is always welcome and cheapest to send. You can include your name and address if you wish *but do not mention ACAT or include a religious greeting or motif (even a Christmas tree!) if so advised*, since communication from a foreign organisation can endanger the prisoner. Several individuals featured in previous campaigns have been released. Sadly others are still in prison and it is important not to forget them. Changes in their circumstances are described, where known. As usual we include a couple of human rights groups. For individual prisoners or their families it is heartening to receive fairly regular cards of encouragement. Do not feel obliged to respond to every appeal case. Postage overseas is expensive: a letter or card (e.g. postcard) weighing up to and including 100g costs £2.20 (an economy £2.00 rate is only available for surface mail and is being discontinued).

### GROUPS



Congregation of the  
**Sisters of St. Joseph  
of Peace**

*Pursuing justice, we seek God's gift of peace.*

Founded in Nottingham in 1884 by Mother Francis Clare (Margaret Anna Cusack), the CSJP are an international community

who promote social justice as a way to peace. Sisters and associates minister in education, health care, religious education, parish ministry, social justice, spiritual direction and peace ministry in the UK and USA. They are strong supporters of the work of ACAT-UK.

### **Please send a greeting to:**

The Sisters of St Joseph of Peace  
United Kingdom Regional Office  
Foxhall Lodge  
Foxhall Road

Nottingham NG7 6LH

Tel: 01664.431.736

Email: <https://csjp.org/contact-us/>

Website: <https://csjp.org/>



**The West End Refugee Service (WERS)** is a registered charity that provides support and opportunities to people seeking asylum and refugees on Tyneside. They work to bring about positive change to the lives of people whose futures have been irrevocably changed by past events in their home

country. Since 1999 WERS have delivered a range of integrated services to reduce levels of poverty, isolation, disadvantage and prejudice as they navigate the asylum system in the UK. They are a team of thirteen staff and over 90 volunteers working across the region to deliver projects and services.

**Please send a greeting to:**

West End Refugee Service

St Philip's Vicarage

St Philip's Close

Arthur's Hill

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

NE4 5JE

Email: [info@wers.org.uk](mailto:info@wers.org.uk)

Website: <https://www.wers.org.uk/>

## INDIVIDUALS

**Please send a message to Reverend Haile Nayzgi, Eritrea.**



In May 2004 **Reverend Haile Nayzgi** was arrested and taken to a police station in Asmara. He was the leader of Eritrea's Full Gospel Church, which comprises 120 to 150 house meeting groups. The church groups were closed by government decree at a meeting with a government official on 15 May 2002. At that time the church groups were given an application form for government registration. The Full Gospel Church

filled out the form and returned it to the appropriate offices, but no reply was ever received.

Haile is married and has three children. He was previously an accountant with World Evangelical Alliance. During his incarceration, Haile has been refused any personal contact with his family. When family and friends went to take food and clothing to the prison for Haile on 24 August 2004, they were told that he was no longer there. Mr Nayzgi has been moved to various locations since his arrest, but the actual charges against him have not been released. He is believed to be at the location below. Despite the release of 13 Christians in the summer of 2023, Mr Nayzgi was still being held in October 2023. **Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel**, first featured in our Christmas campaign of 2016, has also not been released.

**Please send a message (do not mention ACAT) to:**

Haile Nayzgi  
Karsheli Prison  
2nd Police Station  
Zone 7 Northern East  
Asmara, Zoba Maakel  
Eritrea



**Please send a message to Pastor Li Juncai, China**



**Pastor Li Juncai** of the Yuanyang County Central House Church in Xinxiang, Henan Province in China is currently serving a prison sentence of five and a half years after protesting against the government's attempts to remove the cross atop his church building in 2019. Mass removals of crosses from church buildings began in Henan Province in 2018, with police removing at least

4,000 crosses over the course of a year. Even the crosses of government-run churches were removed, and smaller churches were completely shut down.

When authorities brought a crane to remove the cross from Pastor Li Juncai's church in February 2019 a group of Christian senior citizens, mostly women, met the plainclothes policemen and their crane. The Christians sang hymns and prayed while attempting to keep the authorities from taking the cross. Police beat and arrested the protestors before forcing the church gate open and removing the cross. Pastor Li Juncai told the workers they should proceed according to the law and that he opposed the removal of the crosses. He was arrested and accused of disrupting public service. Charged with embezzlement and obstructing government administration, he was sentenced to five and a half years in prison and given a fine of more than \$7,000 USD.

The Yuanyang County Central House Church was a government-run Three-Self church until 2013, when it merged with a local house church. Each week they ministered to approximately 700-800 people. Many churches are now required to display the national flag along with an image of President Xi Jinping in the sanctuary and to install security cameras facing the congregation. Li Juncai was featured in our Christmas 2022 campaign.

**Please send a non-religious message (do not mention ACAT) to:**

Pastor Li Juncai  
The No. 3 Prison Section  
Jiao'nan Prison  
Yinghu Road,  
Jiefang District, Jiaozuo city,  
Henan province  
454003  
The People's Republic of China



**Please send a message to Fariba Dalir, Iran**

In July 2021 **Fariba Dalir** (51), was arrested in Iran along with five other



Christian converts, including her fiancé Soroush. While awaiting trial, all six believers were released on bail. Fariba was released on 18 November and the others in October. While out on bail, Fariba and Soroush were married. On 4 December 2021 the courts sentenced Fariba to five years in prison for 'acting against national security by establishing and leading an Evangelical Christian church'. Soroush and three others were sentenced to ten months in prison for their

membership of the church. Fariba's sentence was later reduced to two years, and the others were released with a fine due to the prison time they had by then already served. On 16 April 2022 Fariba returned to Tehran's notorious Evin Prison to begin her two-year sentence. She is due to be released in April 2024. She was last featured in our Christmas 2022 campaign.

**Please send a (non-religious) message (do not mention ACAT) to:**

Fariba Dalir  
Evin Prison  
Saadat Abad  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran



**Please send a message to Reverend Ramon Rigal and Pastor Adya Exposito Leyva, Cuba.**



In 2019 **Reverend Ramon Rigal** and his wife **Pastor Adya Exposito Leyva** were imprisoned in Cuba for home-schooling their children. They didn't want their children, Ruth and Joel, to go to a state-run school where they would be bullied for their beliefs, so they enrolled their children with an online school. Parents are legally required to send their children to state-run schools in Cuba, and protecting Ruth and Joel in this manner is

illegal. As a result, in April 2019, both Raman and Adya were imprisoned for their decision to home-school their children, and Ruth and Joel were separated, having to live in different homes for many months.

Adya was released from detention in March 2020, after serving over 11 months of an 18-month sentence for the alleged crime of 'other acts against the normal development of a minor'. Ramon was released in June 2020 after serving 14 months of a two-year sentence. For most of his imprisonment, Ramon was in a maximum security unit where he was denied conditional freedom and was allowed only one visit a month. The family was last featured in our Christmas 2022 campaign.

**Please send a message (it can be religious and you can mention ACAT) to:**

La Familia Rigal  
1075 Luz Caballero entre Donato  
Marmol y Varona  
Ciudad de Guantanamo  
Guantanamo  
Cuba

**Note:** This case does not involve torture, but readers may feel that the punishments for their actions were disproportionate.



**Please send a message to Pastor Reutilio Columbie, Cuba.**

In February 2012 **Pastor Reutilio Columbie** of the Shalom Christian Centre in Cuba was beaten so violently that he suffered brain damage. It is believed that the attack was a direct result of his challenge to the authorities over their arbitrary confiscation of his church truck. Pastor Columbie had bought a truck from a local person five years earlier and modified it to transport members of the Pentecostal church in Moa, Cuba. In December 2011 it was confiscated by the authorities without warning or explanation and apparently returned to the original owner, who has family ties to an individual in the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party. When the pastor protested about the confiscation and began lodging a complaint to prove ownership, the family received anonymous threatening phone calls. The pastor suffered severe inflammation of the brain as a result of the attack.

Although the attack happened many years ago, Pastor Reutilio still struggles with his speech and with memory loss and suffers nauseous attacks and vertigo. His attackers have never been brought to justice. Pastor Columbie was featured in our Easter Campaign of 2018 and Christmas 2022.

**Please send a message (it can be religious and you can mention ACAT) to:**

Pastor Reutilio Columbie  
Iglesia Evangelica Centro Cristiano Shalom  
Calle Cabana, Reparto Monterrey  
Moa, Holguín  
Cuba





**Please send a message to Zhang Zhan, China.**

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 from February 2020. She reported on the detention of other independent journalists in Wuhan and the harassment of families of victims seeking accountability. 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, severe malnutrition, a gastric ulcer, and swollen legs and feet. She has also undergone surgery for cancer. She was later transferred back to the Shanghai Women's Prison, where she is currently believed to be held. There is very grave concern about her well-being as China is known for the human rights defenders who have either died in prison or shortly after their release. Her case was featured at Christmas in 2021.

**Please send a non-religious greeting (do not mention ACAT) to:**

Ms Zhang Zhan  
Songjiang Women's Prison  
No.1601, Zhang Jing Road  
Sijing Town  
Songjiang District  
Shanghai  
People's Republic of China



## Please send a message to Ju Dianghong and Liang Qin, China.

In 2017 sisters **Ju Dianghong** (pictured) and **Liang Qin** were sentenced to jail terms of 13 and 10 years respectively for their Christian activities. Christians in China's southern Yunnan province face long prison sentences as



Chinese authorities try to eradicate their religion under the guise of cracking down on 'evil cults'.

In 2016 Yunnan officials investigated the Three Grades of Servants religious sect as a dangerous cult and launched systematic attacks against it. Over 200 Christians across the province were arrested, with 40 still detained in 2018. Their lawyers came under review just for defending them. Denials that they ever belonged to the cult were ignored and six— Ju Dianghong, Liang Qin, Zhang Hongyan, Zi Huimei, Yang Shunxiang, and Zhang Shaocai — were sentenced to between four and 13 years in prison. Ju Dianghong and Liang Qin claimed they were never involved with the sect and had never heard of it, but were accused of leading and recruiting members, doing missionary work and spreading news of the apocalypse on behalf of the cult.

The cult is deemed dangerous by mainstream Christians and probably died out after a crackdown in 2005-6, but it is used by the authorities as a catch-all to persecute other Christians. Christian prisoners often suffer torture, beatings, and even death at the hands of prison officials. Others leave their cells in extremely poor physical and mental health from subjection to inhumane practices and medical neglect. The location of their prisons — in remote areas over 1,000 miles from homes and families — is rarely disclosed and requires exhaustive research to uncover. The sisters have featured in our last Christmas and Easter campaigns. [Picture: ChinaAid]

**Please send a non-religious card/greeting to the women at the following address, reminding them that they are not forgotten. Do not mention ACAT.**

Liang Qin  
No. 1 Prison for Women of Yunnan Province,  
Kunyang Town, Jinning District,  
Kunming City, Yunnan Province,  
People's Republic of China 650600

Ju Dianghong  
No. 1 Prison for Women of Yunnan Province,  
Kunyang Town, Jinning District,  
Kunming City, Yunnan Province,  
People's Republic of China 650600



**Please send a message to Ashfaq Masih, Pakistan.**



**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. 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. 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. On 4 July 2022 Judge Khalid Wazir sentenced Ashfaq to death for blasphemy. The appeal against his death sentence is still pending in the Lahore High Court. His case was first featured in our newsletter of September-November 2022.

**Please send a non-religious greeting (do not mention ACAT) to:**

Ashfaq Masih  
District Jail Lahore  
Ferozpur Road  
Shadman 1 Shadman  
Lahore  
Punjab 54000  
Pakistan



The following men are believed to be held in a prison in Bahrain that is notorious for its insanitary conditions, poor health care, abusive treatment and the obstruction of family visits: **Maher Abbas al-Khabbaz, Sayed Ahmed al-Abar, Zuhair Ebrahim Jasim Abdullah, Husain Ebrahim Ali Husain Marzooq, Husain Moosa, Mohamed Ramadhan, Husain Ali Mehdi, and Salman Isa Ali Salman.**

In June 2022, 26 men were on death row, and all have exhausted their appeals. Under Bahraini law King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has the power to commute these sentences or grant pardons. The men were featured in our Christmas campaign of 2022 and are still believed to be on death row.

### **Background**

Since the Arab Spring of 2011, when thousands demonstrated for democracy in several Arab countries, death sentences in **Bahrain** have greatly increased following convictions in sham trials based on flawed evidence and confessions obtained through torture and coercion. Bahrain

was the only Gulf state to see mass protests during the Arab Spring. The Sunni Muslim monarchy used force to suppress protests, led mostly by the Shi'ite Muslim community, and cracked down on sporadic unrest and dissent later.

**Please send a non-religious greeting (do not mention ACAT) to one or more of the above:**

Name of prisoner

Jaw (Jau) Central Prison

Jaw

The Kingdom of Bahrain



**Please send a greeting to Emil Ostrovko, Belarus.**



In April 2018, waiting at a bus stop, 17-year old Emil Ostrovko (Emil Astrauko in Belarusian) was beaten by police officers, arrested and convicted for distributing illicit drugs. While working after school as a courier for an online company, his

employer had told him the parcels he was delivering contained legal smoking mixtures. After months of detention he received a ten-year prison sentence for drug trafficking, later reduced to eight. Investigators never looked for the owner of the company, nor for anyone else. Some 15,000 children and young persons are serving lengthy prison sentences in Belarus for petty drugs offences. They are treated far worse than other offenders and forced to do long hours of hard labour. Emil was not allowed to carry his asthma medicine and got frostbite from clearing snow with his bare hands. Things improved a little when he went to an adult prison. He was first featured in our Christmas 2019 greetings campaign.

**Please send a (religious or non-religious) greeting and message of encouragement. You can mention ACAT and include your home address.**

*Emil is keen on studying and reading, and is particularly interested in economics, business and innovation. You can send any of the latest news in these fields, alongside other interesting stories which you feel may appeal to him. Emil is also a Catholic, so you can send him appropriate Christmas greetings.*

Emil Vadimovich Ostrovko  
Correctional Colony Number 2  
Ul. Sikorskogo 1, otryad 1  
Bobruisk  
Mogilevskaya oblast  
213800  
Belarus



**Please send a greeting to Mancho Bibixy, Cameroon.**



**Mancho Bibixy** is a Cameroonian journalist and activist who was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a military court in Yaoundé on charges of “acts of terrorism, hostility against the homeland, secession, revolution and insurrection”. He was arrested in

January 2017 after anti-government protests and was convicted in May 2018. In 2019, he was sentenced to an additional two years in prison for his alleged role in a prison protest. He was first featured in our newsletter of December 2019-February 2020. Our latest information (from early 2022) is that he remains in detention .

**Please send a greeting (religious or non-religious, and you can mention ACAT) to:**

Mr Mancho Bibixy  
Yaoundé Central Prison  
Rue de Kondengui  
1000 Yaoundé  
Cameroon

### **Background**

Many supporters and members of the opposition party Movement for the Renaissance of Cameroon (MRC) remain in detention after protesting against unfairly organised elections. Cameroon is riven by violent conflict between the government and Anglophone separatists in the south. Torture and abuse of MRC prisoners are reported to be widespread.

You can also send greetings to two other imprisoned MRC supporters. They are **Intifalia Oben** and **Dorgelesse Nguessan** (who is female). Both are believed to be held in the Prison de New-Belle (Central Prison), Av. de L'Indépendance, Douala, Cameroon.



**Please send a message to Le Dinh Luong, Vietnam.**



**Le Dinh Luong, Vietnam**, was detained by police in July 2017 for alleged subversion. Having written on an environmental disaster and campaigned for a clean environment and greater democracy, he was targeted by authorities for calling for an election boycott and for connections to Viet Tan, an overseas pro-democracy group. After a year of incommunicado detention he was finally allowed to meet with his lawyers but following an unfair trial was sentenced in August 2018 to 20 years for subversion, despite the

emergence of news that a journalist, Nguyen Van Hoa, was beaten and forced into giving testimony used against him. Hoa later recanted on the witness stand, saying the statements were made under duress of the assault (Hoa is the subject of a separate appeal — see below).

It is also reported that the imprisoned founder of the Vietnam Republic Party, Nguyen Viet Dung, was also coerced into giving false testimony. Luong's lawyers were not allowed to meet with either witness and, after Dung recanted, his family was denied a visit to him in prison. Luong is a Roman Catholic, although this is not the main reason for his detention. On 18 October 2018 his appeal was rejected and in January 2019 he was transferred to Ba Sao prison in Nam Ha province, without prior notice to his family, who are in Ho Chi Minh City, thousands of kilometres away. In September 2019 prison authorities prevented his family from visiting him.

**Please send a non-religious message to him in the prison at the address below but do not mention ACAT.**

Mr Le Dinh Luong  
Ba Sao Prison  
Kim Bảng District  
Hà Nam Province  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam



**Please send a message to Qaisar and Amoon Ayub.**



On 13 December 2018 a court in **Pakistan** sentenced Christian brothers **Qaisar and Amoon Ayub** to death for blasphemy after they were convicted of insulting the Prophet Mohammed in articles and portraits posted on their website. Since their arrest in 2014 Qaisar (44) and Amoon



(38) have been held in Jhelum District Jail, Punjab Province. The judge heard their case in the jail for security reasons. Although the evidence against them was dubious, he found them guilty of the 'use of derogatory remarks in respect of the Holy Prophet' and sentenced them to death by hanging. [Picture: Katehon]

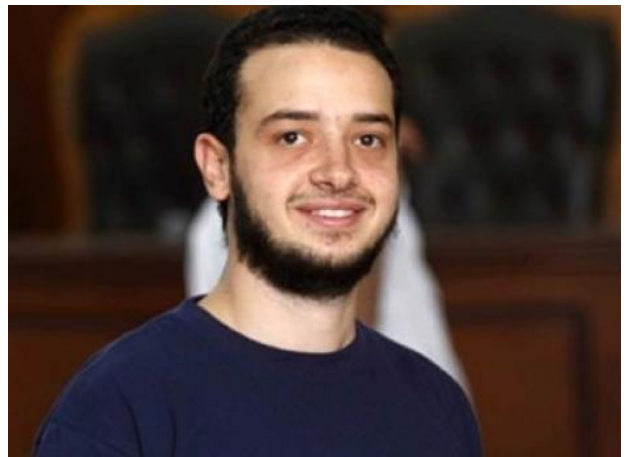
**Please send a (non-religious) message (do not mention ACAT)**

Qaisar and Amoon Ayub  
Sahiwal District Jail  
Main Farid Town Road  
Sahiwal  
Punjab  
Pakistan



**Please send a message to Anas el-Beltagy, Egypt.**

**Anas el-Beltagy**, son of detained Mohamed el-Beltagy, has endured over 9 years of arbitrary detention in Egypt, solely due to his family association. Anas was first arrested on 24 December 2013, during a visit to the Tora Prison Complex to see his detained father. Security forces surrounded and beat Anas before transferring him to the Maadi prosecution centre, where he was interrogated over the alleged assault of prison guards. After enduring 20 hours of detention, the prosecution ordered his release on bail.



On 31 December 2013, Anas was arrested again in Nasr City and taken to Nasr City 1 Police Station, where he was forcibly disappeared for nearly a month. During this time, he was subject to torture and other ill-treatment. Security forces held Anas in a small iron cage, described as 'unfit for humans'. Following his transfer to Abu Zaabal prison in Alexandria in early 2014, the prison administration held him in prolonged solitary

confinement and forced him to sleep on the concrete floor. He was subsequently transferred to the Tora Prison Complex south of Cairo, where he continued to be subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, including prolonged solitary confinement. Anas was transferred to the Badr Prison Complex in November 2022.

Since February 2023, grave concerns about inhumane detention conditions at Badr 3 Prison have increased amid leaked letters from prisoners indicating a proliferation in suicide attempts by prisoners. Detainees have suffered torture and other ill-treatment - deliberate denial of healthcare, exposure to extreme cold, constant surveillance, bombardment with bright lights 24 hours a day, and cruelly deprived of outdoor exercise and contact with other prisoners.

During his detention renewal hearings, often appearing with his hands and legs cuffed, Anas complained about the deterioration in his physical and mental health due to sustained torture and ill-treatment.

**Please send a non-religious message (do not mention ACAT) to:**

Anas el-Beltagy  
Badr Security Complex, Badr 3 Prison  
Badr, Cairo Governorate 4958130  
Egypt



**Please send a message to Anastasia Loika, Belarus.**

**Nasta (Anastasia) Loika** is a Belarusian human rights defender working in the field of human rights education. She also analyses repressive ‘anti-extremist’ laws, and advocated for the protection of the rights of migrants in Belarus.

Nasta was sentenced to seven years in a penal colony for ‘inciting radical, national, religious or other



social enmity or discord’ on 20 June 2023. On 6 September 2022 Nasta was arbitrarily detained as she was leaving Minsk City Court after attending a hearing in the trial against fellow human rights defenders Marfa Rabkova, Andrei Chapyuk, and their eight co-defendants. She was temporarily released on 5 October 2022, only to be detained again. Nasta was arrested on 28 October 2022 and has been arbitrarily detained ever since.

During her detention, she was denied access to her lawyer, essential medical treatment and other basic necessities, including warm clothes and drinking water. Nasta reported she had been tortured through electric shock questioning and that whilst in detention she was left out in the courtyard for eight hours without outerwear in cold weather. Nasta has been consistently denied adequate medical care, which amounts to inhumane and degrading treatment.

**Please send a message (do not mention ACAT) to:**

Anastasia Loika  
Penal Colony No.4  
3 Antoshikina Street  
Gomel, 246035  
The Republic of Belarus



**Please send a message to Lu Siwei, China.**

**Lu Siwei** is a prominent Chinese human rights lawyer known for advocating for the rights of vulnerable groups and representing numerous political dissidents. On 28 July 2023, he was arrested in Laos as he prepared to board a train for Thailand. Having recently fled China, his intention was to reunite with his family in the US by flying from Thailand. However, Lu was forcibly returned to China from Laos and is



currently held in the Xindu Detention Centre in Sichuan province, southwestern China.

Despite his arrest, details of the charges against Lu have not been disclosed. Since his return to China, he has been denied regular access to his family and the right to choose a lawyer, raising concerns about the fairness of his trial. Of further concern is the denial of adequate medical care to Lu, who suffers from psoriasis and requires daily medication. The absence of necessary medical treatment poses a significant risk to his health.

There is apprehension that Lu, like many other detainees, particularly human rights defenders, in China, might face torture during his detention. This case also highlights a troubling pattern of Chinese authorities pressuring other governments, particularly in Southeast Asia, to forcibly return individuals to China. These actions leave vulnerable individuals exposed to arbitrary detention, unfair trials, torture, enforced disappearances, and other forms of ill-treatment.

**Please send a message (do not mention ACAT) to:**

Lu Siwei  
Xindu Detention Centre  
Chengdu, Sichuan Province  
The People's Republic of China



**Please send a message to Zeynab Jalalian, Iran.**



**Zeynab Jalalian**, a Kurdish advocate for women's rights and an active member of the political faction of Party for Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK), was arrested and sentenced to death by an Iranian court in 2008 following an unjust and brief trial. Her commitment to the empowerment of Kurdish women and

the cause of Kurdish self-determination led to this grave injustice. In 2011 her death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. According to the

report received by the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights, Zeynab has been deported to Yazd prison without any legal justification, and isolated from her family throughout this time.

Since Zeynab's arrest, she has endured mental and physical torture, allegedly to extract false confessions. She recounted enduring long interrogations, beatings while being blindfolded, flogging under her feet, threats of rape, and solitary confinement. Moreover, Zeynab has been intentionally deprived of essential healthcare and forced to live in inhumane living conditions to coerce a false confession through a forced videotaped statement. This deliberate denial of medical care has caused severe pain and suffering for Zeynab, with reports of intestinal and kidney infections, internal bleeding, and difficulties when walking. [Picture: Redress]

**Please send a non-religious message (do not mention ACAT) to:**

Zeynab Jalalian  
Yazd Central Prison  
Yazd Province  
Imam Street  
W99P+XG4  
Iran



**Please send a message to Aleksei Navalny, Russia.**

**Aleksei Navalny** is a prominent figure in Russian opposition politics, known for his anti-corruption campaign and criticism of President Vladimir Putin and the Russian government. In August 2020 he was poisoned with a military-grade nerve agent, Novichok. Upon his recovery, Aleksei's



return to Moscow was met with an immediate and arbitrary arrest. He was

accused of violating parole terms under a previously imposed politically motivated non-custodial sentence.

On 22 March 2022 he faced further arbitrary charges, including fraud, resulting in a nine-year prison sentence. On 4 August 2023 Aleksei received another conviction, leading to a total of 19 years imprisonment on charges related to financing and inciting 'extremism' along with allegations of 'rehabilitating Nazi ideology'.

Throughout his imprisonment, Aleksei has endured increasingly harsh treatment. He is currently serving his term in a strict regime, maximum-security penal colony IK-6, located in Vladimir Oblast (240 km east of Moscow). His experiences in prison have been deeply distressing; he has been repeatedly confined to punishment cells for alleged violations of prison discipline. Aleksei has spent significant time in a SHIZO (penalty isolation cell) where he was not allowed any visits or letters, exercise, or outside walks. Aleksei has spent significant time, approximately 12 months as of 27 September 2023, in a form of solitary confinement known as a single-type penal confinement cell (EPKT), an excessively severe and prolonged form of disciplinary punishment. This duration far exceeds the legal limit in Russia, violating the prohibition against torture or other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment.

**Please send a message (do not mention ACAT) to:**

Aleksei Navalny

Corrective Colony No.6 of the UFSIN of Russia (IK-6 Melekhovo)

Melekhovo

Vladimir Oblast

Russia



The **Jesuit Refugee Service** invites ACAT supporters to send a greetings



card to those it helps. The JRS works in over 50 countries around the world with a mission to accompany, serve and advocate for the rights of

refugees, the trafficked and other forcibly displaced persons. JRS UK has a special ministry to those who find themselves destitute as a consequence of government policies and those detained for the administration of immigration procedures. It has issued the following guidelines for greetings:

- Use a friendly, generic initial address such as 'Dear Friend'.
- Don't assume your card will be received by a Catholic or Christian. Do not include any overtly religious messages that could be alienating to someone depending on their faith or nationality.
- However, wishing someone a Merry Christmas or telling someone that you will remember them in your prayers is more than OK.
- Please do not include your full name or contact details in the card.

Send the greetings card in an unsealed envelope, the latter enclosed in a sealed envelope, by **Friday 8 December** to the following address:

JRS Christmas Cards 2023  
JRS UK  
The Hurtado Jesuit Centre  
2 Chandler Street  
London E1W 2QT

**Note from ACAT:** JRS do not specify whether a card should avoid overtly Christian images, but it may be wise to do so. For questions or more information, email: [uk@jrs.net](mailto:uk@jrs.net).

**Please remember in your prayers** the many individuals imprisoned, tortured, on death row or displaced throughout the world for whom a short message of hope and encouragement may give them God's strength to endure and survive injustice.

### **PRAYERS FOR PEACE**

God of peace, bearer of hope,  
we seek your help  
for the peoples of the Middle East.  
Quiet the clamour of war  
and guide us towards peace.  
Where there is hatred and division  
sow seeds of calm and openness.  
Where there is destruction  
help us to rebuild.  
Where children are crying  
bring an end to tears.  
Shelter your peoples and protect them.  
Guide them and keep them from harm.  
Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear  
and breathe whispers of hope.  
Amen  
[Linda Jones, CAFOD]

O God, you are the source of life and peace.  
We know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace.  
Hear our prayer in this time of crisis.  
Your power changes hearts:  
Muslims and Christians and Jews remember and proudly affirm  
that they are followers of the one God,  
children of Abraham, brothers and sisters;  
enemies begin to speak to one another;  
those who were estranged join hands in friendship;  
nations seek the way of peace together.



Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these truths  
by the way we live.

Give to us:

**Understanding** that puts an end to strife;

**Mercy** that quenches hatred, and

**Forgiveness** that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live in your law of love.

Amen

*Almighty God, Lord of History*

*Our lives are in your hands.*

*As war continues to rage, hear our prayer;*

*Receive the dead, comfort the bereaved;*

*Stand by refugees and displaced persons;*

*Heal the wounds of body and soul;*

*Be close to everyone working to help those in need.*

*Grant peace, reconciliation and understanding,*

*Even when everything seems hopeless.*

*May truth triumph and not the clamour of war.*

*Lord, send your Holy Spirit down upon the earth,*

*the Spirit that conquers division,*

*the Spirit that leads to freedom,*

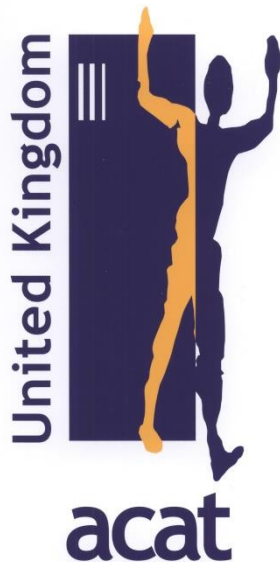
*the Spirit that overcomes war.*

*Lord of time and eternity,*

*Give our world the peace which only you can give.*

Amen





## Contacts

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## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Read our newsletters, case appeals, ideas for action, background information and prayer materials.

Join in our Christmas and Easter Campaigns and write to prisoners, victims and human rights workers.

Urge authorities to expose torture, release prisoners, improve prison conditions and bring torturers to justice.

*What finer sound  
Is there than a human being  
Singing  
Against  
Cruelty, against Hate?  
(Nidar Dinshaw)*

Website: <http://www.acatuk.org.uk>

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