

ACAT (Harrow group) – prayer case of the month (*January 2020*)

Please pray as you feel led for journalist and political activist **Esraa Abdel Fattah** currently detained in Egypt.



**Esraa Abdel Fattah** is a journalist at al-Tahrir newspaper and a former project manager at the Egyptian Democratic Academy, a non-governmental organization that promotes the use of new media tools to foster democracy and human rights. She is the founder of the “Free Egyptian Women Group” for women’s political empowerment and co-founder of the April 6 Youth Movement—a branch of the group that was behind the mass protests that brought down President Hosni Mubarak. In April 2008, she was imprisoned for her role in organizing what became known as the April 6th Facebook Protests, a mobilization of thousands of young people demanding political change. Following her arrest, she drew the attention of foreign and local media; dubbed “Facebook Girl,” she soon became a symbol of resistance and resilience against corruption and injustice. In 2011, she was a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Recently she campaigned for the release of all political prisoners detained in the wake of the anti-government protests which took place in September 2019. During the night of 12 October 2019 she and a friend were forcibly abducted from the streets in Cairo after a road chase. Her friend was later thrown out on a highway and reported being blindfolded and severely beaten. **Esraa Abdel Fattah** was physically assaulted and tortured during the first 24 hours of her disappearance. She was threatened with more abuse if she disclosed the details of her detention. She was then charged with 'collaborating with a terrorist organisation to achieve its goals', 'spreading false news' and 'using social media to publish false rumours'. She is being held with no access to family, medical care or a lawyer. Latest reports say that in December she resumed a hunger strike to protest about her ill treatment.