

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

Please pray as you feel led for **Ibrahim Ezz El-Din** (26) an architectural planning engineer and researcher at the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms (ECRF).



Ibrahim Ezz El-Din has worked on the right to affordable housing and reported on forced evictions in Egypt. ECRF's staff members have been subject to continuous harassment by the authorities for reporting on abuses and crimes committed by the Egyptian authorities and for campaigning as well against enforced disappearances. On 11 June 2019 in Cairo, while walking home, Ibrahim was surrounded and arrested by security officers and taken to an unknown location. His detention came after his criticism of government policies towards shanty towns, the manner in which the government has managed slums, and certain mega projects in Egypt and their feasibility.

On the day of his arrest, the local police station told his mother that he was not there, denying that he was detained at all. Ibrahim is the fifth person linked with the ECRF to have been arrested in just three years. Hundreds of people like him have been forcibly disappeared and held in prison for months without ever being brought to trial. Many have been arrested simply for expressing their opinions peacefully or criticizing the authorities and are at a high risk of torture and mistreatment.

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din reappeared 167 days later on 26 November, when he was brought before the Supreme State Security Prosecution. He was weak and frail and said he had been tortured during his degrading time in detention. On 4 December 2019, the Supreme Public Prosecution of Cairo renewed his preventive detention.

Updates – VIETNAM: **Trần Thị Nga** (our prayer case for June 2019) was released in January 2020 and exiled with her family to the USA.

IRAN: The prison sentence of 10 years for environmentalist **Niloufah Bayani** (our prayer case for February 2020) was sadly upheld on February 18. According to the BBC, she said she had been tortured physically and psychologically - and threatened with sexual assault.