

ACAT (Harrow) Updates on the last two years "Monthly Prayer Cases"

2019

January – Iran, **Atena Daemi**, serving a 7 year sentence for peaceful human rights activities. *Dec 2019: prosecutor warns her family of further charges for assembly, collusion & disorderly conduct in prison. She is reported to be on hunger strike & in solitary confinement. July 2020: Due to be released but sentenced to another 5 years in prison and 74 lashes.*

February – China, **Pastor Wang Yi** and his wife **Jiang Rong**, detained in pre-Christmas raids & charged with inciting subversion of state power. *July 2019: Jiang Rong released after 6 months detention. Dec 2019: Wang Yi sentenced to 9 years in prison.*

March – South Sudan, **Peter Biar Ajak**, Cambridge University PhD student arrested at Juba Airport. Imprisoned with no charge and at risk of torture. *June 2019: sentenced to 2 years in prison. January 2020: pardoned and released.*

April - Tajikistan, **Bakhrom Kholmatov**, imprisoned Christian pastor. *December 2019: released from prison 3 months early*

May – Eritrea. **Mussie Eyob**, imprisoned for his Christian faith since 2011.

June – Vietnam, **Trần Thị Nga**, imprisoned human rights defender. One of the 10 prisoners to be the focus of ACAT vigil on 26th June, UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. *Released January 2020 and is in the USA.*

July – Iran, **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, imprisoned human rights lawyer sentenced to 148 lashes and 38 years and six months in prison. She is expected to serve 17 years. *September 2020: admitted to hospital after a 6 week hunger strike. November 2020: temporarily released from prison. December 2020: returned to prison.*

August – **Rodolfo Alvarez Medrano ('Rudy')** who has been on death row in Texas since 2005, convicted of murders carried out when he was not present. *January 2020: case to be re-opened.*

September - **Huang Qi**, widely referred to as China's "first cyber-dissident", who, following a secret trial in January 2019, was sentenced in July to 12 years imprisonment for 'leaking state secrets'.

October - **Galal El-Behairy**, an Egyptian poet, lyricist and activist, serving 3 years in Tora prison, Cairo, where conditions are notoriously bad and inmates often tortured.

November - **Shagufta Kausar** and her husband **Shafqat Emmanuel**, Pakistani Christians convicted of blasphemy in 2014 & condemned to death.

December – **Nguyen Trung Ton**, a Christian pastor and human rights activist imprisoned in Vietnam. *March 2020: suffering with ill health – pains in joints and kidneys.*

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January - **Esraa Abdel Fattah**, journalist and political activist detained and held in Egypt.

February - **Niloufar Bayani**, environmentalist and researcher in Iran. 10 year prison sentence in November 2019 for 'sowing corruption on earth' & 'collaborating with the USA'. *March 2020: sentence upheld. Tortured physically and psychologically and threatened with sexual assault.*

March - **Ibrahim Ezz El-Din**, architectural planning engineer and researcher for the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedom. Held in preventive detention and tortured while detained. *27th December 2020: Moved from prison to police station after Cairo Criminal Court ordered his release. 2nd January 2021: Charged with belonging to a terrorist group.*

April - **Pastor John Cao**, a US/ Chinese pastor sentenced in China to 7 years for illegal crossing of the border to Myanmar.

May – **Konstantin Kotov**, Russian human rights defender sentenced to 18 months in prison for peaceful protest. *December 2020: released from prison. 17th January 2021: detained in an airport café awaiting the return of opposition leader Alexei Navalny.*

June - **Aklilu Desbele**, imprisoned in Eritrea since 2008 for sharing his Christian faith.

July – **Lujain al-Hathloul**, women human rights defender in Saudi Arabia, detained without trial since May 2018. *December 2020: sentenced to nearly 6 years in prison. January 2021: some of her sentence suspended. February 202: released on probation.*

August - **Mohamad Ramadan** and **Husain Moosa**, sentenced to death in Bahrain for killing a policeman. Confessions made while tortured.

September - **Déogratias Mushayidi**, sentenced to life imprisonment in 2010 in Rwanda for working for peaceful political change.

October - **Marfa Rabkova**, human rights defender arrested in Belarus. *January 2-21: still held in pre-trial detention.*

November – **Qin Defu**, China, Elder of Early Rain Covenant Church. Sentenced to 4 years in prison in 2017 for printing Christian material without permission.

December – **Asif Pervaiz**, sentenced to death for blasphemy in Pakistan.

This ACAT (Harrow) update contains a certain amount of hope. It's a list of the last two years prayer cases and, as you'll see, highlights those who have been released - not as many as we'd like but we can still hope and pray.

Margaret Davies