

ACAT (Harrow group) – prayer case of the month (*July 2021*)

Please pray as you feel led for **Ramy Kamel** (Egypt). Since the 2011 revolution, he has been defending the right to religious liberty as well as documenting human rights violations against the community to which he belongs. Arrested in November 2019, he is still in detention.



Ramy Kamel is known for denouncing discrimination and violence suffered by the Coptic community, who have been confronted with church burnings and the kidnapping of female minors by radical groups. He was arrested at his home without warrant by 7 police officers dressed in plain clothes and his camera, his computer and his phone were seized. He was subsequently interrogated without the presence of his lawyer and was tortured twice by national security agents. Transferred to Tora prison which is known for its ill treatment of prisoners, his pre-trial detention has been regularly extended. The State Security Prosecutor accused him of “participating in a terrorist group and its financing, spreading false information and disturbing public order through social media”.

His arrest appears to have been in retaliation for his human rights work and his involvement with the United Nations. Since then, he has been kept in solitary confinement. In August 2020, his sister was able to visit him for 20 minutes, during which she was able to see that her brother had lost about a third of his weight. He told her that he was in a very bad state of mental health, due to his prolonged isolation. He also told her that he suffered from repeated asthma attacks and that he had not received proper medical care for 3 months.

Updates: Some good news from Pakistan: **Shafqat Emmanuel** and **Sagufta Kausar** (our ACAT (Harrow) prayer case November 2019 - who were also featured at our March 2021 prayer meeting - have been acquitted of blasphemy charges. Please continue to pray for their protection and adjustment following 7 years on Death Row.

Belarus: **Roman Protasevich** (our prayer case for June 2021) is now being held under house arrest, but the charges against him including causing mass unrest have not been withdrawn.