

ACAT (Harrow group) – prayer case of the month (*January 2022*)

Please pray as you feel led for **Chang Weiping**, a courageous human rights lawyer who was arrested on 22 October 2020 at his home in Fengxiang County, **China**, six days after publishing a video clip of the physical and psychological torture he had suffered while in detention for ten days in January 2020 under RSDL (a euphemism for solitary confinement and torture in a secret location). His family and lawyers have also been subject to intense harassment.



**Chang Weiping** is known for defending people facing discrimination because of their health status, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation. He has provided pro bono legal counsel to vulnerable groups, including victims of defective vaccines, women, LGBT persons, and persons living with HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B who face discrimination in the workplace. In addition, he has represented clients in cases related to freedom of religion or belief – including Christians. In late 2018 authorities suspended his practice. He was unable to obtain employment at other law firms and in January 2020 his licence was formally suspended.

According to his wife, Dr Chen Zijuan, **Chang Weiping** was in good health when, aged 36, he was detained again in October 2020, but he reportedly told his lawyer – whom he was not allowed to see until September 2021 – that months of ill-treatment and “vicious torture” had left him with various ailments and diseases. The torture included being tied to a painful restraining device known as a ‘tiger chair’ for six days while being interrogated, deprived of sleep, denied food and water, and being allowed to shower only five times during a six-month period. He is still at risk of further abuse.

**Chang Weiping** was charged in April 2021 with revealing 'state secrets' and 'subversion of state power', which carries a penalty of life imprisonment.