

## ACAT (Harrow) - prayer case of the month (June 2022)

Please pray as you feel led for conservationist **Morad Tahbaz** (66) who was born in London and has British, Iranian and American citizenship. He was sentenced in Iran in 2019 after a grossly unfair trial to a ten year prison sentence for “sewing corruption on earth” and “cooperating with a hostile state against the Islamic republic”.



**Morad Tahbaz** is co-founder of the *Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation*. He and eight other scientists - including Niloufah Bayani (our prayer case for February 2020) - had been conducting research into Iran’s endangered animals, including the Asiatic cheetah and Persian leopard. There is evidence that after their arrest, they were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment including through prolonged solitary confinement in order to extract forced “confessions”. They were charged with using scientific and environmental projects, such as tracking the Asiatic cheetah with cameras, as a cover to collect classified military information. The use of cameras is in fact a standard tool used by conservationists to monitor rare and endangered species and there is no credible evidence that they were involved in spying activities.

When the UK government made a deal with Iran to free British nationals Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori, Morad’s family were promised that he would be included too. But instead, after being granted furlough from Evin prison on 16 March, he was imprisoned again within 48 hours. His daughter is now urging the UK government to do more to secure his release. His wife currently in Iran to visit him is now subject to a travel ban.

**Morad** is also unwell. He has cancer and his family are increasingly worried for his welfare. He has lost a significant amount of weight and has been denied adequate medical care and treatment. Follow this link if you would like to sign a petition for Morad: [Help get Morad home to his family \(amnesty.org.uk\)](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/help-get-morad-home-to-his-family)

*Updates: Some good news! IRAN: Atena Daemi (our prayer case for January 2019) has been released. EGYPT: Ibrahim Ezz El-Din (our prayer case for March 2020) has also been released.*

*Please continue to pray 1) for Pastor Zafar Bhatti (our prayer case for March 2022) facing the Death Penalty in PAKISTAN for blasphemy. Although his health is deteriorating, he has been refused bail on medical grounds. And 2) for Christian convert and house church leader in IRAN Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh (our prayer case for December 2021) whose request for a retrial has been rejected.*