

ACAT (Harrow) - prayer case of the month (August 2022)

Please pray as you feel led for Sahrawi journalist and human rights activist, **Mohamed Lamine Haddi** (Morocco) who was sentenced in 2013 to 25 years in the unfair 'Gdeim Isik' mass trial, following a 'confession' extracted under torture. He has been held in solitary confinement since 2017: he is confined alone in his cell for 24 hours per day, with no contact with other inmates.



Gdeim Izik was a large protest camp (of some 20,000) in the Western Sahara in 2010 highlighting 'ongoing discrimination, poverty and human rights abuses against local citizens' viz. the indigenous Sahrawi people of Morocco/Western Sahara. Authorities violently dismantled the camp in November 2010, arresting some 5,000 and killing up to 36 Sahrawis. A number of Moroccan security police also died.

Mohamed Lamine Haddi is being held in Tiflet 2 Prison in Rabat, far from his family, where conditions are terrible. Communication with them has therefore been difficult and for a time visits from them were not permitted - although he was allowed to make some very short phone calls. In 9 April 2021, he called them to say he had been threatened with the *cachot* — a small, dungeon-like cell — if his family did not stop publicly calling for his release. In January 2021 **Mohamed Lamine Haddi** went on hunger strike in protest against these conditions of detention. Prison guards force-fed him, ending his hunger strike without his agreement on 23 March 2021.

Mohamed Lamine Haddi has continued to be subjected to abuse and death threats. After he said would resume his hunger strike in March this year, prison guards handcuffed and beat him severely, and pulled hair from his beard with metal pliers before applying choking techniques. Although he had a hematoma on the left side of his face from where the guards beat him, they refused his requests to see a doctor. On 4 April 2022, **Mohamed Lamine Haddi** called his family to tell them that prison guards had transferred him to another prison on 28 March 2022 and held him there until 4 April 2022, in a small cell the size of a toilet cubicle. Despite the physical and psychological consequences of this violence he has been left without care so that, according to his brother, his health has deteriorated significantly in detention.

Update: Some positive news from IRAN: Morad Tahbaz (our prayer case for June 2022) has been released on bail from Evin prison with an electronic tag. Please pray that he will be soon released.