

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

Please pray as you feel led for **Le Huu Minh Tuan**, journalist and member of the Independent Journalists Association of Vietnam (IJAVN) who is serving an 11-year sentence for ‘anti-state propaganda’.



IJAVN is a civil society organisation established in 2014 to promote freedom of expression, the press and association. Not recognised by the Vietnamese Communist Party, it operates online via email addresses. **Le Huu Minh Tuan** was arrested on 12 June 2020 by police in Ho Chi Minh City, after several months of threats and intimidation by the Public Security Bureau, Vietnam’s domestic intelligence agency. He was detained in deplorable conditions and held incommunicado for several months before being allowed to meet with his lawyer in November 2020. The family learned of his conditions after seeing him in May 2022 for the first time since his arrest in June 2020. “My brother is in very bad health. I couldn’t recognize him,” his sister Na said.

**Le Huu Minh Tuan** was sentenced in January 2021, along with two other IJAVN members following a trial which lasted only half a day. He contends that he joined the IJAVN, a purely civil and professional entity, solely to pursue the human rights in Vietnam and liberties enshrined in the national Constitution. He has also emphasised, explicitly, that his objective has never been to topple the current regime. In June 2021 the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found his detention to be 'arbitrary' and called for his immediate release.

**Le Huu Minh Tuan** was the only one of the IJAVN members who were sentenced to appeal. However, his appeal was rejected in February 2022.