



**A**ction by

**C**hristians

**A**gainst

**T**orture

**April/May 2007**

### **In This Newsletter**

Page 2	Chairman's Letter
3	Spotlight - Guantanamo
5	AGM/Committee - Reminder
6	Members' Page
7 - 11	Appeals - Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Nepal, Zimbabwe/United Kingdom.
12	Miscellaneous
13	For your Prayers
14	Prisoner Support, SOS Torture.
15	Prayer and Reflection

Dear friends,

March 25th was a very important date this year in the history of the world, as I am sure you all know. Two hundred years ago, trading slaves was abolished by the British Parliament - on 25th March 1807, a law was passed making it illegal to buy or sell slaves. Slaves were regarded as other people's property and they had no rights, no possessions and no freedom.

One of the leading lights in the movement to abolish slavery was a rich and talented Christian named William Wilberforce. He made his first speech on the subject in the House of Commons in 1789. He moved to Clapham, London, and soon met regularly to pray and discuss with a group of important and influential men and women, who became known as the Clapham Sect. By working together they enabled the anti-slavery movement to gather momentum until the act of parliament was passed that we celebrate this year.

Reading about the history of all this made me reflect that there is a remarkable similarity between the whole slavery issue - which sadly continues today in many different forms of human trafficking - and the continuing existence of torture throughout the world. Both, it appears, are concerned with control and with forcing another person with acts of cruelty and pain to do or say what the 'controller' wants. Both slavery and torture dehumanise perpetrator and victim alike, and neither can be justified.

I sometimes get a bit disheartened at the lack of active interest shown by many of our Churches to the existence of torture throughout the world today. We *need* more groups who will meet and pray and discuss just as those like the Clapham Sect did 200 years ago. We must continue to be the voice for the oppressed, the tortured, the disappeared; a voice that speaks to give them encouragement and hope, a voice that challenges the actions of those who desire to inflict pain on others, and a voice that will hopefully make others feel so uncomfortable about the whole subject that they will either have to take action or admit they have buried their heads in the sand.

One of Wilberforce's most famous statements challenging the British people about their involvement in the slave trade was:

"Having heard all of this you may choose to look the other way  
but you can never again say that you did not know."

I rather think we could say the same about torture...  
keep up the good work!

With best wishes to you all,

**Tom Bayliss**

## **SPOTLIGHT - GUANTANAMO**

One of our members, Miss Gillian Combes, wrote as requested in the February Newsletter to her MP as did many of you, about British residents in Guantanamo. He sent back to her a reply from the Government together with a copy of an article by Brent Mickem, a US lawyer, who represents Bisher al-Rawi and Jamma el-Banna together with other prisoners. This makes interesting and horrifying reading. Some of the ill-treatment and torture of these prisoners was set out in a recent Newsletter. What follows are extracts from his article which also gives information on the treatment meted out to others, particularly those held in solitary confinement in a special block, Camp V.

### **FROM BRENT MICKEM**

#### **BISHER AL RAWI**

At the start of his 5th year in prison it pains me to report that the once healthy and extremely articulate Bisher al-Rawi is failing. He is no longer able to withstand the most insidious form of torture being used by the US military: prolonged isolation coupled with environmental manipulation that includes constant exposure to temperature extremes and constant sleep deprivation.

The diminution of Bisher's mental faculties has not taken place all at once. Gradually over time, Bisher simply has worn down. He no longer has the power to withstand the ravages of psychological isolation and constant abuse he suffers. To be sure, Bisher is not the only affected prisoner; attorneys representing other prisoners at Guantanamo report that clients who are being kept in isolation are going insane. But many of those prisoners have spent much less time in solitary than Bisher.

Solitary confinement is but a single aspect of the torture that Bisher endures on a daily basis. While in isolation, Bisher has been constantly subjected to severe temperature extremes and other sensory torments, many of which are part of a sleep deprivation program that never abates. Frequently, Bisher's cell is unbearably cold because the air conditioning is turned up to the maximum. Sometimes his captors take his orange jump suit and sheet, leaving him only in his shorts. For up to a week at a time, Bisher constantly shivers and is unable to sleep because of the extreme cold. Once, when Bisher attempted to warm himself by covering himself with his prayer rug, one of the few "comfort items permitted to him, the guards removed it for "misuse." It has never been returned.

On other occasions, the heat is allowed to become so unbearable that breathing is difficult and laboured. Again, for up to a week at a time, all Bisher can do is lie completely still, sweat pouring off his body during the day when the Cuban temperature can reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit and the temperature inside Camp V is even higher.

Bisher is allowed no contact with fellow prisoners. Bright lights are kept on 24 hours a day. He is given 15 sheets of toilet paper per day but because he used his sheets to cover his eyes to help him sleep, his toilet paper (considered another comfort item) has been removed for "misuse". Accordingly he no longer receives his daily ration of 15 sheets of toilet paper.

Dinner never arrives before 9.30pm and sometimes as late as 12.00 pm. It is always cold. Changes of clothing take place at midnight when prisoners are given a single, thin cotton sheet for sleeping. Because of the noise from the library cart being dragged through the corridor, prisoners are unable to sleep until close on 1.00 am. They are awakened at 5.00 am when each is required to return his sheet

Bisher's treatment is designed to achieve a single objective: to make him lose his psychological balance and, ultimately his mind. Every aspect of Bisher's prison environment is controlled and manipulated to create constant mental instability. What is so ineffably sad about all this is that Bisher realizes he is losing his mind. The damage to Bisher's psyche is, therefore, not unexpected; it is the natural and expected result of prolonged isolation and the elimination of all stimulation and human contact, other than guards and interrogators. The ravages of extended isolation and sensory deprivation leave no marks but destroy the mind.

## **JAMAL EL BANNA**

Jamil, too, is suffering. His diabetes, which had abated during his early imprisonment due to the fact that he was starved and lost more than 100 pounds, has manifested itself again. Unfortunately, he is not being properly treated, primarily because he refuses to trust the medical staff. That mistrust is the direct result of the medical staff's active and direct involvement in the interrogation and torture of prisoners. He is experiencing constant pain in his legs and reports that his eyesight is deteriorating. Although the medical staff has ordered that Jamil be provided with a special diet, the guards who dispense food refuse to provide it, apparently because no one on the medical staff ever thought it important enough to bring the matter to the guards' attention.

As part of the general pattern of mistreatment, mail from prisoners' families is heavily censored. The military routinely block out portions of letters where a family member tells a prisoner that they love or miss him. This has happened to Jamil - letters from his youngest children, especially are heavily censored. The father of David Hicks, from Australia, held until very recently, has reported that similar language was blacked out in his letters to his son.

## **FBI MEMORANDUM**

The Bush Administration continues to deny that the US uses torture but thousands of pages of memoranda generated by FBI field agents at the prison camps released as part of the Freedom of Information Act litigation belie the Administration's assertions and paint a grim and accurate picture.

One FBI memorandum stands out. Document number 5053, dated August 2, 2004, provides an account of what an agent observed at Guantanamo.

"One a couple of occasions, I entered interview rooms to find a detainee chained hand and foot in a foetal position on the floor, with no chair, food or water," it reads. "Most times they had urinated or defecated on themselves and had been left there for 18, 24 hours or more".

Other memoranda detail abuses that include "strangulation, beatings, placement of lit cigarettes into the detainees' ear openings."

## **RED CROSS REPORTS**

The Red Cross reports that the methods used at Guantanamo have over time become "more refined and repressive". Their officials state that military interrogators seek to make detainees dependent upon them through "humiliating acts, solitary confinement, temperature extremes, and use of forced positions". They confirm that prisoners are exposed to loud and incessant noise and music and were subjected to "some beatings." They also report that the military interrogators enlisted the participation of medical personnel in what the report called a "flagrant violation of medical ethics." The Red Cross reports that these medical professionals have become part of the torture and interrogation machine. Their chief function is not the medical care of prisoners but assisting interrogators in extracting information. As a result the prisoners no longer trust doctors and others to whom their treatment is entrusted.

## **STATISTICS**

Almost 100 prisoners have died in US custody; 33 of these deaths are formally classified as homicides by the military. 400 of those classed by the Bush administration as "the worst of the worst" have been released without charge. American forces only captured 5% of prisoners at Guantanamo; 55% were found by the military never to have committed a hostile act against the US or its coalition allies; 85% were turned over to the US in exchange for large bounties."

### ***Brent Mickem***

Copies of Brent Mickem's complete article, are available from the office.

# ***A REMINDER!***

## **VERY IMPORTANT**

### **ACAT CONFERENCE AND AGM**

**SATURDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2007**

**AT BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH, BROADMEAD, BRISTOL**

**10.30 - 4.00**

Speakers will include Craig Murray, who will talk about his experiences as UK ambassador in Uzbekistan and someone from the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. Both speakers should have much to tell us about torture and its after effects.

**Do come and join us on this very important occasion**

## **Another Important and Urgent Reminder**

Margaret Russell is stepping down as Hon Treasurer at the AGM and Richard Dent will not be continuing as Publicity and Development Officer. We urgently need volunteers willing to take up these posts.

Do please consider whether you could take on one of these roles. On the other hand you may know someone suitable we could approach.

The Committee is at present small in number and is in urgent need of new blood. Have you given serious thought to putting your name forward for election at the AGM?

**As a committee member you are able to claim from ACAT all the expenses incurred in working or travelling for ACAT**

# MEMBERS' PAGE

## Fund Raising is fun!

Nelmes URC Hornchurch, Essex has been a group member of ACAT for many years and for the last 9 years has held an annual fund raising evening for ACAT. Church members, their families and friends come along. We're a small church so we need all the extra support.

We've had several Quiz Evenings which are also popular, and concerts - the first one of which was the "do it yourself" variety, not the most talented ever but raising much laughter and appreciation. On two occasions we've been entertained by local singing groups who are sympathetic to our cause and charged very little for their time and talents. It probably helped that the leader of one group is the daughter of one of our Church members and the leader of the other is a faithful member of our Junior Church and is still a close friend of my daughter.

On a completely different tack, our Minister, Rev Phil Nevard, led a very interesting and thought provoking evening on the use of torture, illustrated with slides. It gave rise to some very useful discussion.

In the course of the evening, a Fish and Chip supper appears and is very much enjoyed along with the talk and laughter. This is followed by a raffle - prizes always donated by Church members. This always raises a lot of money - people are really very generous.

At all these events we have a display of ACAT material and someone - usually our Minister, speaks on the work of ACAT so we are getting the message over. And each time so far, we have raised £320+ for ACAT. I recommend other groups or individual members to try something similar.

### *Enid Russell*

It's good to know what other groups do. This sounds good fun. And thank you, Enid and your members, for all your hard work and generosity. Remember if you would like materials for display and/or a speaker for your event, please let us know.

Margaret Russell (No relation!)"

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

Margaret Russell, Hon Treasurer, will give details of the donations given for Alan John Davies - he is due for release from prison in Thailand at the beginning of May. Thanks to all of you who gave - it is still not too late to make a donation. Cheques, made out to ACAT No 2 Account, should be sent to Ken Watson, Prisoner Support Co-ordinator, 34 Wantage Road, Reading RG30 2SF, with a note stating that the money is for Alan John Davies.

## FIACAT CONFERENCE

Margaret Russell and Richard Dent will be attending the seminar entitled "The Ban on Torture - a Principle under Threat, at Lungern in Switzerland from 29 April to 4 May as ACAT (UK)'s delegates. They will be reporting in the next Newsletter.

## OTHER NEWS

Terry and Eleanor Newland received invitations to attend the service in Westminster Abbey on March 27th on behalf of ACAT (UK) to celebrate the passing of the Act to end the Slave Trade 200 year ago. They felt privileged and honoured to be present on this very memorable occasion. It was a great act of Christian worship, which paid tribute to all who took part in the long campaign; it was also an act of repentance. It ended with a commitment to fight the evils of slavery in this present day.

# APPEALS FOR APRIL/MAY

## **PLEASE SEND APPEALS ON BEHALF OF KHABIRUL ISLAM DULAL, BANGLADESH**

**KHABIRUL ISLAM DULAL**, aged 32, municipality commissioner, was arrested on 21 February in Char Fashion, Bhola by 11 navy officers wearing civilian clothing, accused of arms possession. He was blindfolded, his hands tied behind him with a rope and severely beaten. He was dragged home by the rope, where he was again kicked and beaten. His wife was beaten and his children slapped and held at gunpoint. His house was trashed. A neighbours' house was also damaged in the search for weapons. Khabirul Islam Dulal was forcibly fed red chili powder, rice husks and salt in an attempt to get him to hand over weapons. He was then thrown into a nearby pond and nearly drowned. He was then taken to the navy offices where he was stripped, severely beaten and thrown into another pond.

He was taken to the Char Fashion Upazila Health complex where he was declared dead. From there he was moved to the Bhola Sadar Hospital for a post mortem. A report was sent to the Char Fashion Police Station stating that he had injuries consistent with drowning, and torture, including missing toenails and fingernails.

The Navy Contingent gave a different version of events leading to Khabirul Islam Dulal's death and also warned local journalists to write only that he had jumped into a pond when trying to flee. The officer in charge, Lieutenant S M Reza, tried to bribe his family to take no action.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Home Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Bangladesh Secretariat Building 4, Dhaka, Bangladesh (Dear Minister) email: [mediacell@homein-bd.org](mailto:mediacell@homein-bd.org)

Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh (Dear Minister) email: [info@minlaw.gov.bd](mailto:info@minlaw.gov.bd)

### **Copies can be sent to:-**

The High Commissioner, The High Commission of Bangladesh, 28 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5JA

### **SUGGESTED DRAFT LETTER:**

I learned with very great concern of the death on 21 February, while in the custody of the Char Fashion Navy Contingent, Bhola, of **KHABIRUL ISLAM DULAL**, 32, municipality commissioner. I understand that 11 navy officers, 9 of whom were wearing civilian clothing, under the command of Lieutenant Commander S M Reza, arrested him in the belief that he was in possession of arms. According to information he was threatened, severely beaten, tortured- some of his fingernails and toenails were pulled out- and thrown into a pond, where he almost drowned. His wife was beaten and threatened. He was taken to the Char Fashion Upazila Health complex where he was declared dead. A post mortem showed that factors in his death included large amounts of water in his lungs, beatings and torture. Lieutenant Commander S M Reza denied all wrongdoing during a fact finding visit and said that Khabirul Islam Dulal had attempted to escape.

May I call upon the authorities to order a full, impartial investigation into the events surrounding Khabirul Islam Dulal's arrest and subsequent death, the publication in full of its findings and the prosecution of those found responsible.

I appeal for protection to be given to his wife and children and to all potential witnesses and their safety guaranteed. I call for adequate compensation to be paid to his family.

*Yours faithfully or Yours respectfully*

## **PLEASE SEND APPEALS ON BEHALF OF NFOR NGALA NFOR AND 11 OTHERS, CAMEROON**

**Nfor Ngala Nfor, National Vice Chairman of the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC)** and 11 leading members were arrested by security forces, on 20 January in Bamenda, along with others, during a press conference held in the SCNC office. During the arrests excessive force was used and a number were injured. The SCNC advocates increased autonomy for Cameroon's English-speaking minority. Some were released but Nfor Ngala Nfor and 11 others were transferred to Bamenda Central Prison - Ngierwih Asunkwan was released on 6 March but the others are still held incommunicado in Bamenda Central Prison and have not been charged.

As well as Nfor Ngala Nfor, those detained include :-

**MBINGLO H. HUMPHREY**, northern zone chairman  
**TANTO SIMON**, national auditor and national information bureau member  
**STEPHEN KONGNSO**, county chairman, Bui  
**HENRY LAMNYAM**, county secretary, Donga Mantung  
**ACHU NJEI DAVID**, organising secretary, Mezam County  
**NGUEMO CLEMENT**, financial secretary, Santa LGA  
**LUCAS CHE NGWA, DZENI AUGUSTINE SHIYNTUM, MONGO STEVEN**, activists  
**MBI ANN-RITA EYONG**, vice chairman, Kumba LGA

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO:**

Mr Amadou Ali, Minister of State Responsible for Justice, Keeper of the Seals, Ministry of Justice, 1000 Yaounde, Cameroon. (Dear Minister)

Mr Remy Ze Meka, Minister of Defence, Ministry of Defence, 1000 Yaounde, Cameroon (Dear Minister)

**Copies can be sent to:** The High Commissioner, The High Commission of Cameroon, 84 Holland Park, London W11 3SB

### **SUGGESTED DRAFT LETTER**

I wish to bring to your attention the continued incommunicado detention in Bamenda Central Prison of **NFOR NGALA NFOR**, National Vice-chairman of the Southern Cameroons National Council, together with other officers and activists from the organisation

(you can include other names if you wish)

I understand that they, together with others later released, were arrested by security forces on 20 January during a press conference held at the SCNC office in Bamenda. There are reports that excessive force was used during the raid and that a number of people were injured.

May I urgently appeal for immediate access to be granted to their families and their lawyers. I appeal to you to ensure that while in detention they are held under conditions which conform to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and have not been subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment.

May I call for their immediate release unless they are to be charged with specific criminal offences and brought to trial in accordance with international standards of fair trial. May I also ask for an independent inquiry into the reported use of excessive force during the arrests, which led to a number of injuries.

***Yours faithfully or Yours respectfully***

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS OF FALUN GONG, CHINA**

**LIANG WENJIAN, (f) 39 her husband, LIN ZHIYONG, aged about 40**

**LI DONGMEI (F) WANG HE WU JIANGYAN+ 3 others**

All are members of Faun Gong, a spiritual movement, detained on 10 February by plain clothes police officers, for participating in an illegal gathering at the home of Liang Wenjian and Lin Zhiyong. Seven of the eight have been assigned to 2 years' "re- education through Labour (RTL)." This is a form of administrative detention without charge, trial or judicial review. They are believed held at Panyu detention centre in Guangzhou city, Guangdong province, awaiting transfer to an RTL facility. They are held in incommunicado detention.

Liang Wenjian had been assigned to an RTL from Feb 2000 to April 2001. She was tortured and ill-treated in detention and made to work up to 14 hours a day making artificial flowers.

Tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been detained in China since the movement was banned in 1999. Those accused of being Falun Gong leaders or organisers have been imprisoned; others have been held in psychiatric hospitals. Most are held in RTL facilities and many have been tortured or ill-treated, especially those who refuse to renounce their beliefs. Over 2000 members have been recorded as having died since the crackdown began. It has been alleged that in many instances, organs for transplant have been taken from those who have died in custody. This has yet to be confirmed.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO:-**

HUANG Huahua Shengzhang, Guangdongsheng Renmin Zhengfu, 9 Lou, 305 Dongfeng Zhonglu, Guangzhoushi 510031, Guangdongsheng, People's Republic of China (Governor of Guangdong) Dear Governor

LIANG Guoju Tingzhang, Guangdongsheng Gong'anting, 97 Huanghualu, Guangzhoushi 510050, Guangdongsheng, People's Republic of China (Director of the Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Public Security) Dear Director)

**Copies can be sent to:-**

The Ambassador, The Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 49-51 Portland Place, London W1N 3JL (Your Excellency)

**SUGGESTED DRAFT LETTER:**

It was with great concern that I learned of the detention of the following eight Falun Gong practitioners:  
(add names )

I understand that they were arrested on 10 February at a meeting in the home of LIANG WENJIAN and her husband, LIN ZHIYONG and that seven have been assigned to 2 years' RTL. According to reports they are held at Panyu detention centre in Guangzhou city, Guangdong province and are awaiting transfer to an RTL facility.

I am concerned that they have been detained in violation of their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, association and religious belief. I call upon the authorities to release them immediately and unconditionally. While in custody I ask that they are not subjected to any form of torture and ill-treatment and that their safety is guaranteed. May I appeal for access to be granted to their families, their lawyers and to adequate medical care.

May I call upon the authorities to end the political crackdown against the Falun Gong spiritual movement, which has resulted in many human rights violations. May I also urge the abolition of RTL and appeal to the authorities to ensure that all criminal offences punishable with deprivation of liberty are brought within the scope of the Criminal Law."

*Yours faithfully or Yours respectfully*

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS ON BEHALF OF PURADI PRASAD PANDEY, NEPAL**

Puradi Prasad Pandey, 20, from Mamma Village Development Committee Ward no 9, Kalicot district, has received death threats since filing a case under the Torture Compensation Act on 23 February. He had filed a case against three police officers from the District Police Office, Kalicot, whom he alleges tortured him while in detention. They have each threatened him with death.

He was arrested without a warrant on several occasions on a charge of murder, the first occasion on 6 December; he was very severely beaten with a thick plastic pipe by DPO SI Jagat Rawal and another policeman. He was released on 17 December and rearrested on 22 December and held for 11 days. He was beaten very severely by SI Jagat Rawal and Police Inspector Man Bahadur Chaudhary, who also hanged him upside down, beating him until he lost consciousness. He was released on 3 January and arrested once more on 21st, when he was tortured again. On his release his case was taken up by an NGO; he was given medical treatment. He has not been charged.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO:-**

Minister of Home Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal (Dear Minister)

**Copies can be sent to:-**

The Ambassador, The Embassy of Nepal, 12a Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QU (Your Excellency)

**SUGGESTED DRAFT LETTER**

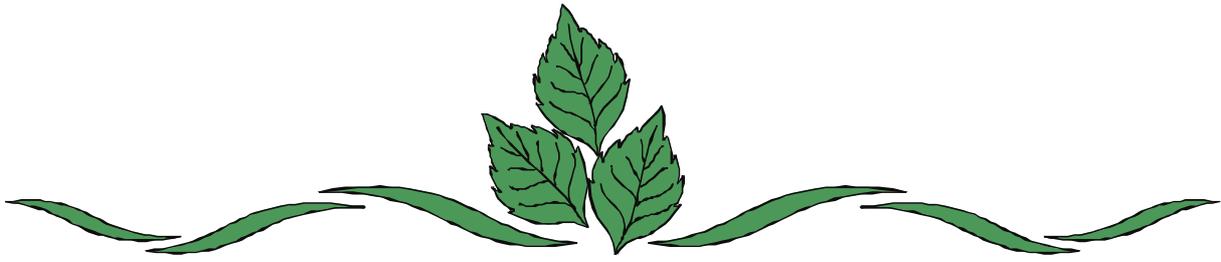
I have learned with very great concern of the case of PURADI PRASAD PANDEY, 20, from Mamma Village Development Committee Ward No 9, Kalicot district. I understand that between the beginning of December and the end of January he was arrested several times without a warrant and accused of a murder. On each occasion he was severely beaten and tortured. On 23 February he filed a case for compensation against three police officers from the District Police Office Kalicot - Sub Inspector Jagat Bahadur Rawal, Police Inspector Man Bahadur Chaudhary and Assistant Sub inspector Kamal G.C., whom, he alleged had subjected him to torture.

According to information the district court issued summons against the named defendants. Since that day Puradi Prasad Pandey has received death threats from each of the police officers named.

I respectfully call upon the authorities to ensure the safety of Puradi Prasad Pandey and to order an investigation into the threats made against him by the police officers involved in his case. May I call for their suspension from duty whilst the investigation is carried out into the death threats and also the allegations of his torture by these officers. I call for the findings of the investigations to be made public and for action to be taken in the courts against those found to have taken any part in these illegal activities.

I also urge that the compensation claim by Pradi Prasad Pandey under the Compensation Act be expedited and that you ensure that he receives adequate compensation in view of the beatings, torture and death threats to which he was subjected

*Yours faithfully or Yours respectfully*



## **PLEASE SEND APPEALS ON BEHALF OF TENDAYI GONESO, ZIMBABWE/ UNITED KINGDOM**

Tendayi Goneso, 34, an accountant and successful business man, who is recovering from lung cancer, fled to the UK in 2003. He was an activist for the opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change and as a result was savagely beaten and his businesses threatened. He left behind his wife, Chiedze and three children in Zimbabwe; his wife was then murdered as an act of revenge. He is now prominent in the MDC's British group and chairs the Walsall branch; he is a leading fund raiser.

He applied for asylum but his application was rejected; he then made a second application, arguing that his work for the MDC makes it impossible for him to return. He has now been informed that his benefits have been ended and he knows that he may be forcibly returned to Zimbabwe. He has no means of financial support (he is not allowed to work) and relies on charity; it is also likely that he will be evicted.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO: -**

Your MP, asking him to take us this case - he/she may already know of it - at The House of Commons, Westminster, London SW 1A 0AA

Or you can write to the Home Secretary, Rt Hon John Reid, Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT

### **SUGGESTED DRAFT LETTER:**

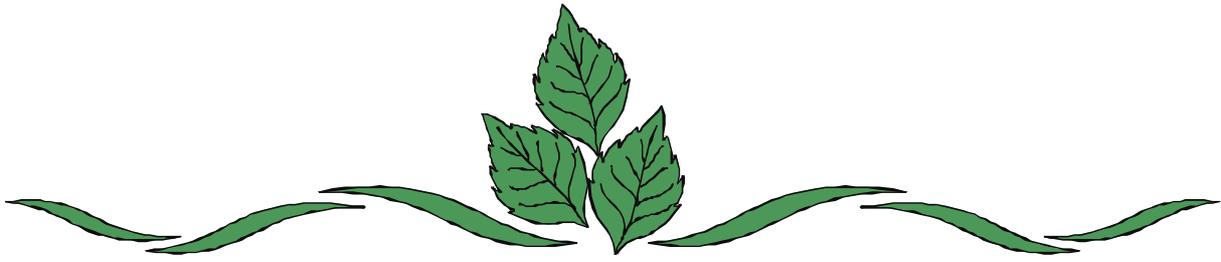
I wish to bring to your attention the case of TENDAYI GONESO, who came to the UK as an asylum seeker from Zimbabwe in 2003. His application for asylum has been rejected and financial benefits have now been withdrawn. He is very fearful that he will be returned to Zimbabwe.

Tendayi Goneso, aged 34, was a successful businessman and accountant, with a wife and three children. He became an activist in the Movement for Democratic Change and brought down upon himself and his family the wrath of the ruling party. He was savagely beaten and his businesses threatened. After his flight to the UK his wife died as a result of injuries inflicted by the paramilitaries as revenge for his escape from the country.

Since his arrival in this country he has become a leading activist in the MDC in exile and is chair of the Walsall branch. His work here on behalf of the MDC, together with the fact that he was targeted in Zimbabwe for his campaigning for the opposition party and the murder of his wife by the paramilitaries, will ensure his arrest, torture and likely death should he be returned to Zimbabwe

I understand that the Prime Minister has said that what is happening in Zimbabwe is appalling, disgraceful and utterly tragic for the people and yet the British Government is still prepared to send back some political activists who are known to have incurred the anger of the ruling party. May I call for an urgent review of the case of Tendayi Goneso by a senior Immigration Officer and for him to be granted leave to remain until a significant improvement in the political system in Zimbabwe allows him to return in safety.

*Your faithfullys*



## REPLIES TO APPEALS

A number of members have received letters from the Office of the Attorney General, Thailand, regarding the disappearance of THARES SODSRI, an environmental activist. He was found dead in a mine belonging to a local politician, who had reportedly ordered his abduction and murder. On 16 and 17 December the police arrested the alleged murderers and a village headman. Let us hope they receive due justice! It was so pleasing for members to receive replies, especially from the authorities in Thailand rather than from the Embassy and for the amount of detail it gave. At least there have been arrests in this case.

A number of members also wrote to their M.P.'s concerning the case of Bisher al-Rawi, Jamma al-Banna, and other British residents, held in Guantanamo; the minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Feb/March Newsletter) responsible for policy on Guantanamo replied. He gave little new information except to say that the families of some British nationals, together with British residents were appealing against the Court of Appeal's decision, which confirmed that the ruling of the High Court concerning the Foreign Secretary's decision not to request the release and return of detainee claimants was lawful. We will have to wait and see what the House of Lords decides.

## LATE NEWS

It was announced by the Foreign Secretary, Margaret Beckett on March 29th that Bisher al-Rawi, was to be released and flown back to the UK. This is good news! It seems that the fact that he had acted as a go-between for M15 and Abu Qatada, the fundamentalist Islamic preacher, resulted in a change of heart on the part of the Government which has always insisted that it would not seek the release of British residents held in Guantanamo. This decision does not mean that the other UK residents held at Guantanamo will be free to return to the UK. More campaigning will be needed, together with a favourable decision from the House of Lords.

## RAPE

When drafting the cases to place in the Newsletters, I am aware of members' sensibilities and so do not include many of the horrifying details of torture.

An article on rape in time of war and civil conflict was included in the December/ January edition of the Newsletter. One or two members did not feel comfortable with this and felt the content "too graphic". I thought long and hard about what to include. I felt that I owed it to those who had been subjected to such horrendous acts to at least give some idea of their suffering. From our comfort zone in the West we could then in some small way begin to understand what had happened to them, pray with them and for them. The accounts and reports I read in order to obtain the necessary information about rape were truly terrible, very distressing and especially those from the Democratic Republic of Congo, quite overwhelming in their numbers and their content. I could have included so much more than I did - the article I wrote only touched the surface. There were so many stories told by those who had suffered more than I could ever imagine, that I wanted to weep. So often we sanitise torture, including rape just as we do the Good Friday story.

*Eleanor Newland*

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

**KHABIRUL ISLAM SULAL, BANGLADESH, 32**, municipality commissioner, arrested by navy officers in February, accused of arms possession, beaten, tortured, and thrown into a pond; he died as a result of his treatment; pray for his family; pray for an end to ill-treatment and torture of suspects in Bangladesh

**NFOR NGALA NFOR**, national vice-chairman of the southern Cameroon's National Council (SCNC) and 10 other leading members, arrested in January in Bamenda; they are held incommunicado in Bamenda Central Prison

**LIANG WENJIAN, her husband LIN ZHIYONG, LIN DONGMEI, WANG HE, WU JIANGYAN and 3 others, CHINA**, members of Falun Gong (a peaceful spiritual movement) arrested 10 February; 7 have been assigned 2 years' re-education through labour; at the moment believed held in Panayu detention centre, Guangzhou city; the Falun Gong movement was banned in 1999 and since then tens of thousands have been held - many have been tortured and ill-treated, over 2000 have died. Pray for an end to the persecution of this movement.

**PURADI PRASAD PANDEY, NEPAL**, from Kalikot District, received death threats from 3 named police officers, after he had filed for compensation on 23 February under the Torture Compensation Act; he had been arrested on several occasions in December and January and held for several days; he was severely tortured and beaten.

**TENDAYI GONESO, ZIMBABWE**, an asylum seeker in the UK who fled Zimbabwe in 2003, following a severe beating given because of his membership of the opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change; his wife, Chiedza died as a result of an attack from paramilitaries - they took revenge on her because he had fled; he is a leading political activist for the MDC in Walsall; he has been refused asylum and has had his benefits taken away; if he loses his appeal he could be sent back; pray for him, his 3 children in Zimbabwe and all Zimbabwean refugees who are in danger of being returned.

**AMOUNA ABDALLAH DALDOUM, 23 and SADIA IDRIES FADUL, 22, SUDAN**, members of the Tama tribe, Darfur, have been sentenced to death by stoning for adultery by a court in Managil province, Gazeera state; they have appealed against the sentence.

### ***Lord Jesus***

You experienced in person the sufferings and death of a prisoner.  
You were plotted against, betrayed by a friend  
And arrested under cover of darkness by men who came with clubs and swords.  
You were tortured, beaten and humiliated  
And sentenced to an agonising death, though you had done no wrong.  
Be now with prisoners throughout the world.  
Be with them in the darkness of the dungeon,  
in "ghost" houses, police stations, labour camps  
In the loneliness of separation from those they love;  
Be with them in their fear of what may come to them,  
In the agony of their torture and in the face of execution and death.  
Stretch out your hands in power  
To break their chains and to open the gate of freedom,  
So that your kingdom of justice may be established among them

***From Let My People Go***

## PRISONER SUPPORT NOTES

I should like to welcome those new members who have recently started to write to a prisoner in Kabwe; I am sure that they will find it very rewarding and I am always here to try to help if any problems should arise.

I have now been advised by Father Bohan that he will be away from Zambia for several weeks during the summer and I feel, therefore, that it is necessary to make an adjustment to the dates when funds will be transferred as outlined in the last Newsletter. The proposed transfer at the end of May will therefore not now take place, and I propose that the transfer due at the end of August should be brought forward to the beginning of that month. There is no one in Kabwe who is able to receive and distribute donations when Father Bohan is away and I would want to satisfy myself that Father Bohan had returned before putting in hand the next bank transfer. So, I would like any cheques for the next transfer, made out to "ACAT No 2 account", as usual, to be with me by the 23rd July, to allow time for clearance, upon the presumption that Father Bohan will have returned to Kabwe by the end of that month, which I understand will probably be the case.

I understand from Margaret Turner that Webby Chisanga has now been moved back to the Maximum Security Prison, Kabwe. Any donations for him should now be sent to me for forwarding to Father Bohan and not sent to Margaret Turner.

should be glad to receive as soon as convenient any outstanding details of the persons with whom members are in touch, and if financial support is provided to them through someone other than ACAT. These can be given by letter, phone or by e-mail. Please accept my thanks in advance for enabling me to keep up to date.

**Kenneth Watson, 34 Wantage Road, Reading, RG30 2SF Tel: 0118 950 9047.**

**e-mail ken335@btinternet.com**

## SOS TORTURE

It's good to report that a steady stream of appeals has been landing on the desks of authority people in countries where incidents of torture, arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and other sometimes horrifying violations of human dignity and integrity have taken place. 24 writers belong to the SOS scheme, most of which have said how many appeals per month they are willing to send. One of us has retired after many years of honourable service and there is no limit to the number of ACAT (UK) members who can sign up for the scheme.

**Please write to me at:**

**3 Pool Field Avenue,  
Northfield  
Birmingham B31 1ER**

with your contact details and full instructions will be sent!

**Anselm, SSF**

## PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER

### Lord

Through your death and resurrection  
you have broken the hold of evil in our world  
to proclaim justice for those who are tormented,  
tortured and destroyed by other men's cruelty  
and greed for power.

We pray to you that all those who suffer will  
swiftly find peace, comfort and freedom,  
And renew our hearts to work for their cause.  
We ask this in your Name. **Amen**

### Lord,

Help us to see in the groaning of creation  
not death throes but birth pangs;  
help us to see in suffering a promise

for the future,  
because it is a cry against the inhumanity

of the present.  
Help us to glimpse in protest the

dawn of justice,  
in the Cross the pathway to resurrection,  
and in suffering the seeds of joy.

Ruben Alves Brazil

(For those in solitary confinement,

especially those in Guantanamo -

the darkness can be taken literally or as a  
symbol of their isolation and mental distress)

Father, you are a God who lies hidden  
and yet there is nowhere cut of from your  
presence,

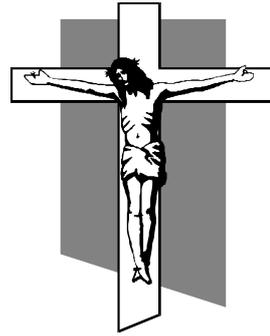
no-one who can be locked away from your care.  
Do not remain hidden from those  
who have been shut away by their fellow men  
in the loneliness and isolation  
of solitary confinement.

Even the darkness is not dark for you,  
and the night is as clear as day.

Even in the darkest dungeon,  
even behind the bars and the bolted doors  
of the smallest prison cell,  
your hand is there to lead them  
and hold them fast.

Be with them now  
as their light and their hope in the darkness.

Speak to them your Word in their silence and pour  
into their cells and their hearts



your Spirit of courage and strength.  
Warm them with your presence and your love,  
and show them that they are never alone,  
for you are with them always.  
Amen

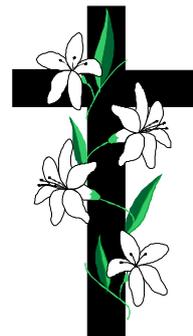
***Bishop Trevor Huddleston, who campaigned  
against  
evils of apartheid and wrote "Naught for your  
Comfort" once said:-***

***I have found Jesus where every Christian  
should  
expect to find him; in the darkness, in the  
fear, in  
the blinding weariness of Calvary.  
And Calvary is but one step from the  
Empty Tomb.***

We cannot take the full measure of the world's  
sorrows but Christ has died,  
Christ has risen and Christ will triumph;  
the world's evil will be swallowed up by the

goodness of our God;  
the clamour of war will be silenced by the

peace of our God;  
the despair of humanity in all its need will be  
overruled by the hope which Christ inspires.



# A Final Thought

*Blessed are they that hunger and thirst  
after righteousness: For they shall be  
filled.*

We hope you have found this newsletter interesting and challenging.

Contributions from members ( and others )are always welcome - particularly your activities for ACAT.

Please send any material hand written, typed, or e-mail

To:-

**Margaret Russell  
47 Stoneleigh Rd  
Knowle Park  
BRISTOL BS4 2RH.**

**e-mail:-  
uk.acat@gmail.com**

**Please send material for the  
Jun./Jul. 2007 mailing to reach  
us by  
May15th**

Contact Address:-

Terry and Eleanor Newland,  
ACAT(UK) Tel. 01752 843417  
8 Southfield  
SALTASH  
Cornwall PL12 4LX

**Registered Charity No. 1072628**

PRESIDENT Rev. Paul Oestreicher  
PATRONS Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Bishop Peter Price,  
Professor Lord David Alton, Rev. Dr. David Deeks Rev. Dr. David Cornick.