



# Action

by

# Christians

*All that is  
required for the  
triumph of evil is  
that good men do  
nothing*

# Against

# torture

June/July 2015

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*'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance'*

*Acts 2:1-4*

## Letter from the Chairman

I am writing this letter on a warm Bank Holiday afternoon following the Day of Pentecost.

To my mind Pentecost is the whole reason for being a Christian, God is giving us mere humans the power of the Holy Spirit to go out into the world spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

He gives us the power to do so but He doesn't tell us HOW to do it, that is left to us to work out. Probably this is one reason for the sometimes chaotic world we live in. How do we spread the Good News? Will people listen to us?

Maybe, one way of spreading the Good News is by actions rather than the spoken word. I believe so anyway.

One reason for the existence of ACAT - UK: the first word of our name says it all - **ACTION** - not sitting back talking about matters but actually going out into the world doing something. In our case, Torture and ill treatment is our Pentecost action. Writing our appeals, supporting Prisoners, praying for them. We could do this without the Spirit and Power of Pentecost but it would be a poor imitation of what we have been tasked to do. God sent His Holy Spirit to empower and to enable us to do things in His name thus giving us the strength to do so.

We must use this Power that God gave to us. While we say we are followers of Christ, we are often dismiss what God gave us in, with, and through the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus by not following through His commandments through the promise of the Holy Spirit, which does have the power to sustain and strengthen us.

Jesus' words make us able to receive and to use the Holy Spirit through her we see God work and move.

We saw it with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, with Oscar Romero and many other Christian people. God's will, it seems, is to break through the situations that oppress people, but doing God's will is often hard and dangerous. Thus, many of us opt out. We call ourselves Christian while we ignore the words of the Christ, who died that we might have life, and have it abundantly - no matter who we are.

So where are we going with this? Each one of us through membership of ACAT -UK has demonstrated to God that they are willing to work in the field of human rights whether in a small way though prayer for the prisoners or by writing appeals etc.

However, there is a great need at the moment with us.

Our AGM is approaching rapidly, I once again urge you to prayerfully consider whether you can use your gift of the Holy Spirit by helping on the Committee. I have indicated further in this mailing which skill areas we are particularly in need of and it could well be that you find that you could join us. We are a very friendly group! Especially, we will need a Chairman as I am definitely standing down after 3 years in the post.

Full details about the AGM together with nomination forms will be included with the August/ September mailing so there is plenty of time to speak with family and friends, but most importantly GOD. We have one speaker this year, but this speaker will I am sure be able to tell of his experiences in prison where he was tortured and ill treated for some years. David Fulton. I know he will prove to be an eye opener to what takes place in some countries. An active Christian he used the gift of the Holy Spirit to go out and tell people so they can then work to alleviate the pain which he went through. Come and listen to him, you will never know where God's Holy Spirit will take you.

I hope and pray that the Holy Spirit will make herself known to you all as the Spirit of peace and of healing and of hope. Hope that one day our work will no longer be needed and that people will never experiences of abuse and ill treatment to them.

Best wishes

Margaret Russell

# **AGM AND CONFERENCE**

**In the last mailing we accidentally gave an incorrect date for the AGM and Conference. Please note that the correct date is**

**SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

The AGM and Conference will again be held in Bristol in Broadmead Baptist Church, Union St.

Tea and coffee will be provided, but you will need to bring your lunch although there are very good shops around including a Tesco Metro and Subway.

Donations will be taken to offset the cost of [putting on the event. We realise some members may like to attend but have difficulty in finding the travel costs. If this is so please contact our Treasurer Ray Dunnett as we may be able to assist.

Nomination paperwork will be included with the next mailing, although this time we will not be asking for a seconder to back up a nomination. It stopped several people putting themselves forward last time.

As already detailed we have David Fulton as our Speaker, and we are sure you will be both challenged and moved by his story.

We look forward to see you on the day.

## Remember in your prayers

**The Human Rights situation in Mexico** despite making the right noises, the Mexican authorities have failed to properly tackle the issue. Claims of torture are rarely properly investigated, and scant few perpetrators are ever brought to justice.

**Claudia Medina Tamariz** arrested, unfairly tried and ill treated. Charges subsequently dropped.

**Marley Chani** **Algeria** Held in solitary confinement and tortured for 20 days at the hands of the Department of Intelligence and Security (DRS) in 2009, Marley Chani was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment following an unfair trial. Retried in 2012 and sentenced to 18 years imprisonment. Now on Hunger strike.

**Naji Fateel** **Bahrain** Human rights advocate and victim of torture

**Sami Essid** **Tunisia** Victim of the consequences of the fight against terrorism

All prisoners and Human Rights defenders on the Night Vigil Prayer list.

**David Fulton** Imprisoned and tortured in The Gambia to be our speaker at the AGM and Conference

That we may find new committee members who can help lead us over the next few years.

For Luxemburg as they take over Presidency of the European Union.

## PRAYER

*Loving Lord Jesus  
You see the pain and anguish of families torn  
from  
their loved ones by cruel and evil men.*

*You weep for them.  
We lift up to you the families of the  
disappeared, those held  
Incommunicado*

*and those whose loved ones have been tortured  
and murdered.*

*We commend them in their suffering into your  
loving arms,*

*bring them consolation, comfort and peace.*

*We give you thanks for all who fight to reveal  
the truth  
about disappearances and massacres,  
for all who campaign for justice for their loved  
ones.*

*We ask this for your Name's Sake. Amen*

## **Torture, global scourge**

Practised in almost half of the States of the world, torture tackles beliefs, the beliefs of the victim to strip it of its identity. It is the tool of a power that wants to humiliate and terrorize and submit a population. This destruction is housed behind the silence of those who know and don't want to or don't dare say anything.

Torture is the face of a world of violence, injustice, misery.

## **Torture, unacceptable**

Nothing could justify the use of torture, which degrades and debases the human. More than 191 States are members of the United Nations and adhere to the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights of 1948,

Article 5 states: No person shall be subjected to torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

For Christians, torture is incompatible with the Gospel message.

What can we do?

Torture is not a fatality! Each day prisoners are released through campaigns of press and letters. The pressure of public opinion can be very effective. Each of us has a role to play: together, we can make back this scourge and consider its complete disappearance.

## **ACAT**

Since 1974, ACAT (Action of Christians Against Torture) campaigns for those who are tortured, imprisoned in inhumane conditions, or who disappeared, regardless of their country, their race, their political and religious views.

Born into a cry of protest before the horror of torture, ACAT wants to offer a service on behalf of the Gospel to humankind. And for this, it arouses in churches and Christian communities action for the abolition of torture, particularly by the denunciation of cases of ill-treatment and the writing of letters in response to "urgent appeals".

## **At the centre of any action is prayer**

From its origins, deliberately ecumenical, ACAT brings together Catholics, Anglicans, Orthodox and other Christians. It is independent of any institutional framework of the churches, of any political grouping, of ideology and economic interest.

Christians have an own responsibility in prayer, which, far from being an excuse, is a call to action: prayer for the tortured and their persecutors, is praying for the release of the victims, for the reconciliation of man to God.

From ACAT Luxemburg (amended)

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## **European Union:**

### **Time to take torture seriously!**

*2015 action launched by ACAT Luxembourg, in cooperation with the European ACATs and FIACAT, and with the support of Amnesty International Luxembourg*

Today, 30 years after the historic adoption of the Convention against Torture, and despite almost universal condemnation of such methods, torture is still practised worldwide. Half the countries of the world use it on a systematic basis against political opponents, the poorer sections of the population, common law prisoners, migrants and refugees: Uzbekistan, Yemen, the Philippines, Mexico, Congo, to name but a few. Something needs to be done as a matter of urgency to stop this trend and eradicate torture around the world.

### **TORTURE ...**

Electrical discharges, beatings, burns, sleep deprivation, waterboarding, long hours spent in painful positions ... Torture takes many forms. It is practised openly as a means of terror or simply as a means of eliciting information, in which case, those responsible rarely admit to using torture, preferring to call it 'questioning'.

## **PROHIBITED IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES**

Torture is an unacceptable, barbarous practice; it is also illegal, prohibited under international law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that:

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 5).

The Convention against Torture, which was adopted on 10 December 1984, reiterates this absolute ban and sets out the obligations deriving from it. A large majority of countries are parties to the convention and have thus undertaken to comply with the ban. The convention has been backed up by an optional protocol, which provides for national mechanisms for the prevention of torture, entailing visits to places of deprivation of liberty. To date, only 77 out of 194 states are parties to the protocol, and only 60 countries have actually set up this kind of inspection mechanism.

## **WHY PETITION THE EUROPEAN UNION?**

Torture and inhuman treatment also take place in European countries, as is evidenced by the reports of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), which visits detention centres, and the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights.

But you might think that there is not so much of a risk here ...

Why then did so many European countries agree so readily to cooperate in the CIA's secret torture operations from 2001 as part of the fight against terrorism, thereby ignoring their commitment never to engage or be involved in such practices?

A US Senate report, published on 9 December 2014, confirms that brutal techniques were used by the CIA against many detainees over a number of years. Various investigations have shown that European countries were complicit in such acts of violence and provided the CIA with secret detention sites. Former detainees have said that they were beaten, deprived of sleep for long periods of time and subjected to near drowning. Other EU countries, , are believed to have facilitated such operations, especially rendition flights. Any calls for justice on these practices have so far been rebuffed by the authorities on grounds of state secrecy. Such operations must be fully investigated in the various Member States concerned and those responsible must be brought to justice.

It is to be feared, following the terrorist attacks that took place at the beginning of 2015, that European countries will again be tempted to consider human rights and basic freedoms as being of secondary importance, and to give top priority to security concerns.

LET'S CALL ON THE EU TO SET AN EXAMPLE, LET'S CALL ON THE EU TO TAKE A CONSISTENT STANCE IN ITS EXTERNAL RELATIONS

[Sign the petition online: Time to take torture seriously!](#)

## **European ACAT'S Petition EU Council Presidency to Fight Against Torture**

On the eve of Luxembourg's Presidency of the EU Council, which opens on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015, ACAT-Luxembourg, supported by the rest of the European ACATs, including ACAT-UK, will present the following petition:

We, the undersigned, urge the Luxembourg Government, as it takes on the EU Council Presidency:

- to give efforts to promote human dignity the absolute priority they deserve, in line with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;
- To remain steadfast in emphasising that torture is unacceptable and illegal in all circumstances, including in the face of terrorist threats;
- to make every possible effort to ensure that Europe sets an example in the fight against torture; it can do so by demanding that the EU Member States accede to and implement all UN instruments against torture, abide by all the recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and conduct exhaustive investigations into any allegations of torture, including with regard to any involvement of their agencies in CIA secret operations, with a view to bringing those responsible to justice;
- to bring all the EU's influence to bear on other countries and regions around the world in order to ensure that they comply with the prohibition of torture; it can do so by applying the EU Guidelines on Torture, and in particular by intervening on specific cases brought to its attention or to that of its Member States;

- To provide effective support for programmes for the prevention of torture and the rehabilitation of torture victims;
  - To guarantee that protection will be provided to all asylum seekers in Europe who would be exposed to the risk of torture and inhuman treatment if they were to return to their countries;
  - To urge the countries taking on the EU Council Presidency after Luxembourg to do likewise.
- 

***Jesus said, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents & innocent as doves."  
(Matthew 10:16)***

There's only one conclusion to be drawn from that verse. We're called to be vulnerable. Our Jesus-driven mission is to be vulnerable.

Sheepish. Dovish. But not Dumbish.

We're the people who see violence & respond with non-violence.

We're the people who face down state power without coveting it for ourselves. We don't combat hate speech with hate but with love.

We refuse to create community by finding a good common enemy.

Jesus wants us first to be loving, vulnerable & non-violent, & secondly to not be completely stupid about it. Sheep & doves trump wolves & snakes, while knowing that there are wolves & snakes.

And so to another animal: the Impala which is one of the few creatures on earth that can out-jump the Olympic long jump champions.

The Impala has a supercharged spring. It can high jump over 3m & can long jump over 9m. You would think that the zoos of the world would find it impossible to keep such an animal enclosed. Not so! It's actually rather easy. Experts have discovered something about the Impala ... it will not jump unless it can see where it's going to land. So, even a 2m high solid wall is a sufficient enclosure.

Lots of Christians have the Impala problem. They won't take a leap of faith unless they have all the answers in advance about where that leap will take them. They're not willing to make themselves truly vulnerable. But God is looking for bold believers - bold enough to be vulnerable - believers who, even in the face of the unknown, will leap when the Spirit says leap, fly when the Spirit says fly, launch when the Spirit says launch. May we each be counted among them.

*With acknowledgement to Revd Adrian Bulley, former moderator of URC Wessex Synod)*

## Looking at Prisons.

It was a chance reading of a website article which started me looking at deaths in prisons; this was a particularly awful one in a US jail, and I wondered how many more unnatural deaths occur in UK and US prisons. It is not what I expected of so-called civilised nations, but was an eye-opener. The last time I visited a prison, and then a borstal, was in 1969, and the atmosphere and buildings did not seem too grim. But it was not me staying there in the rather sadly painted rooms, regulation dark blue.

For 2014, there were only 20 deaths in the UK in custody, having dropped from 2003, when it was 62. Causes as yet not looked into, but in prisons, deaths from non-self-inflicted causes were 141 in 2014, one of the highest in many years, and these figures do not include deaths in immigration removal or detention centres. These figures need breaking down to see how many were 'unnatural'. In 2013, for instance, there were 2 prosecutions for unlawful killings, 1 for a police shooting and the officer is to stand trial in June 2015; the other in immigration with an acquittal verdict. Both victims were black men.

In the US, so much bigger than the UK, the figures are offered by the Department of Justice, who reports that in 2012, 4,309 inmates died, 3,351 of these in the custody of state prisons, an increase of 2% from 2011.

Sadly, the majority of these are people committing suicide, but lately, there are alarming reports in newspapers and on the internet of 'unnecessary deaths', i.e. those caused by medical neglect, deliberate wounding, (torture) by their guards and other violent means. Illness does take its toll, especially for the over 55s, but for so-called 1<sup>st</sup> world nations, especially the US, this leaves a lot to be desired. Eg. A woman, Kyam Livingstone, after lying on the floor of a cell for 7 hours, begging for help, --died. Too late for a hospital then! Another, a black man, with a dirty cell, put into a boiling hot shower and left for ages, when taken to a medical room, was found to have such a high body temperature, that it was off the scales. He died.

These are just 2 cases which, I feel, should never have happened. There are others where inmates have told relatives that they are sure they will be killed—by their guards-- before their release dates. And I have read of 3 cases like this. So, I will be looking further into this to see what, if anything, we can do.

Janet Norwood

## THE BITER BIT ?

We probably all know that this country has a Human Rights Act. And that the newly appointed Minister of Justice, Michael Gove, has been given the job of dismantling it. I am not going to discuss here the rights or wrongs of that decision, but just to say how fortunate we are to have a Human Rights act at all. Most countries do not.

One of the countries that doesn't have the equivalent of the Human Rights Act is, I am told, Syria. Or at least it doesn't have any Act which can put the President or members of the ruling party on trial there for inhuman behaviour towards the population. But it is Syria where official documents have been discovered and smuggled out of the country which provides enough evidence to indict President Bashar al-Assad and 24 senior members of his regime. This might possibly mean the President could be ousted along with many of his administration being brought to justice.

The official documents reveal that tens of thousands of suspected dissidents (those who disagree with Assad's government), have been detained, tortured and even killed in the Syrian prison system. Disagreement very often led to arrest, and detention in extremely overcrowded prisons where inmates were squeezed together for days or even weeks, until many died. The regime used many forms of torture, including stuffing a prisoner into a tyre and then beating him, or suspending him by his wrists for long periods, and many others almost too horrific to contemplate.

There is no Court or Tribunal in the country to judge alleged acts of torture and crimes against humanity. So how is it going to be possible to bring those said to have carried out these crimes to justice?

One organisation, the Commission for International Justice and Accountability (CIJA), has enough documents to establish that a regime of repression, torture, detention and death was deliberately established by the Assad government, and to bring the perpetrators to justice. The only problem is that there is no Court which can hear those cases. The Russians still use their power of veto over the issue of referring the Syrian situation to the International Criminal Court.

However, the fact that the evidence of torture and inhumane treatment of many innocent people is mounting will, it is hoped, bring pressure for a proper Tribunal to be set up eventually.

That would at least be a big step towards the establishment of something like the Human Rights Act for Syria. But don't hold your breath. It won't happen tomorrow, sadly!

(Many thanks to The Guardian newspaper report for the basis of this article.)

Richard Dent.

## WANTED

At the last Committee meeting we discussed the real need for new blood on the committee, so we looked at what areas we were needing help with and what skills if any could be used.

We need.

- A Chairman. This is a must as the Chairman represents ACAT and the overall organisation.
- Someone who can put the mailing together. Articles are submitted by various peoples but the mailing needs to be edited and put in a format .
- A Secretary who can provide much needed secretarial skills.
- People with an interest in Human Rights who might feel they have nothing to offer. We all thought like that but with help and the power of the Holy Spirit all things are possible.

We have put together brief job descriptions which can be obtained from the Office.

## Syrian and Iraqi Petition update

We were delighted by the number of members who sent in names and signatures for this petition. We were able to send a parcel of nearly 2000 signatures. I was pleased to say that this equated to 40 times the number of refugees allowed into this country!

In addition to sending the petition to the Home Office we also wrote to various members of the House of Lords, Professor the Lord David Alton, The Bishop of Bristol, The Archbishop of Canterbury and several other people whom we knew to have an interest in Human Rights as we found out that Tikrit was to be the subject of a debate. We were very aware that time was important as Parliament would be dissolved during this time.

We had several very kind replies: From our Patron David Alton - *Many thanks for your letter about Tikrit. I continue to raise questions and to make representations to the Government about the appalling situation in Iraq and Syria - and I am grateful to you for continuing your own efforts to keep a focus on the suffering which is being experienced there.*

Archbishop Justin's Social and Public Affairs advisor replied on his behalf *"In a statement on the situation in Iraq made last August, Archbishop Justin said: It is extremely important that aid efforts are supported and those who have been displaced are able to find safety. I believe that, like France, the UK's doors should be open to refugees, as they have been throughout history. The international community must document human rights abuses being committed in northern Iraq so that future prosecutions can take place. It is important and necessary for the international community to challenge the culture of impunity which has allowed these atrocities to take place"*

We also received a copy of the transcript on the request made by the Bishop of St Albans to step up humanitarian aid in Tikrit. He also asked the Government about the resettlement of Syrian refugees. We can send a copy on request.

Many members who wrote to their MP's on the subject received a reply from the Home Office.

The replies went on the lines of *'The Government being deeply concerned about the crisis in Syria and the suffering and hardship caused. Also the strain being put upon host countries. The UK believes that the most effective way to ensure the UK's help has the greatest impact for displaced persons and their host countries is through substantial humanitarian aid and actively seeking an end to the conflict so that refugees can return to their homes and livelihoods safely'*

The Home Office even acknowledged receipt of the petition and sent the same letter as had been sent to everyone else. We wait to see what the next move is.

Thank you to everyone who signed the petition, wrote to their MP's and the Home Office. It only took a small amount of our time to do this, but it gave considerable hope to those people suffering as a result on the conflict.

## **PATRONS**

As you read in the last mailing, sadly, Chas Raws one of our Patrons passed away earlier in the years.

## Night Vigil and Day of Prayer to mark the U.N. Day of Support for Victims of Torture - June 26th 2015

The UN International Day of Support for Victims of Torture is on 26th June. Many ACATs hold will be holding a prayer vigil during at least part of the night of 26th to 27th but others will be holding services or vigils at the weekend (28th)

Please either arrange a special service, integrate at least some of the material available in to your local church's Sunday service on 28th June or just pray on your own.

### Resources

We have on our web site downloadable resources, or you can contact the Office for a copy.

- Prayer vigil June 2015
- Names and details of prisoners for June 2015 Prayer vigil

Or contact the Office and we can send you a copy

This year's theme is:

*"What are mere mortals that you are mindful of them - human beings that you care for them?" Psalm 8 v.5*

**By praying this Psalm, two thoughts come to mind in meditation.**

This phrase "What are mere mortals that you are mindful of them - human beings that you care for them?" is striking because it is addressed to God himself. "What are mere mortals" facing the extraordinary creation that you fashioned by your hands and your

"What are mortals?" can also be understood as: "What is he capable of? That may be the question asked by the psalmist about himself before his God. What is it he is capable of?"

This is why the Action by Christians Against Torture manifests this faith in life, rising against that which disfigures man by institutionalized torture. That is why the members of ACAT campaign for torture to be eliminated; they pray for all disfigured by the parodies of justice, for those who administer such "justice" and those dehumanized by their infliction of torture on others.

## **Prayer is at the heart of all the actions of ACAT**

The prayers of members of ACAT support people who are being or have been tortured. These prayers of supplication and intercession for the tortured takes into account the perpetrators, as well as victims, as well as the monstrous systems that dehumanize the victims. Because it excludes hate, prayer attempts to close the spiral of revenge.

### **What can you do?**

Join in The Prayers and the Night Vigils. Each year, on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture - 26 June 2015 a Vigil, and an international day of prayer dedicated to the victims of torture is organised. Why not ask your Church to arrange a special service?

### **Why pray?**

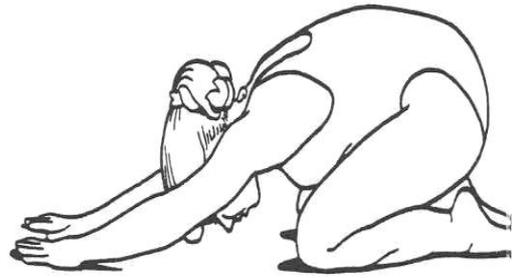
Prayer is to enter into a relationship of friendship and contemplation of God and his love, in an attitude of welcome and trust. It is also to entrust and to offer ourselves to the world. So our prayer can become relaxation, strength to live, which allows us to access inner peace. Some also believe that it is more important to devote themselves to the service of others than to spend time in prayer. This is a valid approach in the difficult times we find we are facing in the world today.

Of course, what is most important in the Christian life is love. The great commandment is to "love God and our neighbour as ourselves." However, to really love ones neighbour, prayer is necessary. Without contact with God, our service to others can become a self-centred activity. Without prayer, action could degenerate into turmoil. Prayer changes the quality of our relationship with those with whom we are dedicated. It allows us to avoid possible deviations from the "service to others" which many believe to be essential.

### **Background**

On 12 December 1997 the UN General Assembly proclaimed 26 June the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, with a view to the total eradication of torture. Torture seeks to annihilate the victim's personality and denies the inherent dignity of the human being. The United Nations has condemned torture from the outset as one of the vilest acts perpetrated by human beings on their

# Reflection on Torture



Some people think an end justifies a means, but Jesus tells us to “love one another” and to love our enemies also. So, for a Christian, torture could not be a ‘just means’ to get information or a confession for some unknown crime, an admission of guilt, or just for the sheer ‘enjoyment’ of the perpetrators.

Any action starts off in the mind as a thought, an instinctive, learned reaction, or a sudden impulsive prompt to behave in such a way as to cause deliberate hurt to another human being (or animal). But here, we consider human behaviour - some people could be following direct orders, which they dare not disobey for fear of reprisals against themselves or their families; or they could be acting with indifference to another’s pain, or even, out of the pleasure of having power in their hands to hurt or kill another person.

Torture has been carried out for 1000’s of years, whether in the Roman circuses, in mediaeval courts, or today, as state condones in prisons or detention centres such as Guantanamo. We pray that these evil thoughts will be halted and stopped by better thoughts of regret, shame and refocus so that the actions will be turned into ones of compassion, kindness and fellow feelings for another human.

# Prayers

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**

We pray that people intent on torture will find themselves confused, distracted and unable for many reasons to complete the task they have been given.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**

Father, in the countries where torture is condoned, or allowed, even when those in authority have turned a blind eye, or deaf ear may their people create such an outcry against it that they will have to take action to stop support of it.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

**Dear Father, we thank you and praise you so much for all organisations and individuals who help to rehabilitate victims of torture, and their families, and who help them rebuild their lives, whether physically, mentally or materially. We pray to you to be close to them, as you said “Come unto me all who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”**

**Lord, lead us to your kingdom**

We pray for all who are tortured. Whose bodies and spirits are broken, in order to gain information or create fear or inflict punishment on their families and friends.

**Lord, lead us to your Kingdom**

We pray for people everywhere who are working for a world free from torture. We thank you for those with a vision of a time when there will be peace, freedom and justice for all and for all organisations seeking to translate dreams into reality.

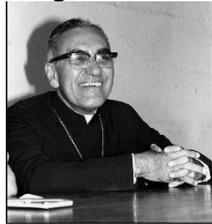
**Lord, lead us to your Kingdom**

We pray for the church throughout the world in its witness to the values of the new kingdom that is dawning but is yet to come. We remember especially the work of ACAT in this country and the work of FIACAT

**Lord, lead us to your Kingdom**

# A final Thought

*We Give Thanks for the beatification of Oscar Romero, martyred in El Salvador in 1980 for speaking out on behalf of the poor and marginalised, and against the injustice of the regime.*



We hope you find this mailing stimulating and thought provoking

Articles for the next and future mailings are always required. Especially it would be good to hear about individuals or group activities, any good news about prisoners or any queries you may have about the work of ACAT (UK).

Please send any material - handwritten, or typed to:-

Margaret Russell, c/o ACAT Office or by e-mail by 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015

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