



Action by Christians

'A Powerhouse of Prayer'

October'06/November'06

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Elizabeth Salter.

Prisoner Support, SOS Torture.

For Your Prayers

**Appeals:-Kyrgyzstan,Turkmenistan,
Ethiopia,Sri Lanka, Iran, China (FiACAT).
Prayer & Reflection.**

Chairman's Letter

Dear friends,

For many of us this is the season of Harvest celebrations. We celebrate the ongoing promise from Genesis 8: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." We give thanks for all that we have been blessed with, for the fruits of all creation, and we look forward with hope to the future with the promise of the seed.

At a recent Harvest festival service there was read an anonymous Welsh prayer, written along the lines of Psalm 150. One line that struck me was "Let the honeybee praise you." I thought to myself, 'how does a honeybee praise God?' And, if a honeybee can

praise God, why not a fly, a bird, or even one of those daddy-longlegs that seem to plague us at the moment?

The answer surely is that these creatures praise God by being what they are and doing what they were created to do. A honeybee praises God by being a bee, a bird by being a bird, and so on.

So what about human beings, what about the Church? How do we praise God? The obvious way is with prayer and worship, in word and thought and song. But we human beings ultimately praise God by being human, by acting human, by doing what we were created to do. And what is that? What does it mean to be human... to act human... to do human things?

The answer can be seen in the interaction of human beings. To be, to act as a human being means to recognise the humanity of others, of all others without exception. A human being was not created to be a terrorist, or to be a torturer, or to do cruel and inhumane acts to other people. These things do not praise the God who created us. For God who is love created us *in* love and *to* love. And love is more than slushy sentiment, more than the physical union of two people, more than the powerful emotion of sexual encounter. Love is all that St Paul writes about in 1 Corinthians 13, and more.

All that we do as ACAT on behalf of others is the action of humanity, and action of love. Whilst the earth remains there may well be darkness and light, detainees and torturers, oppressed and oppressors, but there will also be fruit and seed. May our prayers, our actions be the seeds of hope that bear fruit in the future, for the benefit of others and to the praise and glory of the God who created us to live together in love and peace.

Best wishes to you all,

Tom Bayliss
Chairman

SPOTLIGHT ON BURMA (MYANMAR)

With a population of over 48 million people, Burma (or Myanmar) is isolated from its neighbours in several ways, both topographically and politically. It has high and difficult mountains to the east and west and a military government which is strong, ruthless and determined not to lose power. The country is mainly tropical, looks inwards to Mandalay, its traditional cultural centre and southwards along its three great rivers towards Yangon (formerly Rangoon), the premier port and capital.

Burma is mentioned in Ptolemy's geography (c. 140 AD) and in Chinese records somewhat later. In 1612 the British began to make inroads into this ancient kingdom, finally annexing the country in 1886. Burma, with its monsoon climate and huge river plains, was an important rice exporter and the extensive forests yielded valuable teak.

Post World War Two

The Japanese invasion during the Second World War resulted in serious destruction. Following the grant of independence in 1948, a military dictatorship was declared. Repressive economic and political policies were subsequently imposed, which resulted in the nation's serious economic decline; rice exports, for example, fell to one-tenth of their previous level.

In February 1960 a general election was held. U Nu became Prime Minister. On 2 March 1962 Gen. Ne Win, with the army, arrested U Nu, suspended parliament and proclaimed a new anti-Communist government under a revolutionary Council. Their policy was to nationalize the whole economy and to abolish private enterprise. Burma became a one party state, with "Burma for the Burmese" the guiding principle. Many politicians, journalists and trade union leaders were imprisoned. They were not released for some 6 years.

During the 1980's Burma was able to pursue more liberal policies, but not for long. In 1990 the military government quashed the result of a democratic election in which the party of Aung San Suu Kyi (who a year later was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize) won 80% of the vote. Despite international pressure and internal unrest, often put down with brutal force, the military leaders still show no sign of giving way.

Intensified

In fact, the present regime has intensified its cruelty, with torture, abuse of human rights and imprisonment for opposing the government as routine. It has been described as "one of the most brutal military dictatorships in the world". The UN has charged it with a "crime against humanity" for its systematic abuses of human rights.

Further evidence of the brutality of the Burma regime is detailed in a harrowing new report from the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners. This exposes the true scale of torture of Burmese political prisoners. Aung San Suu Kyi recently spent another birthday in isolation after the regime extended her detention in May. She is allowed no visitors, her phone line has been cut, and her post intercepted. She is also denied access to regular medical care.

Political prisoners, in custody purely because they do not agree with government policies, routinely face physical, mental and sexual torture. The Assistance report mentioned above, states that "Burma's prisons have become institutions whose primary function is deliberately and systematically to shatter the identity of political activists and other civilians deemed threatening by the junta". By doing so a warning is served to the broader population and any widespread political dissent effectively suppressed.

Recent events in the country have emphasized how urgently action is needed to bring the junta before the UN Security Council.

Thousands of ethnic Karen civilians (many of whom are Christians) have been forced from their homes and into hiding in the jungle as the Burmese army escalates its attacks in Karen State, eastern Burma.

Torture and Abuse

To bring the pain of torture home to us, although it may make unpleasant reading, it is essential to focus on one or two specific true examples:

"They burned my left arm with a cigarette and dropped hot wax on my knee and thigh. They also placed a candle or gas flame near my genitals", a male prisoner said. "I was forced to squat continuously and stand with my arms in the air", said a female prisoner. "This and worse torture went on for the whole night".

"They tied my throat with a rope and bound my hands behind my back and my feet with the same rope. The end of the rope was then tied to the table. I could not move at all. When they pulled in the rope my head tilted back. I had to stand like this for 6 hours. They pulled the rope often" said a man interrogated in the Military Intelligence office.

One small note of optimism is that the situation in Burma has at last been discussed at the UN Security Council. This was in December and May last. Progress is being made towards getting a binding resolution passed on the appalling acts of cruelty sanctioned and encouraged by the regime.

Sources : *Readers Digest Illustrated Atlas of the World; Encyclopaedia Britannica; Burma Campaign News, Summer 2006*

Richard Dent

Annual General Meeting
At Broadmead Baptist Church
Broadmead, BRISTOL
Saturday 14th October 2006
From 10.30am

Speakers (afternoon session)

Mme. M-J. Cocher
Executive Secretary

The Work of FiACAT

Rev. Richard Dent

The Bruges, Europe Group,
Meeting. Preparatory work for
the Seminar in Switzerland,
April 2007
(Abolition of Torture - an Ideal
Under Threat)

It will be a good meeting - do your best to be there!

ELIZABETH SALTER - an ACAT appreciation

There were already two not over active ACAT members in West Linton when Elizabeth arrived in the village a few years ago but there was no ACAT group as such and no meetings. The two members fortunately met Elizabeth and surprise, surprise, a group was formed and meetings began!

Elizabeth was surely the model ACAT member and activist. With her international outlook and knowledge, her widespread family, her frequent visits abroad, her experience working for the World Council of Churches in Geneva, her contacts, such as Patrick Byrne of FiACAT, her Quaker/Anglican/Jewish background, her intellectual competence and efficiency, plus a centrally situated house but above all her Christian commitment and faith, she provided a focus and inspiration for an ACAT group. Beside this she was an articulate speaker and was endowed with a good sense of humour.

Elizabeth would receive the ACAT mailing and by the time we had a meeting, she would have carefully word processed all the letters suggested by ACAT, one copy of each for each of say half a dozen of us to sign. all we had to do was to sign the letters and address the envelopes!

A cup of excellent coffee was always served in Elizabeth's comfortable home and there would be prayer, discussion and laughter. Sometimes a visitor from Africa or a protegee of Elizabeth's would be with us.

There will be many aspects of Elizabeth's active service which we shall never know about, but we know that she corresponded with Alan John Davies in prison in Bangkok. He writes "I'm sure you will miss Elizabeth very much. (We do!) I got the impression that she was a very active person (She was!) and her last letter to me, which I have, was full of her trip to plant vegetables at Doucey en Bourges, followed by a two week holiday in Croatia."

She also corresponded regularly with a death row prisoner in the USA and often spoke of the deep impression his letters made on her - we hope to trace this prisoner and perhaps take up where she left off.

One was often put to shame by Elizabeth's enthusiastic witness and we pray that we will inherit a portion of her spirit

Colin Baxter and the members of the West Linton ACAT Group

From the Obituary in The Guardian September 8th by Paul Oestreicher, President of ACAT(UK)

Elizabeth Salter, who has just died aged 72, worked tirelessly with her husband, Noel, who died in 1975, to promote a more just and peaceful world. In the 1950's she became assistant to the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. She supported her husband when he gave up his diplomatic career with the Western European Union - a precursor of the European Community, to create the job of international affairs secretary of the British Council of Churches. They later moved to Brussels, where he joined the European Commission. In 1981 Paul Oestreicher asked her to chair the board of the division of international affairs at the BCC. She then took over the WCC's east Europe desk at Geneva, keeping diverse church traditions working together both before and after the fall of communism. Elizabeth was largely the author and certainly the initial motor of the world council's 2001-10 Decade to Overcome Violence. She grew more radical with age, and died suddenly in the garden of her retreat in the French Alps

We are also saddened to learn of the deaths of Philip Letchford and Howard Fisher who had been long time members of ACAT . We hope to print an appreciation of Philip and of Howard in our next newsletter.

PRISONER SUPPORT NOTES

I am pleased to report that Father Bohan was expecting to make the most recent distribution of funds on the 18th August. Unfortunately, the funds have to pass through two other banks between the time they leave our bank and their arrival in Father Bohan's account; so unfortunately, there is a delay of about 2/3 weeks in donations reaching those for whom it is intended, but there does not seem to be any other way of dealing with the matter.

As you know, I plan to make the net transfer at the end of November.

I was saddened to learn a few weeks ago that Philip Letchford had died. He had been a long time member of ACAT, who dropped out for a time and then very happily renewed his membership a year or two ago. He had great concern for those whom we support. In particular he had considerable knowledge of conditions existing inside prisons in the Philippines and had many useful contacts there. It is some consolation, perhaps, to know that he died knowing that the death penalty in that country had been abolished earlier in the year.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if problems should be encountered concerning your correspondence.

Kenneth Watson
Co-ordinator

SOS TORTURE SCHEME

This report covers the months March - September 2006, inclusive. The Scheme has 23 members, who send between 2 and 10 appeals a month - so we are able respond to all requests from the Geneva headquarters of OMCT (World Organisation Against Torture) which deals with reported incidents of torture in general and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, which takes up cases involving harassment, death threats arbitrary arrest etc of human rights defenders by those in authority.

Their bi-monthly newsletter reports incidents which implicate the following countries :- CHINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, GEORGIA, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, IRAN, MEXICO, MOROCCO, NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES, SOUTH KOREA, SLOVENIA, SUDAN, SYRIA, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UZBEKISTAN, VENEZUELA, ZIMBABWE - a sad fact that in a world nominally committed to the ideals of the United Nations there is scant regard in so many places for the elementary rights of ordinary people in their daily lives.

It is our aim to do something about this - if you feel prompted to run the extra mile, please write to me:-

*Brother Anselm, SSF,
3 Pool Field Avenue,
Northfield,
Birmingham B31 1ER*

and I shall enrol you among the SOS scheme members and forward appeals - as many as you volunteer for.

Please come to the AGM at Broadmead Baptist Church, Bristol on 14 October - it would be good to meet.

ANSELM SSF

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

IRAN, AHMAD BATEBI, 28, former student activist, held in Evin Prison, Tehran from 1999 until 2005 when he was temporarily released and then rearrested 27 July; because of severe torture he has many very serious health problems; has now gone on hunger strike, which together with his severe health problems could kill him; it is also likely that he will have been tortured again.

ETHIOPIA, 250 members of the Oromo ethnic group, including IRENA ITICHA (m) Oromo National Congress Member of Parliament, DEJENE CHIMDI, high school students and other civilians from the Tukur Inchinni district - arrested at the end of August and held incommunicado; they are held at Sankele Police Training Centre, Ormat Military site and Ambo Police station; torture and ill-treatment are highly likely.

TURKMENISTAN, OGULSAPAR MURADOVA, 58, **ANNAKURBAN AMANKLYCHEV** 35, **SAPARDURDY KHADZIEV**, 47, human rights defenders, arrested 16-18 June, ill-treated and possibly tortured to obtain confessions; charged with firearms offences; trial was a travesty of justice; they were sentenced to between 6 and 7 years imprisonment. (Appeal in July Newsletter) Update: Ogulsapar Muradova, correspondent of Radio

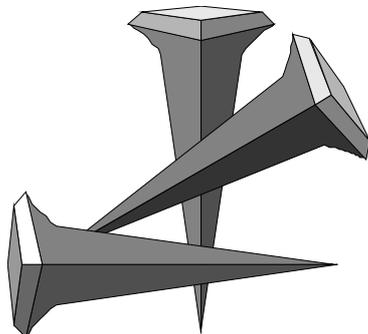
Liberty and former member of Turkmen Helsinki Foundation, - relatives were informed of her death on 14 September; her body showed signs of a violent death; there are fears for the safety of the other two defenders.

SRI LANKA, FR THIRUCHCHELVAN NIHAL JIM BROWN and WENCELAUS VINCES VIMALATHAS, disappeared while travelling in north Jaffna on 20 August; Fr Jim Brown is a parish priest, who helped civilians move following an armed conflict between the government forces - the Sri Lanka Navy - and the Liberation Tamil Tigers; he then received death threats from the Commanding Officer of the Allaipiddy Naval Camp

KYRGYZSTAN, RUKIYA IBRAGIMOVA, 20, arrested 20 July when 10 weeks pregnant; severely beaten in hospital and also in psychiatric hospital to make her confess to whereabouts of her husband - lost the baby; held in Kyzyl-Jarsk psychiatric hospital; there is a possibility that she may be held there as a punishment and given mind altering drugs

*In the plight of a world
that lacks your love
and in the tragedy of a world
that refuses your presence,
help us to see Jesus crucified
as your presence in the world's darkness.
Help us to find in him
your unfailing love for your world,
his faith in your purpose for your world,
his faith in the noontime sunshine
of your presence in your whole creation.*

From "At the Cross"
Richard Bauckham and Trevor Hart



APPEALS FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2006

PLEASE SEND APPEALS ON BEHALF OF RUKIYA IBRAGIMOVA, KYRGYZSTAN

Rukiya Ibragimova, aged 20, was arrested on 20 July, at the Isolation Ward of Temporary Allowance of Jalal-Abad. when she was 10 weeks pregnant, She was beaten by the police chief of the Regional Department of Internal Affairs in order to force her to denounce her husband DJAMALIDDIN ABDERASHITOV. He is suspected of involvement with a group, "Islamic Movements of Uzbekistan". Rukiya Ibragimova was subsequently taken to the Kyzyl-Jarsk psychiatric hospital, where she was again severely beaten on 26 August by the same police chief, Kubanychbek Torobaev. She was immediately transferred to the gynaecological department of the Tash-Kumyr city hospital, where she lost the baby. She was then moved to Kyzyl-Jarsk psychiatric hospital under police surveillance, suspected of "concealment of criminals".

Her husband surrendered to the police immediately after he learned that his wife had been tortured.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO:-

Mr Bakiev Kurmanbek Salievich, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzskaya Respublika, 720003 g. Bishkek, Prospekt Chuy, KYRGYZSTAN (Dear President)

Copies can be sent to:

The Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan, Rue Maunoir 26, 1207 Geneva, Switzerland (Email: kyrgyzmission@bluewin.ch).

SUGGESTED DRAFT APPEAL:

I have learned with very considerable concern of the arrest on 20 July at the Isolation Ward of Temporary Allowance of Jalal-abad, of **RUKIYA IBRAGIMOVA**, 20. From what I have read she was beaten by the chief of the Regional Department of Internal Affairs, **KUBANYCHBEK TOROBAEV**, although she was 10 weeks pregnant. This was in order to obtain from her the whereabouts of her husband, **DJAMALIDDIN ABDERASHITIV**, suspected of involvement in the "Islamic Movements of Uzbekistan".

She was then taken to the Kyzyl-Jarsk psychiatric hospital where she was again severely beaten on 26 August by the same police chief. After the beating she was transferred to the Tash-Kumyr city hospital, where she lost the baby. She was moved at a later date back to the Kyzyl-Jarsk psychiatric hospital where she is under police surveillance, suspected of "concealment of criminals". I understand that her husband surrendered to the police when he learned of the torture of his wife.

May I respectfully call for her immediate release from the Kyzyl-Jarsk psychiatric hospital and her transfer to an ordinary hospital if she is in need of continuing medical care. I am very concerned that she may have been given certain psychotropic drugs as a punishment for withholding information concerning the whereabouts of her husband and that she may also be held in the mental hospital itself as a punishment. May I point out that if this is the case, such actions could be regarded as a form of ill-treatment or torture, which would be in contravention of the United Nations Convention Against Torture, to which Kyrgyzstan is a signatory.

May I call for a full and impartial investigation into the beatings of Rukiya Ibragimova, the publication of its findings and the prosecution of those found to have been responsible.

Yours faithfully or Yours respectfully

PLEASE SEND APPEALS ON BEHALF OF OGULSAPAR MURADOVA, ANNAKURBAN AMANKLYCHEV, SAPARDURDY KHADZHIEV, TURKMENISTAN (2nd appeal)

Ogulsapar Muradova (f) aged 58, journalist with Radio Liberty **Annakurban Amnklychev**, 35 and **Sapardurdy Khadzhiyev**, 47, human rights defenders, were arrested on 16 and 18 June. According to information they were ill-treated and probably tortured to obtain confessions. They were charged with illegal acquisition, possession or sale of ammunition or firearms. Under pressure they signed confessions. They were tried in the Azanklyk district court in Ashgabat, in an unfair trial that was a travesty of justice and which lasted less than two hours. The defence lawyers were not given the indictment before the trial. The accusations related to attendance at human rights conferences etc. It is thought that when the authorities were unable to prove they were involved in espionage, they concocted the other charges about firearms etc.

Ogulsapar Muradova was sentenced to 6 years in prison
Annakurban Amanklychev and **Sapardurdy Khadzhiyev** to 7 years.

VERY RECENT UPDATE: Relatives were informed of the death of **Ogulsapar Muradova** on 14 September - her body showed signs of a violent death. There is concern for the safety of those sentenced with her.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO:-

Rashit Meredov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Magtymguly Avenue 83, 744000 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (Dear Minister)

President Saparmurad Niyazov, Presidential Palace, 744000 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (Dear President)

Copies can be sent to:

The Ambassador, The Embassy of Turkmenistan, 2nd Floor South, St. George's House, 14/17 Wells Street, London W1P 3FP

SUGGESTED DRAFT LETTER:

I have learned with very great concern of the arrest, unfair trial, which failed to meet international standards, and harsh sentences imposed upon the following human rights defenders at a trial in Azatlyk District Court in Ashgabat on 25 August :

OGULSAPAR MURADOVA, (f) 58, journalist, sentenced to 6 years imprisonment; died in custody
ANNAKURBAN AMANKLYCHEV, 35, sentenced to 7 years imprisonment
SAPARDURDY KHADZHIEV, 47 also sentenced to 7 years.

From what I have learned it would appear that OGULSAPAR MURADOVA'S death on or about 14 September was the result of torture. May I urgently call for an immediate and impartial investigation into her death, the publication of its findings and the prosecution of those found responsible.

May I also ask for guarantees for the physical safety of **ANNAKURBAN AMANKLYCHEV** and **SAPARDURDY KHAJIEV**. May I call for their immediate and unconditional release as prisoners of conscience, detained and imprisoned solely to punish them for exercising their right to freedom of expression as human rights defenders.

May I also urge the authorities to conduct a full and impartial investigation into reports that the three were ill-treated in detention and as a result gave false confessions which were accepted as evidence in their trials.

Yours faithfully or Yours respectfully

PLEASE SEND APPEALS ON BEHALF OF IRENA ITICHA, DEJENE CHIMDI, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, OTHER CIVILIANS FROM THE TUKUR INCHINNI DISTRICT, OROMIA REGION, ETHIOPIA

Over 250 civilians from the Tukur Inchinni district of Oromia region were arrested by the government at the end of August. Among those arrested were several high school students :

Belama Nigga	Imabet Taressa (f)	Chale Nigga (f)	Tadulu Nigga (f)
Gaddise Dagafa(f)	Zannu Nigga (f)	Tafarra Galasaa	

together with at least two people over 70 and **Irena Iticha** (m), a member of Parliament for the opposition Oromo National Congress. It is thought that they will have been subjected to torture or ill-treatment. They are held at three locations - Sankele Police Training Centre, Ormat Military site and Ambo Police Station. It is believed that none have been charged and most are have been denied access to relatives and lawyers.

Arrests took place after students and other civilians protested against the Government's programme of land distribution to members of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Democratic Front - the ruling party. They are also being targeted because they are members of the Oromo ethnic group, which has suffered many human rights abuses, including large scale arrests, killings, torture.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO:

Mr Assefa Kesito, Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice, PO Box 1370, Addis Ababa (Dear Minister)) Email: ministry-justice@telecom.net.et
His Excellency Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister, PO Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Your Excellency)

Copies can be sent to:

The Ambassador, The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 17 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PZ (Your Excellency)

SUGGESTED DRAFT LETTER:

I wish to express my very great concern over the detention at the end of August of over 250 members of the Oromo ethnic group, including the following:-

IRENA ITICHA, Oromo National Congress member of parliament DEJENE CHIMDI

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

BELAMA NIGGA	CHALE NIGGA (f)	GADDISE DAGAFA(f)	IMABET TARESSA(f)
TADULA NIGGA (f)	ZANNU NIGGA (f)	TAFARRA GALASAA	

AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE OVER 70 AND OTHER CIVILIANS FROM THE TUKUR INCHINNI DISTRICT, OROMIA REGION

I understand that they are held in Sankele Police Training Centre, Ormat Military site and Ambo Police Station.

May I inquire as to whether they have been charged and are to be tried in a properly constituted court of law, according to international standards or whether some or all have been released without charge? If still held, may I appeal for them to be given immediate access to their families, relatives and any medical treatment they may need.

May I call upon the authorities to ensure that none of them have been subjected to torture or ill-treatment. May I ask that they are held under United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Yours faithfully or Yours respectfully

PLEASE SEND APPEALS ON BEHALF OF REV. FR. THIRUCHCHELVAN NIHAL JIM BROWN AND WENCELAUS VINCES VIMALATHAS, SRI LANKA

Father Jim Brown, a parish priest in the village of Allaipiddy, Kayts Island and Wencelaus Vinces Vimalathas were travelling by motorbike on 20 August from Allaipiddy to the nearby village of Mandaithivu, in the peninsula of Jaffna. The SLN (Sri Lanka Navy) did not allow them to enter the village so they returned to Allaipiddy and were accompanied by a friend to the SLN checkpoint there. There have been no further sightings of them.

Inquiries have been made in neighbouring churches across the Jaffna peninsula and in surrounding areas. Kayts Island is strictly controlled by the SLN and there are suspicions that they may have been taken into custody or murdered. There was armed conflict in Allaipiddy between the SLN and the Liberation Tigers on 13 August which left 15 civilians dead and 54 injured. Father Jim Brown helped a number of civilians to move from Allaipiddy to the town of Kayts following the incidents. He then received a number of death threats from the Commanding Officer of the Allaipiddy Naval Camp.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO:

Major General Asoka K Jayawardlhana, Secretary, Minister of Defence, 15/5 Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo, Sri Lanka (Dear Secretary of Defence)

President Mahinda Rajapakse, Presidential Secretariat, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka (Dear President)

Copies can be sent to:

The Ambassador, The Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka, 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2 2LU (Your Excellency) Email: mail@slhc.globalnet.co.uk

SUGGESTED DRAFT LETTER:

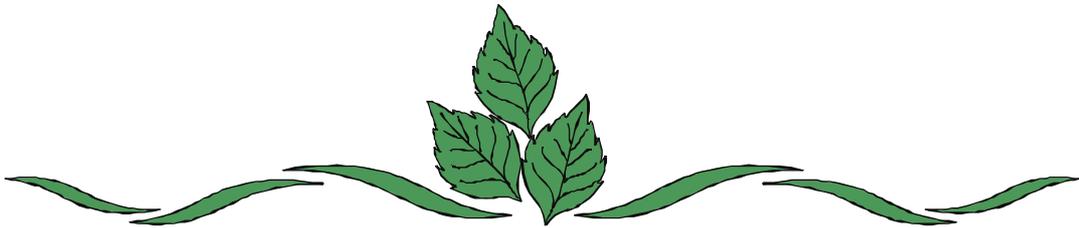
It is with very great concern that I have learned of the disappearance on 20 August of **REV FR. THIRUCHCHELVAN NIHAL JIM BROWN** and **WENCELAUS VINCES VIMALATHAS**, after a friend left them at a Sri Lanka Navy checkpoint on Katys Island off the northern peninsula of Jaffna. I understand that inquiries concerning their possible whereabouts have been exhaustive but that there is no information as to what has happened to them. According to reports Fr Jim Brown had received a number of death threats from the Commanding Officer of the Allaipiddy Naval Camp.

May I urgently call for an independent inquiry into the disappearance of **Rev Jim Brown** and **Wencelaus Vinces Vimalathas** and for its findings to be made public. If they are held incommunicado may I call for their immediate release unless they are to be charged with specific criminal offences.

May I also call for an impartial investigation into reports of the death threats made against Fr Brown by the Commanding Officer of the Allaipiddy Naval Camp following the armed conflicts in Allapiddy between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the SLN on 13 August.

May I express my concern that the pattern of "disappearances" appears to be starting up again in northern Sri Lanka. May I call on the authorities to ensure that this practice ends immediately.

Yours faithfully or Yours respectfully



PLEASE SEND APPEALS ON BEHALF OF AHMAD BATEBI, IRAN

Ahmad Batebi, 28, a student activist was detained in Evin prison from 1999 to 2005 - he was sentenced to death on charges relating to endangering national security following a secret and unfair trial - he was involved in student-led demonstrations against the closure of a newspaper, Salam - Peace.. The sentence was later commuted and he was eventually temporarily released in March 2005. He failed to return to prison and an arrest warrant was issued.

When he was in prison he was very severely tortured - he lost some of his teeth, has permanent hearing problems and poor sight, has had repeated lung infections and breathing difficulties. His hips are dislocated; he has gastritis, a duodenal ulcer and bleeding of the kidneys.

He was rearrested on 27 July and is held incommunicado, probably in Evin Prison, Tehran. His family and lawyer have been refused access. It is very likely that he will have been tortured again. He has begun a hunger strike. There is a strong possibility that because of his very poor health he could die as a result of lack of medical care, torture and the hunger strike. Akbar Mohamadi, a fellow student activist, died in custody on 31 July following a 9 day hunger strike in protest at the denial of medical treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Sharoudi, Ministry of Justice, Park-e Shahr, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. (Your Excellency)

Leader of the Islamic Republic, His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khameni, The Office of the Supreme Leader, Shoahada Street, Qom, Islamic Republic of Iran. (Your Excellency)

Copies can be sent to:

The Ambassador, The Embassy of the Republic of Islamic Republic of Iran, 16 Prince's Gate, London SW7 1PT (Your Excellency) Email: info@iran-embassy.org.uk

SUGGESTED DRAFT LETTER:

I wish to express my concern for the physical safety of **AHMAD BATEBI**, 28, held incommunicado probably in Evin Prison Tehran following his re-arrest on 27 July. I understand that he is in extremely poor health as the result of severe torture which he suffered while imprisoned between 1999 and 2005, following his detention in Evin Prison on charges relating to student-led 18 Tir demonstrations.

May I urgently and respectfully seek assurances that he has not been subjected to torture or ill-treatment during this period of imprisonment. May I call for immediate access to be granted to his family and his lawyers.

I understand that he has begun a hunger strike. I urge that he is given all necessary medical treatment in view of his extremely poor health, which will be greatly exacerbated by the hunger strike. May I also call for him to be given medical treatment outside the prison, in accordance with the provision of Article 291 of Iran's Code of Criminal Procedure, which allows courts to order that prisoners receive medical treatment outside prison.

May I call on the authorities to order a judicial review of the case against Akbar Batebi and to release him immediately and unconditionally if the review finds that he was imprisoned solely for the expression of his conscientiously held beliefs.

May I call for an end to the torture and ill-treatment of detainees

Yours faithfully or Yours respectfully



FIACAT APPEAL OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2006

On July 26 China adopted a code of good conduct for the police following an initiative of the Supreme People's Procurator. This states that obtaining confessions by torture, collecting evidence by violent means and abuse of detainees are illegal. The code specifies what it means by torture : beatings, tying up, making the victim suffer cold or hunger, exposing detainees to severe climatic conditions or serious injury to suspects.

The adoption of this code follows a visit to China in November 2005 by Mr Novak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. He stated that torture remained widespread in China and that beatings, sleep deprivation, electric shocks, and exposure to extreme heat or cold remained common currency in prisons.

Thousands of people are subjected to such treatment in police stations, prisons, re-education camps and psychiatric hospitals. Torture may be inflicted on prisoners of conscience(political and social activists), trade unionists, opponents of the birth limitation policy etc) and also members of ethnic minorities, members of Falun Gong or people with affiliations to religions that are not approved by the government. It may also be used on people accused of ordinary crimes.

China, which ratified the UN Convention Against Torture in 1988, hopes with this code to improve its record, particularly with a view to the Olympic Games in 2008.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO:

Mr Jia Chunwang Jianchazhang, Supreme People's Procurator, Zuigao renmin Jianchayuan, Beijing 100726, People's Republic of China (Dear Procurator)

Copies can be sent to:

The Ambassador, The Embassy of China, 49-51 Portland Place, London W1N 3JL(You Excellency)

SUGGESTED DRAFT LETTER:

May I offer you my congratulations on the adoption on July 26 of the code of conduct prohibiting the use of torture during the interrogation of suspects by the police. I understand that you were instrumental in achieving this. This demonstrates the determination of the authorities to combat the terrible evil that is torture, which I have learned, is widespread in China. It is of vital importance that the code is accompanied by specific provisions to ensure that it is properly implemented.

May I respectfully urge you to :-

- provide specific instruction on the code to all police officials
- set up an independent body with visiting rights to detention centres to monitor the implementation of the code's provisions
- order impartial inquiries following complaints of torture carried out by police officials
- provide compensation for torture victims
- prosecute those who practise torture
- review the trials of those convicted on the basis of confessions obtained by torture

Once again may I congratulate you on the adoption of the code of conduct for the police.

Yours faithfully or Yours respectfully



PRAYER AND REFLECTION

God is our refuge and strength:
a very present hope in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved:
and though the mountains are shaken
in the midst of the sea:

Though the waters rage and foam:
and though the mountains quake at the rising of
the sea.....

The Lord of hosts is with us:
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

From Psalm 46

Do not be afraid - I will save you.
I have called you by name-you are mine.
when you pass through deep waters,
I will be with you;
your troubles will not overwhelm you.

From Isaiah 43

Psalm of an unknown Brazilian prisoner

I call on you, Lord, in a time of persecution,
Hear me, God of justice,
deliver me from my enemies.
I have been labelled a subversive, and arrested
by the military,
torn from among my people, to the terror of the
village.
I have disappeared with those who are called
terrorists,
in a headspinning journey,

full of threats and humiliations, blows and questions,
thrown among prisoners.
In secrecy and isolation,
far from my people and my friends,

lost in time and space,
I am abandoned to an unknown fate.
I was a caricature of a man,
my eyes blindfolded,
my clothing torn,
subject to mockery and oaths,
defenceless and vulnerable.
I was a target, exposed to treacherous blows.
From the first moment,
They pulled the trigger of their sub-machine gun
to simulate an execution,
to make me confess to crimes
invented by my enemies.
Robbed of all my dignity,
with death for my close companion,
in these hours of trial, Lord,
I was not alone.
I knew your presence, you who are my strength,
you who are my hope,
you who are my deliverer.

From Prayers Encircling the World

The Power of Prayer

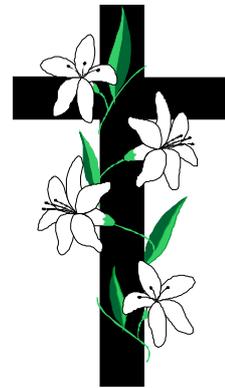
Not only my own prayer helped me, but even
more the prayer of many other faithful
Christians.

I felt it continually working from a distance,
lifting me up as though on wings,
giving me living water and the bread of life,
peace of soul, rest and love.

Anatoly Levitin - prisoner in the Soviet Union

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which to look at Christ's compassion to the world, yours are the feet with which to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

St. Teresa of Avila



'A Final Thought'

***Is my gloom, after all, but the shade
of His hand outstretched in love?***

We hope you enjoy this mailing.

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).

We would like to start a 'letters' page (providing we get the letters!)

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

Margaret Russell
47 Stoneleigh Rd
Knowle Park
Bristol
BS4 2RH

Material for our next Newsletter
should reach us before 18th
November 2006

Or e-mail acatok2004@yahoo.com

Contact Address	ACAT UK 8 Southfield Saltash Cornwall PL12 4LX	Tel 01752 210389 e mail acatok2004@yahoo.com
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