

ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE - UK CHRISTMAS CARD **FULL** GREETINGS LIST - 2011

It is a tradition every year for ACAT members and churches to send greetings to prisoners at Christmas. Prisoners need our support all year and we can all take the opportunity at Christmas of telling them that they are not alone or forgotten. A card can mean such a lot to them. Please join us in bringing a little light into a prisoner's life. **DO NOT ADD YOUR ADDRESS UNLESS YOU ARE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO A CORRESPONDENCE WITH A PRISONER SHOULD HE/SHE WRITE TO YOU.**

Human rights defenders and human rights groups are also in great need of support, prayer and encouragement. Let them know that you are thinking of them and praying for them. So often they and their families are at risk of death because of the work they do.

Please send separate cards with simple messages of greeting, sign your cards, add your address and send by airmail. Small cards cost less to post than larger ones. If you receive a reply, please inform the Action by Christians Against Torture - ACAT (UK) office - Terry and Eleanor Newland, 32 8 Southfield, Saltash PL12 4LX Tel: 01752 843417 Email: uk.acat@gmail.com

THERE ARE CERTAIN GUIDELINES THAT WE WOULD ASK YOU TO FOLLOW WHEN WRITING TO A PRISONER AT CHRISTMAS

1. Simple messages of goodwill are enough - PLEASE DO NOT ADVANCE YOUR POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS VIEWS
2. Some prisoners will not be Christian - so please send an appropriate card. ie. NOT a "Christmas" Card and avoid a 'Christmas' greeting.
3. Some of you may receive a reply from a prisoner but this should not be expected. If you receive a reply, inform the office, giving the prisoner's name, prison address and country and initiate a correspondence. Correspondence with someone from the outside world can be very important to prisoners and they can get very disappointed and disillusioned if letter writing is not continued.
4. **YOU MUST POST YOUR OWN CARDS, PLEASE DO NOT SEND THEM TO ACAT OR j&P TO POST ON Postage: Airmail 10gm –76 p 20gm –£1.10.**
5. ACAT would appreciate a small donation to help cover the costs from anyone requiring the Christmas Card List who is not an ACAT member or group.

Do also try to involve others in this campaign by asking family and friends and members of your church to take part. A card is a small token but means so much to those prisoners who receive them. Even if they are not handed to the prisoners, the prison authorities know that someone is thinking of them and their prison conditions are often improved as a result.

A prisoner in Egypt wrote :- "I can assure you that your card filled the purpose for which it was sent. I was overjoyed, comforted, encouraged and felt loved."

Please photocopy and distribute these lists to as many people as possible. Each can be cut into strips and may be distributed after your church service. Please also ask for the prisoners to be mentioned in prayer at your church services.

ACAT campaigns for the tortured, those under threat of torture, the disappeared, those subjected to death threats and to extrajudicial execution. It is a small, ecumenical registered charity with no paid staff. It produces a bi-monthly Newsletter and also takes part in the International Prayer Vigil for the tortured at the end of June.

This information has been given to us by Action by Christians Against Torture (ACAT) who also will be pleased to hear of any replies. **FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACAT(UK) - Terry Newland, Information Officer, 8 Southfield, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4LX Tel: 01752 843417 Email: uk.acat@gmail.com Registered Charity : 107262**

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS

PLEASE SEND A CARD, A RELIGIOUS CARD IF YOU WISH TO:

Commissao da Terra, Edficio Dom Abel- 1andar, Rua 19-No 35
74030- 090 Centro Goiania, Golas, Brazil

The Church Land Commission started its work for the poor and marginalised in the 60's following Vatican II. It works particularly in Para State helping and advising those involved in land disputes with the big landowners. It also works with those released from slave labour on the cattle ranches and from charcoal and logging businesses.

Please send a simple message of support, sign your card, add your name and address and send by airmail. A small card will cost less in postage than a larger one. If you receive a reply, please inform Action by Christians Against Torture - ACAT UK (Terry and Eleanor Newland) 8 Southfield, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4LX
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PLEASE SEND A CARD, A RELIGIOUS CARD IF YOU WISH TO:

Justicia y Paz Interclesial Commission, Humanitarian Zone, Andalucia Cano Clara, c/o The Director,
Justicia y Paz Interclesial, Calle 61 A No 17-26, Bogota, Colombia

Members of the Inter-church Justice and Peace Commission, working in the Humanitarian Zone of Andalucia Cano Clara, in Curvarado river basin, municipality of Carmen del Darien have been threatened with death on numerous occasions because their work on behalf of civilian communities in conflict regions who have been forced from their homes by army-backed paramilitary groups.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, A RELIGIOUS CARD IF YOU WISH TO:-

Comunidad de Paz de San Jose de Apartado, AA 243 de Apartado, Antioquia, Colombia

This farming community of around 1,500 people in North-west Colombia declared itself a Peace Community in 1997 and committed itself to co-operative living and non-participation in the conflict which has torn apart Colombia for the past 40 years. Its commitment to peace has not spared them from violence and the Community is repeatedly targeted for attack by the military, paramilitary and guerrilla forces. Over 200 members have been killed or disappeared. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has ordered the authorities several times to take effective action to protect the Community but with little result.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD TO:

Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

Next to Huma Hospital, Main Road, Tahmani Watt (Street 9), Kabul, Afghanistan

The Network is a non-partisan network of women and women's NGO's working to empower Afghan women and ensure their equal participation in Afghan society. It undertakes advocacy and lobbying etc. It has 87 NGO members and over 5,000 individual members. The staff and members face constant threats due to the increased insecurity in Kabul and other provinces.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, A RELIGIOUS CARD IF YOU WISH TO:-

Oleg Orlov, Memorial, M. Karetniy pereulok 12
127051 Moscow, Russian Federation

Memorial is an independent human rights organisation, operating in a number of centres in the Russian Federation, including Chechnya where Natasha Estemirova, head of Memorial, Chechnya was assassinated in 2008. It is concerned not only with prisoners of conscience, but with political and other opponents of the Government. It also gives help to those who have been arrested for political reasons in Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Its main office has been raided and records seized. The Chairman, Oleg Orlov was finally cleared of defaming the Chechen President earlier this year.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, A RELIGIOUS CARD IF YOU WISH TO:-

Jenni Williams WOZA (Women of Zimbabwe Arise) PO Box FM701, Famona, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
WOZA was formed in 2003. Its mission statement speaks of empowering Zimbabwean women with knowledge and skills designed to stimulate courageous activities within the community - this has been done, often at great risk to those who have taken part in activities perceived as anti-Mugabe. Jenni Williams has been arrested well over 30 times.

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PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

PLEASE SEND A CARD , NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD TO:-

Younis Masih Cell 23, Barrack 7, Central Jail, Sahiwal, Punjab, Pakistan

Younis Masih is a Pakistani Christian, married with children, sentenced to death for blasphemy after an unfair trial. His family have had to flee from their home and live in fear. While in prison Younis has been attacked on a number of occasions by inmates and by guards. He was moved to the prison in Sahiwal in 2008 because of the threat of his assassination. His lawyer has also been threatened with death.

Send a simple message of support and encouragement, sign your card, add your address and send by airmail. Remember that small cards cost less to post than larger ones. If you receive a reply, please inform the Action by Christians Against Torture (ACAT UK) office - Terry and Eleanor Newland, 8 Southfield, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4LX Tel: 01752 843417 Email: uk.acat@gmail.com

PLEASE SEND A CARD, A RELIGIOUS CARD IF YOU WISH TO:-

Pastor Fernando Kutino Prison Centrale de Makal,
CPRK, Kinshasa/Selembu, Democratic Republic of Congo

Pastor Fernando Kutino, a well-known evangelical pastor was arrested together with two associates, by Congolese Special Services in 2006 and initially charged with incitement to hatred but the charges were changed during his trial to possession of firearms, criminal conspiracy and attempted murder. After an unfair trial he and other defendants were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. Pastor Kutino's sentence was later reduced to 10 years. He is held under harsh conditions. There is little or no medical care and his health is poor.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD, TO:

Tohar Haydarov UY a 64/49, Otyrad 13, Pos.Shaikh - Ali G.Karshi, Kashkadarya Region 180020, Uzbekistan

Tohar is a Baptist leader, 28, arrested in 2010 and charged with producing and storing drugs; beaten and forced to sign a confession. He has been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment after an unfair trial during which fabricated evidence was accepted; his lawyer was not allowed to represent him; he has appealed. Send a simple message of greeting; sign your card, add your address and send by airmail. Small cards cost less to post than larger ones. If you receive a reply, please inform Action by Christians Against Torture UK - Terry and Eleanor Newland, 8 Southfield, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4LX Tel: 01752 843417
Email: uk.acat@gmail.com

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE ETC

PLEASE SEND A CARD, NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD TO:

M. Abderrahmane Mehalli, c/o Ministre de l'Interieur, Ministere de l'Interieur, rue du Docteur Saadane, Alger, Algeria

Abderrahmane Mehalli was arrested in December 2006; he was severely tortured - subjected to waterboarding, beatings on the soles of his feet etc - and accused of membership of a terrorist armed group; his health is very bad, he suffers from malnutrition and is in need of an operation. He has been moved on a number of occasions.

Cards and messages of encouragement and support will show the authorities that he is not forgotten. You can write in English or French. Sign your card, add your name and address and send by airmail. Small cards cost less to post than larger ones. If you receive a reply please inform the Action by Christians Against Torture (ACAT UK) office - Terry and Eleanor Newland, 8 Southfield, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4LX
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PLEASE SEND A CARD, A RELIGIOUS CARD IF YOU WISH TO:

Juanito Itaas

New Bilibid Prison, (NBP) Muntinlupa City, Philippines

Juanito was arrested in 1989 and after very prolonged torture confessed to the murder of Col. James Rowe, a high ranking American officer and the serious wounding of his driver. During his trial he retracted his confession. After an unfair trial he was sentenced to life imprisonment. The supreme court affirmed his sentence in 2000. He has since been recommended for release but is still held.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, A RELIGIOUS CARD IF YOU WISH TO:

Johan Teterissa

Madiun Prison, Madiun East Java, Indonesia

Johan Teterissa was a primary school teacher, arrested with others in 2007 during a demonstration when the Benang Raja flag was raised during a visit by the President. They were tortured, beaten and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Johan who led the protest was sentenced to life, reduced on appeal to 15 years. He is a Christian.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD TO:-

Isroil Kholdorov U-YA 64/29
Navoi Oblast, Navoi, Uzbekistan

Isroil Kholdorov, a human rights defender was arrested in 2006, and sentenced after an unfair trial to 6 years in prison on various charges of crimes against the state. He spoke out to the international media about the Andizhan massacre when security forces fired on a mainly peaceful demonstration. He is an Amnesty prisoner of conscience.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, A RELIGIOUS CARD IF YOU WISH TO :

Aleksandr Rafalsky, Vinnytskaya Prison No 1
2 Ostrovskego Str. Vinnytsya, Ukraine

Aleksandr was arrested in June 2001, suspected of being involved in the deaths of 4 people. He was tortured and ill-treated repeatedly and subjected to a mock execution. He holds he is innocent but was convicted in 2004 after an unfair trial following witness statements obtained under torture were accepted. His morale and that of his parents have been greatly boosted by the many letters of support he has received.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD TO:-

Filep Karma c/o Melalui Cyntia Warwe
KONTRAS PAPUA Jl. Raya Sentani No 67 B.
Depan Ojek Padang Bulan, Jayapura - Papua, Indonesia

Filep Karma, a former civil servant, was arrested in 2004 after taking part in a peaceful ceremony where the Morning Star flag - banned symbol of Papuan independence - was raised. He received a 15 year sentence in 2005. He has been ill-treated following protests in prison. He has also rejected a reduced sentence as this would compromise his principles.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD TO:-

Jabbar Savalan Detention Centre No 10, Muzaffar Narimanov Street
Narimanov District, Baku, Azerbaijan

Jabbar, 20, a youth activist, was arrested on 5 February 2011 after he had posted calls for protests against the Government. He had attended a meeting of the opposition Azerbaijan Popular Front Party, and was on his way home when he was arrested. He was sentenced on fabricated drug charges in May to two and a half years in prison. His lawyer has been threatened.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD TO:-

Darunee Charnchoensilpakul, Klong Prem Prison

33/2 Ngamwongwan Road, Chatuchak Lard Yao Jaruyuk, Bangkok 10900, Thailand

Darunee was a leader of the Red Shirts, a pro-democracy campaigner and a journalist. She was arrested in 2008 after delivering a very strong speech denouncing the 2006 coup and the monarchy. She is awaiting an appeal against her 18 year prison sentence, following an unfair trial. She has been subjected to harassment by prison officials and has spent time in solitary confinement. Her health is poor and she has serious problems with her jaw.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD TO:

Ahmed Belbacha (ISN 290)

U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo, Cuba, Washington D.C. 20355, United States of America

Ahmed is an Algerian national, born in 1969, who lived in the UK for two and a half years and claimed asylum, which was refused. While waiting for an appeal he travelled to Pakistan and then Afghanistan, where he was abducted, interrogated and transferred to Guantanamo in 2002. He was cleared for release in 2007 but he cannot return to Algeria and the UK Government refuses to help him. Reprieve has taken up his case. It is possible that he will be forcibly repatriated to Algeria.

Please send a letter or a card of support and encouragement, sign your card, add your name and address and send by email. Small cards cost less in postage than larger ones. If you receive a reply, please inform Action by Christians Against Torture (ACAT UK) - Terry and Eleanor Newland 8 Southfield, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4LX Tel: 01752 843417 Email: ucat.uk@gmail.com

PLEASE SEND A CARD, NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD TO:-

Younus Abdurrahman Chekkouri (ISN 197), U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Washington, D.C. 20355, United States of America

Younus was born in Morocco in 1968 in poverty and went to Pakistan to study in 1990, together with other members of his family; his brother in law worked and supported the family but died in 1991. The family returned to Morocco but Younus remained. His brother was then arrested in Morocco and tortured and in 1993 his parents died. He travelled to Afghanistan in 2001, worked for a charity, moved to Pakistan where he was arrested with many other Arabs, held for months in prison and then sent to Guantanamo. He enjoys drawing and would love to receive pictures of flowers.

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PLEASE SEND A CARD, NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD TO:-

Nabil Hadharab, (ISN 238), U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Washington D.C. 20355, United States of America

Nabil was born in 1979 and is an Algerian citizen. He lived in France as a child and has few links to Algeria - his grandfather and father fought for France in various conflicts. He returned to France in 2000 and joined his brothers and sisters, his uncle and foster family. He tried to obtain French residency but lived in fear of deportation. In 2001 he travelled to Afghanistan but following the invasion, he was picked up and sold to the American forces in what was a case of mistaken identity. He was flown to Guantanamo in 2002 and was cleared for release 4 years ago. He and his family have petitioned the French President for permission to live in France but he has been refused.

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PLEASE SEND A GREETINGS CARD, NOT A RELIGIOUS CARD, TO:

Dr Aafia Siddiqui 90279-064 FMC Carswell
Federal Medical Center PO Box 27137,
Fort Worth, TX 76127, United States of America

This Center provides specialised medical and mental health services. Aafia , a Pakistani national, who had studied in the United States, was recently sentenced to 86 years imprisonment . She and her three young children were abducted in Pakistan in 2003. She was held in secret prisons in Pakistan and in Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, tortured and raped. She was extradited to the States in 2008 and stood trial in 2010 on charges of attempting to shoot US officers and planning a mass casualty attack. She was found guilty after an unfair trial, in which confessions made under torture were accepted and pleas from both the prosecution and defence stating that she was unfit to stand trial were dismissed. Two of her children have been found - one earlier last year, although her baby son is presumed dead.