



17th Edition

Theme for 2022 :

DISCERNING THE TRUTH; FINDING THE PATH

(Jn 14,6)

**From 25 to 26 June, join the 17th edition of this event
which brings together Christians from all over the world
and sympathizers of all ages
committed to the defense of human rights.**

**Together, let us carry the flame of hope by standing with
victims of torture!**

VICTIMS SUPPORTED FOR THE 2022 NIGHT VIGIL



2022

CAMEROUN – Tsi Conrad

Tsi Conrad is a 35-year-old journalist living in Bamenda, a city in the North West region of Cameroon. As part of his work, he reported on the first protest demonstrations by English-speaking populations in October 2016 and the subsequent repression by law enforcement. He distributed images of these repressions to media outlets, journalists and posted them on his personal accounts in various social media. On several occasions, he was threatened with arrest by police officers when he filmed the crackdown on demonstrations. Finally, on 8 December 2016, Tsi Conrad was arrested at gunpoint by the military while filming another protest during which police fired live ammunition. His camera was destroyed and he was taken to a police station in Bamenda. During his interrogation, he was threatened with death because he refused to give his access codes to the social media accounts he had and to give the names of journalists and media outlets to which he had provided footage. He was then beaten with belts and sticks on the soles of his feet. Under torture, he signed a confession that he was one of the leaders of the "secessionist demonstration" and that he had been paid by a leader of this movement to collect and publish photos. He was then transferred to the premises of the Directorate of Homeland Surveillance. For a period of two weeks, he



was held at a secret location and regularly questioned about the images taken during the demonstrations. On 23 December 2016, he was transferred to the Yaoundé Central Prison, where he is still detained to this day. His trial was held from November 2017 to May 2018 before the Yaoundé Military Court. He did not have unrestricted access to his lawyer throughout the proceedings. On the rare occasions when his lawyer was able to visit him in prison, they were guarded by officers and never had more than 15 minutes to talk. The trial has been adjourned more than 16 times and Tsi Conrad's lawyer has not received prosecution documents or been able to call witnesses in his client's defence. On 25 May 2018, Tsi Conrad was convicted of "hostilities to the homeland, secession, spreading false information, revolution, insurrection, insulting public bodies and officials, resistance, terrorism" on the basis of Law No. 2014/028 of 23 December 2014 on the repression of acts of terrorism. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison. His lawyer filed an appeal on 23 May 2018. This appeal has still not been considered. On 5 May 2021, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted Opinion No. 10/2021 in which it stated that "the denial of Tsi Conrad's liberty is arbitrary" and called on the Cameroonian government to "release him immediately".

PRAY FOR HIM!

PRAY FOR HIS RELEASE!

WRITE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

**Address to write to: ACAT France
7 rue Georges Lardennois
75019 Paris**



2022



CAMEROUN – Olivier Bibou Nissack, Alain Fogué, Pascal Zamboue, Mispa Awasum and supporters of the Movement for the rebirth of Cameroun (MRC)

During the month of December in 2021, more than 80 activists and leaders of the Movement for the Rebirth of Cameroon (MRC), Cameroon's main opposition party, were sentenced to terms ranging from six months to seven years in prison on charges of "assembling to cause public disorder," "insurrection" and "rebellion. The opponents, who were arrested in September 2020 for peacefully demonstrating against the way the upcoming regional elections were being organized, were tried by military courts in Yaoundé and Douala. Neither were they allowed to defend themselves freely nor were they given an independent and impartial trial. Among those sentenced to severe terms on December 27 and 28, 2021, were Olivier Bibou Nissack, spokesperson for the MRC president, Alain Fogué, first vice president of the MRC, Pascal Zamboue, coordinator of the MRC, and Mispa Awasum, president of the MRC women's league, who were sentenced to seven years in prison. None of the defendants nor their lawyers were present in court at

the time of the verdicts. In September 2021, the coalition of lawyers defending the 124 imprisoned MRC activists and leaders (more than 500 had been arrested by September 2020) indicated that they were withdrawing from the ongoing legal proceedings due to "the impossibility of access to fair trial and the lack of independence of the judges. As of January 15, 2022, Amnesty International reported that there were 107 MRC supporters and members in detention in Yaoundé, Douala, Bafoussam, and Mfou, arrested for wanting to or taking part in the September 2020 demonstrations. Several MRC detainees described being subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment while in the custody of the Secretariat of State for Defense (SED) in Yaoundé

PRAY FOR THEM!

PRAY FOR THEIR RELEASE!

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2022



CHINA – Huang Xueqin

On 19 September 2021, journalist Huang Xueqin was abducted by police as she was about to travel to the UK the following day to continue her studies. She was charged with "inciting subversion of state power" following numerous private gatherings she attended at the home of another journalist and activist who was also abducted, Wang Jianbing.

Huang Xueqin had previously been arrested on 17 October 2019 by Guangzhou police. She was accused of "picking quarrels and causing trouble" for writing articles on her blog related to the protests that took place in Hong Kong in June 2019. However, it appears that it was her several years of fighting for the cause of women in mainland China that bothered the authorities.

Indeed, from the end of 2017, Huang Xueqin was one of the instigators of the #MeToo

movement in China, denouncing the harassment suffered by women journalists. In its wake, hundreds of women had given their testimonies of sexual harassment or assault on the Chinese web. Despite the online censorship of #MeToo by the Chinese authorities and a traditional patriarchal culture that is still strong in China, the movement has tarnished the image of prominent men - professors, TV presenters and religious leaders.

Following her first arrest, she was released on bail on 17 January 2020.

Since her last arrest on 19 September 2021, Huang Xueqin has remained in Guangzhou no. 2 Detention Centre. So far, she has not been able to receive visits from lawyers and her family has not received any information about the charges against her. Moreover, her physical and mental state of health remains unknown.

PRAY FOR HER!

PRAY FOR HER RELEASE!

WRITE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

Address to write to: HUANG XUEQIN

Guangzhou 2nd Detention Center: No. 2, Baishuizhai Avenue, Paitan Town, Zengcheng City, Guangzhou

In chinese - 中文地址：广州增城市派潭镇白水寨大道2号



EGYPT – Mohamed Elbaker

Mohamed El-Baker is a human rights lawyer, founder and director of the Adalah Centre for Rights and Freedoms, a position he has held since 2014. Arrested on 29 September 2019, he has spent the last two years in arbitrary detention under harsh conditions. On Monday 20 December 2021, Mohamed was sentenced to 4 years in prison during an unfair trial.

During a wave of unprecedented arrests in Egypt under President al-Sissi at the end of September 2019, Mohamed el-Baker was arrested on Sunday 29 September, while performing his duties as a lawyer assisting Alaa Abdel Fattah during a hearing on the premises of the State Security Prosecution Department.

Mohamed El-Baker was placed in pre-trial detention and prosecuted for participation in a terrorist group, financing a terrorist group and disseminating false information that threatens national security. For a year and a half, he was held in a small, poorly ventilated cell in Cairo's notorious Tora prison. His conditions of detention are difficult: he is not allowed to leave his cell except for visits, and he is not allowed to have books or newspapers, or to listen to the radio. In addition, he has to make do with cardboard boxes as a makeshift mattress.

On 16 October 2021, Mohamed was again included in a new case with similar charges to the previous one. On

1 December 2021, several UN Special Rapporteurs called on the Egyptian authorities to release Mohamed and his two co-accused and condemned the systematic use of overly broad and vague definitions of terrorism, unfairly criminalising human rights defenders, journalists and other peaceful activists. On 20 December 2021, Mohamed was sentenced to 4 years in prison.

He is also placed on the "terrorist list" for five years, following a court decision of which he was not even aware in November 2020. The consequences of this decision are a freeze on his property and financial assets, a ban on travelling abroad and a prohibition from holding any public or official office, such as practising law, should he be released soon.

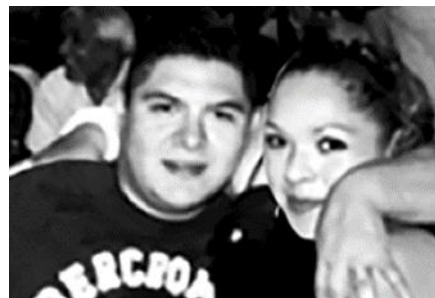
A Nubian minority and a 2001 law school graduate, Mohamed El-Baker volunteered to defend civilians before military courts after the outbreak of the 25 January 2011 revolution. In 2014, he was arrested for several months for "demonstrating without permission". Together with other human rights activists and lawyers, he founded the Adalah Centre for Rights and Freedoms and became its director. In October 2020, he was awarded the 2020 Human Rights Prize of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE).

PRAY FOR HIM!

PRAY FOR HIS RELEASE!

WRITE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

**Address to write to: ACAT France
7 rue Georges Lardennois
75019 Paris**



MEXICO – Erick Iván and Verónica Razo Casales

For almost 11 years, Erick Iván and Verónica Razo Casales have been in prison without trial, based solely on confessions extracted under torture, even though they continue to profess their innocence.

On June 8, 2011, Erick and Verónica had been violently arrested by federal police in plain attire without an arrest warrant. Accused without evidence, the brother and sister were tortured in an attempt to extract a confession. They were both beaten, electrocuted in the genitals, subjected to simulated drowning, and Verónica was subjected to sexual abuse, including rape. Two days later, without being accompanied by a lawyer, they were forced to sign a statement in which they declared themselves guilty of two heinous kidnappings.

Since 2011, Erick and Verónica have been incarcerated without any trial having been initiated against them. Despite the seriousness of the acts of torture committed against them and the serious after-effects they suffer, Verónica and Erick do not receive - or only very occasionally - the care their health requires.

Several organizations have confirmed the reality of the violations suffered by the brother and sister and have

asked the Mexican authorities to release them, without result to date. When he was elected, President Lopez Obrador promised that prisoners who had confessed under torture would be freed.

Once again without result for them. More recently, on July 29, 2021, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted an opinion in which they qualified the detention of the Razos as an arbitrary deprivation of liberty in violation of international law and demanded their immediate release. They also call for their right to redress to be respected and for a full and independent investigation to be conducted.

At the beginning of February 2022, one of their torturers, Porfirio Javier Sánchez, head of the Federal Police in Mexico City, was arrested on charges of torture and fabrication of false evidence. This arrest represents a first step towards ending impunity. It is the result of an investigation opened in 2016, related in particular to his alleged involvement in the acts of torture committed against Erick and Verónica. However, Erick and Veronica remain unjustly detained.

PRAY FOR THEM!

PRAY FOR THEIR LIBERATION!

WRITE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THEM!

**Address to write to: ACAT France
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75019 Paris**



2022



MEXICO – Père Marcelo Pérez

A member of the Maya tsotsil ethnic group, Marcelo Pérez is a defender of the rights of the indigenous peoples of Chiapas, Mexico. Non-violent and committed to ecumenism, he tries to establish a dialogue of peace and reconciliation in a state plagued by large-scale development projects (dams, mines, highways), corruption, trafficking (drugs, arms, prostitution), state violence and illegal armed groups. On several occasions, he has mobilized thousands of demonstrators against crime or for the right to a healthy environment.

A great listener and unifier, Father Marcelo has become a nuisance to some. He is now one of the most threatened people in Mexico. He regularly receives death threats and his vehicle has been sabotaged on numerous occasions. In addition to these attacks, slander and libel are launched against him in the media, on social networks, by political figures, making him appear corrupt and on the payroll of criminal groups. He has had to endure terrible harassment.

Between January and April 2022, Father Marcelo was the victim of 27 incidents: defamation, intimidation, sabotage of his car, surveillance, wiretapping and death threats. None of these has been investigated or prosecuted.

In 2015, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has ordered the Mexican state to take measures for his protection. However, the measures taken to date remain largely insufficient and raise doubts about a real political will to protect him. The system of surveillance cameras that was supposed to be put in place since last October, has still not been installed. His emergency beeper has not been working for months and, despite multiple complaints, he has not been provided with a new beeper.

Finally, the attacks against the priest are still not being investigated impartially and independently. Impunity continues to reign. Because of the risks he still faces, Father Marcelo appealed to the European Union's Emergency Fund, which agreed to help him purchase security equipment and improve his digital security.

PRAY FOR HIM!

WRITE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

**Address to write to: SweFOR México
(Marcelo Perez Perez)
Calle Tapachula #50
Barrio el Cerrillo
San Cristóbal de las Casas, CP 292 30**



WESTERN SAHARA/ MOROCCO – Sultana et Luara Khaya

Human rights activist Sultana Khaya and her sister Luara have been regularly subjected to violence and sexual assault by the Moroccan security forces in a context of increasing attacks on Sahrawi women and men human rights defenders.

As the president of the League for the Defence of Human Rights and Against the Plundering of Natural Resources, Sultana Khaya has been a recurrent target of attacks by the Moroccan regime. She campaigns for the self-determination of the Saharawi people and their fundamental rights and is also a member of the Saharawi Forum against the Moroccan occupation (ISACOM). Since 19 November 2020, Sultana and her sister Luara have been under undue house arrest because of their commitment to the defence of Sahrawi rights. This decision was announced orally by the police chief without any judicial order and without any legal grounds. Since then, Moroccan security forces have been positioning themselves around their home and preventing the two sisters from going out.

Sultana Khaya and her sister have been subjected to harassment and sexual assault for several months, used as methods of terror to prevent them from carrying out their human rights work. Already on 15

November 2021, Sultana Khaya, her sister Luara, and her 80+ year old mother were sexually assaulted in their home. Similar assaults also took place on 8 November, 22 August, and 10 and 12 May 2021. On 5 December 2021, officers broke into their home, forced Sultana to inhale a substance that caused paralysis of her limbs, and injected her with an unknown liquid that caused her to lose several teeth, itch and swell. Then, for two hours, Sultana Khaya and her sister were raped and beaten. The officers also ransacked the house and rendered the water tank unusable.

On 16 March 2022, American volunteers were able to reach the Khaya family and break the blockade imposed by the Moroccan authorities. Relatives and friends of the family were subsequently able to visit them and bring a number of items to replace what had been destroyed by the multiple Moroccan raids on the home. Moroccan security forces continue to maintain a perimeter around the house and are working to dissuade those who would like to visit the Khaya family by threatening them with various types of reprisals. While the Khaya sisters can now go out around their house, they cannot cross the security perimeter imposed by the Moroccan forces, and thus remain under house arrest.

**PRAY FOR THEM!
PRAY FOR THEIR RELEASE!
WRITE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!**

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2022



VIETNAM – Le Huu Minh Tuan (Lê Hữu Minh Tuấn)

Le Huu Minh Tuan is a journalist and member of the Independent Journalists Association of Vietnam (IJAVN), a civil society organisation established in 2014 that promotes the right to freedom of expression, press freedom and freedom of association. The Independent Journalists Association of Vietnam is not officially recognised by the Vietnamese Communist Party and for this reason it operates online.

As a result, Le Huu Minh Tuan was arrested on 12 June 2020 by police in Ho Chi Minh City, after several months of threats and intimidation by the Public Security Bureau, Vietnam's domestic intelligence agency. He was detained in deplorable conditions and held incommunicado for several months before being allowed to meet with his lawyer in November 2020.

On 5 January 2021, the Ho Chi Minh City People's Court found Le Huu Minh Tuan guilty of "anti-state propaganda" under Article 117 of the Vietnamese Criminal Code. At the end of a hearing that lasted less

than four hours, he was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment, along with two other IJAVN members.

In June 2021, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found Le Huu Minh Tuan's detention to be "arbitrary" and called for his immediate release.

Following this trial, Le Huu Minh Tuan was the only IJAVN member to appeal.

However, on 28 February 2022, the Ho Chi Minh City Court of Appeal upheld his sentence of eleven years in prison. In addition, Tuan was not allowed to meet with his lawyer before the trial because of the health crisis related to the Covid-19 virus, which is regularly used as a pretext for postponing hearings. He is now serving his sentence in Chi Hoa prison.

ACAT-France calls for the recognition of the arbitrariness of his imprisonment, the illegality of his sentence and his immediate release.

PRAY FOR HIM!

PRAY FOR HIS RELEASE!

WRITE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

**Address to write to: LE HUU MINH TUAN
Chi Hoa Prison Center (Trại tạm giam Chí Hòa)
324 Đ. Hoà Hưng, Phường 12, Quận 10, Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh 70000, Vietnam**



2022

THANKS TO YOU GOOD NEWS FROM VICTIMS SUPPORTED IN 2021

In 2021, we prayed during the Night Vigil for victims of torture. With your support, we have received some good news, notably:

Burundi – Nestor Nibitanga



Human rights defender Nestor Nibitanga was released on 27 April 2021 as part of a recent presidential pardon, after 4 years of arbitrary detention. ACAT-France, which has repeatedly campaigned for his release, is delighted that Nestor Nibitanga will finally be able to regain his freedom and rejoin his loved ones.

Cameroun – Paul Chouta



After more than two years of pre-trial detention, Paul Chouta was released on 20 May 2021, two days after he had been sentenced by the Mfoundi Court of First Instance to 23 months' imprisonment. ACAT-France, which had protested against his wrongful detention, welcomes this release. However, the Cameroonian blogger continues to be intimidated and was violently assaulted in early March 2022. ACAT-France has expressed its concern for his safety on social media and has mobilized its activists through a call for action. European embassies in Yaoundé have been alerted to the situation of this activist.

HOW HAVE THE VICTIMS SUPPORTED IN 2021 FARED SINCE?

China – Zhang Zhan



On 18th November 2021, Zhang Zhan was awarded the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) press freedom prize. Her mother was also able to speak to her on 28 January 2022 via a video call, during which she indicated that she had stopped the hunger strike she had started several months earlier. Moreover, on 12 February 2022, her mother spoke with her lawyer. However, Zhang Zhan remains imprisoned in China.

Congo Brazzaville – André Okombi Salissa



André Okombi Salissa is still being arbitrarily kept in prison. In September 2021, members of ACAT-France campaigned once again for his release through a call to action. To date, the highest Congolese authorities have ignored the many calls for the release of this unjustly imprisoned opposition figure. On 19 February 2022, the President of the Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso, indicated on the TV5 Monde channel that he had not yet been informed of the Opinion of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. His answers to questions about the detention of political prisoners in Congo were evasive. However, he did say that the calls for his release were perceived as "pressure". On 27 February, André Okombi Salissa's lawyer reacted on TV5 Monde to Denis Sassou Nguesso's interview to point out the arbitrary nature of her client's detention and the violations of Mr Salissa's right to a fair trial.

Egypt – Ramy Kamel



Although Ramy Kamel was released on 8 January 2022, he is still being prosecuted in the case that led to his being placed on remand. He has also been banned from leaving the country as a security measure. His lawyers are seeking to have the charges against him dropped.

Morocco/Western Sahara – Mohamed Lamine Haddi



Since March 2021, still in detention away from the Saharawi territory and far from his family, and confronted with inhumane prison conditions, Mohamed Lamine Haddi decided to go on a new hunger strike. On 15 March 2022, after having announced in a letter to the prison administration his intention to start a new hunger strike, prison guards searched his cell, beat him and pulled out hairs from his beard with pliers before performing choking techniques. He was then left untreated despite the physical and psychological consequences of this violence. He was only able to inform his mother by telephone on 18 March of the acts of torture he had undergone. He has been detained for the past twelve years along with other prisoners from the Gdeim Izik camp.

Mexico – Kenia Hernández



In 2022, Kenia Hernández's situation worsened in a particularly alarming manner. Kenia Hernández, coordinator of the Zapata Vive collective, fights for the right to land and peaceful resistance to the Mexican state's neoliberal development model. She has been the target of a criminalizing campaign for several years for her work as a human rights defender. On 18 October 2020, she was arbitrarily arrested by up to 22 police officers. After more than a year in detention, she was sentenced on 19 February 2022 to ten years and six months in prison, after being convicted in February 2022 of "theft with violence". Less than a month later, on 10 March 2022, she was sentenced to 11 years and three months in prison in another case, resulting in a total sentence of 21 years and 9 months. She is still facing nearly 8 criminal cases. These unfounded charges are aimed at preventing her from carrying out her work as a rights defender and at terrorising defenders. To denounce her conditions of detention and the arbitrary nature of her arrest, she began a hunger strike. After more than a year and five months in prison, she has been allowed to see her children only seven times, and her parents three times. In recognition of her struggle to defend the rights of indigenous communities in the state of Guerrero, she was awarded the "Don Sergio Mendez Arce" prize. This award is considered the most important recognition for human rights defenders in the country.

LET US NOT FORGET THEM BUT CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR AND SUPPORT THEM



THANKS TO OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



en partenariat avec :

