

# **ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE - UK EASTER GREETINGS LIST - 2015**

Victims of torture, human rights groups and individuals under threat and persecuted Christians need our support and our prayers. At Easter we can all take the opportunity to let them know that they are not forgotten.

A card can mean so much to them. Eskinder Nega, a prominent Ethiopian journalist serving an 18 year sentence has said that his greatest fear is to be forgotten, not the appalling prison conditions.

Please a little light into a prisoner's life. It is quite safe to add one's address, and does give prisoners a slightly greater link to the sender, which will be important to them. It is also unknown for there to be any comeback to the sender from an oppressive government.

Cards tell the authorities that prisoners are not forgotten and can result in improved prison conditions, in a new investigation leading to a retrial and, on occasion, to freedom. Cards of support, encouragement and thanks for their work can also give an important boost to human rights organisations under threat of arrest, imprisonment and death. A reply is on occasionally received, but this should not be expected. If a reply is received, it is important that the ACAT office is informed; give the prisoner's name, prison address and country - ACAT's address is at the bottom of the next page.

## **GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW WHEN SENDING CARDS**

Send simple messages of goodwill and support. Tell prisoners that they are not forgotten and that they are remembered in prayer. Do not advance political views. Bible verses and Christian blessings are acceptable as this list contains only Christians.

Cards must be posted by the senders and not sent to the ACAT office for posting on.

Small donations to cover the costs of producing the List would be welcome from anyone who is not an ACAT member or in an ACAT group.

ACAT has campaigned for the tortured, those under threat of torture, the disappeared, those subjected to death threats and to extrajudicial execution since 1984. It is a small ecumenical registered charity with no paid staff. It produces a Newsletter and also takes part in the International Prayer Vigil for the Tortured at the end of June.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION -**

ACAT UK office, 19 The Square,  
Knowle Park, Bristol , BS4 2ST

Email: [uk.acat@gmail.com](mailto:uk.acat@gmail.com)

Registered Charity No: 1072628

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

Task Force Detainees, was formed in 1974 by the Association of Religious Superiors to support political prisoners. It provides legal and financial support for prisoners and their families. It has also helped to establish other human rights charities. Send a simple message of greeting and support; sign your name and add your address.



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

Secretaria Nacional, (CPT), Edificio Dom Abel - 1 andar, Rua 19-25, 7430-090 Centro Goiania, Goias, Brazil The Church Land Commission began working for the poor and marginalised in the 1960's. It is particularly active in Para State helping and advising those poor indigenous groups involved in land disputes with large landowners. It also works with those released from slave labour on cattle ranches, charcoal and logging businesses. Send a simple message of greeting and support; sign your name and add your address.



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

Centro de Derechos Humanos (PRODH), Serapio Rendon 57- B, Col San Rafael, 06470 Mexico DF, Mexico PRODH is an independent human rights group, founded by the Jesuits; it plays a very important role in investigating, documenting and defending human rights in Mexico. It also supports and defends human rights lawyers. Members receive constant death threats. Send a simple message of greeting and support; sign your name and add your address.



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

Familiares de Detenidos DesaparecidosComite de en Honduras (COFADEH), Barrio La Plazzuela, Avenida Cervantes, Casa 1301, Tegucigalpa, Honduras The Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras is one of the country's main human rights organisations. It seeks justice for current human rights abuses and "disappearances" in the 80's. It also trains human rights activists. Its staff are at great risk, suffering death threats, harassment and attacks. Female workers have been threatened with sexual violence. Send a simple message of greeting and support; sign your name and add your address. Incidentally, the symbol of COFADEH is a dove.



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



WOZA - Women of Zimbabwe Arise, PO Box FM701, Famona, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe WOZA was formed in 2003 to provide women with a united voice in the face of arrest, harassment and beatings by the police. It campaigns against the social, economic and human rights conditions in their country, as experienced by women. Jenni Williams, WOZA's founder and national co-ordinator, has been imprisoned over 50 times. Every Valentine's Day members hand out roses with the message "The power of love can conquer the love of power." Send a simple message of greeting and support.

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



Asociacion Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH), Jr Pachacutec 980, Jesus Maria, Lima 11, Peru APRODEH is a vitally important, non-governmental human rights organisation dedicated to documenting human rights violations including those which occurred during the conflict from 1980 to 2000. It brought an action against the former President Fujimori and has also condemned terrorist actions and the use of violence by all groups. Its work has resulted in threatening remarks by members of the Government and a slander campaign against it. Please send a message of greeting and support, sign your card and add your address if you wish.

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



Malyi Karenyi pereulok 12, 127051 Moskva, Russian Federation Memorial, (Historical, Educational, Human Rights and Charitable Society) founded in 1989, consists of a number of independent NGO's united within the society. It was the most important human rights organisation in the Russian Federation. It operated in a number of cities and for a time in Chechnya, until it was too dangerous to continue. It has been targeted by the authorities, who argued that it and other human rights organisations were receiving funding from the West. Memorial has refused to register as an organisation but a lawsuit was filed before the Supreme Court on September 24th by the Ministry of Justice seeking its liquidation. It has accused the organisation of supporting terrorism and extremism. Send a

message of greeting and support, sign your card and add your address if you wish.

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



Johan Teterissa, Batu Prison, Nusambangan, Klas 1, Batu Nusakambangan, Tambakreja, Cilacap Selatan, 53213, Cilacap, Central Java, Indonesia A Christian primary school teacher and Amnesty prisoner of conscience, he was arrested in 2007 during a demonstration following the raising of the Benang Raja flag - the flag of Papua New Guinea - during a Presidential visit - he was accused of treason. He was tortured and beaten and sentenced to life imprisonment, reduced on appeal to 15 years. His health deteriorated and he was finally moved to hospital in 2013 for treatment. A number of appeals have been mounted calling for his release as a prisoner of conscience. Send a simple message of greeting and support; sign your name and add address if you wish.

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



FILEP KARMA, c/o Pascalis Letsoin, LBH PAPUA, 31 Sehat 1 No 378, Kotaraja Jayapura, Indonesia Filep Karma, an Amnesty prisoner of conscience, was a civil servant in West Papua. He was charged with treason and rebellion in December 2004, when he raised the Morning Star flag at a peaceful demonstration calling for independence from Indonesia. He was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. He was beaten and tortured and denied medical treatment although he was in urgent need except for one visit to Jakarta for emergency surgery. Over the years he has staged various protests about the ill treatment of prisoners and has challenged the illegality of the charges brought against him. Please send a message of greeting and support; sign your card and add your address if you wish. It is also acceptable to write a letter to him. It is known that he receives messages.

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



Moses Akatugba, C/o Human Rights, Social Development and Environmental Foundation, P .O. Box 1800, Diobu, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. NIGERIA On 27 November 2005, 16-year-old Moses Akatugba was awaiting the results of his secondary school exams when his life changed forever. He was arrested by the Nigerian army and, he says, shot in the hand, beaten on the head and back, and then charged with stealing mobile phones. He has been tortured repeatedly (finger nails and toe nails pulled out with pliers) and forced into two ‘confessions’. Moses was convicted solely on the basis of the alleged victim’s statement and the ‘confessions’ he made under duress. After eight years in prison, he was sentenced to death by hanging and remains on death row. His claims of torture have still not been investigated. ‘The pain of torture is unbearable. I never thought I would be alive till this day. The pain I went through in the hands of the officers was unimaginable. In my whole life, I have never been subjected to such inhuman treatment,’ Moses said in February 2014.

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



Juanito “Into” Iotas, New Blabbed 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. He was sentenced to life imprisonment after an unfair trial. The Supreme Court affirmed his sentence in 2000. He has since been recommended for release but is still held, it is thought because of opposition from the United States. His case was taken up by Task Force Detainees of the

Philippines, which as well as their usual campaigning, have petitioned the US President. Send a simple message of greeting, sign your card and add your name and address if you wish.

## **PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS**

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

Pastors Rolando and Elizabeth Ortiz Bode, Sta Ursula 54, e/1ra de Flores y 1ra de Villalon, Reparto Asuncion, Santiago de Cuba CP90300, Cuba Rolando and Elizabeth have been involved for the past 10 years in leading a steadily growing house church, affiliated with the Eastern Baptist Church Convention. They have been receiving death threats since July. Pray for them and their congregation. Send a simple message of Christian greeting; sign your card and add your name and address if you wish.

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



Augustine Ashiq “Kingri” Masih, c/o All Pakistan Minorities Alliance, House 1/B, Street 95 , 1-84, Islamabad, Pakistan Augustine, now 37, was sentenced to death in 2002 for blasphemy. He is still in prison pending an appeal. In 2000 he converted from Catholicism to Islam in the hope of marrying a Muslim girl but this is forbidden in Islamic law. A few months later he changed back to Christianity and was charged with slandering the Prophet. He is held in Faisalabad District Jail, where the conditions are very poor and there is the constant fear of attack from other prisoners and guards. Send a Christian greeting and message of support, sign your card and add your address if you wish.

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



Father Jose Contrado, Iglesia Catolica El Cristo, Santiago de Christo, Cuba Father Jose is a Roman Catholic priest, who suffers harassment and threats for speaking out against human rights violations in his country and for allowing the families of political prisoners to attend mass in his church. Send a simple message of Christian greeting and support; sign your card and add your name and address if you wish.

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



Most Rev Dr. Benjamin Argak Kwashi and Mrs Gloria Kwashi, Anglican Diocese of Kwashi, PO Box 6283, Jos, Plateau State, 930001, Nigeria The Anglican Bishop of Jos has been a prominent advocate for Christians in Northern Central Nigeria. His family has suffered 2 brutal attacks in recent years. The situation in the region is volatile. Please pray for the safety of the bishop and his family and the ongoing problems in Nigeria. Send a message of support and tell him that he is remembered in your prayers. Sign your card and add your name and address if you wish.

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



Asiya Nasir, Lodge F - 212 Parliament Lodges, Islamabad 44000, Pakistan Asiya Nasir is a member of the Pakistan National Assembly and the most outspoken, experienced and courageous of the Christian MP's. She manages to deal with 100's of requests each day for help and support. It was only a few years ago that Shabaz Bhatti, the Christian Minister for Minorities, was assassinated. Pray for her, her family and her team and for their safety. Send a message of support and tell her she is

remembered in your prayers. Sign your card, and add your address if you wish.