

INTERNATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL

26 June is designated as United Nations Torture Victims Day. To remember the victims of torture Action by Christians Against Torture (UK) will be taking part in the International Prayer Vigil on the night of 27/28 June, entitled "Take Them in Your Hand". ACAT members, groups, individual Christians and churches will join in prayer from 8.00 p.m. on Saturday evening to 8.00 am on Sunday morning. A number of churches will also include prayers for torture victims at intercessions during Sunday services.

Christians and churches are encouraged to join this great wave of prayer - all that is required is for individuals, or small groups to agree to pray for 15 minutes or more during the 12 hour period. Churches are encouraged to hold a Vigil or Service on Saturday evening.

Suitable prayer material, together with a variety of services, are available free from the ACAT office. Prayers are included for victims of torture, their families, the torturers, persecuted Christians, and human rights defenders.

Prayer can make all the difference as Anatoly Levitin, a Russian Orthodox prisoner in the former USSR wrote after he was freed: "Not only my own prayers helped me, but even more the prayers of many 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."

Contact : uk.acat@googlemail.com - please give your address if asking for materials

Tel: 01752 843417

Address: Terry and Eleanor Newland, ACAT (UK) Office, 8 Southfield, Saltash Cornwall PL12 4LX

Web site : www.thenightvigil.com

Materials in English can also be got from the above site.

Prayer:

For the Tortured

Loving Lord Jesus,
you who cried out to your Father, from the cross,
hear the cries of those who have been abandoned, the tortured, the disappeared,
those awaiting their execution
those held in incommunicado detention.
Hear the cries of desolation of their loved ones.
For those oppressed by grief, remember, Lord, your agony.
You, who came out of the tomb alive,
open your garden of life to death's captives.
Christ, in agony to the end of the world,
remember all who suffer.
Speak to them your words of comfort.
May they know that you are there with them,
in their loneliness, their fear, their suffering.
Lord of Life,
stay the hand of the torturer and the executioner
and open prison doors. Amen

(adapted from Prayers for Victims, Hope in the Darkest Night)

For the Torturers

Father

You know the harm, pain and suffering which human beings in so many parts of the world are inflicting on one another.

Stay the hand of cruelty;

Awaken the imagination of those who inflict torture so that they may realise what they are doing.

Give them the courage to acknowledge the evil they do and seek repentance and forgiveness.

We ask this for Jesus' sake, who died on the cross for both tortured and torturers. Amen.