After February 2021 the **Iranian** authorities increased the transfer of political prisoners mainly from the infamous Evin prison to other jails where they are being kept among jailed for offenses such as murder and drug-related felonies and which are infamous for their horrendous conditions. Since 2003 at least 32 political prisoners—all individuals who were imprisoned in Iran after being accused of criticizing state policies—have died in state custody, according to the Centre for Human Rights n Iran. The deaths occurred because of beatings while in custody, denial of critically needed medical care, or other gross negligence or ill-treatment.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),** **Navy Malela Mawani** and **Gradi Koko Lobanga**, two whistleblowers, formerly employed by Afriland First Bank (AFB) in Kinshasa were sentenced to death in February 2021. They had already fled the country. They had been members of an internal audit service that provided NGOs with important information on a network of money laundering within their bank.

Soldiers engaged in the counterterrorist Joint Force G5-**Sahel** have been reported as raping and attempting to rape civilians in Niger in the Sahel region south of the Sahara.

In a crisis largely ignored by the world, more than 3000 people have died and 700,000 displaced since Islamic insurgents known locally as al-Shabab began attacking the Cab Delgado region of **Mozambique** in 2017. The launched a full-scale invasion of the coastal town of Palma, killing and mutilating an unknown number and forcing over 10,000 to flee. Mozambique's military claims to have regained control of the town.

The Church of Almighty God, which has three million members in **China**, has claimed that some 750 members were detained and many were beaten between January and March 2021. Catholic and Protestant-run orphanages have been closed for alleged proselytisation.

On 4 June 2021 married couple **Shagufta Kausar** and **Shafqat Emmanuel** were acquitted of blasphemy charges by the **Pakistan** High Court when their appeal hearing was finally heard. Shagufta and Shafqat had been held in separate prisons for the past eight years. They have been under sentence of death since 2014. ACAT members have send numerous appeals on their behalf.

In early June 2021 the UK High Court ruled that the housing of cross-channel **migrants** in squalid conditions in Napier barracks in Folkestone was unlawful. A fire had broken out there in January and nearly 200 people had contracted coronavirus. The Home Office said the barracks would continue to be used.