

CHINA

ALIMUJIANG YIMITI

More than ten years ago, Alimujiang Yimiti converted from Islam to Christianity. In 2007, the Chinese government closed down his business, and in January 2008, they accused him of “subversion of the national government and endangering national security,” a crime punishable by death. Eventually, he received a 15-year sentence, and this court decision has been upheld as recently as February 2011, despite numerous appeals.

Alimujiang Yimiti
Section 11
The Xinjiang No. 3 Prison
No.1339, Dongzhan Road
Urumqi City
Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region 830013
China

WENXI LI

In 2012, Wenxi Li was a bookstore worker in Beijing, who moved to Taiyuan to open Enyu Bookstore—another Christian bookstore with local Christians. However, shortly into their endeavor, police raided the bookstore, confiscating thousands of dollars of books and equipment. The police then summoned Wenxi Li to the police station under the pretense of picking up the materials, arresting him immediately upon his arrival there. He and other coworkers were threatened by the security forces for “bringing Christian culture” to their “turf.” He was denied bail and sentenced to two years in prison. His wife and two children

have also been harassed and fear for their safety.

Wenxi Li
2nd Detention Center
Xiaodian District, Beige Town
Taiyuan City
Shanxi Province
China

YANG RONGLI

After a raid on the Linfen-Fushan Church by 400 military police, where numerous buildings were destroyed and more than 30 people critically injured, Pastor Yang Rongli and four other church leaders were arrested and accused of disturbing public order. Sentenced to seven years, she is due to be released in 2017. Only halfway through her sentence, Yang Rongli is suffering from severe medical complications, including diabetes, high blood pressure, and hepatitis. Prison authorities have denied her medical care.

Yang Rongli
Women's Prison
Yuci City
Shanxi Province
China

LACHENG REN

Lacheng Ren is a Christian businessman who was one of the sponsors of the Enyu Christian Bookstore in Taiyuan. After the raid, which resulted in the arrest of Wenxi Li, Lacheng Ren was also arrested and then sentenced to 5 years in prison.

Lacheng Ren
2nd Detention Center
Xiaodian District, Beige Town

Taiyuan City
Shanxi Province
China

EGYPT

MOHAMMED HEGAZY

Mohammed Hegazy was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison for filming a demonstration without obtaining government permission. The long prison term (the penalty should have been six months) is likely due to his past Christian activity. He became a Christian fifteen years ago and tried to officially change his religious status, and was faced with death threats as a result. Years of hiding and persecution have spurred his interest in protecting the rights of Christian converts. He began documenting the persecution against Egyptian Christians to fight for fair treatment. He was arrested while filming and advocating for Christians under attack.

Mohammed Hegazy
Al Menya Prison
Cairo-Aswan Highway
Al Menya
Egypt

ERITREA

HAILE NAIZGI

At the time of his imprisonment on May 23, 2004, Reverend Haile Naizgi was serving God as the chairman of the board of the

Full-Gospel Church of Eritrea, the largest Pentecostal church denomination in the nation. Previously, he was a senior accountant with World Evangelical Alliance in Eritrea. Reverend Haile Naizgi, who is married with four children, was one of the key organizers of the Church's activities in Eritrea.

Haile Naizgi
Karsheli Prison
2nd Police Station
Zone 7 Northern East
Zoba Maakel
Asmara
Eritrea

KIDANE WELDOU

Pastor Kidane Weldou was the senior pastor of the church of the Asmara Full Gospel Church in March 2005, when his vehicle was found abandoned downtown, and he was presumably imprisoned by Eritrean security forces. His wife and children have been unable to visit him in prison, and his exact whereabouts remain unknown. He has a degree in science from Asmara University and had been a high school biology teacher. In addition to his church's work, he was also involved in many gospel-related activities among students and professionals from various churches in the nation.

Kidane Weldou
Karsheli Prison
2nd Police Station
Zone 7 Northern East
Zoba Maakel
Asmara
Eritrea

DR. KIFLU GEBREMESKEL

Dr. Kiflu Gebremeskel was the pastor of South-West Full-Gospel Church in Asmara until his imprisonment on May 23, 2004. Dr. Kiflu, a former dean of science and lecturer of mathematics at Asmara University, left his job to serve the Lord as a pastor and Bible teacher in 1999. He has a Ph.D. in mathematics from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. Dr. Kiflu was also the chairman of the Eritrean Evangelical Alliance, a union of all the churches belonging to the Baptist, Mennonite, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, and other Charismatic churches.

Dr. Kiflu Gebremeskel
Karsheli Prison
2nd Police Station
Zone 7 Northern East
Asmara
Zoba Maakel
Eritrea

PAKISTAN

ASIA BIBI

Asia Bibi is a wife, mother of five, and a farm worker accused of blasphemy after a discussion with coworkers. On November 7, 2010, Bibi was sentenced to death. She is the first Pakistani woman ever to receive a death sentence for blasphemy. Despite appeals, Asia's life hangs in the balance. Prompted by Asia's case, the former governor of Punjab Province spoke out in favor of greater religious freedom and was murdered by his own bodyguard.

Asia Bibi
Central Jail Multan
Multan City-Punjab

Pakistan

IMRAN GHAFUR

Imran Ghafur is a Christian businessman who, along with his family, had managed many businesses in his home region of Pakistan. However, in July 2009, he was arrested and severely beaten for allegedly burning pages of the Koran while he was burning some trash. Shortly thereafter, he was sentenced to life in prison. His family has had to flee the region because of local hostility towards them. Despite these trials and the disheartening life sentence, Imran has reported he often prays and sings spiritual songs at midnight, and is even asked by Muslim prisoners to pray for them. Even still, Imran is eager to be released to continue missionary work in Pakistan.

Imran Ghafur
Central Jail of Faisalabad
Faisalabad
Pakistan

IRAN

BEHNAM IRANI

A pastor from Kraj, Iran, Behnam Irani is serving six years after being convicted of “crimes against national security.” A Christian for almost 20 years, he has been a pastor since 2002. He is married with two children, all who eagerly await his return home.

Behnam Irani
Ghezelhesar Road

- opposite Shahid Chamran barracks

Penitentiary Prison in Karaj-Section 2 Hall 7
Postal code: 3187694111
Hesarek
Karaj, Iran

FARSHID FATHI

This husband and father of two was first arrested in a wave of detentions of Christians throughout Tehran in December 2010. By April he was the only one from this wave of arrests who was still in prison, and he had spent nearly a year in solitary confinement. His conversion to Christianity is seen as an act against national security, and in March 2012, Farshid was sentenced to six more years in prison. Throughout this time, he has been subjected to extreme mistreatment, including mental torture—being told lies about his wife being arrested and his father being hospitalized for a heart attack. In fact, none of this was true and his wife and children have fled Iran for their safety. Despite these trials and acknowledged times of sadness and discouragement, Farshid has continually cited the plight of other believers and the faithfulness of His Lord as his strength and encouragement.

Farshid Fathi
Rajaei-Shahri Prison
Karaj City
Albourz State
Iran

ALIREZA SEYYEDIAN

Alireza Seyyedian became a Christian in 2006, and the challenges of being a Muslim background believer reached a new height last year when his house was raided and many Christian materials and his computer were

confiscated. On his computer was a video of his baptism in Turkey, which was interpreted by the judge in his case as a statement about the lack of freedom in Iran. He has been accused of holding meetings with former Muslims and distributing Bibles, all crimes in Iran. Many false accusations have been leveled against him as well, including membership in the Jesus Only Cult. In March 2012, he was arrested while fleeing to Turkey. Since then he has been detained in the infamous section 350 of Evin Prison—a dangerous, crammed, and unsanitary section of the prison reserved for political prisoners.

Alireza Seyyedian
Evin Prison
Saadat Abad
Tehran
Iran

SAEED ABEDINI

Pastor Abedini is an Iranian American Christian pastor who is currently imprisoned in Iran. He converted to Christianity in Iran in 2000, and subsequently helped to establish house churches in 30 Iranian cities. Because of increased persecution under Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Abedinis returned to the United States in 2005. Between 2009 and 2012, Saeed made many trips back to Iran to visit family and to continue his work with an orphanage. In 2012, he was detained and imprisoned, and ultimately sentenced for having “undermined the Iranian government by creating a network of Christian house churches and...attempting to sway Iranian youth away from Islam”. Mr. Abedini has a wife, Naghmeh, and a young son and daughter.

Pastor Saeed Abedini
c/o ACLJ
P.O. Box 90555
Washington D.C. 20090

TURKMENISTAN

Umid Gojayev has been denied amnesty because "he reads a Bible". In 2012, Gojayev had a dispute with his neighbors over access to the well in their village, and they physically attacked Umid. While defending himself he hit one of the men on the head, resulting in his hospitalization, and the neighbor filed an official complaint with the police. Umid apologized and paid the hospital bill and as a result of their reconciliation, the neighbor dropped the charges. The police, however, chose to send his case to trial because of Umid's Christian faith, even though the neighbor withdrew the charges and none of the other men were held accountable for attacking him. Umid was sentenced to four years in Seydi labor camp, and is now refused amnesty specifically because he reads the Bible..

Umid Gojayev
746222 Lebap vilayet
Seydi
uchr. LB-K/12
Turkmenistan

UZBEKISTAN

TOHAR HAYDAROV

As retribution for his work for the church, 27-year-old Tohar Haydarov was accused of

the "illegal sale of narcotic or psychotropic substances in large quantities." Church members insist that he is "a man with a pure conscience and an honest Christian." They unequivocally assert these are fabricated charges and are further confounded by the extreme ten-year sentence. Haydarov has appealed his sentence.

Tohar Haydarov
UYa 64/49
Otryad 13
Pos. Shaikh-Ali
G. Karshi, Kashkadarya Region
180020 Uzbekistan

VIETNAM

FATHER NGUYEN VAN LY

Father Nguyen Van Ly has been a vocal and powerful advocate for religious freedom and human rights in Vietnam. Because of his criticism of the government's confiscation of church property and other abuses, Father Nguyen Van Ly was arrested in 2007 and sentenced to eight years in prison. In 2010, he was so gravely ill, he was released after great public outcry for a 16-month medical parole. He was rearrested and returned to prison in 2011 to complete his sentence, despite the fact that his health is still extremely poor.

Nguyen Van Ly
Nam Ha Prison
Team 27
Ba Sao Village
Kim Bang District
Ha Nam Province
Vietnam