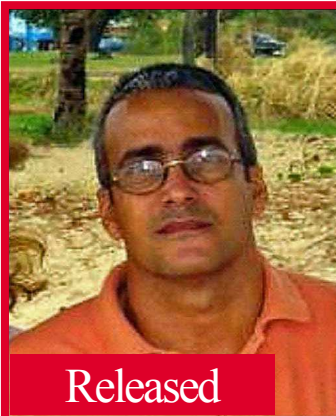


PRISONERS OF faith

Review & update

January 2007

Thank you for supporting these
Prisoners of faith in 2006



Released

Carlos Lamelas
CUBA



Released

Choi Yong-hun
CHINA



Released

Helen Berhane
ERITREA



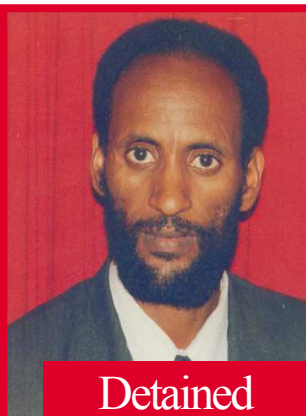
Detained

Haile Naizgi
ERITREA



Detained

Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel
ERITREA



Detained

Tesfatsion Hagos
ERITREA



Detained

Abraham Bentar
INDONESIA



Executed

Xu Shuangfu
CHINA



Detained

Zhang Rongliang
CHINA



Detained

Wang Zaiqing
CHINA



Detained

Bahaa el-Akkad
EGYPT



Detained

Mua Say So
VIETNAM

Through our international network of missions, Release International serves persecuted Christians in 30 countries around the world by supporting pastors and Christian prisoners, and their families; supplying Christian literature and Bibles; and working for justice.

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INTERNATIONAL
release
THE VOICE OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Pastor Carlos Lamelas (CUBA) who was detained and imprisoned in February 2006 and then released unexpectedly in June, was absolved of all charges against him on December 13. Although concerned that the Cuban authorities are still looking for a way to punish him, he rejoices in his freedom, his family and the support from thousands of Christians all around the world who prayed and wrote on his behalf. Pray that he will not undergo further persecution from the Cuban authorities.

Choi Yong-hun (CHINA/NORTH KOREA). North Korea is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for believers. Contact with missionaries and possessing any religious literature is seen as a capital offence punishable by imprisonment or public execution. It is estimated that up to 100,000 Christians may be held indefinitely in prison camps where they face, torture, starvation, slave labour, and death. Many are executed and martyred. Choi Yong-hun was arrested by Chinese police in January 2003 for helping North Korean refugees travel through China and was sentenced to five years imprisonment. He experienced torture at the hands of prison guards and fellow prisoners, mainly due to his Christian faith. Thank God for his release and continue to pray for this dear brother, his wife and their two daughters.

Helen Berhane (ERITREA) After more than two and a half years in prison, Helen Berhane, an Eritrean gospel singer, was released in November 2006. First arrested on May 13 2004, Helen was confined for 30 months mainly in an underground solitary cell or a metal shipping container. She endured severe beatings and was heavily pressured to recant her faith throughout the duration of her imprisonment. By the grace and strength of God, she stood firm and held fast to her faith. Although Helen is free she is currently in poor health. Severe injuries to her legs and feet have made it difficult for her to walk unaided. Please pray for Helen as she is reunited with her family, and as she recovers and heals from this torture and abuse.

Haile Naizgi, Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel and Pastor Tesfatsion Hagos (ERITREA). All three of these Eritrean church leaders were arrested in May 2004 and remain incarcerated in Asmara's Karchele prison. There is little or no recent news as to their condition or situation, however we have reason to believe that Pastor Hagos may be in solitary confinement. Pray for their release and for their families.

Abraham Bentar (INDONESIA) was sentenced to three and a half years in prison on May 17 2006. At present he remains incarcerated at Tasikmalaya prison. Release International continue to provide pastoral care and practical support to his family. Please continue praying for his wife Kristiyowati and daughter Rinda.

Xu Shuangfu (CHINA), the founder of the Three Grade Servant church group, was executed sometime during the last week of November 2006. Neither his lawyer nor his family were informed in advance about the execution. The execution took place despite claims by well informed observers that this was a miscarriage of justice. The authorities covered up the evidence of torture by secretly cremating the body.

Pastor Zhang Rongliang (CHINA). One of the most prominent Chinese house church leaders, Pastor Zhang Rongliang was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison on July 4 2006. During five separate detentions he has already spent twelve years in prison for his faith since his secret baptism in 1969. He has experienced extreme torture, including electric shocks, during his various prison terms. Continue to pray for his safety health and release.

Pastor Wang Zaiqing (CHINA) was fined \$12,500 and sentenced to two years in prison on October 9 2006. His crime was that of printing and distributing Bibles free of charge in China. Disabled from the age of five, Pastor Wang continues to need our prayers for his release and for his health whilst in prison.

Mr Bahaa el-Din Ahmed Hussein el-Akkad (EGYPT) remains imprisoned for no reason other than his faith. A former Muslim who chooses to follow Christianity, he was arrested on April 5 2005 and now suffers in solitary confinement separated from his wife and family. He needs our prayers.

Mua Say So (VIETNAM), who was sentenced and imprisoned in April 2003, has been told by the authorities that if he denies God and returns to ancestor worship then he will be released. This dear Vietnamese ethnic Hmong believer continues to stand firm in his faith and so remains incarcerated. Please continue praying for this brother, his family and the many other ethnic Christians in Vietnam who are imprisoned for their faith in Christ.

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