

PRISONERS OF faith

Abraham Bentar Rohadi Country: Indonesia

Abraham Bentar Rohadi, a 55 year old clothes trader from West Java, is currently imprisoned in a cell in Tasikmalaya, Indonesia. Falsely accused of blasphemy against the Prophet Mohammed he is currently serving a four and a half year sentence. His only crime has been to share his faith in Jesus with his customers, family and friends.

As a Muslim, Abraham had studied the Koran since childhood. In 1998, at the age of 48, he suffered a stroke. Following a local pastor's prayer for his healing, Abraham had a dream of a man in a white robe. He thought the man's face was the same as the face he had seen on a picture of Jesus at a neighbour's home. Abraham resolved to accept Jesus as his Lord and Saviour if he were healed from the stroke. He was healed and the same pastor arranged for a local church to disciple Abraham who was eventually baptised in 2003. Abraham sought to live out his faith and his desire was to communicate that faith with his Muslim friends, which he did. As he sold clothing in villages in West and central Java he shared how Jesus had appeared to him in the dream and had subsequently healed him.

It was his own brother-in-law who filed charges against him saying that Abraham had tried to force Christianity on him and had blasphemed the Prophet Mohammed. On March 7, 2006, Abraham was visiting relatives in West Java when he was attacked by a group of Muslims who beat him severely. A large crowd of Muslims gathered outside and proceeded to overturn his van and help themselves to the contents, including various items of new clothing. As the melee continued they were joined by other Muslims and began shouting, 'Burn him!' They set fire to his van before the police arrived just

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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for prayer & action

AUGUST 2006



Abraham at his baptism



Kristowadi & Rinda

in time to save his life. Abraham was then detained in the Tasikmalaya police station where he was formally charged with blasphemy. During his trial and sentencing in May, Abraham's own brothers were among the witnesses for the prosecution. Release International's partners in Indonesia are supporting Abraham's wife Kristowadi and their 14-year-old daughter Rinda.

Abraham recently requested three Bibles for his six cellmates with whom he is sharing the gospel

Matthew 10:21 'Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death'

PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ That Kristowadi and Rinda would experience the joy and peace that comes from God.
- ▶ That God would bless the witness of Abraham in the prison while protecting his life and health.
- ▶ That Christians in Indonesia would remain faithful and see God at work in their nation.

'But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him'
Acts 12:5

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THE VOICE OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

SEND A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Please send an encouraging card or letter to the family of Abraham Bentar Rohadi. Assure them that you are praying for them and for the release of Abraham.

2 Samuel 22:31 'As for God, His way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection' (NLT)

When writing please do not mention Release International, or advance your political opinion or include anything which could be insulting to the authorities. Do not send money.

Abraham can receive cards or letters c/o the following address :

Abraham Bentar Rohadi
Lembaga Perasyarakatatan Indramayu
Jalan Gatot Subroto
Indramayu 45213
Jawa Barat
Indonesia

- Greeting cards, artwork by children and postcards are best
- Print clearly (you can write in English)
- Be encouraging, keep your message brief, include one or two Bible verses
- Don't say anything negative about the government or Muslims
- Provide your name & country, you do not have to include your address.
- Contact us for more information.

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