

Prisoners of faith

release
PRISONERS

EMAIL ALERT

JANUARY 2011



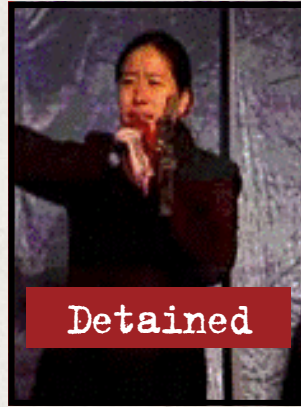
Detained

Said Musa
AFGHANISTAN



Released

Pastor Wang Dao
CHINA



Detained

Linfen church leaders
CHINA



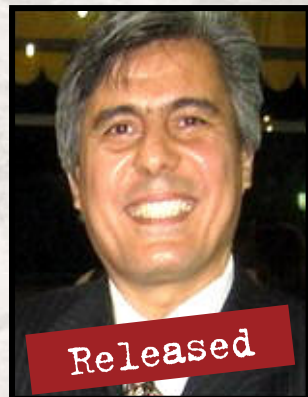
Detained

Pastor Yang Xuan
CHINA



Released

Ali Golchin
IRAN



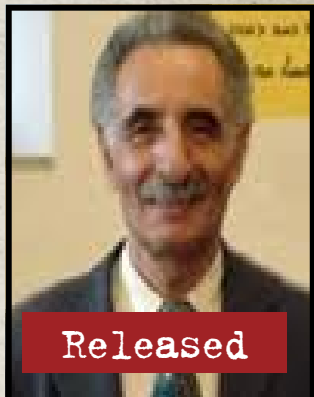
Released

Bahnam Irani
IRAN



Released

Hamid Shafiee
IRAN



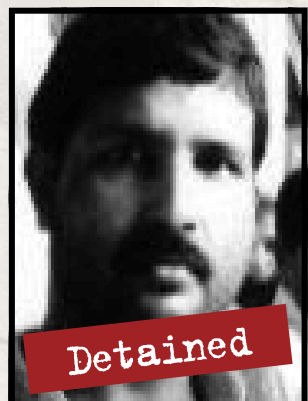
Released

Reverend Issavi
IRAN



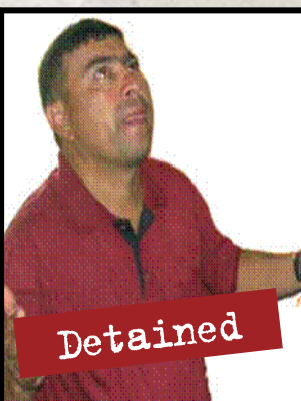
Detained

Jamaa Ait Bakrim
MOROCCO



Detained

Younis Masih
PAKISTAN



Detained

Ilmurad Nurliev
TURKMENISTAN



Detained

Tohar Haydarov
UZBEKISTAN

HELPING CHRISTIANS IMPRISONED FOR THEIR FAITH

'I am in chains for Christ' Philippians 1:13

release
international
voice of persecuted christians

PLEASE PRAY

AFGHANISTAN: Said Musa, a former Muslim, became a Christian eight years ago. He was arrested in May after video footage of indigenous Christians worshipping was shown on national television. While imprisoned, he suffered sexual abuse, beatings, and sleep deprivation because of his faith. He appeared, shackled, before a judge on November 27. No Afghan lawyer will defend him and, in early December, authorities denied him access to a foreign lawyer.

CHINA: On June 13, Pastor Wang Dao was released on bail to await trial. The authorities have changed the charges against him several times. In a recent article Pastor Wang spoke of his burden to pray and fast for the release of his brothers and sisters in Christ who remain imprisoned in China.

CHINA: On November 25, 2009, a number of key leaders of the Linfen Church were sentenced to criminal detention of two to seven years. Yang Rongli (pictured) received the harshest sentence.

CHINA: Linfen Church pastor, Yang Xuan, is currently serving the remainder of his three-and-a-half-year sentence. At the same time his wife, Yang Caizhen, was sentenced to two years' re-education through labour.

IRAN: After spending 87 days in custody Ali Golchin was released on bail from Evin prison. The bond posted to secure his release was raised against the value of the family home. This process together with the fact that Ali can be re-arrested at the discretion of the Iranian authorities means the whole family are restricted within Iran.

IRAN: Pastor Bahnam Irani was released on bail after being in prison for two months. This method of collecting heavy bail bonds from Christian detainees appears to be part of a specific tactic to maintain government control over Iranian Christian leaders in particular.

IRAN: Married Christian couple Hamid Shafiee and Reyhaneh Aghajary were detained for more than 75 days in a detention centre in Isfahan before being released following payment of bail.

IRAN: Reverend Wilson Issavi was released on bail in March 2010. He had been imprisoned in Isfahan, tortured and threatened with execution. Friends and family testify to the gracious and gentle Christian witness of this elderly church leader and request prayer for his safety.

MOROCCO: Jamaa Ait Bakrim, a Moroccan Christian, has been in prison for his faith since 2005. He was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for 'proselytism' and 'destruction of the goods of others,' both allegedly trumped-up charges by the authorities.

PAKISTAN: Younis Masih says his greatest comfort in prison is God's Word; his greatest concern is his wife and children. This dear Christian brother has been abused and badly treated during his time in Central Jail, Sahiwal, Pakistan. Pray for him and his family.

TURKMENISTAN: In October, Pastor Ilmurad Nurliev was sentenced to four years detention to include forced medical treatment at Seydi Labour Camp. Former prisoners in the camp appear to have been given psychotropic (mind-altering) drugs as part of their 'treatment'. Just before Christmas his wife Maya said, 'Ilmurad will pray and praise God at Christmas in the labour camp - he has composed hymns and songs in Turkmen and Russian'.

UZBEKISTAN: Tohar Haydarov, a 27-year-old Baptist from Tashkent, was convicted on false charges of selling drugs and sentenced to 10 years in jail. He remains incarcerated in a labour camp close to Karshi, around 250 miles from his home town.

HELPING CHRISTIANS IMPRISONED FOR THEIR FAITH

Through our international network of missions, Release 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. Please see www.releaseinternational.org for more information.

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