

Prisoners of faith

release
PRISONERS

EMAIL ALERT

MARCH 2011

Said Musa Afghanistan

Afghan Christian Said Musa, (Prisoners of Faith Alert December 2010) who was arrested in May and threatened with execution for his conversion to Christianity, has been released from prison and is now safely out of the country. His release follows months of persistent negotiations, intense international diplomacy and concerted prayer on his behalf.



Photo: Release International

A recent meeting with representatives of the United States was followed by a visit of three Afghan officials who informed Musa, (often called Moses by his Christian friends), that he would be released within twenty-four hours if he wrote a statement declaring that he regretted his conversion to Christianity.

In a handwritten letter relating the incident, Musa wrote, 'I laughed and replied, I can't deny my Saviour's name. Because my life is just service to Jesus Christ and my death is going to heaven (where) Jesus Christ is. I am a hundred percent ready to die. I never deny my Lord's name. It's a great reward (privilege) to me to be called Jesus Christ's disciple... They pushed me much and much. I refused their demands'. Musa was then transferred back to his prison cell. Family and friends continued to pray and trust that the authorities would agree to Musa's release. On February 21, a call from a US embassy official brought the news they had been hoping for. Musa had been freed and was safely out of the country.

Throughout his time in prison, Musa has encouraged and challenged Christians around the world by his devotion to, and love for, Christ. Further on in the same

letter, he prays for believers around the world to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He ends the letter with these words, 'You're worthy our Lord to receive glory, honour and power for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. Amen.' Release partners in Afghanistan have asked us to continue to pray for Musa as he rests, that he will experience God's peace.

Release International CEO, Mr Andy Dipper, who lived in Afghanistan for several years said, 'We have been involved in quiet diplomacy over many months with embassies and the Afghan government and are thankful for this positive outcome for Said, but remain very concerned about another Afghan convert to Christianity, Shoaib Assadullah, and potentially many others like him as the law is ambiguous as to how converts from Islam are treated. They should be allowed to co-exist in accordance with provisions under the Afghan constitution.'

In thanking all those who have written, supported, prayed and worked to secure Musa's release Andy also encouraged Christians in the UK to continue praying and to engage fully with the issues of persecution.

HELPING CHRISTIANS IMPRISONED FOR THEIR FAITH

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

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PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ Giving thanks to the Lord for Musa's release
- ▶ That God will strengthen Musa and his family physically, emotionally and spiritually
- ▶ That God will protect, encourage and build his church in Afghanistan

PLEASE WRITE

As Said Musa and his family come to terms with all that has taken place and now make the transition to a very different way of life, they will undoubtedly face new and difficult challenges. We encourage you to send a card or write a letter of encouragement to Said Musa and his family.

Any cards or letters we receive will be send directly to Said and will certainly be a source of tremendous encouragement to the whole family.

Psalm 79:11 'Let the groans of the prisoners come before you; according to your great power, preserve those doomed to die!' (ESV)

Send a card or short letter of encouragement C/O Release International, PO Box 54, Orpington, BR5 9RT, UK

We will endeavour to get your cards and letters to Said Musa quickly.

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

Release International produces the Prisoners of Faith alert every month as part of its ministry to support persecuted Christians. To receive your own copy free of charge by email, please register your details at www.releaseinternational.org/signup.

If you would like to make a financial donation to support Christian Prisoners of Faith and their families, you may give securely online at www.releaseinternational.org/donate, or by calling 01689 823491. Registered Charity 280577.

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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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