

# PRISONERS OF faith

## HAMID POURMAND

**Occupation: Pastor**

**Country: Iran**

**Charged with apostasy &  
proselytising Muslims**

Iranian Pastor Hamid Pourmand is the first convert to be charged with apostasy – converting from Islam – since 1993.

Hamid, a former colonel in the Iranian army, who serves as a lay pastor in the Assemblies of God church in Bandar-i Bushehr, faces the death penalty if convicted.

Preliminary hearings in the *Sharia* court were however cancelled at the end of April, apparently in response to international press coverage, with no date being set for his trial.

Hamid had already been sentenced to three years' imprisonment by a Tehran military court on 16 February 2005. He was convicted of deceiving the armed forces by not declaring that he was a convert from Islam to Christianity – despite having documents which showed that he had been excused, as a non-Muslim, from observing the Ramadan fast. He was arrested in September 2004.

Pourmand's family continues to suffer the consequences of the charges. His military salary was suspended when he was arrested. The family was to be immediately evicted from military housing, but local authorities have allowed them to remain until the end of the current school term. According to one Iranian source, Pourmand's wife and two teenage sons feel very much alone.

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**EMAIL ALERT  
for prayer & action**

**MAY 2005**



Photo: Compass Direct

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

- ▶ Believers in the church Pourmand was pastoring who do not have the right to worship together. Pray that they will look to God and be strengthened spiritually.
- ▶ Hamid, that he will remain strong in his faith, and know God's grace and peace.
- ▶ His wife Arlet and two children, Emmanuel and David, that God will sustain, strengthen and grant peace to each of them.

*'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

## PLEASE WRITE IN SUPPORT OF HAMID POURMAND

Please write a short, polite letter to the following asking that Hamid's life is spared, and that he is returned safely to his family. Please do not mention RI when you write.

### LEADER OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC:

Salutation: Your Excellency

Address: His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei  
The Presidency  
Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: 00 98 21 649 5880 (Mark it: FAO the Office of His Excellency, Ayatollah al Udhma Khamenei, Qom)

### PRESIDENT:

Salutation: Your Excellency

Address: His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami  
The Presidency  
Palestine Avenue  
Azerbaijan Intersection  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

### HEAD OF THE JUDICIARY:

Salutation: Your Excellency

Address: His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi  
Ministry of Justice  
Park-e Shahr  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: 00 98 21 311 6567 (Mark it: FAO His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi)

### HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Salutation: Your Excellency

Address: Ambassador Mehdi Danesh Yazdi  
Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Avenue  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: 00 98 21 390 1999

### IRANIAN EMBASSY, LONDON:

Salutation: Your Excellency

Address: His Excellency Mr Morteza Sarmadi  
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
16 Prince's Gate, London SW7 1PT

Fax: 0207 589 4440