



Eti, Ratna & Rebekka

Occupation: Housewives

Country: Indonesia

Sentence: Three years imprisonment

Dr. Rebekka Zakaria, Mrs. Eti Pangesti and Mrs. Ratna Bangun were arrested May 16, 2005. Charged under the Children Protection Act of 2002, their trial began June 30th and ended September 1, 2005, when judges sentenced the women to three years in prison, plus a fine for allowing Muslim children to attend a Christian Sunday school programme. The Sunday school teachers had instructed the children to get permission from their parents before attending, and those who did not have permission were asked to go home.

Throughout the trial, Islamic extremists made murderous threats both inside and outside the courtroom. When the verdict was announced, the courtroom crowd erupted with shouts of "Allahu akbar" ("God is great"). The women have been told that their appeal hearing will be in about three months time.

Described by friends as "ordinary housewives," the three women were relieved that they had not been given the maximum five-year prison sentence. All three however, were devastated at the prospect of being separated from their children, who range from 6 to 19 years of age.

During her detention, Rebekka shared that Psalm 37:1-5 had been a real encouragement to her. "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him ..."

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.

Please see www.releaseinternational.org for more information.

© Release International 2005 Tel: 01689 823491

EMAIL ALERT
for prayer & action
OCTOBER 2005



From left to right: Eti Pangesti, Ratna Bangun, and Dr. Rebekka Zakaria, in court on the day of their sentencing.

Photo: Compass Direct

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- ▶ Pray for the release of Rebekka, Eti and Ratna, all who have children of their own
- ▶ Pray that the appeal judge will give them a fair hearing
- ▶ Pray for their faith to remain strong, for their families, and for their fellow believers in Indonesia

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

release INTERNATIONAL
THE VOICE OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

PLEASE WRITE IN SUPPORT OF OUR INDONESIAN SISTERS

Please send an encouraging card or letter (with a family photo) to Dr Rebekka Zakaria, Eti Pangesti and Ratna Bangun. Assure them that you are praying for them and for their families.

Please do not mention RI when you write.

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. Be aware that unscrupulous individuals, claiming to be the prisoner, occasionally steal letters and solicit funds. We recommend that you never send money to anyone who responds to your letter. Contact us for more information.

Prison address:

Ibu Dr. Rebekka Zakaria, Ibu Eti Pangesti, Ibu Ratna Bangun

P.O. Box 1886

JKP 10018

Indonesia