

2009

Christian prisoners' list



In Eritrea, Christian prisoners are detained in such shipping containers.



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

Algeria

Prisoners

HAMID RAMDANI

He was sentenced on February 5, 2008 to 3 years in prison and 500 000 DA (5126 euros) fine for violating the religion and the person of the prophet of Islam.

JHALAL DOB

Sentenced by the Algerian courts on February 5, 2008 to 1 year imprisonment and the payment of a fine of 100 Euros.

RACHID MOHAMED SEGHIR

He was sentenced on February 5, 2008 to 5 years in prison and 500 000 DA (5126 euros) fine for violating the religion and the person of the prophet of Islam.

YOUSSEF OURAHMANE

He was sentenced on February 5, 2008 to 3 years in prison and 500 000 DA (5126 euros) fine for violating the religion and the person of the prophet of Islam.

Azerbaijan

Released these past 12 months

ZAUR BALAEV (1963)

Pastor Zaur was released from prison on March 19, 2008. He received amnesty on the occasion of Nawruz, the Persian New Year, on March 20.

Bangladesh

Families of Martyrs

BITUNY ASRU D'SILVA

After having raped the girl and her mother, criminals have poisoned the girl who was taken to hospital to be treated. Unfortunately, her attackers found her track and killed her during her hospitalization. The parents of the girl have publicly protested against these attacks at a press conference, and since then they have been forced to flee their home and go into hiding, after receiving repeated threats of retaliation.

China

Prisoners

AIQING ZHU (1956)

She was arrested for "illegal evangelistic activities" on June 9, 1996 and given a twenty-year sentence.

ALIMJAN YIMIT

Police arrested Alimjan on January 12, 2008 for endangering national security but refused to explain the charges to his family. Alimjan, once a Muslim, converted to Christianity more than 10 years ago and became active in the growing Uyghur church. Friends believe his faith is the real reason for his arrest.

Please send your letter to your OD office.

CHEN JIAXI

On January 4, 2007 this pastor was arrested for distributing free Bibles and other Christian literature to house-church members. He has been charged with 'illegal business management' and could face a 3-year sentence.

CHEN ZHONG (1970)

Christian arrested in 2000 and sentenced to 8 years for "Illegal evangelistic activities, and disturbing social safety".

DONG DAOLAI, Pastor

Arrested with other South China Church leaders during October 2002. He has been sentenced to 10 years.

FAN QIQIN (1956)

Christian arrested on August 5, 1996, and sentenced to 13 years imprisonment for "Disturbing social safety".

GAO XINYOU

An underground Catholic lay leader arrested on March 21, 2005 in Wenzhou. He is probably being pressurised to join the official Church.

GAO YUETANG (1962)

Christian arrested in October 1997 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for "Disturbing social safety".

GAO ZHISHENG

On Sept. 22, 2007, this Christian human rights attorney and his family were reportedly arrested a day after he sent an open letter to the U.S. Congress listing human rights abuses. Gao has been under house arrest since his December 2006 conviction for 'inciting subversion', serving a sentence of three years with five years probation for his human rights defense work.

GONG BANGKUN

Leader of the embattled South China house church movement, arrested and sentenced to death in December 2001. His death sentence has been commuted to 15 years imprisonment.

HAO YUETANG (1956)

Christian arrested in April 1996 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

HU YING

A leader in the South China Church arrested in 2000 and given a life sentence in prison.

HU YONG

Leader of the embattled South China house church movement, sentenced in December 2002 to a life sentence on charges of belonging to a "cult".

HUANG AIPING

Farmer of Xiamen, Huli district, Fujian province. Sentenced on January 8, 2002 to seven years imprisonment for "using a cult to break the law".

HUANG CHUNSHOU (1971)

Underground Catholic priest in the Baoding diocese, Hebei province, he was arrested on Aug. 6, 2004. (Info Oct. 2006)

HUO JUNLONG Paul (1963)

Underground Catholic priest and vicar general of the Baoding diocese, he was arrested on Aug. 6, 2004 in the Hebei province. (Info Oct. 2006)

JI QINGJUN

Businessman of Xiamen, Huli district, Fujian province. Sentenced on January 8, 2002 to 7 years imprisonment for "using a cult to break the law". He previously spent 3 years in labor camp from 1998 to 2001.

JIN SAILAN (1953)

Christian arrested in July 2001 and sentenced to 8 years imprisonment for participating in an "Anti-revolution organization".

KANG FULIANG

Young underground Catholic priest of the Baoding diocese, arrested on July 1, 2003 in the Hebei Province, on his way with four other priests to visit the newly-released Suffragan-Bishop Lu Genjun. (Info July 2005)

LI HUI SHENG

Underground Catholic priest, Shangyi parish, was arrested together with about 20 parishioners on Aug. 1, 2006. (Info Sept. 2006)

LI JINHU (1971)

Underground Catholic student priest in the Baoding diocese, Hebei province, he was arrested with nine others on Aug. 6, 2004. (Info Oct. 2006)

LI MINGLONG

Farmer of Xiamen, Huli district, Fujian province. Sentenced on January 8, 2002 to seven years imprisonment for "using a cult to break the law".

LI PING (1980)

Female Christian arrested in April 1996, and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for "Illegal evangelistic activities".

LI SHUJUN

Young underground Catholic priest of the Baoding diocese, arrested on Dec. 27, 2006 in the Hebei Province. The reason for his arrest is unknown.

LI YING (1972)

Niece of Pastor Gong Shengliang, the founder of the South China Church. She was arrested in May 2001 and sentenced to death on December 18, 2001. She was retried in October 2002 and is now serving a 15-year sentence on charges of "rape and aggression." She cannot have a Bible and is forced to work 15 hours a day on materials to be exported.

LI YONGSHUN (1974)

Underground Catholic priest in the Boading diocese, Hebei province, he was arrested with nine others on Aug. 6, 2004. (Info Oct. 2006)

LIU BANGCHENG (1952)

Christian arrested on April 28, 2001 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for alleged swindle.

LIU GUOLIN (1932)

Christian arrested in September 1998 and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

LIU HUIWEN

Sentenced to 18 months imprisonment in November 2007 for distributing a gospel leaflet to Muslims in Gansu province. He is suffering mistreatment in a Muslim-majority prison. After a prison visit (allowed only twice a month), Liu's wife Miao Hui Lian said that he was limping badly and looked very thin.

LIU SHUNTING (1974)

Christian arrested in October 1998 and sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for being a "Political criminal".

LIU WEI (1961)

Christian arrested in June 1998 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for "Anti-revolution" activities.

LIU XINJIANG (1952)

Christian arrested in October 1993 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for "Anti-revolution" activities.

MA WUYONG (1974)

Underground Catholic priest in the Boading diocese, Hebei province, he was arrested with nine others on Aug. 6, 2004. (Info Oct. 2006)

MENGYU TANG (1977)

A female South China Church Leader arrested in June 2004 and given a six-year sentence.

MINGHUA SUN

Female leader of the embattled South China house church movement. She was given a life sentence, according to a January 28, 2002 appeal letter from concerned relatives.

OSMAN IMIN

Osman was sentenced in November 2007 to two years of re-education through labor. He is married to Nurgul. They have two daughters (7 and 5).



Please send your letter to your OD office.

PANG YONGXIN

Underground Catholic priest of the Baoding diocese, arrested on Dec. 27, 2006 in the Hebei Province. The reason for his arrest is unknown.

QIAO JUWEI (1974)

Underground Catholic priest in the Boading diocese, Hebei province, he was arrested with nine others on Aug. 6, 2004. (Info Oct. 2006)

QIN YINGSHAN (1974)

Underground Catholic priest in the Boading diocese, Hebei province, he was arrested with nine others on Aug. 6, 2004. (Info Oct. 2006)

SHAO SHUMIN

Underground Catholic priest and vicar general of Wenzhou diocese (in the eastern Zhejiang Province), was arrested in September 2006, 3 hours only after his return from Europe. The police took away a large number of books and photos that the priest brought back from Europe.

SHI HOUYOU (1954)

Christian arrested in October 1993 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for "Anti-revolution" activities.

SHI WEIHAN

On March 19, 2008, this bookstore owner in Beijing has been re-arrested for publishing Bibles and Christian literature. Zhang, his wife, said she is very concerned about her husband's health, as he has diabetes.

SHUANG SHUYING (1930)

On February 26, 2007 house-church leader Hui Huiqi's 77-year-old mother, Shuang Shuying, was sentenced to two years in prison by Beijing Chongwen District People's Court. She was charged with willfully damaging public and private property. In January, Hui Huiqi and his elderly mother were attacked by police officers while they were walking near a 2008 Olympic hotel site in Beijing. She was arrested when she sought information about her son, who was arrested on January 26, 2007.

SUN MINGHUA (1965)

Female member of the South China Church, arrested in October 2002 and given a 13-year sentence.

WANG CHANGMAO (1947)

Christian arrested in September 2000 and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

WANG JINLING

Underground Catholic priest of the Zhangjiakou Diocese, arrested on April 1, 2005, possibly for refusing to join the official Church.

XIAO YANGLI (1972)

A former secretary in the South China Church, she was arrested in May 2001 and sentenced in December 2001 by a court in Jingmen to 10 years in prison. She is detained in the women's prison in Wuhan, where she has to do tailoring work for 16 hours a day. She cannot have a Bible and according to "China Aid", she looks physically and mentally exhausted.

XU JINSHUI (1936)

Christian arrested in April 1999 and given a life sentence for taking part in an "Anti-revolution organization".

YAO LIANG (1923)

Bishop of the underground Catholic Church, Xiwanzi diocese, Hebei province. Arrested in March 2005 and again in July 2006. He is detained in an unknown place. (Info Sept. 2007)

YI CHUANFU (1955)

Pastor arrested during October 2002 and sentenced to 10 years. He has been severely beaten.

YIN JOSEPH

Young underground Catholic priest of the Baoding diocese, arrested on July 1, 2003 in the Hebei Province. (Info July 2005)

ZHANG RONGLIANG

One of China's best-known and most respected house church leaders, Zhang is the senior leader of the Fengcheng house churches network. He was arrested without charges on December 1, 2004 in the Henan province. On June 29, 2006 he was sentenced to 7 1/2 years in prison and has already seen 40 to 50 conversions in prison. His health has improved a little lately. Previously, Zhang had already spent a total of 12 years in prison for his religious activities. He is married to Chen and has two sons who both had to go underground.

ZHANG ZHENGUAN Jean-Baptiste (1974)

Underground Catholic priest in the Boading diocese, Hebei province, he was arrested in Aug. 2004 and sentenced to re-education through forced labour.

ZHAO ERHUI (1956)

Female Christian arrested on January 29, 2001 and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for being "Related with a cult".

ZHAO FALIANG (1959)

Christian arrested in October 1998 and sentenced to 17 years imprisonment for being a "Political criminal".

ZHAO XIQING

Member of the South China Church, arrested in 2001 for evangelism. He is now serving his seven-year sentence in Yunyang City, Sichuan Province.

ZHOU BENYOU (1951)

Christian arrested in October 1993 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for "Anti-revolution" activities.

ZHOU BENYOU (1967)

Christian arrested in October 1994 and given a life sentence.

ZHU AIQING (1962)

Female Christian arrested on June 9, 1998, and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for "Illegal evangelistic activities".

ZHU DEHUA (1954)

Christian arrested on May 26, 1998 and sentenced to 13 years imprisonment for "Anti-revolution" activities.

Prisoners with unclear status**AN JIANZHAO Paul (1974)**

Underground Catholic priest in the Boading diocese, Hebei province, he was arrested in Aug. 6, 2004 and sentenced to re-education through forced labour.

Under house arrest or released on bail

FAN ZHONGLIANG Joseph (1918)

Underground bishop of Shanghai. He has already spent 30 years in prison. Under strict surveillance. (Info Sept. 2007)

HUA HUIQI

On October 11, 2007 this prominent house church leader was repeatedly attacked and beaten by police at his home. According to China Aid Association, Hua was reading his Bible at his home despite police surrounding his house. He was sent to Beijing Tiantan Hospital, because he fainted after repeated beatings from the police. China's Public Security Bureau (PSB) recently put Hua under house arrest. PSB officers had been surrounding his house, when they attacked him.

LIN XIANGAO (Pastor Samuel LAMB, 1924)

One of the most famous House Church leaders in South China. Severely watched by the police. Around 3000 Christians meet in his house every week.

LIN XILI James (1918)

Underground Catholic Bishop of the Wenzhou diocese, Zhejiang province. Arrested in September 1999 and released in 2002, he is still confined to the cathedral of the official Church, deprived of freedom of movement. He is in bad health. (Info Sept. 2007)

LIU GUANGDONG

Bishop of Yixian, Hebei. Paralyzed, but still under strict surveillance. (Info Sept. 2007)

YANG SHUDAO John (1920)

Underground Catholic Bishop of Fuzhou diocese, Fujian province, arrested on February 10, 2000. He previously spent 29 years in prison. Now released under strict surveillance. (Info Sept. 2007)

ZENG JINGMU Thomas (1919)

Underground Catholic Bishop of Yu Jiang, Jiangxi province, arrested in September 2000. He had already spent 32 years in prison or in labor camp. Released from jail in 1998, he is now under house arrest. (Info Sept. 2007)

ZHAO ZHENG DONG Peter (1920)

Bishop of the underground Catholic Church, Xuanhua diocese, Hebei province. Released in June 2004, he was arrested again in January 2005 and later put under house arrest for having ordained five priests. (Info Sept. 2006)

Released these past 12 months

PANG GUANGZHAO

Underground Catholic priest of the Baoding diocese (Hebei), arrested on July 1, 2003 in the Hebei Province. Although released and gone home, he is not allowed to administer sacraments. (Info July 2005)

Colombia

Prisoners with unclear status

GUILLERMO CORREA ORTIZ (1932)

Catholic priest kidnapped on August 4, 2000, in Gigante, some 320 km (200 miles) southwest of Bogota. The FARC guerilla are demanding \$ 500,000 for his safe return. Correa Ortiz is in poor health.

Went into hiding

WILMER RIBON

After several threats, Pastor Wilmer Ribon (31) had to be resolved in June 2008 to go into hiding with his family.

Egypt

Prisoners

HISHAM SAMIR IBRAHIM (1976)

Detained in the Mazraa Tora prison since May 7, 2002 because of his conversion to Christianity in 1996.

IBRAHIM FAWZY ABDO

Egyptian authorities sent him to El Wadi El Gadid Detention Camp on Nov. 22, 2008. He was wrongly accused and arrested for killing a Muslim.

NASEEM ABDEL-MALAK (1961)

Coptic Christian arrested in late 1997. On November 13, 1997 he was given a life sentence with hard labor. A medical doctor, director of the El-Khanka Hospital, he is accused of having illegally released a mentally ill Islamic fundamentalist who killed 9 German tourists in Cairo in September 1997. It is uncertain whether Naseem is really guilty and his sentence is exceptionnally heavy. The family have appealed directly to President H. Mubarak for clemency. Naseem is married and has two children.

REFAAT

Egyptian authorities sent him to El Wadi El Gadid Detention Camp on Nov. 22, 2008. He was wrongly accused and arrested for killing a Muslim.

SHAIBOUB W. ARSAL (1964)

Arrested on September 22, 1998. Accused of the murders of two Coptic Christians in El-Kosheh. Two alleged "eye-witnesses" repudiated their written testimony made under torture. On June 5, 2000, he was sentenced to 38 years hard labor, the maximum sentence under Egyptian law for unpremeditated murder. He is married with 3 children.



**c/o Bishop Wissa
Diocese of Baliana
Baliana
Sohag Province
Egypt**

Prisoners with unclear status

MALAK and NAGLAA GAWARGIOS FAHMY

Christian couple detained since mid-February 2003 in an effort to force Naglaa to give up her faith and return to Islam. She was baptised in 1996. They have two children, Maria and George.

NERMINE STEPHANOS (1986)

Kidnapped in June 2003 and forced to change her religion to Islam. Her abductors planned to have her married to a Muslim man. Despite efforts by her father to trace her, the Security Police continue to ignore this case, which is only one among many such abductions. (Info Nov. 2007)

Eritrea

The regime of Communist President Isayas Afewerki banned all Independent Protestant churches in May 2002, though some Orthodox people have also had problems. It is now believed that over 2000 Christians are being detained in 12 different locations across

Prisoners

ABRAHAM MEGARI

Pastor of the Rhema Church arrested in April 2008 and detained.

ABRAHAM YOSIEF

Pastor and leader of a Coptic Revival group arrested in 2007 and detained.

AKLILU MEHARIZGI

Elder of the Hallelujah Church arrested in April 2008 and detained.

ALEM GENZEBU

A pastor of the Kale-Hiwot Church arrested in 2007 and detained.

BERHANE ARAYA

Elder of the Full Gospel Church arrested in 2006 and detained.

BERHANE GOITOM

An evangelist of the Rhema Church arrested in April 2008 and detained.

DANIEL HEILEMICHEL

Daniel Heilemichel, pastor of the Charismatic Word of Power Church, was taken from his home on Feb. 23, 2006. He was placed under detention at Asmara's Police Station No. 2. "His wife is in great distress," a local Christian said, noting that the couple had been married just a month prior to Heilemichel's arrest.

DAWIT MESGHENA

A member of the Rema Church in Adi-Segdo, he was arrested on July 5, 2004 from his home without explanation by the military police. He was taken to the Truck "B" military camp near Asmara.

DEMOZE AFWERKI

Lutheran Christian arrested on March 18, 2005.

ELSA GHERMAY (1974)

A member of the Full Gospel Church, she was arrested on July 5, 2004 as she was sharing her faith along a road in Asmara. She was taken to the Mai Serwa military prison.

FESTUME (Rev. Dr.)

A pastor arrested in 2006 and detained. Leader of the Medhane Alem, a Sunday School movement part of the Orthodox Church.

FESTUME GEREZGHIER

An evangelist of the Philadelphia Church arrested in 2006 and detained.

FREWINI TESFAY

A female preacher of the Rhema Church arrested in 2007 and detained.

FREZGI HAILE

Elder of the Philadelphia Church arrested in 2007 and detained.

FUTSUM GEBRENIGUS, Dr.

A pastor arrested in 2005 and detained.

FUTSUM KULUBERHAN, Rev. Dr.

A cleric from Medhane Alem, a Sunday School movement part of the Orthodox Church, he was arrested on March 13, 2005.

GEBREAB (JORJO)

Pastor of the Full Gospel Church arrested in 2007 and detained.

GEBREMEDHIN GEORGIS

A cleric from Medhane Alem, a Sunday School movement part of the Orthodox Church, he was arrested on March 13, 2005.

GEBREMICHEL HAGOS

Elder of the Kale-Hiwot Church arrested in 2007 and detained.

GEBREMICHEL TEKLU

A pastor of the Full Gospel Church in Assab arrested in 2006 and detained.

GOITOM HAILE

Pastor of the Philadelphia Church arrested in 2006 and detained.

HABTEAB OQBAMICHAEL

Pastor of the Rhema Church, he was arrested on March 18, 2004 with his wife and five children. He is held at the Adi Abeto prison, outside Asmara.

HABTOM TESFAMICHEL (1950)

Pastor Habtom Tesfamichel was taken into custody on January 23, 2007. He had been pastoring the Full Gospel Church's Asmara congregation since its previous pastor, Kidane Woldu, was jailed in March 2005. Tesfamichel is now incarcerated in the capital's Wongel Mermera prison, along with nearly two dozen other Christian pastors and priests known to remain jailed in the notorious investigation center.

HABTOM TEWOLDE

Pastor of the Full Gospel Church arrested in 2007 and detained.

HAGOS ABRAHA

A pastor in the Full Gospel Church arrested in 2005 and imprisoned.

HAILE NAIZGI, Rev.

A leading pastor in the Full Gospel Church, he was arrested on May 23, 2004. Imprisoned without charges at Wongel Mermera, a gvt. investigation centre in Asmara, he has been refused all contact with his family since August 2004 and the actual charges against him have not been released. He is married and has four children.

HANIBAL

A pastor of the «Church of the Living God» arrested in 2006 and detained.

ISAAC MEHARI

A pastor from the Kale Hiwot Church, arrested in 2005 and detained.

ISAIAS GHIDE

A pastor of the «Church of the Living God» arrested in August 2008 and detained.

IYOB BERHE

This pastor from the Kale Hiwot Church was arrested in 2006. Early in 2007, he was hospitalized with severe injuries from harsh military punishments requiring emergency treatment. He has since been transferred back to the police station, where he remains under arrest for refusing to sign papers recanting his evangelical beliefs and activities.

IYOB GENZEBU

A pastor of the «Church of the Living God» arrested in 2006 and detained.

KELETE

A lay leader from the Rema Church, he was arrested at midnight on March 17, 2004 with his wife, six children and father-in-law, while they were having family devotions at home. They are held at the Adi Abeto prison, outside Asmara.

KIDANE GEBREMESKE

A pastor in the Full Gospel Church arrested in 2005 and imprisoned.

KIDANE WOLDU (1950)

A leading Full Gospel Church pastor, Kidane Woldu disappeared off the streets of Asmara on March 18, 2005, presumably detained by Eritrean security forces. Neither his family nor his church have been able to learn anything about his whereabouts or the charges under which he is being held. He is married and has 4 daughters.

KIDANE ZEREMARIAM

An evangelist of the Rhema Church arrested in 2007 and detained.

KIFLU GEBREMESKE Dr.

A leading pastor in the Full Gospel Church, he was arrested on May 23, 2004. Imprisoned without charges at Wongel Mermera, a gvt. investigation centre in Asmara, he has been refused all contact with his family since late August.

LEAREMEDHIU, Rev.

A pastor arrested in 2005 and detained.

MEAZA ARAY (1970)

A member of the Full Gospel Church, she was arrested on July 5, 2004 for the second time as she was sharing her faith along a road in Asmara. She was taken to the Mai Serwa military prison.

MEBRAHTU TESFAY

A pastor of the Full Gospel Church in Mendefera arrested in November 2008 and detained.

MENGESTEAB BELAY

A pastor of the Hallelujah Church arrested in 2008 and detained.

MESFIN KIFLEMARIAM

A pastor arrested in 2007 and detained.

MICHEL YEKONO

A pastor of the Philadelphia Church arrested in 2006 and detained.

MUSIE EZAZE

A pastor of the Kale-Hiwot Church arrested in 2008 and detained.

OQBAMICHEL TEKLKEHAYMANOT

Pastor of the Kale-Hiwot Church arrested in 2007 and detained.

PETROS GEBRESELASI

An evangelist of the Kale-Hiwot Church arrested in April 2008 and detained.

SAMRAWIT MEHARI

A women's leader of the Philadelphia Church arrested in 2007 and detained.

SAMUEL OGBAZGHI

A pastor arrested in 2005 and detained.

SEMERE ZAID

Pastor and Professor at the Asmara University arrested in 2005 and detained.

SIGEDE ABRAHA, Dr

Pastor of the Kale-Hiwot Church arrested in 2006 and detained.

TEAME WELDEGEBRIEL

An evangelist imprisoned since 2006 for his Christian activities is receiving especially harsh treatment because of his ministry to inmates. Prison authorities consider him dangerous because of his boldness in sharing his faith. He has been proclaiming Christ to other prisoners and many have converted to Christianity.

TEKLEAB MENGISTEAB, Rev. Dr.

A cleric from Medhane Alem, a Sunday School movement part of the Orthodox Church, he was arrested on March 13, 2005.

TESAFA ARAYA

A member of the Rema Church in Adi-Segdo, he was arrested on July 5, 2004 from his home without explanation by the military police. He was taken to the Truck "B" military camp near Asmara.

TESFAGABER

Pastor of the «Church of the Living God» arrested in 2006 and detained.

TESFAMARIAM KELATI

Elder of the Trinity Church arrested in 2006 and detained.

TESFATSION HAGOS

A pastor of the Rema Evangelical Church, he was arrested on May 26, 2004. Imprisoned without charges at Wongel Mermera, a gvt. investigation centre in Asmara, he has been refused all contact with his family since August 2004. (Info April 2005)

TEWELDE GEBREAB

A pastor in the Full Gospel Church arrested in 2005 and imprisoned.

TEWELDE HABTEZION

A pastor arrested in 2005 and detained.

TEWLDEMEDHANE Rev.

Arrested in 2006 and detained. One of the leaders of the Medhane Alem, a Sunday School movement part of the Orthodox Church.

YETBAREKHE Rev.

Arrested in 2006 and detained. One of the leaders of the Medhane Alem, a Sunday School movement part of the Orthodox Church.

YOHANNES TEFMICHAEEL

A pastor from the New Covenant Church, arrested in 2005 and detained.

ZECHARIAS ABRAHAM

This pastor of the Presbyterian church in Asmara was arrested at the close of a worship service on Sunday April 29, 2007. He had taken over the chairmanship of the Eritrean Evangelical Alliance since the arrest of his predecessor, Haile Naizgi, in 2004.

ZERIT HAGOS

A pastor of the Halleluyah Church arrested in 2007 and detained.

Prisoners with unclear status**LEULE GEBREAB (1972)**

Pastor Leule Gebreab of Asmara's Apostolic Church failed to return home to his family on August 12, 2007. His wife is greatly distressed about his disappearance. They have two children.

Died in captivity**AZIB SIMON**

Azib (30) died in July 2008 as a result of the torture endured and a malaria untreated in prison Wi'a. She was imprisoned since December 2007.

NIGSTI HAILE (1974)

Nigsti Haile (33) died on September 5, 2007 at the Weaa (Wi'a) Military Training Centre as a result of torture for refusing to sign a letter recanting her faith. Haile, a student and active member of the Rhema church, was among a group of 10 single Christian women who had been arrested during a church meeting in Keren, northwest of Asmara, and spent 18 months imprisoned under severe pressure.

Ethiopia

Families of Martyrs

TULU MOSISA

He was killed by Muslims on March 2, 2008. He was married to Chaltu Waga and was the father of five children, Ketema (24), Bekel (20), Getu (18), Asfaw (15) and Birhane (7).



Please send your letter to your OD office.

India

Prisoners

TULSI RAM

Pastor Tulsi Ram, an evangelist with the Indian Evangelical Team in Makhya Pradesh state, was beaten by Hindu extremists outside his home on March 11, 2008. Police officially arrested him on alleged charges of hurting religious sentiments.

YASHWANT PAUL

He was arrested on January 21, 2008 in the district of Uttar Pradesh on charges of fraud in a case originally registered against him in 2004. Ramesh Chand accused Rev. Paul and his wife Monica Paul of offering him 20000 rupees (USD 508) and a job to convert to Christianity. Both have vehemently denied the charges, according to the report. Rev. Paul was charged under the Indian Penal Code with cheating and criminal breach of trust and was locked up in the district jail of Ghaziabad; a magistrate rejected his initial bail plea.

Prisoners with unclear status

CHANDRA, Pastor

Native missionary Pastor Chandra was arrested in December 2003 by Orissa police on charges of baptizing five new believers. Fourteen other missionaries there also face persecution and imprisonment under the Orissa government's anti-conversion legislation.

Families of Martyrs

ALIF NAYAK

Pastor killed in 2008 when his church in Ranipada, Kandhamal, was burnt.

BIKRAM NAIK

He was killed in 2008, when the church building and 60 houses in Tiangia village, Raikia, Kandhamal, were set on fire.

DASARATH PRADHAN

He was killed in 2008, when the church building and 60 houses in Tiangia village, Raikia, Kandhamal, were set on fire.

DUSHASAN MAJHI

On October 2, 2008, his body was found in mysterious circumstances. He was a member of the church in the Sindhpali village.

DUSHASHAN MAJHI

On October 1, 2008, he was killed by tribal people in Sindhipankha village, in Orissa state. He was an influential local Christian.

KOJUNA DIGAL

Kojuna Digal (65) died on January 15, 2008, in a refugee camp from injuries sustained during the Christmas season violence against Christians in the Kandhamal district of Orissa state.

MEGHANATH DIGAL

Meganath and Priyatamma Digal, a Christian couple, were killed in violences by armed groups in Kandhamal state.

MERCY

Disciple of Sadhu AsteY, 32. They were both found strangled to death at their prayer center on Sept. 22, 2008.

PRIYATAMMA DIGAL

Meganath and Priyatamma Digal, a Christian couple, were killed in violences by armed groups in Kandhamal state. Priyatamma was an auxiliary nurse and midwife.

RASANANDA PRADHAN

He was burnt to death when his house was set ablaze at Rupa village in Kandhamal district.

REMESHWAR DIGAL

On February 3, 2008, Rameshwar Digal (55) died in a refugee camp from injuries sustained in Christmas season violence against Christians in the Kandhamal district of Orissa state.

SADHU ASTEY

A 56 years old Catholic preacher was found strangled to death at his prayer center on Sept. 22, 2008.

SANYASI MAJHI

On October 1, 2008, he was killed by tribal people in Sindhipankha village, in Orissa state.

THAKUR SING BHIL

Believing that his brother's Christian faith was black magic that resulted in the death of his teenage daughter, a tribal villager in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh state, killed him on April 3, 2008, relatives said.

THOMAS PANDIPALLY

The battered body of Father Thomas Pandipally (38) was found lying on a roadside in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh early on August 17, 2008.

Indonesia

Went into hiding

LUTHER SARAGIH

Around July 2006, Pastor Luther Saragih of an Evangelical Mission Church congregation distributed letters to several villages in Aceh Singkil inviting Christians to a revival service. A Muslim resident somehow received a copy of the letter and edited it, making it appear that Muslims were invited to the service. More than 500 Christians arrived for the service, along with a large crowd of irate Muslims. Police detained Saragih and scolded him for organizing the service. Later that night, a mob of more than 100 men poured gasoline over the building and set fire to it and came looking for Saragih and his wife at their nearby house. The couple escaped to the jungle. Christians in a neighboring province have provided shelter for Saragih and his pregnant wife following reports that local police and Muslim leaders are still searching for the couple, who have gone into hiding.

Iran

Prisoners

ARASH BASIRAT

In a continued wave of arrests against Christians, Arash Basirat (44) was arrested on May 11, 2008. He has officially been charged with "apostasy". He was acquitted by an Iranian judge in Shiraz on Sept. 25, 2008.

BEHROUZ SADEGH-KHANDJANI

This house church leader has been in police custody in Tehran since December 10, 2006, where officials are holding him on the pretext that he must pay an outstanding debt. He was arrested because he was "evangelising".

MAHMOOD MARTIN

In a continued wave of arrests against Christians, Mahmood Martin (52) was arrested on May 11, 2008. He has officially been charged with "apostasy". He was acquitted by an Iranian judge in Shiraz on Sept. 25, 2008.

MOHSEN NAMVAR

In a continued wave of arrests against Christians, this Tehran house church leader who had previously been held and tortured for religious activity, was detained. Eight policemen arrested Mohsen Namvar, 44, from his Tehran home on May 31, 2008, refusing to provide any reason for his arrest. His location remains unknown. He was provisionally released on July, 26.

RAMTIN SOODMAND

On Aug. 21, 2008, he turned himself in after repeated calls from the Ministry of Information in Tehran. He was released on bail on Oct. 22 after more than two months in a Mashhad prison, having originally been charged with «proselytizing».

Prisoners with unclear status

IMAN RASHIDI

He was arrested on August 14, 2008. His whereabouts and condition are unknown.

Released these past 12 months

ALI KABOLI (1955)

Jailed on May 2, 2006 in Northern Iran, Kaboli was released on bail on June 12. He had been arrested without explanation from his carpenter's workshop in Gorgan. A former Muslim, Kaboli hosted house church meetings in his home and traveled in the Caspian Sea region as an itinerant evangelist. Under Iran's strict apostasy laws, Kaboli could face the death penalty for converting to Christianity 35 years ago.

ISSA MOTAMEDI MOJDEHI (1975)

Seven years after Issa converted from Islam to Christianity, Iranian secret police jailed him for abandoning Islam but officially charged him with illegal drug trafficking. One month after ordering Issa's arrest, Court authorities in the Northern city of Rasht released him, declaring him "free for the moment." He was granted bail on August 24, 2006. The judge introduced new accusations against Issa. According to unnamed "confidential witnesses", the judge said, the convert's 8-year-old daughter Martha allegedly had been trying to lead other children to the Christian faith.

Families of Martyrs

ABBAS AMIRI

Police burst into a prayer meeting at the home of Abbas Amiri and Sakineh Rahnama on July 17, 2008 and badly mistreated the couple, both aged 60. Amiri died on July 30 as a result of the beatings and his wife on August 3.

SAKINEH RAHNAMA

Police burst into a prayer meeting at the home of Abbas Amiri and Sakineh Rahnama on July 17, 2008 and badly mistreated the couple, both aged 60. Sakineh died on August 3 as a result of the beatings and her husband on July 30.

Iraq

Released these past 12 months

ASYA AHMAD MUHAMMAD (1992)

Asya fatally stabbed her uncle in July 2006 as he beat her for converting to Christianity and 'shaming' the family by working in public. After reviewing the case, the court in Erbil reduced the girl's sentence on April 30, 2007 from five to three-and-a-half years in juvenile detention. She was released on November 10 for good behavior.

Families of Martyrs

PAULUS FARAJ RAHHO

The body of the Chaldean Archbishop was found in Mossul, in Northern Iraq, on March 13, 2008. He had been kidnapped on Feb. 29 by an unknown group of men who requested a 2.5 million \$ ransom.

RAYAN NAFEI JAMOOA

An unknown group of armed men killed him near his home on Sept. 10, 2008, two weeks after his father was kidnapped and murdered.

Laos

Soldiers, police and others have killed at least 13 Christians in Laos in July 2007 in a swarming crackdown on Hmong villagers falsely accused of stirring rebel dissent. In the sweep, encouraged by communist village leaders and others who have falsely acc

Prisoners

BOOT CHANTHALEUXAY

Boot Chanthaleuxay, 18, was detained from August 8 to October 16, 2008, in the nearby Ad-Sapangthong district police detention cell. The police have held him in handcuffs and wooden foot stocks since his arrest, causing numbness and infections in his legs and feet due to lack of blood circulation.

KHAMVAN CHANTHALEUXAY

Khamvan Chanthaleuxay, 18, was detained from August 8 to October 16, 2008, in the nearby Ad-Sapangthong district police detention cell. The police have held him in handcuffs and wooden foot stocks since his arrest, causing numbness and infections in his legs and feet due to lack of blood circulation.

SOMPONG SUPATTO

Pastor Sompong Supatto, 32, was detained from August 8 to October 16, 2008, in the nearby Ad-Sapangthong district police detention cell. The police have held him in handcuffs and wooden foot stocks since his arrest, causing numbness and infections in his legs and feet due to lack of blood circulation.

SOUA YANG CHANH

Hmong ethnic minority Christian detained in Udomxay province prison. Accused of taking part in a "subversive meeting" in Thailand. Sentenced to 12 years in 2000-2001. (Info July 2001)

THONG CHAN

This pastor from Udomxai had been a Chao Muang (District Governor). After his conversion he was arrested in 1999 and convicted of preaching the Gospel, thus being considered a traitor to the nation. He was sentenced to 15 years in a labour camp. He is married to Saengkham, who survives by selling clothes at the market. After her husband's arrest, she took over the leadership of the church meeting in their home. At the time, there were 30 Christians but now the number of believers has increased to over 3000, meeting in 23 different places.



Mr. Thong Chan

Ban Na Prison

Muang Xai

Udomxay, LAOS

Prisoners with unclear status

BOON CHANH KHUNTHAWONG (1940)

Khmu ethnic minority Christian detained in Udomsay province prison. He and his wife, Saeng Khum, were arrested on June 9, 1999. He was sentenced to 15 years for treason. (Info Jan. 2003)

KHAMSAY

One of the four Christian men arrested on August 2, 2004 for their faith.

Malaysia

Went into hiding

LINA JOY (1964)

This convert to Christianity at age 26 went into hiding in July 2006 after extremists issued death threats against her and the lawyers supporting her cause. Escalating furor over the latest stage in Joy's lengthy struggle to change her religious status has led the Prime Minister to order a halt to all public debate on the issue. If the court orders that the word "Islam" be dropped from Joy's identity card, the move would affirm the supremacy of the secular Constitution. In a majority verdict delivered on May 30, 2007, the Federal Court rejected her appeal.

Mexico

On December 22, 1997, paramilitary forces killed 45 inhabitants in Acteal, a pro-zapatist village near Chanalho. The police did not intervene, but the authorities falsely accused numerous innocent Indians, including Tzotzil evangelical Christians. Sentenc

Please write in Spanish and send letters to your OD office

Prisoners

AGUSTIN GOMEZ PEREZ

Married to Juana Velazco Gómez and father of 5 children.



AGUSTIN PEREZ GOMEZ

Married to María Santiz Pérez. Father of 4 children.



AGUSTIN VAZQUEZ MENDEZ

Married to Marcela Perez Sentiz. Father of 4 children: Irma, Alejandro, Erminia and Martha.



ANTONIO PEREZ HERNANDEZ

Married to Maria Gómez Ruiz. Father of 5 children: Juan, Zoila, Irene, Reinaldo and German.



ARMANDO GUZMAN LUNA
















Married to Juana Pérez Pérez. Father of 3 daughters: Albertina, Martha and Lorena.



DANIEL HERNANDEZ PEREZ

Married to Consuelo Ruiz Pérez. Father of 6 children: Felipe, Alejandro, Veronica, Alfredo, Florinda and Catarina.



ELIAS LUNA RUIZ	
No family details known.	
EMILIO GOMEZ LUNA	
Married to Aracelia Díaz Mendez. Father of 3 children.	
FELIPE LUNA PEREZ	
Married to Antonia Jimenez Ruiz. Father of 3 daughters: Luisa, Martha and Claudia.	
FLORENTINO PEREZ JIMENEZ	
No family details known.	
HILARIO GUZMAN LUNA	
Married to Caterina Pérez López. Father of 3 children: David, Samuel and Julia.	
JAVIER LUNA PEREZ	
Married to Loida Pérez Pérez. Father of one boy: Efraín.	
JOSE PEREZ PEREZ	
He is not an evangelical yet but his wife, Estela Luna Vázquez, is attending the evangelical Church. They have 5 children: Verónica, Guadalupe, Audilia, Jeremías and José Alberto.	
JUAN HERNANDEZ PEREZ	
Married to Roselia Gómez. Father of 3 children: Eduardo, Felicia and Juan Gabriel.	
JUAN LUNA PEREZ	
Married to Rosa Ruíz Pérez. Father of 2 children: Celia and Juan.	
JUAN SANTIZ VAZQUEZ	
Married to Marta Lunas Pérez. Father of 3 children: Micaela, Rosalinda and Marco Antonio.	
MANUEL PEREZ PEREZ	
Married to Antonia Pérez Pérez. Father of 3 boys: René, Eleuterio and Ermelindo.	
MANUEL SANTIZ PEREZ	
Married to Marcela Pérez Pérez. They have no children.	
MARCOS ARIAS PEREZ	
Married to Eva Pérez Guzman. Father of 4 children.	
MARIANO GOMEZ RUIZ	
Married to María Díaz Pérez. Father of 5 children.	
MARIANO LUNA PEREZ	
Married to Caterina Gutiérrez Pérez. Father of 2 daughters: Angelina and Adriana.	
MARIANO PEREZ JIMENEZ	
Married to Yolanda Pérez Jimenez. They have a daughter named Rosa.	
MIGUEL LOPEZ GOMEZ	
Married to Caterina Pérez Pérez. Father of 3 children.	

MIGUEL LUNA PEREZ

Married to Rosa Ruíz Pérez. Father of 7 children: Isaías, Floriano, David, Martha, Efraín, Hugo and Uriel.



MOISES PEREZ PEREZ (1980)

Married to Maria Soledad Perez Lopez. They have one son.



NICOLAS HERNANDEZ PEREZ

Married to Marcela Gómez Ruiz. Father of 2 children: Victor Manuel and Griselda.



PABLO HERNANDEZ PEREZ

Married to Maria Pérez Ruiz. They have a daughter, Erica.



PABLO PEREZ PEREZ

Married to Sara Gutiérrez Pérez. Father of 3 children: Susana, Gilas and Zaqueo.



PEDRO MENDEZ VASQUEZ

No family details known.



RAFAEL LUNA VAZQUES

Married to Antonia Jimenez Pérez. Father of 5 children: Silvestre, Erma, María, Ermelia and Bersain.



VICTORIO ARIAS PEREZ (1952)

No family details known.



Prisoners with unclear status

ELIAS PEREZ PEREZ

No family details known.

JOSE PEREZ GUZMAN

Married to Maximiliana Pérez Pérez. They have 2 children: María Magdalena and José, who is very ill. His chest is sinking, which limits his ability to breathe.

Families of Martyrs

MARCELA HERNANDEZ GIRON GOMEZ

When the 11-year-old daughter of Antonio Gomez became ill of a stomach ailment, her father decided that it was due to witchcraft committed by his evangelical neighbor. Gomez and seven friends on August 23, 2008 burst into the hut of the family to kill first the eldest son, Rene, 32. They then slashed the mother, Marcela Hernandez Giron Gomez, and the father, Pedro Gomez Diaz.

PEDRO GOMEZ DIAZ

Same situation as Marcela Hernandez Giron Gomez.

RENE

Same situation as Marcela Hernandez Giron Gomez

Mongolia

Prisoners

MARAT KOJASH

Arrested during the Summer 1999 and sentenced in early November to 13 years labour camp for propagating the Christian faith. Medical doctor, Mongolian citizen of ethnic Kazakh, he became a Christian through radio broadcasts in the Kazakh language. In the months previous to his arrest, Kojash had been sharing Scripture portions, audio tapes and video cassettes in his home village.

Nepal

Families of Martyrs

JOHNSON MOYALAN PRAKASH

On the night of June 30, 2008, this missionary was killed in the mission of Sirsiya. He was assassinated by a group of masked gunmen who broke into the premises of the mission.

Nigeria

Released these past 12 months

SANI KABILI

Released on January 15, 2009. He had been sentenced to three years in prison for offence to Islam on October 18, 2007.

Families of Martyrs

JIBRIN GARBA

Inspector Jibrin Garba was killed on February 8, 2008, at the local police station after the attack on students at Government Secondary School-Sumaila. Having injured two Christian students, the Muslim students went directly to the town's police station, where they killed the Christian police officer and burned down the police station.

North Korea

Tens of thousands of Christians are locked up in forced labour camps, where they suffer incredibly. These are the only names we were able to obtain.

Prisoners

AHN SEUNG-WON

In 1995, the North Korean security police abducted Pastor Ahn Seung-won while he was in China. He had been sent by Yonggi Cho's Pentecostal Church in Seoul (South Korea) to preach the Gospel in the North. He is still detained in Pyongyang under charges of spying. (Info August 2005)

SON JONG NAM (1959)

In April 2001, this Christian missionary was arrested in China, where he had fled, and handed over to North Korea. He was sentenced to hard labor and badly tortured. Released thanks to international pressure, he was deported to Chongin in May 2004. He was again arrested in January 2006 and sentenced to public execution. He is imprisoned in the basement of the National Security Agency in Pyongyang and is "practically dead from horrible torture."

Pakistan

Prisoners

ANWAR KENNETH (1959)

Arrested on September 25, 2001, at the Gawal Mandi police station in Lahore, Anwar Kenneth was accused of making derogatory remarks against Mohammed. On July 18, 2002, he was sentenced to death by a court in Lahore, where he is imprisoned in Kot Lakhpat jail. Anwar is seemingly mentally deranged and the law forbids the conviction of such a person.

ASHIQ KINGRI MASIH (1977)

A young Catholic man who had converted to Islam in order to marry a Muslim girl is jailed since May 3, 2000, charged with blasphemy after he tried to return to his Christian faith as the marriage didn't take place. On June 29, 2002, the Faisalabad District and Sessions Court sentenced him to be hanged on charges of "slandering the prophet Mohammed." Since then, Masih has been in solitary confinement.



Please write in English:

**Central Jail
Faisalabad
Pakistan**

HABIB MASIH

Arrested in November 1993. Accused of burning amulettes containing verses from the Koran. The life sentence prison term is required for such a "crime".

ROBIN SARDAR, Dr.

Formally accused of blasphemy of the Prophet Mohammed, the Christian Dr. Robin Sardar has been detained since May 5 at the central prison in Gujranwala. He was acquitted and released on November 4, 2008.

SHABAZ KAKA

He was arrested on September 25, 2004 when mosque leaders in Faisalabad saw the cross he was wearing and questioned him as he visited the restroom near the mosque. They fabricated an accusation that he had desecrated the Koran. He has been sentenced to life in prison. His attorney has appealed this decision.



Please write in English:

**Central Jail
Faisalabad
Pakistan**

Under house arrest or released on bail

MARTHA BIBI MASIH

Arrested on January 23, 2007 and accused of blasphemy, Martha was released on bail in May 2007 against a payment of 100,000 rupees (about £830). The All Pakistan Minorities Alliance says it will continue to press for Bibi's acquittal through the courts. But APMA is concerned for her safety as, in the meantime, extremist elements have called for Bibi to be hanged publicly. Her husband and five children are in hiding far from their home, in the district of Punjab.

Peru

All prisoners on this list have been falsely accused and meet the following criteria: Legal case is meticulously reviewed. Families, local church, denomination and Evangelical Alliance confirm their Christian witness. Each believer is visited in prison. (

Please write in Spanish and send letters to your OD office

Prisoners

ANTONIO FELIPE MEDINA CUADROS

Detained in Castro Castro prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info Jan. 2007))



BARTOLO J. LEONARDO RAMIREZ

Detained in Pisci prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

CARLOS ORTEGA LÓPEZ

Detained in Castro Castro prison in Lima on allegation of terrorism. (info Sept. 2005)

ELISA TELECILA RAMOS DELGADO

Detained in Chorrillos prison since 1994. (Info Jan. 2007)



FELIPE ANTONIO MEDINA CUADROS

Detained in Castro Castro prison in Lima since 2003 and sentenced to 20 years. (Info Jan. 2007)



LIDER RIVERA MATOS

Detained in Castro Castro prison in Lima since 1994. His case was presented by Paz y Esperanza to an ad-hoc revision commission. (Info Jan. 2007)



SANDRO FRANCISCO MELENDEZ LEÓN

Detained in Castro Castro prison in Lima since 1994 and sentenced to 20 years. (Info Jan. 2007)



VICTOR RAÚL PALMA SUAREZ

Detained in Castro Castro prison in Lima since 1994. (Info Sept. 2005)

Prisoners with unclear status

ALBERTO CONTRERAS MERINO

Detained in the Pisci prison in Chiclayo. His case was presented by Paz y Esperanza to an ad-hoc revision commission. (Info June 2004)

ALEJANDRO ARO ROJAS

Detained in Castro Castro prison in Lima on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

ALFREDO BARRIENTOS IZAGUIRRE

Detained in Huacariz prison in Cajamarca on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

ALFREDO SALAZAR SANCHEZ

Detained in Castro Castro prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

ALFREDO VASQUEZ TRUJILLO

Detained in Castro Castro prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

AMILCAR MEZA

Detained in Huamancaca prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

ANDRES HUAMANI TORRES

Detained in Huamancaca prison on allegation of terrorism. His case was presented by Paz y Esperanza to an ad-hoc revision commission. (Info June 2004)

ANGEL VILA ROJAS

Detained in Huamancaca prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

ARMANDO ROSAS SALVADOR

Detained in Huamancaca prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

ARTERIO TIQUILLAHUANCA PARRA

Detained in Huacariz prison on allegation of terrorism. His case was presented by Paz y Esperanza to an ad-hoc revision commission. (Info June 2004)

CELSO RIVERA MEDINA

Detained in Pisci prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

CESAR TOLEDO VILLANUEVA

Detained in Huamancaca prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

DANIEL HUARCAYA

Detained in Huamancaca prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

DANIEL MASLUCAN CANLLA

Detained in Pisci prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

EZEQUIEL NARVAJO VIVIANO

Detained in Huamancaca prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

RITER SANGAMA PINCHI

Detained in Cajamarca, in Huacariz prison on allegation of terrorism. (Info June 2004)

VILMA ULDA CUEVAS ANTAURCO

Detained in Chorrillos prison since 1993? (Info Jan. 2007)

Sri Lanka

Prisoners

CHRISTIAN VELU SELVARAJAH

Pastor arrested on May 27, 2007 and charged with destroying Buddhist statues. The chief monk at a local Buddhist temple has accused him of destroying two small statues of Buddha placed by a roadside in Kandy district. A hearing was scheduled for June 7 but no further news were received.

STEPHEN THOMAS

Assistant pastor arrested on May 27, 2007 and charged with destroying Buddhist statues. The chief monk at a local Buddhist temple has accused him of destroying two small statues of Buddha placed by a roadside in Kandy district. A hearing was scheduled for June 7 but no further news were received.

Prisoners with unclear status

VICTOR EMMANUEL YOGARAJAN (1956)

This pastor from the Gospel Missionary Church in Vavuniya, along with his two sons Daniel, 22, David, 20, and another young man, 20-year-old Joseph Sugandakumar, had stayed overnight in Negombo. The four had planned to travel to Colombo by bus on March 2, 2007, but after leaving the house for the bus stop, they disappeared. The disappearances and general climate of impunity are sparked by clashes between government forces and the 'Tamil Tigers'.

Families of Martyrs

SAMSON NEIL EDIRISINGHE

On February 17, 2008, two men gunned down a Sri Lankan pastor, the Rev. Samson Neil Edirisinghe, 37, killing him instantly. They also shot his wife Shiromi, 31, leaving her in critical condition. The couple's 2-year-old son received minor injuries and was under a shock after witnessing the shooting. Initial evidence suggested the murder was a contract killing connected to Edirisinghe's ministry in Ampara.

Turkey

Prisoners

HAKAN TASTAN

In an effort to prolong the trial of two Turkish converts to Christianity accused of «denigrating Islam and Turkishness,» three gendarme soldiers on March 13, 2008, were summoned to testify before the Silivri Criminal Court in northwestern Turkey as witnesses for the prosecution which has yet to provide any evidence for its case. Turan Topal and Hakan Tastan, charged under Turkey's controversial Article 301 restricting freedom of speech, have been on trial for 18 months.

TURAN TOPAL

In an effort to prolong the trial of two Turkish converts to Christianity accused of «denigrating Islam and Turkishness,» three gendarme soldiers on March 13, 2008, were summoned to testify before the Silivri Criminal Court in northwestern Turkey as witnesses for the prosecution which has yet to provide any evidence for its case. Turan Topal and Hakan Tastan, charged under Turkey's controversial Article 301 restricting freedom of speech, have been on trial for 18 months.

Families of Martyrs

NECATI AYDIN (1972)

Five young Muslim Turks entered a Christian publishing office in the province of Malatya on April 18, 2007 and killed the three Protestant Christians present. Necati and Ugur Yüksel, 32, were Turkish converts from Islam. Tilmann Geske, 46, was a German citizen. The murderers were five young men, all 19 to 20 years old, who admitted during initial interrogations that they were motivated by both nationalist and religious feelings. Necati is survived by his wife, Semse, and their young children, Elisa and Ester.



Send letters to your OD office

TILMANN GESKE (1961)

Same situation as Necati Aydin.

Tilmann was a German citizen and is survived by his wife, Susanne, and their children Michel, Lukas and Miriam.



**Mrs. Susanne Geske,
Michel, Lukas and Miriam
Turgut Ozal Mahallesi
1. Cadde
Berda Sitesi D Blok D. 3
44090 Malatya
TURKEY**

UGUR YÜKSEL (1975)

Same situation as Necati Aydin. Ugur was engaged to be married within a few months. His fiance Nurcan is very isolated.



Please send your letter to your OD office.

Uzbekistan

Prisoners

DMITRY SHESTAKOV (1969)

Pastor Shestakov was arrested at his church in Andijan in January 2007, seven months after he had been accused of committing high treason and sentenced to four years in a prison colony for alleged "illegal" religious activities. In August 2007, the Court of Appeal decided to "leave the verdict without changes in spite of the fact that it was proven that criminal case and testimonial evidence were illegal and faked-up." He was refused amnesty in December 2007. Shestakov has been put to work in the Navoi prison camp. He and his wife Marina have three young daughters, the oldest being 13.



Please send your letter to your OD office.

Released these past 12 months

SALAVAT SERIKBAYEV (1975)

Pentecostal Christian living in Muynak, near the Aral Sea in the Karakalpakstan autonomous republic. He has had his sentence reduced. On 10 May, 2007 a court in Nukus gave him a two-year suspended prison sentence on charges of teaching religion illegally. He was granted amnesty in December 2007 but is still being monitored. He is married to Aitgoul and they have one son and four daughters who encounter problems at school because they are Christians. Senior students jeer and tease them.

Vietnam

Prisoners

HOANG THI ANH DAO

Catholic lady arrested in Feb. 2007 and sentenced in H   to 2 years in prison with deferment and 3 years of "trial time".

L   THI CONG NHAN (1979)

After a trial of only four hours on May 11, 2007, a Vietnamese court convicted the Christian attorney of "propagandizing against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam" and sentenced her to four years in prison and three years of house arrest.

L   THI L   HANG

Catholic lady arrested in Feb. 2007 and sentenced in H   on the same day as Nguyen Van Ly to 1 1/2 years in prison with deferment and 2 years of "trial time".

NGO THI DUNG

Catholic lady arrested on 21.09.2008. She is accused for destruction of property and public disorder.

NGUYEN BINH THANH

Catholic arrested in Feb. 2007 and sentenced in H   on the same day as Nguyen Van Ly to 5 years in prison and 2 years under house arrest.

NGUYEN PHONG

Catholic arrested in Feb. 2007 and sentenced in H   on the same day as Nguyen Van Ly to 6 years in prison and 3 years under house arrest.

NGUYEN THI NHI

Catholic lady arrested on 21.09.2008. She is accused for destruction of property and public disorder.

NGUYEN VAN DAI (1969)

After a trial of only four hours on May 11, 2007, a Vietnamese court convicted the Christian attorney of "propagandizing against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam" and sentenced Dai to five years in prison and four years of house arrest. Recently, his sentence reduced by one year due to international pressure. He received a visit from four pastors on January 31, 2008.

NGUYEN VAN LY Thadeus (1947)

Catholic priest already arrested several times and detained for approx. 15 years in total. Released in Feb. 2005, he was arrested again in Feb. 2007 and sentenced in March 2007 to 8 years in prison plus 5 years under house arrest for "opposing the Revolution". He is detained in the Ba Sao detention camp, in the Nam Ha Province, in the North of the country.

Prisoners with unclear status

N.V.B.

Vietnamese man arrested in November 2003 in order to put pressure on his son, a very active evangelist. The police spreads the false rumour that N.V.B. is plotting the murder of several people. They want to sentence him to 12 years.

«Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!» Matthew 5:10



**Dmitry Shestakov,
Pastor**
Uzbekistan, p. 28



**Susanne, Tilmann Geske's widow,
and her children Lukas, Miriam and
Michel**
Turkey, p. 28



**Zhang Rongliang,
Pastor**
China, p. 7

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