

**Freedom of Religion or Belief
& Blasphemy
Prisoners List
World Report 2013**

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Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l

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Introduction

FORB Prisoners: 22 Countries in the Dock Blasphemy Prisoners: 8 Countries in the Dock

Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF) has compiled a list of prisoners that were arrested for interrogation or have been detained for any length of time in 2013 on grounds that constitute an infringement of their right to freedom of religion or belief (FORB). The cases listed in this report relate incidents of violations on the basis of: (1) freedom to change religion or belief, (2) freedom of expression, (3) freedom of association, (4) freedom of worship and assembly, or (5) conscientious objection to military service.

This Prisoners' List was elaborated on the basis of available information collected from a wide range of public and private sources.

In some countries, it has been difficult to determine whether certain cases should be designated FORB prisoners. Some clerics and other believers have been sanctioned for their peaceful public advocacy to protect religious freedom or human rights. Others have called for legal or political reforms needed for their implementation. Still others have defended religious freedom advocates in court, participated in pro-democracy campaigns, claimed territorial autonomy for their ethno-religious group, defended the rights of their ethnic group or striven to preserve their culture. These actions are undoubtedly laudable and the objectives consistent with international standards on human rights; however, HRWF considers such prisoners to be human rights activists and defenders and not necessarily FORB prisoners.

In this report, HRWF defines FORB prisoners as persons who have been arrested and detained for reasons primarily connected to their faith as practised individually or in community.

HRWF has identified **22 countries with such FORB prisoners in 2013: Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Libya, Malaysia, Nagorno-Karabakh, North Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.** Due to the lack of transparency in the judicial system in some countries or insufficient data available from existing general or specialized sources of information, HRWF makes no claim that this list covers all the countries which had FORB prisoners in 2013 or to have identified all FORB prisoners in the ones listed.

For instance, **Eritrea** should arguably concede its first place ranking to **North Korea**; however, access to information about possible FORB prisoners in **North Korea** is extremely limited. In practice, there is no religious freedom in this country, yet no data is made available about arrests, detention and imprisonment of North Koreans on the ground of freedom of religion or belief.

Also, conscientious objectors to military service are often forgotten in reports on religious freedom and as prisoners of conscience. This report intends to correct this oversight by highlighting the situation of Jehovah's Witnesses in **South Korea**.

Each year the number of Jehovah's Witnesses that are imprisoned in **South Korea** for their conscientious objection to military service varies between 600 and 800. From 1950 to 2012, the government sentenced 17,107 Jehovah's Witness objectors, making a combined total of 32,413 years of imprisonment. However, this problem could be resolved by introducing some form of alternative civilian service, an action that South Korean authorities have refused to take, despite repeated condemnations by the United Nations.

Armenia, with its over 30 FORB prisoners, is in a similar position in respect to military conscription. Concerning the objection to military service on the grounds of religion or belief, the **UN Human Rights Committee General Comment 22 Para. 11 on the ICCPR**, states that:

Many individuals have claimed the right to refuse to perform military service (conscientious objection) on the basis that such right derives from their freedoms under article 18. In response to such claims, a growing number of States have in their laws exempted from compulsory military service citizens who genuinely hold religious or other beliefs that forbid the performance of military service and replaced it with alternative national service. The Covenant does not explicitly refer to a right to conscientious objection, but the Committee believes that such a right can be derived from article 18, inasmuch as the obligation to use lethal force may seriously conflict with the freedom of conscience and the right to manifest one's religion or belief. When this right is recognized by law or practice, there shall be no differentiation among conscientious objectors on the basis of the nature of their particular beliefs; likewise, there shall be no discrimination against conscientious objectors because they have failed to perform military service. The Committee invites States parties to report on the conditions under which persons can be exempted from military service on the basis of their rights under article 18 and on the nature and length of alternative national service.

Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF) has compiled a second list of prisoners that were sentenced to prison terms on the ground of blasphemy, defamation of a religion or insulting religious beliefs.

***Human Rights Without Frontiers* (HRWF) has identified 8 countries with prisoners on the grounds of blasphemy in 2013: Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Tunisia and Turkey.**

The main purpose of these two lists is to stimulate advocacy in favour of the release of these prisoners.

Throughout 2013, HRWF used this material in its contributions to the EU Human Rights Dialogues with various countries.

COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN
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1. Eritrea
2. South Korea
3. China
4. Iran
5. Tajikistan
6. Russia
7. Armenia
8. Uzbekistan
9. Turkmenistan
10. Vietnam
11. India
12. Kazakhstan

<p>North Korea should certainly appear on top of this list but due to the lack of available information about this country, it has been impossible to rank it. According to the 2012 Report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, there may be 6000 Christians incarcerated in Prison No 15 in the northern part of the country but the reasons of their imprisonment are not known.</p>
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ARMENIA

Jehovah's Witnesses

Names: See table below with 33 names

Charges: Evasion of the call-up to military or alternative service

Statement of the defendants: Performing military service is incompatible with their faith

Places of detention: Nubarashen Prison (near Yerevan), Erebuni (in Yerevan) and Kosh (near Ashtarak)

Court decisions: Between 2 and 3 years in prison

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 327, Part I which states that "Evasion from recurring draft military or alternative service call-up, training exercise or mobilization, without any order defined by Legislation of the Republic of Armenia as grounds for exemption, is punished with arrest for a maximum term of two months, or imprisonment for a maximum term of three years" (modified 16.12.2005).

Date of release: See table below

Other information: On 7th July 2011, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) rendered its judgment that Armenia had violated the right to freedom of conscience in the case *Vahan Bayatyan v. Armenia*. Bayatyan is one of over 400 Jehovah's Witnesses who have been convicted and imprisoned for conscientious objection to military service since Armenia's accession to the Council of Europe in January 2001. In doing so, Armenia has failed to honour its commitment given as a condition of its accession, that it institute a genuine civilian alternative service for conscientious objectors and pardon all those who had previously been convicted.

After the Grand Chamber's decision in the case *Bayatyan v. Armenia*, the prosecutor's office and the courts of Armenia continued to prosecute and imprison young men who are conscientious objectors.

A law on alternative civilian service that is totally independent from the Ministry of Defence was finally adopted during the first semester of this year but by mid-2013, none of the 33 Jehovah's Witnesses that were in Armenian prisons because of their conscientious objection to military service had been released. They should however recover their freedom later this year after new court proceedings on the basis of the new legislation.

Name	Date of conviction or imprisonment	Sentence	Prison
Mnatsakanyan, Harutyun	25/8/10	§ 327 I ¹ , 36 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Musheghyan, Aharon	12/11/10	§ 327 I, 36 months	Kosh Penal Institution
Voskanyan, Ashot	2/2/11	§ 327 I, 36 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Sargsyan, Samvel	3/2/11	§ 327 I, 30 months	Kosh Penal Institution
Kirakosyan, Harutyun	9/3/11	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Sargsyan, Hayk	8/4/11	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Gasparyan, Hovik	11/4/11	§ 327 I, 30 months	Kosh Penal Institution
Sardaryan, Hovhannes	1/7/11	§ 327 I, 24 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Adyan, Artur	7/7/11	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Margaryan, Vahagn	7/7/11	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution

¹ **Article 327 I states:** Evasion from recurring draft military or alternative service call-up, training exercise or mobilization, without any order defined by Legislation of the RA as grounds for exemption, is punished with arrest for a maximum term of two months, or imprisonment for a maximum term of three years (modified 16/12/2005).

Avetisyan, Garegin	19/7/11	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Khachatryan, Harutyun	27/7/11	§ 327 I, 30 months	Kosh Penal Institution
Sargsyan, Edouard	6/8/11	§ 327 I, 24 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Khudoyan, Maksim	6/8/12	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Sahakyan, Gevorg	23/8/12	§ 327 I, 24 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Aslanyan, Artur	28/9/12	§ 327 I, 30 months	Kosh Penal Institution
Vardanyan, Varazdat	8/10/12	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Zakaryan, Nver	9/10/12	§ 327 I, 24 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Grigoryan, Anania	15/11/12	§ 327 I, 24 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Khachatryan, Artsrun	26/12/12	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Stephanyan, Seryozha	19/1/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Arakelyan, Davit	24/1/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Ter-Galstanya, Vahe	1/2/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Hovhannisyan, Andranik	1/2/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Arakelyan, Gevorg	1/2/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Arakelyan, Aramayis	1/2/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Manasyan, Mikhail	4/2/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Boyajyan, Tigran	20/4/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Sargsyan, Vahe	28/2/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution

Yeremyan, Artyom	14/3/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Yesayan, Martiros	26/4/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Davtyan, Hakob	27/4/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution
Galstyan, Mushegh	29/4/13	§ 327 I, 30 months	Erebuni Penal Institution

The following individuals have been convicted and sentenced but remain free pending appeal of the trial court decisions and/or their arrest:

Aghanyan, Sergey	16/3/13	§ 327 I, 30 months
Harutyunyan, Arsen	16/3/13	§ 327 I, 30 months
Abrahamyan, Samvel	29/1/13	§ 327 I, 30 months
Grigoryan, Narek	25/2/13	§ 327 I, 30 months
Paronikyan, Vahagn	4/3/13	§ 327 I, 30 months

(Source: Office of General Counsel of JW)

AZERBAIJAN

Jehovah's Witnesses

Fakhraddin MIRZAYEV

Birth Year/ Age: 19

Place of residence: Gyanja [Gäncä]

Charges: Evasion without lawful grounds of call-up to military service

Statement of the defendant: Performing military service is incompatible with his faith

Place of detention: Gyanja's Investigation Prison No. 2

Moved at unknown time to Prison camp number 5, 5 Nomreli Cezacekmemussisesi, Halaj settlement, southwest of Baku

First court decision: 25th September 2012, sentenced to one year in prison by a court in Gyanja

Final court decision: 21st November 2012, a panel of three judges at Gyanja Appeal Court chaired by Chingiz Mammadov upheld the decision of the lower court sentencing Fakhraddin Mirzayev to one year's imprisonment

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 321.1 of the Criminal Code : “Evasion without lawful grounds of call-up to military service or of mobilisation, with the purpose of evading serving in the military, is punishable by imprisonment for up to two years [in peacetime]”.

Date of release: 22 May 2013 (Amnesty of political prisoners)

Other information: Azerbaijan committed itself to introduce an alternative service law by January 2003 when it entered the Council of Europe in 2001. As it has failed to do so, the Council of Europe's Venice Commission adopted a joint Opinion on Azerbaijan's Religion Law with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. This document was made public on the Venice Commission website on 16th October, severely criticizing Azerbaijan for not introducing civilian service.

Kamran MIRZAYEV

Birth Year/ Age: 18

Place of residence: Goychay

Charges: Evasion without lawful grounds of call-up to military service

Statement of the defendant: Performing military service is incompatible with his faith

First court decision: 12th March 2013, sentenced to nine months in prison by Goychay Court

Last court decision: Appeal rejected by the Sheki Appeal Court

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 321.1 of the Criminal Code : “Evasion without lawful grounds of call-up to military service or of mobilisation, with the purpose of evading serving in the military, is punishable by imprisonment for up to two years [in peacetime]”.

Date of release: 22 May 2013 (Amnesty of political prisoners)

Muslims

Imam Taleh BAGIROV

Birth Year/ Age: 29

Date of arrest: 31st March 2013

Charges: Drugs police claim to have found on Bagirov (just over a gram of heroin), and the gun and bullets police claim to have found on Melikov.

Statement of the defendant: He denies the charges.

First court decision: On 27th June 2013, a Baku court ordered an extension of Bagirov's pre-trial detention, while Melikov's criminal trial is expected to begin in a different Baku court in mid-July 2013.

Place of detention: Pre-trial Investigation Prison in Kurdakhani, near Baku

Article of the criminal code: Criminal Code Article 281 ("Public appeals for violence directed against the state") or Article 283 ("Inciting national, racial or religious hatred").

Other information: Imam Bagirov had led prayers at the Hazrat Abulfaz Aga Mosque in the village of Mastaga on the Absheron peninsula near Baku. His supporters say the authorities were unhappy at his preaching against the Caucasian Muslim Board and state officials. They insist that the drugs police claim to have found on Bagirov (just over a gram of heroin)

Source: Forum 18

Anar MELIKOV (Bagirov's driver)

Birth Year/ Age: Early thirties

Family status: Not married.

Date of arrest : 31st March 2013

Charges: Police claim to have found the gun and bullets on Melikov.

Statement of the defendant: He rejects the charges which relate to the police's alleged discovery in his car of a knife, a Makarov pistol and four bullets.

First court decision: On 27th June 2013, a Baku court ordered an extension of Bagirov's pre-trial detention, while Melikov's criminal trial is expected to begin in a different Baku court in mid-July 2013.

Place of detention: Pre-trial Investigation Prison in Kurdakhani, near Baku

Article of the criminal code: Criminal Code Article 228.1 ("Illegal purchase, transfer, sale, storage, transportation or carrying of firearms, accessories, supplies and ammunition (except for a hunting rifle), and explosives"), which carries a maximum sentence of three years in jail; and Article 228.4 ("Illegal purchase, selling or carrying of a gas weapon or knife, except in districts where carrying of a knife is an accessory of national dress or connected to hunting"), which carries a maximum sentence of one year in jail.

Source: Forum 18

CHINA

The government of China recognizes five religions: Protestantism, Catholicism, Buddhism, Taoism and Islam.

The registration of particular religious groups is a prerogative of the state. For each of the five officially recognized religions there is a government-affiliated association that monitors and supervises its activities: the *Chinese Buddhist Association*, the *Catholic Patriotic Association*, the *Protestant Three-Self Patriotic Movement*, the *Chinese Islamic Association* and the *Chinese Taoist Association*. All religious groups must register with the appropriate religious organization to be allowed to carry out their activities legally.

A number of Catholic congregations loyal to the Pope, Protestant communities and Muslim groups refuse state monitoring. They are tolerated by the authorities, but all their activities in public or in private are considered illegal, a recurrent charge used against them when the regime perceives them as a challenge and a danger to the dominant ideology. So-called “evil cults”, like Falun Gong, are heavily targeted by the authorities.

Tibetan Buddhists who follow the Dalai Lama and the Muslim Uyghurs are also particularly persecuted not only for their religious activities but also for their political engagement.

The U.S. Congressional Executive Commission on China (CECC) has published a list of 7,014 prisoners that have been detained or imprisoned in China since 10th October 2012 for political or religious reasons, including 1,484 cases of prisoners who are currently believed to be incarcerated and 5,530 who were released or executed or who escaped or died while in detention or soon after their release (<http://www.cecc.gov>). The CECC considers that there are likely many more than the 1,484 verifiable cases of current political and religious imprisonment in China and works on an on-going basis to update its Political Prisoner Database.

The HRWF Watch List hereafter does not claim to be exhaustive but shows the magnitude of the repression affecting religious believers in China. Only the cases related to freedom of religion *stricto sensu* have been selected (freedom of association, freedom of assembly and worship and freedom of expression) and not religious prisoners who have been arrested, detained or imprisoned on other grounds.

Protestants

LI Song and twenty others

Date & Place of Arrest: The morning of 19th April 2013, Langzhong, Sichuan

Statement of the defendant: Attending a prayer meeting

Other information: Li Song is the wife of Pastor Li Ming who was arrested on 16th April 2013

ZHANG Yinan, GAO Yang, GAO Mary, and 17 others

Family Status: Yang and Mary are married

Date & Place of Arrest: June 5th 2013, Xinyang, Henan

Statement of the defendant: Met to hear from an American missionary couple (Yang and Mary) at the Union Church in Xinyang

Place of detention: Local Police station

Duration of detention: A few hours

Other information: The police also seized the church's offering box, computer, CDs, and the Chinese Union version of the Bible used by Pastor Zhang

Source: ChinaAid

Pastor LI Ming, WANG Yuan, LI Chengxi, ZHANG Chuanli, GOU Shuhua and 11 others

Place of residence: Langzhong, Sichuan province

Date & Place of Arrest: 16th April 2013, Langzhong, Sichuan
Statement of the defendant: Holding a meeting of religious lay people to learn how to play musical instruments
Date of release: Ten believers were released the following day, but the six church leaders were administratively detained. Pastor Li Min, Wang Yuan and Li Chengxi were given a 15-day administrative detention sentence, while three others-- ZHANG Chuanli, GOU Shuhua and a seminary instructor whose name was not known--were given ten, five and three-day administrative detention sentences
Other information: Local police and Domestic Security Protection agents also confiscated the Langzhong house church's Western brass wind instruments

HU Linpo, ZHANG Mian, CAO Xia, HAN Hai, YANG Lianbing, WANG En, LI Dan (Shouters)

Birth Year/Age: 49, 38, 42, 60, 23, 24, 24

Place of residence: Group 1, Qianwang Village, Xiantai Town; Group 4, Daying Village, Rendian Town; Group 3, Daying Village, Rendian Town, 1, Mengzhuanghanzhuang, Yeyi Town; Group 10, Mazhuang, Runan Office, Ruzhou City; Group South, Xiali Town. 41, Row 6, Chaohua Street, Zhengmei Group, Zhengzhou Henan

Date & Place of Arrest: 14th April 2012

Charges: Using a cult organization to undermine law enforcement. Hu Linpo and Han Hai converted people into Shouter believers and often held classes and did propaganda work

Statement of the defendant: They claim that their faith is Christian and not a cult and that the activities of the seven defendants involved in this case constituted a house church meeting of believers. They also claim to have not violated any legal regulations. Han Hai and Hu Linpo further argued that they had never organized a cult group.

Place of detention: Ye County Detention Center and No. 1 Detention Center in Pingdingshan City

First court decision: After an investigation, Hu Linpo, Han Hai, Yang Lianbing, Wang En, Li Dan, Zhang Mian and Cao Xia were kept in detention centres until their trials

Final court decision: On 1st April 2013, Chief judge Shi Qunli along with judges Wang Kena and Dian Ruifeng of the Ye County People's Court of Henan Province found all seven guilty and sentenced respectively to seven years, four years, three years six months, and three years each for the remaining four

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Clause 1 of Article 300, Clause 1 of Article 25, Article 64 and Article 61 of the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China

Other information: The detainees are accused of being part of religious 'cult' known as the "Shouters". This group is of Christian origin. The Chinese government considered it a cult and banned it in 1983.

CHEN Hong, SUN Yuefen, Yinhua, REN Zhimin, LIU Di, PAN Wenwen

Place of residence: Provinces of Mongolia (3), Heilongjiang (2) and Baishan (1)

Date & Place of Arrest: 1st August 2012 in the hamlet of Zhongxinbu, Shumugou village, Horqin Right Front Banner, in the city of Ulanhot

Charges: Using cult activities to interfere with law enforcement and engaging in illegal evangelism

Statement of the defendants: Providing medical services in rural areas of Inner Mongolia

Place of detention: Horqin Right Front Banner police station

First court decision: 1st September 2012, Ms. Sun and Ms. Ren were sentenced to two years in a re-education through labour camp by the Re-education through Labour Management Committee of Hinggan League

Last court decision: Request submitted by all six victims for an administrative review of their case

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Clause 3 of the “Supplementary Stipulations on Re-education through Labour,” State Council Document No. 56 (1980)

Other information: On 30th October 2012, five of the detainees’ families had still not received the legally required written notifications of their detentions

GONG Bangkun, GONG Shengliang, XU Fuming, and HU Yong (Evangelical South China Church)

Charges: Belonging to a cult; intentional assault and rape for Gong Shengliang

Statement of the defendants: Leaders of the unregistered South China Church

First court decision: December 2001, sentenced to death for “using a cult to undermine enforcement of the law”

Last court decision: In September 2002, a retrial sentenced Gong Shengliang, Xu Fuming, and Hu Yong to life imprisonment. Gong Bangkun was given a 15-year prison term

YANG Xuan, CUI Jiaying, YANG Rongli (Linfen Church)

Place of residence: Linfen City

Date of Arrest: 13th September 2009

Charges: Illegally occupying farmland and disturbing transportation order

Statement of the defendants: Defending their church building from destruction by the authorities on 13th September 2009 (Fushan Church in Linfen City, Shanxi Province)

Place of detention: Yang Rongli and Wang Xiaoguang are in Taiyuan Detention Center, the other three at Yicheng County Detention Center

Court decision: On 25th November 2009, Yang Rongli was sentenced to seven years in jail and fined 30,000 Yuan; Yang Xuan to three years and a half with a 20,000 Yuan fine; and Cui to five years and a half with a 50,000 Yuan fine

Last court decision: In 2010, an appeal was rejected by the Linfen courts

LIU Xinxing and XUE Yuxia (Total Scope Church)

Place of residence: Shaanxi province

Date & Place of Arrest: 13th January 2012, Guodong village, town of Hejiaji, Zizhou County

Charges: Suspicion of organizing and using a cult to undermine law enforcement

Statement of the defendants: Engaging in Christian activities

Place of detention: Provincial Women's Re-education-Through-Labour Management Centre

First court decision: 13th February 2012, sentenced to 18 months of re-education through labour by Yulin's Re-education through Labour Management Committee

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Clause 3 of the "Supplementary Stipulations on Re-education through Labour," State Council Document No. 56 (1980)

Dennis BALCOMBE

Date & Place of Arrest: 20th April 2013 Nanyang, Henan province

Statement of the defendant: Attended a house church revival meeting

Place of detention: Placed under house arrest

Date of release: 22nd April 2013 returned to Hong Kong

REN Lacheng

Date & Place of Arrest: Mid-December 2012, Taiyuan, Shanxi province

Statement of the defendant: Pastor and leader of a students' church

First court decision: 17th June 2013, Xiaodian district court sentenced Ren to five years in prison

Other information: 9th May 2013, the case was heard. Mr Ren's attorney said "Taiyuan Xiaodian Court convened to hear Ren Lacheng's case. Although we don't know the result, the court proceedings were was carried out properly and were orderly, the attorney's right of defence was fully guaranteed, and the Prosecutor was mild and rational." Source: China Aid

LI Wenxi

Family status: Li is Married

Place of residence: Beijing

Date & Place of Arrest: Taiyuan, Shanxi province

Charges: Illegally operating a business

Statement of the defendant: Helping to open a Christian bookstore

First court decision: 17th June 2013, Xiaodian district court sentenced Li to two years

Place of detention: Unknown

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law:

Other information: has been held without trial for the past three months. Posting bail has also been denied to him due to the seriousness of his "crime"

Source: AsiaNews, ChinaAid

Sister XU

Place of residence: Qimo County, Kurla City of Xinjiang

Date & Place of Arrest: 15th March 2013, Qimo County, Kurla City of Xinjiang

Place of detention: Local detention center

Date of release: Police said they would release her after 15 days

Other information: The police also confiscated the Christian calendars, hymnals, Bibles, speakers and some items not related to Christianity. They took a desktop computer tower and a notebook computer, saying that they would check them

Alimujiang YIMITI (Christian ethnic Uyghur)

Age: Born on 10th June 1973

Family status: Wife (Gulinu'er) and two sons

Place of residence: Tianshan District, Urumqi, Xinjiang

Date of Arrest: 12th January 2008 arrested and detained; 20th February 2008 formally arrested

Charges: Suspicion of inciting subversion of state power, leaking state secrets. Since 2002 engaging, in the name of employment, in activities of illegal religious infiltration which include preaching Christianity among the people of Uyghur ethnicity, distributing religious materials and converting to Christianity

Statement of the defendants: Working for a British-owned company (Jirehouse) and leading a house church ministry in Kashgar with his wife

Place of detention: Kashi Detention Center. 12th April 2010 moved to No. 3 Prison of Xinjiang in Urumqi

First court decision: 6th August 2009, Kashi District Intermediate Court secretly sentenced Yimiti to 15 years in prison for “illegally providing state secrets to foreign nationals”

Second court decision: 6th March 2010, the Higher People’s Court of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region upheld to ruling and depriving him of political rights for five years

Third court decision: November 2010, the Higher People Court of Xinjiang accepted the appeal by Alimunjiang’s wife to retry the case of “disclosing top state secrets”

Final court decision: February 2011, the Higher Court of Xinjiang upheld the ordinal sentence of 15 years

Other information: 12th September 2008, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ruled in its No. 28 document that Alimujiang’s arrest and detention had been arbitrary

Catholics

Mgr. COSMA Shi Enxiang, underground bishop of Yixian (Hebei)

Date of birth: 1932

Date and place of arrest: 13th April 2001 in Beijing

Charges: Never been revealed

Court decision: No information is available

Place of detention: His whereabouts are unknown

Other information: Msgr. Shi Enxiang has suffered long periods in prison from 1957 until 1980, including hard labour, first on a farm in Heilongjiang, then as a coal miner in Shanxi. After being ordained a bishop in 1982 he was again arrested in 1983 and sent to prison for three years, followed by three years of house arrest. In 1989 – following the establishment of the Episcopal Conference of underground bishops – he was arrested once again and was only released in November 1993. The authorities also tried to arrest him in 1996 but failed after he escaped

Fr. CUI Tai, underground priest of the diocese of Xuanhua (Hebei)

Date and place of arrest: He was taken away by staff of the Religious Affairs Bureau on 22nd June 2011

Charges: Never been revealed

Court decision: No information is available

Place of detention: His whereabouts are unknown

Other information: Fr. Cui disappeared while in police custody 22nd June 2011 after members of the government's Religious Affairs Bureau dragged him away. Since that time there has been no information on his whereabouts. He had previously been often arrested and then released. During his periods of detention, he suffered hunger and his health drastically deteriorated. In 1993, while undergoing a sentence of three years in prison he was beaten and lost two teeth. In 2001, due to an accident, the police discovered his identity as a priest and detained him in an isolated place in the mountains, forcing him to undergo political sessions. He was later released, but could never freely carry out his ministry, being under constant surveillance.

Fr. GAO Jiangping and another priest

Place of residence: Diocese of Suyian, Inner Mongolia

Date of Arrest: 31st January 2012

Charges: The Diocese of Suiyuan does not exist according to the Chinese government, as it is part of the illegal underground Catholic Church

Statement of the defendant: Incompatibility between the allegiance to the regime and his loyalty to the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope

Fr. Joseph Lu GENJUN, vicar general of the underground diocese of Baoding (Hebei)

Date and place of arrest: He disappeared in police custody 17th February 2006

Charges: Never been revealed

Court decision: No information is available

Place of detention: His whereabouts are unknown

Other information: In 1998, Palm Sunday, he was jailed for a short period (perhaps to keep him from celebrating Masses during Holy Week). In 2001 he was sentenced to three years of "re-education through labour", after being accused of having conducted illegal missionary activities that undermine the social order (because he did not adhere to the Catholic Patriotic Association). He was released in 2003, but in May 2004 he was arrested along with another priest shortly before giving a lecture on natural methods of birth control and moral theology. The two were kept for several days in Dingzhou prison, near Anguila (Hebei).

Fr. LIU Honggen, underground priest of the diocese of Baoding (Hebei)

Date and place of arrest: 27th December 2006

Charges: He refused to join the Catholic Patriotic Association

Court decision: Unknown

Place of detention: Prison of Qingyuan

Thaddeus MA Daqin (Bishop of Shanghai)

Charges: Resignation from the state-controlled *Catholic Patriotic Association* (CPA)

Statement of the defendant: Incompatibility between the allegiance to the regime and his loyalty to the Roman Catholic Church and the state-controlled CPA

Place of detention: Since 7th July 2012 he has been under house arrest at the Sheshan Regional Seminary in a Shanghai suburb

Other information: Joseph Liu Yuanlong, a vice chair of the *Catholic Patriotic Association* (CPA), confirmed on 12th December 2012 that the government-sanctioned Catholic bishops' conference in China had revoked the appointment of Thaddeus Ma Daqin as auxiliary bishop of Shanghai, saying he violated the CCPA rules for Episcopal ordinations. A statement released by the Vatican on 13th December 2012 stated that even legitimately established and Vatican-recognized bishops' conferences "do not have the power to name or approve a bishop, to revoke his mandate or to impose sanctions on him." Source: America, The National Catholic Review

Fr. MA Wuyong, underground priest of the diocese of Baoding (Hebei)

Date and place of arrest: August 2004, in the village of Suijiazhuang (Quyang County, Hebei)

Charges: He refused to join the Catholic Patriotic Association.

Court decision: Unknown

Place of detention: Prison of Qingyuan

Other information: Fr. Ma and eight other priests had gathered to celebrate their first year of ordination. At least 20 police cars then arrived, began carrying out a door to door search and arrested them. Before the Chinese New Year 2006, Fr. Ma was temporarily released from prison. He was re-arrested a month later, after attending the funeral of a priest of Baoding, Fr. Chen Baidu.

Fr. WANG Chengli, underground priest of the Diocese of Heze (Shandong)

Age: 50

Date and place of arrest: 25th August 2011

Charges: He refused to join the Catholic Patriotic Association.

Last court decision: 2 ½ years of “re-education through labor” (forced labor)

Place of detention: First Dongming prison and then Jining concentration camp, over 150 miles from his county

Msgr. WU Qinjing, official bishop of the diocese of Zhouzhi (Shaanxi)

Date and place of arrest: November 2007

Charges: He refused to join the Catholic Patriotic Association

Court decision: Unknown

Place of detention: Unknown

Other information: Since November 2007 Msgr. Wu has been kept under house arrest in the minor seminary in Xian with limits on his activities. Bishop Wu was secretly ordained as a bishop of the official diocese of Zhouzhi, without the permission of the local Catholic Patriotic Association. For this reason, since his ordination was made public (May 2006), the government has blocked all of his activities and has kidnapped him, forcing him to memorize the "Regulations on Religious Affairs". He is forbidden to carry the Episcopal insignia or carry out any activities as a bishop.

Fr. ZHANG Jianlin, underground priest of the diocese of Xuanhua (Hebei)

Date and place of arrest: He was taken away by staff of the Religious Affairs Bureau on 22nd June 2011

Charges: Never been revealed

Court decision: No information is available

Place of detention: His whereabouts are unknown

Other information: In July 2009, Fr. Zhang was taken by police and placed under house arrest in a courtyard attached to the building of a government office. He was been given permission to receive visitors, but was subjected to heavy physical and psychological tactics to force him to support the Council of Chinese Bishops (not recognized by the Holy See) and to join the Catholic Patriotic Association. After seven months of detention he was released, but was kept under

constant control, he could not move freely, and was forbidden to practice his ministry. On 24th May 2008 he was arrested in Nanjing, for trying to go to the Marian shrine of Sheshan and participate in the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Church in China, convoked by Pope Benedict XVI. Brought back to Hebei, he served a period of detention in Xuanhua.

Msgr. James Su ZHIMIN, underground bishop of Baoding (Hebei)

Date of birth: 1932

Date of arrest: 8th October 1997

Charges: Unknown

Court decision: No information is available

Place of detention: His whereabouts are unknown

Other information: Zhimin was first arrested in March 1996 while, with Francis An Shuxin, he led a procession of Catholics to a Marian shrine near the village of Donglu in Hebei. He then escaped the following month, went into hiding and wrote an open protest letter to the National People's Congress. He was captured on October 8, 1997. While the Chinese government provides no information on Msgr. Zhimin, he was sighted on 15 November 2003 at a hospital in Baoding undergoing an eye operation and treatment for a heart ailment. According to a 5 March 2013 AsiaNews report Msgr. Zhimin remains in police custody. Before 1996 Msgr. Su Zhimin spent at least 26 years on and off in prison or forced labour camps, branded as "counter-revolutionary," since he has refused since the 1950s to join the Patriotic Association, which wants to build a national Church independent of the pope. In all, he has already spent 40 years in captivity.

Source: Cardinal Kung Foundation, AsiaNews

Tibetan Buddhists

Migyurg GYATSO, Choedar DARGYE and Gedun THOGPHEL

Place of residence: Jampa, Choedar and Gedun are monks from Khangmar monastery

Date & Place of Arrest: January 2003 in Marthang (Hongyuan), Sichuan

Charges: Unknown

Statement of the defendants: Possessing photos of the Dalai Lama and Panchen Lama, conducting prayers for the Dalai Lama while he was ill, and possessing a painting of the Tibetan flag

Place of detention: Unknown

Last court decision: 29th August 2003, Migyurg, Choedar and Gedun were sentenced to 12 years in prison

Runggye ADAK

Age: 57

Place of residence: Nomad from Lithang in eastern Tibet

Date & Place of Arrest: 1st August 2007 at the Lithang Horse Racing Festival in Tibet

Charges: Provocation to subvert state power

Statement of the defendants: Addressing the gathered crowd by saying: "If we cannot invite the Dalai Lama home, we will not have freedom of religion and happiness in Tibet" and calling for the release of the Panchen Lama and Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

Place of detention: Unknown

Last court decision: 20th November 2007, sentenced to eight years in prison

BHUMO

Date of arrest: 14th May 2008 in Ganzi (Kardze) county, Ganzi TAP, Sichuan province

Charges: No information is available

Statement of the defendant: Protest against the demands that nuns of Pangri Nunnery denounce the Dalai Lama

Last court decision: 9 years in detention

Other information: On 14th May 2008, more than 80 nuns in Ganzi held a demonstration against an official campaign to impose "patriotic re-education" on their convents, in which they were required to denounce Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Tezin DELEK (Rinpoche)

Birth Year/ Age: 1949

Date & Place of Arrest: 7th April 2002, Yajiang County, Garze Prefecture

Charges: Mastermind behind the bombing in Tianfu Square in Chengdu, "suspicion of inciting secession," "perpetrating the bombing in Chengdu," and "illegal possession of firearms and ammunition"

First court decision: 2nd December 2002, Intermediate People's Court of Garze, sentenced to death with two years of execution adjournment

Final court decision: 2005, sentence commuted to life imprisonment

Other information: In 1983, he was designated as the reincarnation of Adengpengcuo, the Gexi Lama of Aotuo Temple of Yajiang County. He is a supporter of the Dalai Lama and is a monk of high reputation in the Tibetan region and the exiled Tibetan community in India. In December 2009, over 30,000 Tibetans signed and finger printed a petition calling on the central government to retry his case.

Sonam LHASTO

Age: 40

Date of arrest: 14th May 2008 in Ganzi (Kardze) county, Ganzi TAP, Sichuan province

Charges: No information is available

Statement of the defendant: Protest against the demands that nuns of Pangri Nunnery denounce the Dalai Lama

Last court decision: 10 years in detention (in 2008 or 2009)

Place of detention: Mianyang Prison

Other information: On 14th May 2008, more than 80 nuns in Ganzi held a demonstration against an official campaign to impose "patriotic re-education" on their convents, in which they were required to denounce Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Gendun Choekyi NYIMA and his parents

Age: Born on 25th April 1989

Place of residence: Lhari County, Tibet

Date of Arrest: 17th May 1995, Gendun Choekyi Nyima and his parents disappeared

Charges: Usurping the title of reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama which was granted to him by the Dalai Lama, an "illegal and invalid" decision

Statement of the defendants: Named by the Dalai Lama as the 11th incarnation of the Panchen Lama of Tibet

Place of detention: Unknown

Other information: He was kidnapped by Chinese authorities three days after he was announced to be the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama and has not been seen in public since 17th May 1995. Another Panchen Lama has been chosen by the Chinese government, but he has not been approved by the Buddhist community faithful to the Dalai Lama.

Phurbu TSERING

Age: 56

Date of arrest: 18th May 2008 in Ganzi (Kardze) county, Ganzi TAP, Sichuan province

Charges: Illegal possession of ammunition and embezzlement

Statement of the defendant: He denies the charges

Last court decision: 23rd December 2009, sentenced to 8 years and 6 months in prison

Place of detention: Meyang Prison, Sichuan Province

Other information: Phurbu Tsering is regarded as a reincarnated Tibetan Buddhist teacher and as a living Buddha. He was heading the Pangri and Puruna Nunneries. He was arrested on 14th May 2008, during the nuns' demonstration in Ganzi against an official campaign to impose "patriotic re-education" on their convents, in which they were required to denounce Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Muslims

20 Uyghurs

Date & Place of Arrest: 2013, (before the 27th of March), East Turkestan

Charges: Separatism, religious extremism, and spreading propaganda

Statement of defendants: Listened to the Radio Free Asia and used the internet to discuss the importance of religious and cultural freedom

Court decision: Courts in Kashgar and Bayingol found them guilty with a sentence of up to life in prison

Sadike KU'ERBAN and 8 other Uyghur believers

Charges: Involvement with illegal (for not being registered under the state-controlled *Chinese Islamic Association*) religious schools or religious instruction. More specifically, Sadike Ku'erban was accused of "extremist religious thought and inciting others to wage a holy war"

Statement of the defendants: Sadike Ku'erban was running a network of home schools in four different parts of Xinjiang over 10 years that taught 86 students, including 16 under 14 years of age.

First court decision: 31st May 2012, sentenced to prison terms ranging from 6 to 15 years in three separate public hearings in Kashgar

Falun Gong

GONG Baoying and LI Cuier

Date & Place of Arrest: 1st December 2012 in Beijing

Statement of the defendants: Explaining the teachings about Falun Gong to people

Place of detention: Li Cuieris being held in the Longfeng Detention Center. The whereabouts of Ms. Gong are unknown

SUN Guiping and HAN Caixia

Date & Place of Arrest: 4th December 2012 in Tianjin

Statement of the defendant: Speaking to people about Falun Gong in a market

Place of detention: Banqiao Town Police Station

Duration of detention: Their whereabouts are unknown

MENG Xiuli

Place of residence: Banqiao Town

Date of Arrest: 4th November 2012

Charges: Unknown although they were formulated by a court on 17th January 2013

Place of detention: Unknown

Duration of detention: Meng was still incarcerated by the end June 2013

Other information: Ms. Meng Xiuli and her three children drove to visit relatives on the morning of 4th November 2012. They were arrested in transit by police for posting information about the persecution of Falun Gong. They were taken to the Fuping County Domestic Security Division. Their car, valued at 120,000 Yuan, was taken away. Their Falun Gong books, computer, printer, DVD burner, portable hard drive and other personal belongings worth over 20,000 Yuan were also confiscated from their home. On 26th February 2013 Ms. Meng's lawyer prepared documents applying for her release on bail but no news has come back regarding the application.

Source: Minghui.org

WANG Zhiwen

Date of arrest: 20th July 1999

Charges: Illegal acquisition of state secrets and “using superstitious sects [cults] to undermine the implementation of the law” (Article 300 of the Criminal Law)

Statement of the defendant: Organizing a peaceful protest on 25th April 1999 outside Zhongnanhai, the Beijing headquarters for senior Party officials

Last court decision: On 26th December 1999, the Beijing Number One Intermediate People’s Court sentenced Wang to 16 years in prison and four years’ deprivation of political rights.

Place of detention: Qianjin Prison in Chadian, Tianjin

Other information: His daughter, Danielle Wang, only received two letters in the last 8 years. He has been tortured in an attempt to make him renounce his belief in Falun Gong.

ERITREA

The US State Department, non-governmental human rights organizations and Christian advocacy groups estimate that 2,000 to 3,000 persons are imprisoned on religious grounds in Eritrea, the vast majority of whom are Evangelical or Pentecostal Christians.

Persons detained for religious activities, in both short- and long-term detentions, are typically not formally charged, permitted access to legal counsel or accorded due process.

Protestants

80 arrested

Charges: Worshiping outside the state-backed churches.

Date & Places of Arrests: The week of 5th March 2013. Western Eritrea

Other information: Current status unknown

45 arrested

Charges: Worshiping outside the state-backed churches.

Date & Places of Arrests: 27th February 2013. Western Eritrea

Other information: Current status unknown.

40 believers (Kale-Hiwet and Mulu-Wengel Evangelical Churches)

Date of Arrest: November 2010

Charges: Engaging in “illegal” religious activities

Date of release: Two of the women were released in March 2012 prior to giving birth; all others remained in detention.

35 believers (belonging to a Pentecostal church)

Date of Arrest: 3rd July 2012

Date of release: Still in prison in 2013

Dr. Kiflu GEBREMESKEL

Family status: Married with children

Date & Place of Arrest: 23rd May 2004

Statement of the defendant: Senior pastor of Southwest Full Gospel Church

Other information: Since 2004 there has been no news regarding Dr. Gebremsekel's status

Source: Prisoner Alert

Haile NAYZGI

Family status: Married with three children

Date & Place of Arrest: Morning, 23rd May 2004

Charges: Unknown

Statement of the defendant: Leader of Eritrea's Full Gospel Church

Other information: Current status unknown

Source: Prisoner Alert

Orthodox

Patriarch Abune ANTONIOS

Age: Born 12th July 1927

Statement of the defendants: Protested the interference of the Eritrean Department of Religious Affairs in his church's affairs

First court decision: 2006, sentenced to house arrest

Place of detention: House arrest 2006, in 2007 moved to an undisclosed location

Other information: He has been prevented from communicating with the outside world and reportedly denied medical care

Jehovah's Witnesses

58 Jehovah's Witnesses in prison

Imprisonment of conscientious objectors to military service

The national military service requirement makes no provision for conscientious objection. To avoid being arrested by the ever-present military police that patrol the streets, most male Jehovah's Witnesses between the ages of 18 and 40 go into hiding. Those found are arrested and taken to a military camp, where, once they express their conscientious objection to military service, they are detained and usually tortured. Some of those of military age have managed to flee the country to avoid prosecution; some have been caught while fleeing.

Three Jehovah's Witnesses, Paulos Eyassu, Isaac Mogos and Negede Teklemariam, have been imprisoned in the Sawa prison since 24th September 1994 because of their conscientious objection to military service. No charges have ever been filed against them and they have never been tried in court.

Since 2008, Eritrean authorities have taken additional measures to suppress Jehovah's Witnesses, arresting and imprisoning elderly men, several women and children as young as two years old. Many Witnesses have fled the country; those who remain must exercise extreme caution in carrying out any religious activity.

Imprisonment and abuse of Jehovah's Witnesses

There are 56 Jehovah's Witnesses imprisoned in the Sawa and Meiter prison camps. Of these, 15 are known to be imprisoned for their conscientious objection to military service. Others

were arrested while attending Christian meetings, publicly sharing their faith or for reasons unknown. None of those imprisoned have been formally charged or given a trial and sentenced. Most do not know how long they will remain in prison. Twenty-three are 60 years of age or older; two are 85 years old. Two children aged two and three years old were imprisoned with their mothers in the 4th Police Station in Asmara for two and a half years until their release on 4th January 2012. Prisoners are denied visitors, including family members.

Death in prison

Yohannes Haile. On 16th August 2012, Yohannes Haile, a 68-year-old Witness and father of nine, died while imprisoned at the Meiter prison camp. According to reports, he succumbed to the excessive heat and a lack of hydration while being held in a metal building half-buried in the ground. He was apparently transferred to a hospital in Meiter for treatment the week prior to his death. He had been held since 18th September 2008, when he was arrested without charges.

Misghina Gebretinsae. In July 2011, Misghina Gebretinsae, a 62-year-old Witness and father of four, also died while imprisoned at the Meiter prison camp, enduring excessive heat and lack of hydration while being held in a metal building half-buried in the ground. He had been held since 10th July 2008, when he was arrested without charges.

General prison conditions at the Meiter Camp

On 5th October 2011, all 25 male Witnesses who were imprisoned at the Meiter camp (including the abovementioned Yohannes Haile) were transferred from the regular prison facility to an area for special punishment. There they were placed in a half-buried metal building by night and spent their days outside in an open-air structure with a thatched roof. The lack of a balanced diet and sufficient water posed serious threats to their health.

Since the death of Yohannes Haile in August 2012, the Meiter prison authorities have moved the other Witness prisoners from the metal building to an outside pen in the same special punishment area. Three elderly Witnesses of the group are also in a critical state of health due to the extreme heat they endured over the summer months.

These were the same conditions to which Misghina Gebretinsae was subjected prior to his death in July 2011.

New arrests

On 21st April 2012 a number of Jehovah's Witnesses attended a funeral of a fellow believer in the city of Keren. An undercover security agent who was present at the funeral arrested several Witnesses after the service was over. Although some were later released, ten of them are still in detention—four in Keren and six who have been transferred to the Meiter Camp. As noted on the prisoners' list, the four prisoners remaining in Keren are over 70 years old—two of whom are 85 years old. No further information is available on their condition.

Imprisonment and release of children

On 28th June 2009, Eritrean police arrested and imprisoned 23 Jehovah's Witnesses who were meeting peacefully for worship in a private home in Asmara. Those arrested included the elderly, women and children as young as two years old. Although the elderly women and some of the children were soon released, two of the children (aged two and three years old) and their mothers were held at the 4th Police Station in Asmara until 4th January 2012.

C.O. = Conscientious Objection

UNK = Unknown

Name	Age	Sex	Prison	Date Arrested	Reason
Paulos Eyassu	39	M	Sawa Camp	24/8/94	C.O.
Isaac Mogos	36	M	Sawa Camp	24/8/94	C.O.
Negede Teklemariam	38	M	Sawa Camp	24/8/94	C.O.
Aron Abraha	38	M	Sawa Camp	9/5/01	C.O.
Mussie Fessehaye	40	M	Sawa Camp	6/03	C.O.
Ambakom Tsegezab	36	M	Sawa Camp	2/04	C.O.
Bemnet Fessehaye	41	M	Sawa Camp	2/05	C.O.
Henok Ghebru	28	M	Sawa Camp	2/05	C.O.
Worede Kiros	55	M	Sawa Camp	4/505	Religious activity
Yonathan Yonas	26	M	Sawa Camp	12/11/05	Religious activity
Kibreab Fessehaye	34	M	Sawa Camp	27/12/05	C.O.
Bereket Abraha Oqbagabir	44	M	Sawa Camp	1/1/06	C.O.
Yosief Fessehaye	23	M	Sawa Camp	2007	C.O.
Mogos Gebremeskel	66	M	Adi-Abieto	3/7/08	UNK
Bereket Abraha	65	M	Meitir Camp	8/7/08	UNK
Goitom Gebrekristos	76	M	Meitir Camp	11/7/08	UNK

Ermias Ashgedom	22	M	Meitir Camp	11/7/08	UNK
Habtemichael Mekonen	71	M	Meitir Camp	17/7/08	UNK
Tesfai Teklemariam	59	M	Meitir Camp	5/8/08	UNK
Goitom Aradom	68	M	Meitir Camp	8/8/08	UNK
Habtemichael Tesfamariam	64	M	Meitir Camp	8/8/08	UNK
Tewoldemedhn Habtezion	53	M	Meitir Camp	9/8/08	UNK
Ghebrehiwet Ghebremichael	68	M	Meitir Camp	22/8/08	UNK
Teferi Beyene	71	M	Meitir Camp	23/9/08	UNK
Beyene Abraham	60	M	Meitir Camp	23/10/08	UNK
Asfaha Haile	78	M	Meitir Camp	2/12/08	UNK
Semere Negusse	75	M	Meitir Camp	22/12/08	UNK
Muse Paulos	67	M	Meitir Camp	23/12/08	UNK
Tsehaye Leghesse	73	M	Meitir Camp	23/12/08	UNK
Tsegezeab Tesfazghi	63	M	Meitir Camp	23/12/08	UNK
Tsehaye Tesfamariam	71	M	Meitir Camp	5/1/09	UNK
Yoab. Tecele	61	M	Meitir Camp	23/4/09	Rearrested
Yoel Tsegezab	36	M	Meitir Camp	26/8/08	C.O.
Nehemiah Hagos	26	M	Meitir Camp	26/8/08	C.O.

Samuel Ghirmay	30	M	Meitir Camp	?/3/09	C.O.
Teklu Gebrehiwot	37	M	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious Meeting
Isaias Afeworki	27	M	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious Meeting
Milen Isaac	22	F	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious Meeting
Faiza Seid	27	F	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Merhawit Tadesse	22	F	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Yodit Mekonnen	30	F	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Misghana Goitom Aradom	20	F	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Filemon Yemane	22	M	Adi-Abieto	23/11/10	Religious activity
Yonadab Yonas	22	M	Adi-Abieto	23/11/10	Religious activity
Tesfazion Gebremichael	70	M	Asmara 5th Police Station	20/7/11	UNK
Ghebrehiwot Tedla	85	M	Keren Police Station	21/4/12	Attending a funeral
Yemane Kifleyohannes	77	M	Keren Police Station	21/4/12	Attending a funeral
Zerisenai Ghebrehiwot	71	M	Keren Police Station	21/4/12	Attending a funeral
Hagos Woldemichael	60	M	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Attending a funeral
Araia Ghebremariam	58	M	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Attending a funeral

Zerisenai Ghebrehiwot	71	M	Keren Police Station	21/4/12	Attending a funeral
Hagos Woldemichael	60	M	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Attending a funeral
Araia Ghebremariam	58	M	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Attending a funeral
Tsegabirhan Berhe	49	M	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Attending a funeral
Daniel Meharizghi	35	M	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Attending a funeral
Redae Hagos	85	M	Keren Police Station	26/4/12	Attending a funeral
Amharai Osman	-	M	Meitir Camp	25/4/12	Attending a funeral
Yoseph Tesfamariam	48	M	Asmara	?/5/12	C.O.

INDIA

Protestants

Akshya Kumar VISHYAKARMA, Angad SINGH, Harendra, Albis BARA

Ages: 32, 35, unknown, 35

Place of residence: Utter Pradesh State (1), Bihar State (2).

Date & Place of Arrest: Around 21st February 2013 in Aara, Surguia district

Charges: Disruption of public peace

Statement of defendants: Conducting a three-day revival meeting

Date of release: Unknown, but released on bail

Bahadur MURMU, Rama SORENG

Date & Place of Arrest: 18th January 2013, Dubia village, Baripada, Mayubhanj district

Charges: Forced conversion to Christianity

Statement of Defendants: Holding a prayer meeting in the home of a Christian

Place of detention: Baripada Jail

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Orissa Freedom of Religion Act

Date of release: 20th January 2013, on bail

Rajesh YADAY, Raju DEWANGAN

Date & Place of Arrest: 18th January 2013, Sarangarh, in the Raigarh district, Chhattisgarh

Charges: Forced conversion to Christianity

Statement of Defendants: Holding of a prayer meeting

Date of release: 19th January 2013, on bail

Pastor Timothy and at least one other

Place of residence: Vasnathyihar, Moulali, Hyperabad

Date & Place of Arrest: 25th March 2013, Vasnathyihar

Charges: Forced conversion

Statement of the defendant: The congregation is building a church on their own land, which is drawing the opposition of some Hindus in the area

Other information: The pastor and other members were detained by police after local Hindus filed their complaint

P. ANAND

Date & Place of Arrest: 10th February 2013, in Basara, Adilabad district

Charges: Violation of sections 295A and 193A of the Indian criminal code

Statement of Defendant: Was visiting friends at IIIT College, "I just went to meet them, but since they were having an informal prayer session I just joined in"

Article of the criminal code:

Section 295A: Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs.-- Whoever, with deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings of any class of 6[citizens of India], 7[by words, either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise] insults or attempts to insult the religion or the religious beliefs of that class, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 8[three years] or with fine or with both.

Section 193A: Punishment for false evidence.-- Whoever intentionally gives false evidence in any of a judicial proceeding or fabricates false evidence for the purpose of being used in any stage of a judicial proceeding shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine; and whoever intentionally gives or fabricates false evidence in any

other case shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

Date of release: Freed on bail, February 12th 2013.

INDONESIA

Atheist

Alexander AAN

Age: 31

Place of residence: Pulau Punjung

Date of Arrest: January 2012

Charges: Spreading religious hatred

Statement of the defendants: Posting “God does not exist” on Facebook, posting cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad and starting an atheist page

First court decision: 14th June 2012, sentenced to 30 months in prison and a fine of 100 million rupiah (about 10,600USD)

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: 2008 electronic transactions law

Other information: Charges of blasphemy (Penal Code Article 156a) and promoting atheism (Penal Code Article 156b) have been dismissed

Christians

Pastor Bernhard MAUKAR

Place of residence: Mekargalih village, West Java

Date & Place of Arrest: Makargalih village, West Java

Charges: Holding religious services without a valid permit

Statement of the defendant: Leader of a Pentecostal church

First court decision: Three months in prison

Other information: The arrest and subsequent sentence came after the church came under attack and the pastor was assaulted by a group of Islamists

IRAN

The following HRWF list does not claim to be exhaustive but show nevertheless the magnitude of the repression. It lists a high number of Muslim converts to Protestantism and Baha'is but also Anglicans, Branhamist Christians, Zoroastrians as well as Shia and Sunni Muslims. Only the cases related to freedom of religion *stricto sensu* (freedom of association, freedom of assembly and worship and freedom of expression) have been selected and not "religious prisoners" who have been arrested, detained and imprisoned on other grounds.

Protestants

Mojtaba BABA-KARAMI, Mehdi CHAGHAKABOUDI, Shirin GHANBARI

Place of residence: Kermanshah

Date & Place of Arrest: 21st February 2012 in Kermanshah

Charges: Unknown

Statement of the defendants: Gathering for worship in a private house

Place of detention: Baba-Karami and Chaghakaboudiare detained in Hafezieh prison

Mojtaba Seyyed-Alaedin HOSSEIN, Mohammad-Reza PARTOEI (KOROUGH), Vahid HAKKANI, Homayoun SHOKOUHI and Fariba NAZEMIAN

Date & Place of Arrest: 8th February, 2012

Family status: Shokouhi and Nazemian are married

Charges: Participating in house-church services, evangelizing and promoting Christianity, having contact with foreign Christian ministries, distributing propaganda against the regime and disturbing national security

Statement of the defendant: Arrested while attending a house church

Place of detention: Adel-Abad Prison

Last court decision: 28th December 2012, Judge Rashidi-poor of the Branch 3 of the Revolutionary court in Shiraz announced that he will issue his verdict after 25th March 2013

Other information: It has been reported that Vahid Hakkani is suffering from “internal bleeding of his digestive system” and is being denied medical care

Source: Mohabat News

Pastor Farhad SABOKROOH, Shahnaz JAYZAN, Naser ZAMAN-DEZFULI, Davoud ALIJANI (Assembly of God)

Family status: Pastor Sabokrooh and Jayzan are married

Date & Place of Arrests: December 2011 and 1st May 2013, Ahwaz

Charges: Converting to Christianity and propagating against the Islamic Republic through evangelism

Statement of the defendant: Holding Christmas celebrations

Place of detention: Mr. Alijani at Ahwaz’s Karoon Prison, the other three are held at Sepidar Prison

First court decision: Sentenced to one year in prison by the Revolutionary Court in Ahwaz

Final court decision: 1st May 2013. Conviction upheld by a high court

Other information: After the initial trial in 2011, the four were temporarily released on bail but were re-arrested on 1st May 2013 on the occasion of their sentencing

Pastor Vruir AVANESSIAN and Mostafa BORDBAR (Armenian Christians belonging to the Assemblies of God)

Age: Avanesian is approximately 60 years old and Bordbar, 26

Family status: Pastor Avanesian is married and has children

Date & Place of Arrest: 27th December 2012 in the northern district of Tehran

Charges: Unknown

Statement of the defendants: Gathering at a residential home to celebrate the birth of Jesus and Christmas in a private home

Place of detention: Evin Prison in Tehran

Date of release: By early 2013, both were still in prison.

Other information: Pastor Avanessian is suffering severe health challenges

Pastor Saeed ABEDINI (An Evangelical Church)

Age: 32

Place of residence: Western U.S.A.

Family status: Married with two children, a 6-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son located in the U.S.

Date of Arrest: 26th September 2012

Charges: Threatening the national security of Iran through his leadership in Christian house churches

Statement of the defendants: Managing the construction of a non-religious orphanage

Place of detention: Evin Prison in Tehran

Final court decision: 2013, sentenced to eight years for endangering national security by aiding underground Christian churches

Other information: Pastor Saeed was granted U.S. citizenship in 2010 through marriage to his American wife. He has also been threatened by prison officials to deny his faith or remain imprisoned indefinitely

Source: Maghreb Christians

Rev. Robert ASSERIAN (Assemblies of God)

Date & Place of Arrest: 21st May, 2013 Tehran

Charges: Unknown

Statement of the defendant: Arrested during a prayer meeting at the central Tehran church

Other information: Iranian forces apparently also raided his home and confiscated various items, including his computer and books. The Assemblies of God church is permitted to operate but with many restrictions under Iranian law.

Masoud DELIJANI

Date of Arrest: 17th March 2011

Charges: Being a Christian, holding illegal house church gatherings, evangelizing Muslims and action “against national security”

Place of detention: Deizal-Abad, central prison of Kermanshah

First court decision: In July 2011, he was released on bail amounting to about 100,000 USD and rearrested two weeks later

Last court decision: February 2012, sentenced to three years in prison by the Revolutionary Court of Kermanshah

Farshid FATHI (Assembly of God)

Birth Year/ Age: 33

Family status: Married with two children.

Date of Arrest: 26th December 2010

Charges: Action against the regime’s security, being in contact with foreign organizations and religious propaganda

Place of detention: Ward 350 of Evin Prison in Tehran since December 2010

Last court decision: January 2012, sentenced to six years in prison by the Revolutionary Court of Kermanshah

Other information: Mr. Fathi was a Christian leader arrested during a Christmas crackdown. In April 2013 Fathi’s family left Iran and have moved to Canada. (Maghreb Christians)

Ebrahim FIROOZI

Date & Place of Arrest: March 2013

Charges: Launching and administering a Christian missionary website, distributing Bibles, cooperating with student activists and involvement in actions against national security

Place of detention: Ward 350, Evin Prison

Date of release: Released after 53 days on 20,000 USD bail awaiting trial

Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Maryam JALILI

Family status: Married with two children

Date of Arrest: 24th December 2009

Charges: Membership in an illegal group

Statement of the defendants: Gathering with other Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus

Place of detention: Evin Prison in Teheran

First court decision: 5th December 2011, sentenced to two and a half years in prison

Leila MOHAMMADI

Age: Born in 1982

Place of residence: Kianshahr town, East of Tehran

Date & Place of Arrest: 30th July 2011 at her home in Kianshahr town, east of Tehran

Charges: Anti-Islamic propaganda, deceiving citizens by formation of a house church, insulting sacred figures and action against national security

Place of detention: Evin Prison in Teheran

First court decision: January 2012, sentenced to two years in prison by the Revolutionary Court in Moalem Street

Last court decision: The case was sent to the high court of Tehran province to be reviewed

Fariborz PARSINEJAD

Place of residence: Isfahan

Date & Place of Arrest: 2nd March 2012 in Isfahan

Charges: Unknown

Statement of the defendant: Christian convert

Place of detention: Dastgerd prison in Isfahan

Noorallah QABITIZADE

Age: 48

Date & Place of Arrest: 24th December 2010 in Dezful

Charges: Unknown

Place of detention: Dastgerd Prison in Isfahan

Other information: Noorallah Qabitzade was transferred three times to different prisons because he was outspoken about his faith while incarcerated

Alireza SEYYEDIAN

Birth Year/ Age: 37

Family status: Single

Charges: Crimes against national security and propaganda against the regime

Statement of the defendant: Converted to Christianity while living in Turkey

Place of detention: Section 350 of Evin Prison

Final court decision: December 2011, sentenced to six years imprisonment

Source: Prisoner Alert

Mitra ZAHMATI

Date of Arrest: April 2011

Charges: Membership in an illegal group

Place of detention: Evin prison in Tehran

Last court decision: 5th December 2011, sentenced to two and a half years in prison

Anglicans

Hekmat SALIMI (St. Paul Anglican Church), **Shahram GHAEDI**, **Maryam DEL-ARAM**, **Shahnaz ZARIFI**, **Enayat JAFARI**

Ages: Salimi is 30; Hakimpour 78 and Del-Aram 54

Family status: Shahnaz Zarifi has two children. Enayat Jafari is married and has a son

Place of residence: Isfahan

Date & Place of Arrest: 22nd February 2012 in Isfahan

Charges: Propagating the Christian gospel, possession of the Bible and other Christian books, attendance at house-churches,

and contact with foreign Christian organizations. Hekmat Salimi was additionally charged with propagating Christianity among the Farsi-speaking Iranians of Isfahan

Statement of the defendants: Some are converts to Christianity

Place of detention: Hekmat Salimi and Enayat Jafari were detained at Dastgerd prison

Behnam IRANI

Birth Year/ Age: 47

Place of residence: Karaj, Iran

Date & Place of Arrest: 14th April, 2010

Charges: Crimes against national security

Statement of the defendant: Leader of an Iranian house church

Final court decision: 11th January 2011, sentenced to one year in prison

Other information: Irani was first arrested in December 2006 and tried for crimes against national security. He was released in January 2007 but was soon re-arrested, tried and sentenced to five years in prison. Irani was never called to serve the sentence that is now being added to his one year prison term.

Source: Prisoner Alert

Branhamist Christians/ Church of Iran

Mohammed ROGHANGIR, Suroush SARAIE, Eskandar REZAIE, Shahin LAHOOTI, Massoud REZAIE

Date & Place of Arrest: 12th October, 2012 in a home in Shiraz, Fars Province

Charges: Disturbing public order, evangelizing, threatening national security, and engaging in internet activity against the system

Statement of the defendants: Arrested while attending a prayer meeting

Place of detention: Plaque 100, transferred to Adel-Abad Prison, where they are held separately from other prisoners

Date of release: Roghangir, Saraie, and M. Rezaie were released 19 March 2013, after posting \$80,000. E. Rezaie was released a week later after posting the same amount

Other information: Trial was expected to begin on 10th March 2013 but instead bail amounts were set at US \$200,000 (for Roghangir), the others were asked for US \$80,000 each. No date was set for the continuation of the trial.

Behzad TAALIPASAND and Mohammed-Reza OMIDI

Place of residence: Rasht

Date of Arrest: 31st December 2012

Charges: Action against national security

Statement of the defendant: Members of a local house church

Place of detention: Ministry of Intelligence and Security detention facility

Pastor Yousef NADARKHANI

Age: Born in 1978

Family status: Married with two sons

Place of residence: Rasht

Date & Place of Arrest: 13th October 2009 in Rasht

Charges: Apostasy, converting to Christianity and evangelising Muslims

Statement of the defendants: Converting from Islam to Christianity and questioning the Muslim monopoly of religious instruction for children, seen as unconstitutional by the defendant

Place of detention: Lakan prison in Gilan province

First court decision: September 2010, sentenced to death for apostasy

Last court decision: In September 2012, he was acquitted of apostasy charges but sentenced to three years in prison for evangelising Muslims

Date of release: After having already spent close to three years in prison, he was released for a first time in September 2012. However, the director of Lakan Prison claimed he had been

released too early. The pastor then had to return to prison in December 2012 and was released 7th January 2013

Other information: In June 2010 his wife was arrested in an attempt to pressure him to return to Islam.

Muslims (Shi'a)

Ayatollah Mohammad Kazemini BOROUJERDI

Date of Arrest: October 2006

Charges: Enmity against God and spreading propaganda against the regime

Statement of the defendants: Advocating the separation of religion and state and speaking out on behalf of the rights of Iran's religious minorities, as well as those of its Shi'a Muslim majority

First court decision: Death sentence

Last court decision: Sentenced to 11 years in prison

Other information: Adding to the imprisonment, the government has banned him from practicing his clerical duties and confiscated his home and belongings

Zoroastrians

Mohsen SADEGHIPOUR

Date of Arrest: August 2011

Charges: Anti-regime propaganda favouring the Zoroastrian faith and organizing ancient ceremonies

Last court decision: Sentenced with a four and a half years in prison, 74 lashes and a fine

Baha'is

In addition to those listed below there are 104 Baha'i serving various prison terms on a wide range of charges related to their membership or activity with their faith (forming an illegal cult, acting against national security, membership in an illegal group, membership in the deviant sect of Baha'ism, etc.). Prison terms range from one year up to twenty and can include a year or more of internal exile once the prisoner is released. Ten of those currently imprisoned are lecturers or work for the Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education, an organization that aims to provide higher education to Baha'i, as they are often barred from attending Iran's other universities due to their faith.

Mahmoud BADAIVAM, Noushin KHADEM, Farhad SEDGHI, Riaz SOBHANI, Ramin ZIBAIE and Kamran MORTEZAIE

Family status: Mortezaie is divorced and has one child, Khadem is single; Badavam and Zibaie are married with two children and Sedghi with three

Date & Place of Arrest: 22nd May 2011 in Tehran and Karaj (Alborz); 14th June 2011 in Tehran for Sobhani

Charges: Membership in a deviant sect with the goal of taking action against the security of the country

Statement of the defendants: Involvement with the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE)

Place of detention: Gohardasht

First court decision: On 21st September 2011, Sedghi was sentenced to four years in prison. On 25th September 2011, Mortezaie was sentenced to five years in prison. On 27th September 2011, Badavam and Khadem were sentenced to four years in prison. Mahmoudi and Sobhani were sentenced to four years in prison.

Fariba KAMALABADI TAEFI, Jamaloddin KHANJANI, Afif NAIMI, Saeid REZAIE, Mahvash SABET, TAZANGI, Behrouz Azizi TAVAKKOLI, Vahid TIZFAHM

Ages: Taefi is 50, Naimi 51, Tazangi 54, Tavakkoli 61 and Tizfahm 40. Khanjani was born in 1933

Family status: Taefi has 3 children, Khanjani 4, Naimi 2, Tazangi 3 and Tizfahm 1

Date & Place of Arrest: Sabat on 5th May 2008 all others on 14th May 2008, in Tehran

Charges: Espionage, propaganda activities against the Islamic order, the establishment of an illegal administration, cooperation with Israel, acting against the security of the country

Statement of the defendants: Leaders of the Baha'i community in Iran

Places of detention: Evin (Tehran) and Gohardasht (Karaj)

First court decision: August 2010, sentenced to 20 years in prison

Other information: In September 2010, authorities informed the seven Baha'is orally that their 20-year sentences were reduced to 10 years. However, prison authorities told them in March 2011 that their original 20-year sentences had been reinstated.

Rozita VASEGHI, Nahid GHADIRI, Davar NABILZADEH, Jalayer VAHDAT and Sima ESHRAGI (Aghdaszadeh)

Family status: Ghadiri has 2 children, Nabilzadeh 3 and Eshragi 2

Date & Place of Arrest: Vaseghi and Ghadiri were arrested on 16th March 2010; Nabilzadeh on 13th July 2010; Vahdat and Eshragi on 24th October 2010. All were arrested in Mashhad, Razavi Khorasan

Place of detention: Mashhad

First court decision: 25th October 2009, sentenced to five years in prison

Last court decision: Appeal launched

Erfan ESHANI and an infant child

Family status: Married with a baby boy

Date & Place of Arrest: 30th October 2012 in Sangsar, Semnan

Place of detention: Semnan

First court decision: Sentenced to one year in prison under Ta'zir law

Zoreh NIKAYIN and an infant child

Age: 31

Family status: Married with a baby child, also in prison

Date & Place of Arrest: 22nd September 2012 in Semnan

Charges: Forming illegal administrative groups, known as moral education classes, with intent to attract Muslims and to promote the ideologies of the perverse Baha'i sect; being present among Muslims; membership in illegal groups and organizations, including the Ruhi Institute; organizing gatherings, science and technology lectures and Nineteen Day Feasts for the purpose of propaganda [against] the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the interest of Baha'i faith; propaganda against the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the interest of anti-regime groups

First court decision: Sentenced to seven years in prison

Last court decision: 8th December 2011, sentenced to 23 months in prison

Taraneh TORABI and an infant child

Family status: Married with a child born during her imprisonment

Date & Place of Arrest: 22nd September 2012 in Sangsar, Semnan

First court decision: Sentenced to five years and ten months in prison

Last court decision: On appeal, the sentence was commuted two and a half years in prison

Alibakhsh BAZRAFKAN

Age: 61

Family status: One child

Date & Place of Arrest: 31st October 2009 in Yasouf (Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad)

Charges: Plotting overthrow of the government, acting against national security and propaganda against the regime

Place of detention: Yasouf

First court decision: 7th December 2009, sentenced to two and a half months in prison and five years of internal exile

Goudarz BEIDAGHI

Age: 62

Family status: One child

Date & Place of Arrest: 26th April 2010 Sangsar, Semnan. 17th July 2012, begins to serve term

Charges: Propaganda against the blessed government of the Islamic Republic of Iran; disturbance of the general public's opinion through distribution of flyers (letter of the Bahá'í community of Iran addressed to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran)

Statement of the defendants: Involvement with the Baha'í Institute for Higher Education (BIHE)

Place of detention: Sangsar

First court decision: 4th October 2011, sentenced to one year in prison under Ta'zír law (usually corporal punishment) and three years' exile from Semnan

Dates of release: 13 February 2012 on bail, 18 May 2013 at end of sentence

Faran HESAMI

Family status: Married with a child

Date & Place of Arrest: 25th July 2012 in Tehran

Charges: Conspiracy and assembly with the intention to act against the national security by membership in perverse Baha'i sect as the primary director of the Department of Psychology at the illegal Baha'i university under the direction of the House of Justice

Statement of the defendants: Involvement with the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE)

Place of detention: Evin prison in Tehran

First court decision: 9th May 2012, sentenced to five years in prison

Afshin IGHANI

Age: 39

Family status: Married with one child.

Date & Place of Arrest: September 2011 in Semnan

Charges: Formation of a group and membership in illegal groups and assemblies with the intention of disturbing national security; actions against national security through propaganda against the regime [and in support of anti-regime groups], i.e. propaganda for the perverse Baha'i sect.

Place of detention: Semnan

First court decision: 5th May 2010, sentenced to four years, three months and one day in prison

Peyman KASHFI

Family status: Married

Date & Place of Arrest: 13th February 2011 in Tehran

Charges: Membership in an anti-Islamic group and propaganda against the regime

Place of detention: Evin prison in Tehran

First court decision: 15th June 2010, sentenced to four years in prison

Bhfar KHANJANI

Age: 36

Family status: Married with two children

Date & Place of Arrest: 21st June 2011 in Mashhad, Razavi Khorasan

Charges: Forming groups and membership in groups and assemblies with intention to disturb the national security; activity against national security through propaganda against the regime; use, possession and distribution of 63 illegal compact discs containing appalling and offensive material

Place of detention: Semnan

First court decision: 4th May 2010, sentenced to four years in prison

Last court decision: Appeal denied on 6th February 2012

Kamran RAHIMIAN

Family status: Married with one child

Date & Place of Arrest: 14th September 2011 in Tehran

Charges: Using falsely obtained degrees, illegal counselling, running illegal classes, defrauding the public

Statement of the defendants: Involvement with the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE)

Place of detention: Gohardasht

First court decision: Sentenced to four years in prison

Kayvan RAHIMIAN

Family status: Widow with one child.

Date & Place of Arrest: 30th September 2012 in Tehran

Charges: Assembly and collusion with intent to commit acts of crime against national security, membership in the perverse Baha'i sect

Statement of the defendants: Involvement with the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE)

First court decision: 12th June 2012, sentenced to five years in prison and 97,877,000 rial fine (8,000 USD)

Didar RAOUFI

Age: 39

Family status: Married

Date & Place of Arrest: 16th October 2011 in Tehran

Place of detention: Evin Prison in Tehran

First court decision: 12th February 2011, sentenced to three years in prison

Feizollah ROWSAHN

Age: 63

Family status: Three children

Date & Place of Arrest: 15th January 2011 in Sari, Mazandaran

Charges: Teaching the Baha'i faith, being a member of and serving the Baha'i community and assisting Baha'i youth

Place of detention: Bijar

First court decision: Sentenced to one year in prison and four years internal exile to Damghan

Last court decision: Remaining internal exile changed to additional six months' imprisonment in Sari

Mahvash Shahriari SABET

Age: 37

Family status: Two children

Date & Place of Arrest: 5th March 2008 in Mashhad, Razavi Khorasan

Charges: Espionage, propaganda activities against the Islamic order, the establishment of an illegal administration, cooperation with Israel, acting against the security of the country

Place of detention: Evin prison in Tehran

First court decision: 14th June 2010, sentenced to 20 years in prison

Azizollah SAMANDARI

Age: 56

Family status: Married with a child

Date & Place of Arrest: 7th July 2012 in Tehran

Charges: Being an active member of the perverse Baha'i sect with the intention to act against the national security

Place of detention: Evin prison in Tehran

First court decision: 4th October 2011, sentenced to five years in prison

Last court decision: In February 2012, the verdict was upheld by the appeal court.

Shahrockh TAEF

Age: 61

Family status: Married with two children

Date & Place of Arrest: 14th January 2009, 17th January 2012 to serve term

Statement of the defendant: Arrested primarily due to his faith

Charges (informal): Threat to internal security and collaboration with "hostile countries"

Place of detention: Evin

First court decision: 13th February 2011, sentenced to four years in prison

Last court decision: 16th January 2012, appeal upholding previous sentence

Date of release: 18th March 2009 on bail.

Other information: Mr. Taef was arrested along with four others; in the course of the arrests Baha'i religious literature and computers seized

Source: World Organisation Against Torture

KAZAKHSTAN

Jehovah's Witnesses

Three male believers

Place of Residence: Sarykol, Kostanay Region

Date and Place of Arrest: Taken to the Sarykol police station, 27th January 2013

Place of detention: Sarykol Police station

Date of release: 27th January 2013

Length of detention: 1.5 hours

Other information: The three were taken to the police station and interrogated following a raid on their meeting

At least two believers

Place of Residence: Karazhal, Karaganda Region

Date and Place of Arrest: Taken to the Karazhal police station, 24th January 2013

Place of detention: Karazhal Police station

Date of release: 24th January 2013

Length of detention: Less than one hour

Other information: They were taken to the station and forced to write statements following a raid on their meeting

Protestants

At least two believers

Place of Residence: Zhanskent

Date and Place of Arrest: Summoned to the Karazhal Police station at noon, 3rd April 2013

Place of detention: Karazhal Police station

Date of release: 3rd April 2013

Length of detention: Six hours

Other information: They were interrogated and forced to sign records of interrogation which made mention of unregistered religious activity and the storing and use of narcotics. When one

refused to sign officers threatened to imprison them for 24 hours.

Pastors Yevgeni MEDVEDEV and Igor ANDREIKIN

Place of Residence: Stepnogorsk, Akmola Region, and Temirtau, Qaraghandy Region

Date and Place of Arrest: Taken to the Stepnogorsk police station, 31st March 2013

Place of detention: Stepnogorsk Police station

Date of release: 31st March 2013

Length of detention: Less than one hour

Other information: The two were taken to the police station to write statements and then were released

KYRGYZSTAN

Jehovah's Witnesses

Oksana KORYAKINA, Nadezhda SERGIENKO

Birth Year/ Age: 33 and 54

Family Status: Oksana is married and cares for her mother Nadezhda

Place of Residence: Osh region, southern Kyrgyzstan

Date & Place of Arrest: 20th March 2013

Charges: Conjured live snakes from eggs and swindled two old women of their life savings

Place of detention: Held in police detention for 48 hours

First Court Decision: Placed under house arrest for two months while investigation proceeds

Last Court Decision: House arrest charge upheld

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 166, Part 2, points 2 and 3, this punishes large-scale swindling "using deception" by a group of people "under a prior conspiracy" with a fine or up to three years' imprisonment

Other information: It is believed by the local Jehovah's Witnesses that these charges were launched to punish the community for lodging registration applications. No further evidence has been presented linking the two women to the allegations.

Muslim

An unnamed woman

Date & Place of Arrest: June 2012, in Tashkumyr, in Jalal-Abad Region

Charges: Extremism

Statement of the defendants: Storing a Quran and several disks in Kyrgyz with sermons on what the Quran teaches. Since the Quran is in Arabic, and Prosecutor's Office officials do not

speaking or understanding Arabic, they claimed that she has ties with some militant Islamic groups.

First court decision: Sentenced to seven years in prison

LAOS

Pastors BOUNMA, SOMKAEW, BOUNMEE

Date & Place of Arrest: 5th February 2013, Savannakhet Province

Charges: Spreading the Christian religion, related to reproducing a DVD of a Christian film.

Statement of the defendant: The three copies were for personal use

Dates of release: One was released later that day, while the other two were held at least until mid-march

Place of detention: Phin district prison (high security section)

LIBYA

Protestants

Ezzat Hakim ATALLAH and four others

Date and Place of Arrest: February 2013

Charges: Proselytizing, attempting to seek religious converts

Place of detention: A prison in Banghazi

Dates of release: Mr. Atallah died while in prison on 10th March; it is unknown if the other four have been released.

Other information: Mr. Atallah had been suffering from a heart condition and had diabetes. Naguib Guebrayel, a Coptic Christian lawyer, claimed that Attallah "died after being tortured with other detainees." An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said that Attallah, who suffered from diabetes and heart ailments, had likely died of natural causes.

Christians

An Egyptian, South African, South Korean and a Swede with a US passport.

Date and Place of Arrest: 10th February 2013, Benghazi

Charges: Proselytizing, distributing Bibles and other religious materials

Other information: The unnamed South Korean was released on 11th April

NAGORNO-KARABAKH REPUBLIC
(Non-recognised state inside of Azerbaijan)

Jehovah's Witness

Karen HARUTYUNYAN

Age: 18

Date & Place of residence: 30th November 2011 in the town of Askeran, central Karabakh

Charges: Conscientious objector to compulsory military service

Statement of the defendants: Performing military service is incompatible with his faith

Place of detention: Prison of Shusha near capital city of Stepanakert

First court decision: 30th December 2011, sentenced to 30 months in prison by the Askeran District Court

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 327, Part 1: "Evasion from regular military or alternative service call-up, training exercise or mobilisation, without any order defined by Legislation as grounds for exemption, is punished with arrest for a maximum term of two months or imprisonment for a maximum term of three years"

Other information: The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is a de facto independent but unrecognized state. The territory is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, although the latter has not exercised power over most of the region since 1991. Since the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh War in 1994, the territory has been under military control of Armenia.

NORTH KOREA

It is estimated that 150,000 to 200,000 prisoners are currently in North Korea's network of political prison camps. North Korea experts in South Korea, using testimony from refugees, estimate that there may be 6,000 Christians incarcerated in Prison No. 15 in the northern part of the country. However, no verifiable statistics are available concerning FORB prisoners.

RUSSIA

Islam (Said Nursi readers)

2 arrested, 30 detained

Date & Place of Arrest: 14th February 2013 Naberezhnye Chelny

Charges: Holding of an illegal meeting

Court decision: As preventive measures the detention of the male and house arrest of the female

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Part 1 of article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of RF (organizing activity of a prohibited organization)

Jehovah's Witnesses

According to a report by the Jehovah's Witnesses 78 Witnesses have been arrested and interrogated by police in the first half of 2013, for proselytizing/sharing their religious convictions with others. 8 other believers have also been detained by police for other various reasons and two have been fined 4,000 rubles following a raid on religious gathering.

Name	Age	Date and Place of Detainment	Cause	Place of Detainment	Date of Release
Nadezhda Georgiyevna Savinova	4/6/74	3 January 2013, Republic of Tatarstan, Srmankovskiy District, Village of Sarmanovo	Proselytizing	Police station	3/1/13
Yuliya Andreyevna Kholopova	12/2/76	3 January 2013, Republic of Tatarstan, Srmankovskiy District, Village of Sarmanovo	Proselytizing	Police station	3/1/13

Nadezhda Georgiyevna Savinova	4/6/74	5 January 2013, Republic of Tatarstan, Srmankovskiy District, Village of Sarmanovo	Proselytizing	Police station	5/1/13
Yulia Andreyevna Kholopova	12/2/76	5 January 2013, Republic of Tatarstan, Srmankovskiy District, Village of Sarmanovo	Proselytizing	Police station	5/1/13
Lyudmila Smirnova		21 January 2013, Moscow Region, Ivanteyevka	Proselytizing	Police station	21/1/13
Lyudmila Pisanyuk		21 January 2013, Moscow Region, Ivanteyevka	Proselytizing	Police station	21/1/13
Sergey Vladimirovich Pyankov	30/1/73	21 January 2013, Belgorod Region, Village of Rakitnoye	Proselytizing	Police station	21/1/13
Olga Viktorovna Ryzhkova	25/8/57	21 January 2013, Belgorod Region, Village of Rakitnoye	Proselytizing	Police station	21/1/13
Sergey Vladimirovich Grib	17/5/74	23 January 2013, Chelyabinsk Region, on Route M5 heading toward Satka	Road Patrol Service demanded that he go with him to the police station.	Police station	23/1/13
Valentin Igoryevich Petrov		23 January 2013, Chelyabinsk Region, on Route M5 heading toward Satka	Road Patrol Service demanded that he go with him to the police station.	Police station	23/1/13
Aleksandra Andreyevna Sennova	28/7/93	24 January 2013, Samara Region, Samara	Proselytizing	Police station	24/1/13

Tatyana Rubatsova		24 January 2013, Samara Region, Samara	Proselytizing	Police station	24/1/13
Dmitriy Olegovich Zhdankin	14/4/93	28 January 2013, Ryazan Region, Skopin	Detained where he was to perform alternative civilian service.	Police station	28/1/13
Vitaliy Alekseyevich Ganchenkov	23/7/92	28 January 2013, Ryazan Region, Skopin	Detained where he was to perform alternative civilian service.	Police station	28/1/13
Vitaliy Igorevich Mironov	19	29 January 2013, Ryazan Region, Skopin	Detained where he was to perform alternative civilian service.	Police station	29/1/13
Irina Alekseyevna Demidova	13/11/56	14 February 2013, Moscow	Proselytizing	Police station	14/2/13
Natalya Vladimirovna Mikhaylova		14 February 2013, Moscow	Proselytizing	Police station	14/2/13
Vyacheslav Yevgenyevich Petriv	10/1/77	14 February 2013, Moscow	Proselytizing	Police station	14/2/13
Denis Zherdev		14 February 2013, Moscow	Proselytizing	Police station	14/2/13

Ivan Aleksandrovich Lavrentyev		17 February 2013, Pskovsk Region, Novosokolniki	Detained because he is a Jehovah's Witness.	Police station	17/2/13
Dmitriy Anatolyevich Lukashonok		17 February 2013, Pskovsk Region, Novosokolniki	Detained because he is a Jehovah's Witness.	Police station	17/2/13
Yelena Ivanovna Sapegina	9/1/93	20 February 2013, Belgorod Region, Grayvoron	Proselytizing	Police station	20/2/13
Irina Vladimirovna Dzhanshoyeva	14/4/84	20 February 2013, Belgorod Region, Grayvoron	Proselytizing	Police station	20/2/13
Sergey Asaul		23 February 2013, Leningrad Region, Village of Petrovskoye	Proselytizing	Police station	23/2/13
Pavel Vladimirovich Filippov	29/1/92	23 February 2013, Leningrad Region, Village of Petrovskoye	Proselytizing	Police station	23/2/13
Sophia Mironi Chulakyan	8/9/77	23 February 2013, Leningrad Region, Village of Petrovskoye	Proselytizing	Police station	23/2/13
Mikael Chulakyan		23 February 2013, Leningrad Region, Village of Petrovskoye	Proselytizing	Police station	23/2/13
Dmitriy Vasilyevich Litvin	9/2/77	24 February 2013, Samara Region, Village of Privolzhie	Proselytizing	Police station	24/2/13
Nadezhda Viktorovna Litvina	31/10/83	24 February 2013, Samara Region, Village of Privolzhie	Proselytizing	Police station	24/2/13

Elmira Mamedrzayeva Mamedova	24/7/75	26 February 2013, Republic of Bashkortostan, Sterlitamak	Proselytizing	Police station	26/2/13
Darya Aleksandrovn a Pritulenko	5/8/86	26 February 2013, Republic of Bashkortostan, Sterlitamak	Proselytizing	Police station	26/2/13
Yelena Aleksandrovn a Shalneva	17/6/72	26 February 2013, Kostromskaya Region, Village of Glebovo	Proselytizing	Police station	26/2/13
Anna Nikolayevna Koroleva	10/4/77	26 February 2013, Kostromskaya Region, Village of Glebovo	Proselytizing	Police station	26/2/13
Yekaterina Dmitriyevna Moskalenko		28 February 2013, Orenburg Region, Village of Akbulak	Proselytizing	Police station	28/2/13
Sergey Nikolayevich Miroshnikov	4/4/76	29 February 2013, Orenburg Region, Village of Akbulak	Proselytizing	Police station	28/2/13
Ruslan Sergeyeovich Lyalin	24/3/85	2 March 2013, Kirov Region, Urzhum	Proselytizing	Police station	2/3/13
Liana Radionovna Lyalina	10/5/86	2 March 2013, Kirov Region, Urzhum	Proselytizing	Police station	2/3/13
Viktoriya Aleksandrovn a Petrenko	19/11/84	5 March 2013, Leningrad Region, Volkhov	Proselytizing	Police station	5/3/13
Svetlana Guseva		5 March 2013, Leningrad Region, Volkhov	Proselytizing	Police station	5/3/13
Yuriy Mikhailovich Gasinets	18/10/65	5 March 2013, Krasnodar Territory, Village of Leningradskaya	He was taken to the police station from his home.	Police station	5/3/13

Ruslan Gennadiyevich Volkov	29/9/81	7 March 2013, Orenburg Region, Sol-Iletskiy District, Village of Grigoryevka	Proselytizing	Police station	7/3/13
Aleksey Mikhailovich Pasyнков	10/2/88	7 March 2013, Orenburg Region, Sol-Iletskiy District, Village of Grigoryevka	Proselytizing	Police station	7/3/13
Zulfiya Abdullovna Zaydullina	23/9/53	12 March 2013, Republic of Tatarstan, Leningorsk	Proselytizing	Police station	12/3/13
Valentina Fedorovna Maksimova	2/1/49	12 March 2013, Republic of Tatarstan, Leningorsk	Proselytizing	Police station	12/3/13
Tatyana Viktorovna Alifanova	16/11/77	15 March 2013, Krasnodar Territory, Village of Krylovskiy	Proselytizing	Police station	15/3/13
Svetlana Viktorovna Chumak	12/2/75	18 March 2013, Republic of Bashkortostan, Sterlibashevskiy District, Village of Bakiyevo	Proselytizing	Police station	18/3/13
Eleonora Galmetovna Kulakova	16/6/74	18 March 2013, Vladimir Region, Village of Vasilyevka	Proselytizing	Police station	18/2/13
Nadezhda Yuryevna Medvedeva	8/7/92	18 March 2013, Vladimir Region, Village of Vasilyevka	Proselytizing	Police station	18/2/13
Nina Sergeevna Polozova	9/7/83	19 March 2013, Republic of Bashkortostan, Sterlibashevskiy District, Village of Bakiyevo	Proselytizing	Police station	18/3/13
Galina Mikhailovna Shevchenko	17/2/82	21 March 2013, Republic of Tatarstan, Naberezhniye Chelny	Proselytizing	Police station	21/3/13

Zinaida Soldatova		21 March 2013, Republic of Tatarstan, Naberezhniye Chelny	Proselytizing	Police station	21/3/13
Zinaida Vasilyevna Bezhengar	15/8/57	23 March 2013	Proselytizing	Police station	23/3/13
Adriana Vasilyevna Kopchar	31	23 March 2013	Proselytizing	Police station	23/3/13
Tatyana Aleksandrovna Barinova	24/4/86	27 March 2013, Nizhegorod Region, Nizhniy Novgorod	Proselytizing	Police station	27/3/13
Igor Sergeevich Krylov	17	27 March 2013, Nizhegorod Region, Nizhniy Novgorod	Proselytizing	Police station	27/3/13
Pavel Nikolayevich Sivulskiy	10/2/33	28 March 2013, Belgorod Region, Belgorod	Proselytizing	Police station	28/3/13
Konstantin Vladimirovich Cherednichenko	22/2/70	28 March 2013, Belgorod Region, Belgorod	Proselytizing	Police station	28/3/13
Tatyana Valeryevna Khoran	12/8/13	16 April 2013, Penza Region, Village of Yurovka	Proselytizing	District Police Station	16/4/13
Oksana Stanislavskaya	32	16 April 2013, Penza Region, Village of Yurovka	Proselytizing	District Police Station	16/4/13
Sergey Vasilyevich Nagaytsev	15/5/87	20 April 2013, Kirov Region, Malmyzhskiy District, Village of Kalinino	Proselytizing	Police station	20/4/13

Nikolay Vasilyevich Vasilyev	15/5/84	20 April 2013, Kirov Region, Malmyzhskiy District, Village of Kalinino	Proselytizing	Police station	20/4/13
Yelena Aleksandrovna Savchuk	25/5/64	21 April 2013, Moscow Region, Dmitrov	Proselytizing	Police station	21/4/13
Svetlana Sergeevna Abramyan	52	22 April 2013, Moscow Region, Dmitrov	Proselytizing	Police station	21/4/13
Svetlana Viktorovna Kim	46	27 April 2013, Leningrad Region, Lodeynoye Pole	Proselytizing	Police station	27/4/13
Valter Visemes	15/7/56	27 April 2013, Leningrad Region, Lodeynoye Pole	Proselytizing	Police station	27/4/13
Sergey Vladimirovich Pyankov	30/1/73	2 May 2013, Orel Region, Town of Kromy	Proselytizing	Police station	2/5/13
Gennadiy Payul		2 May 2013, Orel Region, Town of Kromy	Proselytizing	Police station	2/5/13
Believer wanted to remain anonymous		8 May 2013, Nizhegorod Region, Dzerzhinsk	Proselytizing	Police station	8/5/13
Believer wanted to remain anonymous		9 May 2013, Nizhegorod Region, Dzerzhinsk	Proselytizing	Police station	8/5/13
Olesya Vladimirovna Kolosova	1/4/82	16 May 2013, Bryansk Region, Trubchevskiy District, Village of Gorodtsy	Proselytizing	Police station	16/5/13

Yelizaveta Andreyevna Korniyenko	22/6/85	16 May 2013, Bryansk Region, Trubchevskiy District, Village of Gorodtsy	Proselytizing	Police station	16/5/13
Lyudmila Mironovna Trofimova	11/7/68	29 May 2013, Irkutsk Region, Irkutsk	Proselytizing	Police station	29/5/13
Tatyana Petrovna Zaytseva	5/5/77	29 May 2013, Irkutsk Region, Irkutsk	Proselytizing	Police station	29/5/13
Aleksandr Nikolayevich Sharov	7/9/72	1 June 2013, Yaroslavl Region, Borisoglebskiy District, Village of Yakovtsevo	Proselytizing	Police station	1/6/13
Anton Yuryevich Tishkin	15/12/90	1 June 2013, Yaroslavl Region, Borisoglebskiy District, Village of Yakovtsevo	Proselytizing	Police station	1/6/13

Name	Age DOB	Dare and place of Arrest	Statement of defendant	Place of Detain ment	Date of Release	Court decisions	Article of the Criminal Code
Yevgeniy Borisovich Ivanov	15/12/76	26 March 2013, Astrakhan Region, Astrakhan	During an annual religious service he was taken to the police station.	Police station	26/3/13	12 April 2013 District court, fined 20,000 rubles. 24 May 2013 Regional court reversed the Ruling reduced the fine to 4,000 rubles.	Article 20.2 (2) of the RF CAV

Anton Yevgenyevich Cheremnykh	31/5/87	26 March 2013, Primorskiy Territory, Village of Pogranichniy	During an annual religious service, he was taken to a separate area to give statements.	Neighboring premise	26/3/13	29 April 2013 District court, fined 20,000 rubles. Territorial court currently considering appeal	Article 20.2(2) of the RF CAV
Pavel Ivanovich Rusnak	25/9/63	7 March 2013, Nizhegorod Region, Vyksa	Detained while attending a private home religious service	Police station	7/3/13	5 April 2013 City court, administrative case proceedings were terminated due to an absence of a violation. Regional court considering the appeal	Article 20.2 9 of the RF CAV

(Source: Office of General Counsel of JW)

SAUDI ARABIA

Protestant

52 Ethiopian Christians (46 men, six women)

46 women, six men

Date & Place of Arrest: 8th February 2013, Dammam

Charges: Converting Muslims to Christianity

Statement of the defendant: Attending a private worship service

Other information: Authorities were likely to release two of the Ethiopian Christians who have residential permits on Monday February 11th, and the others were expected to be deported

SOUTH KOREA

Jehovah's Witnesses

Number of detainees/ prisoners: 604 (Situation in 30th April 2013)

Charges: Conscientious objector to compulsory military service

Statement of the defendants: Performing military service is incompatible with their faith

Last court decision: Generally sentenced to 18 months in prison

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Military Service Act Article 88 Paragraph 1

Duration of detention: Usually 18 months

Other information: Conscientious objectors who are called up as reservists face multiple prosecutions and repeated punishments over an eight-year period for violation of Homeland Reserve Forces Act, Article 15, Paragraph 9

Every year the government tries and convicts 400 to 700 young Jehovah's Witnesses² as conscientious objectors to military service. Since 1950, the government has sentenced 17,107 Jehovah's Witnesses in South Korea, making a combined total of 32,413 years for their conscientious objection to military service.

The UN Human Rights Committee's decision on 1st December 2006 ruled that South Korea violated Article 18, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). This decision found an infringement of freedom of conscience in the case of two Jehovah's Witnesses imprisoned for their conscientious objection to military service. On 24th March 2011, the Committee issued a similar ruling in the case of 100 other Witnesses; 438 other Witness complaints are still pending before this Committee. Both Committee decisions

² See the list of JW conscientious objectors at <http://www.hrwf.net>

remind South Korea that it is under obligation to put an end to this violation. The government of South Korea has stated that it does not intend to implement the Committee's views.

(Information provided by the European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses)

SUDAN

Protestants

At least 55

Date & Place of Arrest: February, 2013

Charges: Receiving money from foreign countries (including Israel)

Statement of the defendants: False accusation

Duration of detention: Around two weeks

Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide

TAJIKISTAN

According to Forum 18, a total of 95 followers of the banned Jamaat Tabligh Muslim religious movement were in 2010 given long prison sentences and huge fines. In March 2010, 23 of these Muslims were given prison terms of between three and six years, and the other 33 defendants were fined between 25,000 Somonis (4,330 EUR or 5,340 USD) and 50,000 Somonis (8,660 EUR or 10,680 USD). By year's end 2012, these prisoners had still not been released.

TURKMENISTAN

In 2011 the UN Committee against Torture found that in Turkmenistan "persons deprived of their liberty are tortured, ill-treated and threatened by public officers, especially at the moment of apprehension and during pre-trial detention, to extract confessions and as an additional punishment after the confession".

Jehovah's Witnesses

Tahir NASYLAYEV, Abdurasul NASYLAYEV, Bahram SHAMURADOV, Hudayar ISMAILOV and two others

Place of residence: Dashoguz

Date & Place of Arrest: 24th January 2013, Dashoguz

Charges: Holding an illegal religious meeting

Place of detention: Dashoguz Police station No. 1 and the Dashoguz City Police Station's Detention Facility

Court decision: Judge Maksat Myradov found all three guilty, received fines of 750 Manats (195 Euro)

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Administrative Code Article 205, Parts 1 and 2. "Participated in the activity of the religious group Jehovah's Witnesses, which is specifically and officially not registered by Turkmenistan's Justice Ministry"

Date of release: 25th January 2013

Other information: All six were physically abused while in police custody, and one of the women was threatened with rape

Zafar ABDULLAEV

Age: 24

Place of residence: Dashoguz

Charges: Conscientious objector to compulsory military service

Statement of the defendants: Performing military service is incompatible with his faith

Place of detention: General regime in Seydi Labour camp, eastern Lebap Region

First court decision: 6th March 2012, sentenced to two years in prison by the Dashoguz City Court

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 219, Part 1, punishes refusal to serve in the armed forces in peacetime with a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment

Matkarim AMINOV

Charges: Conscientious objector to military service

Statement of defendant: Performing military service is incompatible with their faith

Court decision: January 2013, Dashoguz court sentenced him to two years

Other information: Aminov had previously been sentenced (2010) and served 18 months in prison by the Dashoguz court.

Source: War Resisters' International

Arslan DOVLETOV

Charges: Conscientious objector to military service

Statement of defendant: Performing military service is incompatible with their faith

Court decision: January 2013, Dashoguz court sentenced him to 18 months

Mahmud HUDAYBERGENOV

Charges: Conscientious objector to compulsory military service

Statement of the defendants: Performing military service is incompatible with his faith

Place of detention: General regime in Seydi Labour camp, eastern Lebap Region

First court decision: August 2011, sentenced to two years in prison by the Dashoguz Court

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 219, Part 1, punishes refusal to serve in the armed forces in peacetime with a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment

Navruz NASYRLAEV

Date & Place of Arrest: 7th March 2012 in Dashoguz

Charges: Conscientious objector to compulsory military service

Statement of the defendants: Performing military service is incompatible with his faith

Place of detention: Strict regime section at the Seydi Labour camp, Lebap Region

First court decision: 1st May 2012, sentenced to two years in prison by the Dashoguz City Court

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 219, Part 1, punishes refusal to serve in the armed forces in peacetime with a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment

Juma NAZAROV

Age: 19

Place of residence: Ashgabad

Date of Arrest: 10th May 2012

Charges: Conscientious objector to compulsory military service

Statement of the defendants: Performing military service is incompatible with his faith

First court decision: 23rd July 2012, sentenced to 18 months in prison by the Azatlyk District Court

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 219, Part 1, punishes refusal to serve in the armed forces in peacetime with a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment

Other information: From 10th May 2012, he was held in pre-trial detention at Yashlyk, south-east of Ashgabad

Aibek SALAYEV

Age: 33

Charge: Distributing pornography

Statement of the defendants: The charge was fabricated to punish him for his faith

First court decision: 12th April 2012, sentenced to four years in prison by the Dashoguz City Court

Last court decision: On 1st May 2012, an appeal was rejected

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 164, Part 2 of the Criminal Code punishes “production or distribution of pornographic items” more than once or by a group of people. The maximum penalty is five years’ imprisonment.

Other information: Witnesses said that it was impossible for Salayev to copy pornographic discs, since there is no way to insert DVD into his small notebook

Atamurat SUVKHANOV

Birth Year/ Age: 27

Charges: Failure to serve compulsory military service

Statement of the defendant: Performing military service is incompatible with their faith

Court decision: On 13 March 2013, Judge Italmaz Bayhanov of Dashoguz City Court found Suvkhanov guilty of violating Criminal Code Article 219, Part 1. He handed down a one-year general regime labour camp term.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 219, Part 1. Punishment for refusal to serve in the armed forces in peacetime with a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment

Other information: Suvkhanov has already served one year in prison for this reason

Protestant

Pastor Ilmurad NURLIEV (belonging to the Light to the World Protestant Church)

Age: 47

Family status: Married with a daughter and two grandchildren

Place of residence: Town of Mary, east of Ashgabad

Date of Arrest: 27th August 2010

Charge: Swindling money

Statement of the defendants: The charges were fabricated to punish him for his religious activity. Among the people he was supposed to have swindled money from were two women that occasionally attended church meetings and two men he had never met.

Place of detention: Seydi Labour camp, eastern Lebap Region

First court decision: 21st October 2010, sentenced to four years in prison and “forcible medical treatment”

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 228, Part 2

Other information: Pastor Nurliev has to report each Saturday to the local police station. Throughout his 18-month imprisonment he was not allowed to have a copy of the Bible.

Muslim

Musa (other name unknown)

Age: About 25

Place of residence: Ashgabad

Charges: Teaching the Koran to children

Place of detention: Seydi Labour camp, eastern Lebap Region

First court decision: Sentenced to four years in prison (2012)

UZBEKISTAN

Muslims

The 2013 Annual Report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom³ has released a list of 65 Muslims arrested/sentenced due to their religious activities or affiliations based on NGO reporting from April 2012-January 2013: 12 of them have been sentenced to various prison terms, ranging from 7 to 18 years, while four cases were still pending.

Gayrat KHUSANOV and Shuhrat YUNUSOV

Place of residence: Tashkent Region

Date of Arrest: Between mid-May and 26th July 2012

Statement of the defendants: Meeting to read the Koran, discuss their faith and to learn how to pray

Place of detention: Yangibazar Detention Centre in Tashkent Region

First court decision: On 22nd November 2012, Yukorichirchik District Court sentenced Khusanov and Yunusov to seven years in prison

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 216: “illegal establishment or reactivation of illegal public associations or religious organisations, as well as active participation in their activities”

Four or five were also prosecuted under Article 244-1, Part 3, Point a. This punishes “production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order”

Other information: They were first detained on various dates during the summer 2012 and given a 15-day administrative detention

³ See the list at <http://www.uscirf.gov/images/Appendices%20Combined.pdf>

Khayrullo TURSUNOV

Birth Year/ Age: 38

Place of residence: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Date & Place of Arrest: 7th April 2012, Aktobe Kazakhstan,
13th March Uzbekistan

Charges: Unknown but criminal in nature

Statement of the defendant: Practiced faith outside of State run mosques, fled to Kazakhstan.

Place of detention: Aktobe Kazakhstan, moved Feb. 13 to Almaty, moved 13th March Tashkent, Uzbekistan

First court decision: 9th April 2012, Aktobe City Specialized Administrative Court approved his detention, which was subsequently extended several times by the court

Other events: 25th October 2012, Kazakh Deputy General Prosecutor Khalimoc approved the decision to extradite.

Second court decision: 22nd November 2012 Astana Regional Court referred Tursunov's appeal to Aktobe City Court No. 2

Third court decision: 25th December 2012, Judge Kusanova upheld the extradition

Final court decision: 18th January 2013, a panel of Judges at Aktobe Regional Court rejected Tursunov's appeal and upheld his extradition.

Other information: 28th February 2013, UN Committee Against Torture called on the Kazakh authorities not to extradite him, while Tursunov's complaint to the committee was considered. Tursunov was extradited on the 13th March 2013 and immediately arrested upon landing in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where he could face up to fifteen years in prison.

Protestants

Sergei BRISLAVSKI, Olga BRISLAVSKI, Yekaterina BRISLAVSKI, Rita STRUCHAVEVA, Lyubov ABDALOVA, Yuri ZAKHARCHENKO, Tatyana SHOPOV, Stanislav SHOPOV, Lola KAMALOVA, Azamat NAZAROV, Vladimir SHIRYAYEV, Yelena SHIRYAYEV, an 11 month old girl and seven others

Family status: Sergei and Olga Brislavski are married and the parents of Yekaterina

Place of residence: Almalyk, Tashkent Region

Date & Place of Arrest: 24th January, 2013

Statement of the defendant: Conducting a private Baptist meeting

Place of detention: Almalyk Police Station

Date of release: 24th January 2013

Length of detention: Unknown

Other information: The nineteen were taken to the police station to write statements. The Brislavski's flat was then searched and Christian Song books and CD were confiscated. While in custody Olga Brislavski, Nazarov, and Kamalova all suffered physical abuse.

Tohar HAYDAROV

Birth Year/ Age: 27

Place of residence: Gulistan

Date of Arrest: 18th January 2010

Charges: Illegal production purchase, storage and other operation with narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of selling

Statement of the defendants: The case has been fabricated and the police planted the drugs on him.

Place of detention: Labour camp in Qarshi

First court decision: 9th March 2010, sentenced to 10 years in prison

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 276 Part 2a.m., Uzbekistan Criminal Code

Other information: The charges are believed to have been fabricated and came after relatives asked local police in January to help them force Tohar to return to Islam

Sharofat ALLAMOVA

Place of residence: Urgench [Urganch] in Uzbekistan's north-western Khorezm Region

Date & Place of Arrest: 4th January 2013

Charges: Illegal distribution of religious literature

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-3, "illegal production, storage, import or distribution of religious literature"

Date of release: 4th January 2013, after being held for 11 hours

Other information: The police also confiscated three Christian books, two DVD discs of a Christian film and a sermon, and a video-tape of a film called "Life in the Church"

Jehovah's Witnesses

Abdubannob AHMEDOV

Age: 34

Place of residence: Fergana Region, eastern Uzbekistan

Date & Place of Arrest: 23rd July 2008 in the court room

Charges: Carrying literature that contradicts the principles of tolerance, inter-religious accord and the laws of the Republic; breaking the law by his criminal actions expressed in the renewal of the previously-halted activity of the illegal religious organisation of Jehovah's Witnesses and in their active participation in its activity as an illegal religious organisation.

Disobeying orders while in Tashkent Region's Tavaksay Prison

Place of detention: Kattakurgan in Samarkand Region

First court decision: 23rd July 2008, sentenced to three and a half years in prison by a Criminal Court in Fergana, eastern Uzbekistan

Last court decision: 12th April 2012, tried under the new criminal charges of violating prison regulations. He was given

an additional sentence of four months and three days in prison by the Gazalkent City Criminal Court

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 216: illegal organisation of public associations or religious organisations. Criminal Code Article 221, part 2b: disobedience to the legal orders of the administration of punishment institutions or other obstruction to the administration in performing its functions by a person serving a penalty in institutions of confinement. If the person has been penalised with confinement to a solitary cell or to a prison for violation of penal security regulations within one year, that person may be convicted for a serious or very serious crime with imprisonment from three to five years.

Date of release: Not released by year's end 2012

Other information: Ahmedov was told by prison officials in summer 2011 that he would not be released at the end of his sentence unless he renounced his faith.

VIETNAM

Hoa Hoa Buddhists

BUI Van Trung

Date & Place of Arrest: Late October 2012

Charges: Resisting officials carrying out their duties

Statement of the defendant: Organized praying to the Buddha in his home

Final court decision: 23rd January 2013, a Phu district court finally sentenced Mr. Trung

Hmong Christians

8 believers

Charges: Involvement in a disturbance involving thousands of Hmong Christians in Dien Bien in 2012

Final Court decision: Dien Bien province court sentenced them to 24-30 month prison terms

Other information: They were among the five thousand Hmong who on 30th April 2011 had gathered near Huoi Khonm, (Nam Ke Commune, Muong Nhe district, Dien Bien province) to perform prayer rituals and to demand religious freedoms

TRANG A Cho, GIANG A Long, LI A Di, HAU A Giang

Charges: Activities aimed at overthrowing the People's Government

Final Court decision: 12th December 2012, Cho was sentenced to seven years while the other three were all given three years in prison

Other information: They were among the five thousand Hmong who on 30th April 2011 had gathered near Huoi Khonm, (Nam Ke Commune, Muong Nhe district, Dien Bien province) to perform prayer rituals and to demand religious freedoms

Pentecostal

NGUYEN Trung Ton

Charges: Propaganda against the socialist state

Final Court decision: 29th December 2011, sentenced to two years followed by a two year period of house arrest

Other information: Nguyen Trung Ton is a leader of a Pentecostal house church. Due to his evangelical work and advocacy for dispossessed farmers, Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton has often been harassed and beaten by security police. He is also a signatory of the Bloc 8406 Democracy Movement manifesto.

**FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
RELATED TO RELIGIOUS ISSUES
Blasphemy, defamation of a religion, insulting
religious beliefs**

“Charges of ‘blasphemy’, ‘defamation of a religion’ and ‘insulting religious beliefs’ must be removed from the criminal code of countries which sentence to death or send to prison persons using their freedom of expression about religious issues.”

The targeted countries are **Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Tunisia and Turkey.**

EGYPT

Copts

Demyana Ebeid ABD EL NOUR

Birth Year/ Age: 24

Place of residence: Luxor

Date & Place of Arrest: 8th May, 2013

Charges: Accused of insulting Islam and Prophet Muhammad

Article of the criminal code: Article 98 (Anyone offending religion in any form can face up to six years in prison and be fined up to LE500 (\$70)

Statement of the defendant: Taught a class on the history of Egypt during the Pharaohs

Last court decision: 11th June 2013, condemned to pay a fine of 100,000 Egyptian Pounds (10,866 Euro).

Date of release: Originally ordered to be held for four days, but this was extended by 15 more days on 11th May.

Other information: Demiana started a hunger strike on 10th May 2013. She was released on a very high bail of 20,000 EGP (2177 Euro)

Makram DIAB

Age: 49

Date of Arrest: February 2012

Charges: “Insulting the prophet” and “provoking students”

Article of the criminal code: Article 98 (Anyone offending religion in any form can face up to six years in prison and be fined up to LE 500 (\$70)

Statement of the defendants: Stating to Makram Diab, a Salafi Muslim, that Muhammad had more than four wives, which resulted in an argument

Place of detention: Assuit General Prison

First court decision: 29th February 2012, sentenced to six years in prison

Last court decision: On 16th March and 4th April 2012, the two appeals were rejected

Other information: The first sentencing lasted only 10 minutes and no defence attorney was present. The first appeal process instigated a massive riot by Muslim attorneys, who assaulted the court room.

Bishoy KAMEL

Charges: Posting cartoons deemed defamatory to Islam and the Prophet Mohammed on Facebook, as well as insulting President Mohamed Morsi and his family

Article of the criminal code: Article 98 (Anyone offending religion in any form can face up to six years in prison and be fined up to LE500 (\$70)

Last court decision: July 2012, six years in prison

Ayman Youssef MANSOUR

Age: 22

Charges: “Insulting the dignity of the Islamic religion”, “promoting extremist ideas” and “inciting sectarianism”

Article of the criminal code: Article 98 (Anyone offending religion in any form can face up to six years in prison and be fined up to LE500 (\$70))

Statement of the defendants: Posting on Facebook (no details provided)

First court decision: October 2011, sentenced to three years in prison

Gamal Abdu MASSOUD

Age: 17

Place of residence: Assiut

Charges: Blasphemy, defaming Islam and inciting riots

Article of the criminal code: Article 98 (Anyone offending religion in any form can face up to six years in prison and be fined up to LE500 (\$70))

Statement of the defendants: Posting cartoons mocking Islam and the prophet Muhammad on Facebook in December 2011 and distributing the images to other students

First court decision: 4th April 2012, sentenced to three years in prison

Last court decision: Appeal lost

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 98(f) of the Penal Code, “Confinement for a period of not less than six months and not exceeding five years... shall be the penalty inflicted on whoever makes use of religion in propagating, either by words, in writing or in any other means, extreme ideas for the purpose of inciting strife, ridiculing or insulting a heavenly religion or a sect following it, or damaging national unity”

Nabil RIZK (10) and Mina FARAG (9), two minors

Date of arrest: October 2012

Charges: Tearing up a copy of the Quran

Article of the criminal code: Article 98 (Anyone offending religion in any form can face up to six years in prison and be fined up to LE500 (\$70))

Place of detention: Juvenile detention center

Alber SABER (Ayad)

Date of Arrest: 13th September 2012

Charges: Blasphemy and contempt of religion

Article of the criminal code: Article 98 (Anyone offending religion in any form can face up to six years in prison and be fined up to LE500 (\$70))

Statement of the defendants: Sharing an anti-Islam film (Innocence of Muslims) on social networking sites (Facebook)

First court decision: Sentenced to three years in prison

Last court decision: 25 January, a Cairo court upheld the lower court's verdict

INDONESIA

Muslims (Shia)

Andreas GUNTUR (belonging to Amanat Keagungan Ilahi)

Place of residence: Pulau Punjung

Charges: Blasphemy

First court decision: 11th March 2012, sentenced to four years in prison

Other information: A 2009 fatwa was issued against Amanat Keagungan Ilahi by the Indonesia Council of Ulema, claiming that they rejected conventional Islamic rituals

Tajul MULUK

Place of residence: Sampang, East Java

Charges: Blasphemy and “causing public anxiety”

Statement of the defendants: Asserting that the current version of disseminated Quran is not the original one and dissenting belief concerning the five pillars of Islam and six pillars of Islamic faith

First court decision: 12th July 2012, sentenced to two years in prison

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Penal Code (KUHP) under Article 156a and the 1965 presidential decree against blasphemy by promoting a heretical interpretation of Islam.

Christian

Antonius Richmond BAWENGEAN

Place of residence: Jakarta

Date of Arrest: 26th October 2010

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendants: Distributing pamphlets that allegedly disparaged the Kaaba.

First court decision: 8th February 2011, sentenced to five years in prison

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Penal Code (KUHP), Article 156. Paragraph (a)

IRAN

Zoroastrian

Pouria SHAHPARI

Date of Arrest: 22nd August 2011

Charges: Blasphemy and propaganda for Zoroastrianism

First court decision: Sentenced to two and a half years in prison and 74 lashes

PAKISTAN

The 2013 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has released a list of 79 prisoners⁴ arrested/sentenced for alleged activities considered blasphemous or religiously insulting. A number of them have death sentences pending or are in the process of appeal and others were sentenced to life in prison for violation of Pakistan's blasphemy laws. One Christian (Ms. Ruqiya Bibi) was acquitted of all charges.

Protestants

Asia BIBI

Birth Year/ Age: 37

Family Status: Married with two daughters

Place of residence: Ittanwali

Date & Place of Arrest: 19th June, 2009

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: Spoke about her beliefs with others

Final court decision: November 2010, sentenced to death

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Subsection C of Pakistan's 295 blasphemy law

Other information: No Christian in Pakistan has ever been executed under the blasphemy law.

Barkat MASHI

Birth Year/ Age: 56

Place of residence: Bahawalpur in Punjab province

Date & Place of Arrest: 1st October 2011

⁴ See the list at <http://www.uscirf.gov/images/Appendices%20Combined.pdf>

Charges: Blasphemy

Place of detention; Bahawalpur District Jail

Final court decision: 28th January 2013, Judge Javed Ahmed of Bahawalpur High Court upheld the appeal and acquitted Masih

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law:
Article 295 C of the Pakistan Penal Code

Date of release: Exact date unknown

SAUDI ARABIA

Muslim

Hamza KASHGARI

Charges: (informal) Apostasy and blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: Made comments on Twitter which were deemed insulting to the Prophet Mohammad.

Other information: After threats to his life he fled in February 2012 to Malaysia. After a few days, Malaysian authorities deported him back to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia's highest official clerics have declared Kashgari guilty of apostasy based on his now-deleted tweets and called for him to be put to death. He remains in detention in Jeddah awaiting formal charges and a trial.

TANZANIA

Christian

Eva ABDALLAH

Birth Year/ Age: 18

Charges: Urinating on a Koran, blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: Changed her religion from Islam to Christianity

First court decision: 23rd July 2012, sentenced to two years imprisonment

Final court decision: 9th January, 2013, the High Court of Tanzania ruled that Eva was not guilty

Other information: She has since been released although an exact date is unknown

Source: Prisoner Alert

TUNISIA

Muslim

Jabeur MEJRI

Date & Place of Arrest: 5th March 2012

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: Published caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed wrote a book expressing his views on Islam and drew a pig sleeping on the Kaaba

First court decision: 15th March 2012, primary court in Mahdia sentenced to seven and a half years in prison, and a fine of 1200 Tunisian Dinars (≈USD \$800)

Last court decision: 25th April 2013, Court of Cassation upheld his sentence

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 121 (3) and 226 of Penal Code

Other information: Mejri has lost all appeals. Ghazi Beji was also tried in absentia and received the same sentence. Beji wrote a book called “the Illusion of Islam”, discussing his views about Islam and religion. Mejri also wrote a book “Dark Land”, where he “cursed the government, Islamists, and expressed his hatred towards Arabs” (Source: PEN Canada)

TURKEY

Sevan NIŞANYAN

Charges: Publicly insulting the religious beliefs of a part of the population

Statement of the defendant: He had written on his blog: “Mocking an Arab leader who centuries ago claimed to have contacted God and made political, financial, and sexual benefits out of this is not a crime of hatred. It is an almost kindergarten-level case of what we call freedom of expression.”

First court decision: Decision of the Istanbul Court on 22 May 2013, 13 months in prison

CONCLUSIONS

On 24 June 2013, the Council of the European Union adopted the Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Religion or Belief and said the EU will

- recall at all appropriate occasions that laws that criminalize blasphemy restrict expression concerning religious or other beliefs; that they are often applied so as to persecute, mistreat, or intimidate persons belonging to religious or other minorities, and that they can have a serious inhibiting effect on freedom of expression and on freedom of religion or belief; and recommend the decriminalisation of such offences.
- forcefully advocate against the use of the death penalty, physical punishment, or deprivation of liberty as penalties for blasphemy.

HRWF Int’l director, Willy Fautré, said: “Throughout 2013, HRWF will use this list of ‘blasphemy prisoners’ in its contributions to the EU Human Rights Dialogues with the concerned countries. “

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