

Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l

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Freedom of Religion or Belief & ‘Blasphemy’ Prisoners List 2014

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31 December 2014

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The Prisoners' List of *Human Rights Without Frontiers* country by country comprises prisoners whose activities were exclusively related to freedom of religion, i.e. freedom to change religion, freedom of association, freedom of worship and religious assembly, freedom to share one's beliefs, conscientious objection to military service.

A separate section has been created to cover the misuse of so-called anti-blasphemy laws restricting freedom of expression related to religious issues.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION RELATED TO RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Egypt
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Sources

AZERBAIJAN

Said Nursi Readers (Muslims)

Aqil AHMADOV

Place of residence: Qazax

Date and place of arrest: 17th April 2014, in Qazax

Charges: Resisting the police during a crackdown on a private religious meeting

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Administrative Code Article 310.1

Court decision: Sentence of 7 days imprisonment

Other information: He was arrested during a police raid in a private home that led to the confiscation of 185 “illegal” books promoting writings of Said Nursi.

Eldeniz HAJIYEV

Age: 42 years

Place of residence: Baku, Azerbaijan

Date and place of arrest: 12th April 2014, Baku

Charges: Creation of a group carrying out illegal activities under the pretext of spreading a religious faith

Statement of defendant: Gathering 30-40 people to study of the works of the late Turkish Muslim theologian Said Nursi and the Qu’ran

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 168.2 which carries a maximum punishment of three years imprisonment

First court decision: Sentenced to two months in pre-trial detention on 14th April 2014 by Baku’s Sabail District Court.

Last court decision: Pre-trial detention extended for a further two months on 7th August 2014

Place of detention: Baku's NSM secret police investigation prison

Ismayil MAMMADOV

Place of residence: Baku, Azerbaijan

Date and place of arrest: 12th April 2014, Baku

Charges: Creation of a group carrying out illegal activity under the pretext of spreading a religious faith

Statement of defendant: Gathering 30-40 people to study of the works of the late Turkish Muslim theologian Said Nursi and the Qu`ran

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 168.2 which carries a maximum punishment of three years imprisonment

First court decision: Sentenced to two months in pre-trial detention on 14th April 2014 by Baku's Sabail District Court.

Last court decision: Pre-trial detention extended for a further two months on 7th August 2014

Place of detention: Baku's NSM secret police investigation prison

Revan SABZALIEV

Date and place of arrest: 23rd May 2014, Baku

Charges: Creation of a group carrying out activity under the pretext of spreading a religious faith

Statement of the defendant: Study of the works of the late Turkish Muslim theologian Said Nursi with other people to help their understanding of the Qu`ran

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 168.2 which carries a maximum punishment of three years imprisonment

Last court decision: Pre-trial detention extended for a further two months on 4th August 2014

Place of detention: Baku's NSM secret police investigation prison

Jehovah's Witnesses

Kamran SHIKHALIYEV

Age: 18 years

Date and place of arrest: 1st April 2014, Baku

Charges: Evasion of military service

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

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 335.1

Court decision: Sentenced on 16 April 2014 to one year in a disciplinary unit of the military

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

Place of detention: Military Unit No. 704 in Lenkaran

AZERBAIJAN/ NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Since the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh War in 1994, Azerbaijan has not exercised power over about 20% of its territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and several districts, which were occupied by the Armenians before this region unilaterally declared its independence under the name of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. This self-proclaimed state is not recognized by any country. Several UN resolutions recognized the secessionist territories were part of Azerbaijan. For 20 years, the OSCE Group of Minsk is unsuccessfully trying to solve this sovereignty issue.

Jehovah's Witness

Artur AVANESYAN

Age: 19 years

Date and place of arrest: 14th July 2014, in Yerevan (Armenia)

Charges: Evasion of military service

First court decision: On 30th September 2014 he was sentenced to 30 months in prison by Martakert, Nagorno-Karabakh First Instance Court.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 347 Part 1: "Evasion from regular military or alternative service call-up, training exercise or mobilization, 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"

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

Other information:

Karen HARUTYUNYAN

Age: 18 years

Date of arrest: 30th November 2011 in the town of Askeran, central Karabakh

Charges: Evasion of military service

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

Place of detention: Shusha Prison, 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 mobilization, 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.

BHUTAN

Christians

M.B. THAPA (aka Lobzang)

Age: 56 years

Date and place of arrest: On 5th March 2014 in Khapdani village (Dorokha)

Charges: Conducting a religious meeting without prior approval, showing a film without certificate of approval from the concerned media authorities and collecting 'illegal funds'

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 71 of the Civil Society Organization Act of Bhutan, which outlaws raising funds for activities “in contravention of the laws of the country” and without prior permission

Last court decision: In September 2014, M.B. Thapa was sentenced to two years and four months in prison or a fine of 98,800 Ngultrum (\$1630).

Duration of the detention: 49 days after his arrest in March without formal charges

Date of release: Released on bail on 22nd April 2014

Tandin WANGYAL

Age: 30 years

Date of and place of arrest: On 5th March 2014 in Khapdani village (Dorokha)

Charges: Conducting a religious meeting without prior approval, showing a film without certificate of approval from the concerned media authorities and collecting 'illegal funds'

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 71 of the Civil Society Organization Act of Bhutan, which outlaws raising funds for activities “in contravention of the laws of the country” and without prior permission

Last court decision: On 10th September of 2014, Tandin Wangyal was sentenced to three years and eleven months in prison by the Court of Dorokha, Samtse District

Duration of detention: 49 days after his arrest in March without formal charges

Date of release: Released on bail on 22nd April 2014. After he was sentenced on 10th September, he was immediately released on bail without being detained.

CHINA

Protestants

Pastor XU Yonghai and 11 other Protestants

Date and place of arrest: 24th January 2014, in Tongzhou, Beijing

Charges: Participation in demonstrations and illegal assembly

Statement of defendants: Gathered to study the Bible at the home of pastor Xu Yonghai's house

Place of detention: Beijing Municipal First Detention Centre

Duration of detention: Pastor Xu and 11 others were detained for at least 3 weeks. Pastor Xu has been under surveillance for several years in connection with pro-democracy activities and supporting unregistered Christian groups .He was previously sentenced for the same reasons.

REN Zhimin and SUN Yuefen

Place of residence: Provinces of Mongolia, Heilongjiang and Baishan

Date and place of arrest: 1st August 2012 in the hamlet of Zhongxinbu, Shumugou village, Horqin Right Front Banner, in the city of Ulanhot

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

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)

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

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

Place of detention: Horqin Right Front Banner police station

GONG Shengliang, HU Yongand, XU Fuming (Evangelical South China Church)

Charges: Belonging to a forbidden cult

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.

CUI Jiaxing and 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 is in Taiyuan Detention Centre, the others at Yicheng County Detention Centre.

Last court decision: On 25th November 2009, Yang Rongli was sentenced to seven years in jail and fined 30,000 Yuan; and Cui to five years and a half with a 50,000 Yuan fine. In 2010, an appeal was rejected by the Linfen courts.

REN Lacheng and LI Wenxi (brothers)

Place of residence: Beijing

Date and place of arrest: 17th June 2013, Taiyuan, Shanxi province

Charges: Illegally operating a business

Statement of the defendant: Helping to open a Christian bookstore

First court decision: On 17th June 2013, Xiaodian district court of Taiyuan sentenced Wenxi Li to two years and Lacheng Ren to five years in prison.

Yan BEIBEI

Age: 23 years

Date and place of arrest: 16-17th November 2013, Nanle County Christian Church (a church registered with the official “Three-Self Patriotic Movement”), Henan province

Charges: Fraud and disruption of public order

Statement of the defendant: Refusal to surrender Church property to the authorities

Place of detention: Nanle County Detention Centre

Date of release: 11th June 2014

CAO Xia

Date of birth: 15th February 1961

Place of residence: Daying Village, Rendian Town, Ye County, Henan Province

Date and place of arrest: 14th April 2012

Charges: Organising a cult to undermine law enforcement

Statement of the defendant: Attending a religious meeting in her home

Last court decision: Three and a half years in prison

Place of detention: Pingdingshan Detention Centre

GONG Bangkun (Evangelical South China Church)

Charges: Belonging to a forbidden cult

Statement of the defendants: He is the leader of the unregistered South China Church

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

Last court decision: In September 2002, Gong Bangkun was given a 15-year prison term.

Other information: Bankun is the founder of China’s biggest network of Evangelical house churches.

HAN Hai

Date of birth: 16th April 1953

Place of residence: Yeyi Town, Ye County, Henan Province

Date and place of arrest: 14th April 2012

Charges: Organising a cult to undermine law enforcement

Statement of the defendant: Attending a religious meeting

Last court decision: Seven and a half years in prison

Place of detention: Ye County Detention Centre

Other information: Previously, he was administratively detained twice and also sentenced to imprisonment in a labour camp for three years.

HU Linpo

Date of birth: 27th November 1962

Place of residence: Qianwang Village, Xiantai Town, Ye County, Henan Province

Date and place of arrest: 14th April 2012

Charges: Organising a cult to undermine law enforcement

Statement of the defendant: Attending a religious meeting

Last court decision: Seven years in prison

Place of detention: Ye County Detention Centre

Other information: Hu is from Singapore and is the house church's main preacher. Hu was previously detained for 30 days in 1989.

LAI Yiwa

Charges: Printing 1,600 copies of Almighty God (also known as Real God or Eastern Lightning) publications in his home and distributing them to others

Statement of the defendants: Printed copies of Almighty God in his home

Last court decision: April 2013, seven years in prison

Place of detention: Beijing Prison

LI Dan

Date of birth: 10th August 1988

Place of residence: 41, Row 6, Chaohua Street, Zhengmei Group, Zhengzhou, Henan

Date and place of arrest: 14th April 2012

Charges: Organising a cult to undermine law enforcement

Statement of the defendant: Attending a religious meeting

Last court decision: Seven and a half years in prison

Place of detention: Pingdingshan Detention Centre

Other information: She was involved in copying CDs.

RUILING Fan

Age: 23 years

Date and place of arrest: 16-17th November 2013, Nanle County Christian Church (a church registered with the “Three-Self Patriotic Movement”), Henan province

Charges: Fraud and disruption of public order

Statement of the defendant: Refusal to surrender Church property to the authorities

Place of detention: Nanle County Detention Centre

Date of release: 11th June 2014

WANG En

Date of birth: 28th October 1988

Place of residence: Xiali Town, Ye County, Henan Province

Date and place of arrest: 14th April 2012

Charges: Organising a cult to undermine law enforcement

Statement of the defendant: Attending a religious meeting

Last court decision: Three years in prison

Place of detention: Ye County Detention Centre

YANG Lianbin

Date of birth: 19th November 1989

Place of Residence: Zhengzhou

Date and place of arrest: 14th April 2012

Charges: Organising a cult to undermine law enforcement

Statement of the defendant: Attending a religious meeting

Last court decision: Three years in prison

Place of detention: Ye County Detention Centre

YIMITI Alimujiang (Christian ethnic Uyghur)

Date of birth: 10th June 1973

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 activities of illegal religious infiltration, including 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: On 12th April 2010, he was transferred to No. 3 Prison of Xinjiang in Urumqi

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

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

Other information: On 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.

Pastor ZHANG Shaojie

Age: 49 years (Pastor Zhang Shaojie)

Date and place of arrest: 16-17th November 2013, Nanle County Christian Church (a church registered with the “Three-Self Patriotic Movement”), Henan province

Charges: Fraud and disruption of public order

Statement of the defendant: Refusal to surrender church property to the authorities

Last court decision: 12 years in prison, fined 100,000 RMB (approximately £9,400)

Place of detention: Nanle County Detention Centre

ZHANG Mian

Date of birth: 13th May 1975

Place of residence: Daying Village, Rendian Town, Ye County, Henan Province

Date and place of arrest: 14th April 2012

Charges: Organising a cult to undermine law enforcement

Statement of the defendant: Attending a religious meeting

Last court decision: Three years in prison

Place of detention: Pingdingshan Detention Centre

Other information: She owns the residence where the group meets.

ZHIJUN Zhao

Age: 23 years

Date and place of arrest: 16-17th November 2013, Nanle County Christian Church (a “Three-Self Patriotic Movement” church), Henan province

Charges: Fraud and disruption of public order

Statement of the defendant: Refusal to surrender Church property to the authorities

Place of detention: Nanle County Detention Centre

Date of release: 11th June 2014

Catholics

TIAN Dalong and another priest

Age: In their 40's

Place of residence: Qinyuan City, Hebei Province

Date and place of arrest: Early October 2013

Statement of the defendants: Organised catechism classes for adults

Place of detention: Police barracks in Baoding

Other information: He has been missing since his arrest.

Msgr. Cosma SHI Enxiang, underground bishop of Yixian (Hebei)

Date of birth: 1932

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

Charges: Unknown

Court decision: Unknown

Place of detention: Unknown

Other information: Msgr. Shi Enxiang has intermittently suffered long periods in prison and house arrest from 1957 until 1980. His current whereabouts are unknown.

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: Unknown

Court decision: Unknown

Place of detention: Unknown

Other information: Fr. Cui disappeared while in police custody on 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.

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

Other information: He has been missing since his arrest.

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

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

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

Charges: Unknown

Court decision: Unknown

Place of detention: Unknown

Other information: Fr. Lu has been detained intermittently for many years, including three years of "re-education through labour" after being accused of having conducted illegal missionary activities that undermine the social order (he would not join the *Catholic Patriotic Association*). He is presently missing.

Thaddeus MA Daqin (Bishop of Shanghai)

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

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

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 CCPA, 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 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."

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 *Chinese 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. Police arrived, carried out a door to door search and placed them under arrest. 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. SONG Wanjun

Age: 39 years

Place of residence: Qiaodong District, Zhangjiakou City, Hebei Province

Date and place of arrest: 7th August 2013 in Qiaodong District, Zhangjiakou City, Hebei Province

3years

Place of detention: First place of detention was Qiaodong District to Zhangbei County

Other information: Fr. Song had evaded several arrests in the past from the Chinese Public Security until his current arrest.

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

Age: 51 years

Date and place of arrest: 25th August 2011

Charges: He refused to join the *Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association*.

Last court decision: 2 ½ years of re-education through labour

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 *Chinese 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 *Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association*. For this reason, since his ordination was made public in 2006, the government restricted his activities, kidnapped him and forced 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 the Religious Affairs Bureau on 22nd June 2011.

Charges: Unknown

Court decision: Unknown

Place of detention: 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 given permission to receive visitors but was subjected to heavy physical and psychological tactics to force him to support the Council of Chinese Bishops and to join the *Catholic Patriotic Association*. After seven months of detention, he was released but closely monitored and forbidden to practice his ministry.

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

Date of birth: 1932

Place of residence: Baoding, Hebei Province

Date of arrest: 8th October 1997

Charges: Never revealed

Court decision: Unknown

Place of detention: Unknown

Other information: According to AsiaNews, Msgr. Zhimin remains in police custody. Zhimin has been considered for many years a "counter-revolutionary," since he has refused since the 1950s to join the *Catholic Patriotic Association*. In all, he has already spent 40 years in captivity. Last time he was seen by his relatives in 2003 in a hospital surrounded by police.

Tibetan Buddhists

Migyurg GYATSO, Choedar DARGYE and Gedun THOGPHEL

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

Date and 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

Gedun Choekyi NYIMA and his parents

Date of birth: 25th April 1989

Place of residence: Lhari County, Tibet

Date of arrest: 17th May 1995, Gedun 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.

Runggye ADAK

Place of residence: Nomad from Lithang in eastern Tibet

Date and 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: Sentenced to eight years in prison on 20th November 2007

BHUMO

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

Charges: Unknown

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

Last court decision: Nine 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 the Dalai Lama.

Tezin DELEK (Rinpoche)

Date of birth: 1949

Date and 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

Last court decision: In 2005, his 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

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

Charges: Unknown

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 the Dalai Lama.

Phurbu TSERING

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 the Dalai Lama.

Muslims

Abdujilil ABDUGHUPUR

Date of birth: 2nd July 1988

Place of residence: Yengiyer village, Gulja city

Date and place of arrest: 14th April 2008, Gulja county

Charges: Splitting the state

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 103 of the Criminal Law

Statement of defendant: He was simply teaching Islam.

Last court decision: 24th March 2009, 10 years in prison

Place of detention: Ghulja county prison

Abdulitip ABLIMIT

Date of birth: 1st July 1972

Place of residence: Arzu village, Gulja county

Date and place of arrest: 5th June 2008, Gulja county

Charges: Splitting the state

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 103 of the Criminal Law

Statement of defendant: He was simply teaching Islam.

Last court decision: 24th March 2009, 6 years in prison

Place of detention: Gulja county prison

Mewlanjan AHMET

Date of birth: 10th March 1987

Place of residence: Hudieryuz village, Gulja county

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2008, Gulja county

Charges: Splitting the state

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 103 of the Criminal Law

Statement of defendant: He was simply teaching Islam.

Last court decision: Sentenced to 10 years in prison on 24th March 2009

Place of detention: Lli prefecture prison

Seydehmet AWUT

Birthdate: 12th July 1971

Place of residence: Islamyuz township, Gulja county

Date and place of arrest: 14th April 2008, Gulja county

Charges: Splitting the state

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 103 of the Criminal Law

Statement of defendant: He was simply teaching Islam.

Last court decision: 24th March 2009, 10 years imprisonment

Place of detention: Gulja county prison

Armetjan EMET

Birthdate: 18th April 1985

Place of residence: Arzu village, Golja county

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2008, Gulja county

Charges: Splitting the state

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 103 of the Criminal Law

Statement of defendant: He was simply teaching Islam.

Last court decision: 24th March 2009, 15 years in prison

Place of detention: Gulja county prison

Erkin EMET

Birthdate: 3rd March 1973

Place of residence: Arzu village, Gulja county

Date and place of arrest: 14th April 2008, Gulja county

Charges: Splitting the state

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 103 of the Criminal Law

Statement of defendant: He was simply teaching Islam.

Last court decision: 24th March 2009, 10 years imprisonment

Place of detention: Gulja county prison

Dolkun ERKIN

Birthdate: 22nd February 1989

Place of residence: Kashgar Street, Gulja city

Date and place of arrest: 16th April 2008, Gulja county

Charges: Splitting the state

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 103 of the Criminal Law

Statement of defendant: He was simply teaching Islam.

Last court decision: Sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on 24th March 2009

Place of detention: Lli prefecture prison

Sadike KU'ERBAN

Date of arrest : 2012

Charges: Involvement with illegal religious schools or religious instruction (illegal for not being registered under the state-controlled *Chinese Islamic Patriotic Association*). 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: Sentenced to a prison term of 15 years on 31st May 2012, in Kashgar

Omerjan MEHMET

Birthdate: 15th November 1986

Place of residence: Kashgar Street, Gulja city

Date and place of arrest: 7th May 2008, Gulja county

Charges: Splitting the state

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 103 of the Criminal Law

Statement of defendant: He was simply teaching Islam.

Last court decision: Sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on 24th March 2009

Place of detention: Lli prefecture prison

Mutelip ROZI

Date of birth: 7th March 1979

Place of residence: Karadong village, Gulja city

Date and place of arrest: 16th April 2008, Gulja county

Charges: Splitting the state

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 103 of the Criminal Law

Statement of defendant: He was simply teaching Islam.

Last court decision: Sentenced to 6 years imprisonment on 24th March 2009

Place of detention: Lli prefecture prison

Kurbanjan SEMET (Alias Qurbanjan Abdusemet)

Date of birth: 27th August 1985

Place of residence: Ghulja and Nelka counties and Ghulja city, Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture

Date and place of arrest: Between March-June 2008

Charges: Splitting the state

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 103 of the Criminal Law

Last court decision: Sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on 24th March 2009

Place of detention: Lli prefecture prison

Falun Gong

The Falung Gong movement was banned in 1999. The Minghui website¹ monitors and documents the innumerable cases of arrests and imprisonment of their practitioners almost on a daily basis. See below a selection of such cases.

YE Baofu, YANG Mingqing, & YE Mao (Family)

Place of residence: Kunming City

Date and place of arrest: 4th May 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Ye Baofu was sentenced to six years in prison, Yang Mingqing and Ye Mao were sentenced to four years in prison.

Other information: Ye Baofu and Yang Mingqing are married, Ye Mao is their daughter.

ZHOU Yourong & ZHOU Shijie

Place of residence: Chongqing

Date and place of arrest: 15th September 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Zhou Shijie was sentenced to three years and three months in prison on 16th January 2014.

Place of detention: Zhou Yourong is at Qianzhugou Reeducation Centre; Zhou Shijie is at Fusheng Detention Centre.

¹ <http://en.minghui.org/cc/10>

LUO Zhenggui and ZHANG Ziqin

Place of residence: Luzhou, Sichuan Province

Date and place of arrest: 10th November 2011

Last court decision: Four years in prison

Place of detention: Luo at Leshan Wumaping Prison

Other information: Luo and Zhang are married.

ZHOU Chenghao and ZHOU Huijuan (Siblings)

Date and place of arrest: 12th September 2012 in Shanghai

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Four years in prison for Zhou Chenghao, three and a half years for Zhou Huijuan

BAI Gendi

Date of birth: 21st September 1951

Place of residence: Shanghai

Date and place of arrest: 10th September 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Six and a half years in prison

Other information: Ms. Bai has been arrested six times and detained for a total of ten years and two months.

CHEN Guilan

Place of residence: Chaoyang City, Liaoning Province

Date and place of arrest: 3rd March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Statement of the defendants: Distributing Shen Yun Performing Arts DVDs near a local market

Last court decision: Seven years in prison

CHEN Shulan

Place of residence: Beijing

Date and place of arrest: 17th May 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Four years in prison

Place of detention: Liu Village Police Station

CHEN Xiangren

Place of residence: Renshou County, Sichuan Province

Date and place of arrest: 1st September 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Five years in prison

DU Qingxiu

Place of residence: Lingyuan City, Liaoning Province

Date and place of arrest: 30th October 2012

Statement of the defendant: Sent messages about Falun Gong with her cell phone to agents of the judiciary division

Last court decision: Six years in prison

FEI Shuqin

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Thirteen years in prison

Place of detention: Harbin Number Two (Yaziquan) Detention Centre

FENG Xiaoling

Place of residence: Beijing

Date and place of arrest: 17th May 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Four years in prison

Place of detention: Liu Village Police Station

GAO Mingxing

Place of residence: AnshanCity, Liaoning Province

Date and place of arrest: 1st August 2007

Statement of the defendant: He was replacing regular TV programming with videos that explained Falun Gong.

Last court decision: 12 years in prison

Place of detention: Shenyang No. 1 Prison

GAO Qinmei

Date and place of arrest: 22nd October 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Four years in prison

Place of detention: Unknown

GAO Yuanzhuang

Place of residence: Suihua City, Heilongjiang Province

Date and place of arrest: 10th September 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Three years in prison

GE Chunling

Place of residence: Jinzhou City, Liaoning Province

Date and place of arrest: November 2012 in Taiyuan City, Shanxi Province

Statement of the defendant: Distributing materials about Falun Gong

Last court decision: Five years in prison

Place of detention: Taiyuan Detention Centre

HAO Funing

Place of residence: Beijing

Date and place of arrest: 17th May 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Four years in prison

Place of detention: Liu Village Police Station

HU Rongyin

Place of Residence: Jiyuan, Henan Province

Date and place of arrest: October 2012

Statement of the defendant: Told people about Falun Gong and gave people DVDs about the practice.

Last court decision: Four years in prison

Place of detention: Jiyuan Detention Centre

HU Zhongtian

Place of residence: Shanghai

Date and place of arrest: 2nd February 2012

Statement of the defendant: Practicing Falun Gong

Last court decision: Three and a half years in prison

Place of detention: Shanghai Reformatory

HUANG Xueying

Place of residence: Renshou County, Sichuan Province

Date and place of arrest: 1st September 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Five years in prison

JIANG Lianying

Place of residence: Tuanshanzi Township

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Three years in prison

JIANG Shuli

Place of residence: Kaifeng City, Henan Province

Date and place of arrest: 8th September 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Five years in prison

Place of detention: Xinxiang City Women's Prison

LI Chang

Date of birth: 1940

Date and place of arrest: 26th December 1999

Charges: Using 'the cult' to obstruct law enforcement, causing the deaths of people and obtaining state secrets in an illegal way

Last court decision: Eighteen years in prison

Place of detention: Tianjin Prison in Tianjin City

Other information: Li compiled and published Li Hongzhi's first Falun Gong book.

LI Dapeng

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Three years in prison

Place of detention: Jiamusi City Prison

LI Meizhen

Place of residence: Shanghai
Date and place of arrest: 2nd August 2012
Charges: Unknown
Last court decision: Four years in prison
Place of detention: Xuhui Detention Centre

LI Yuping

Place of residence: Jiyuan, Henan Province
Charges: Unknown
Last court decision: 13th August 2013, four years in prison

LIANG Jiantian

Date and place of arrest: 3rd November 2000
Charges: Illegal business activity and producing obscene material
Statement of the defendant: Printing and selling Falun Gong books
Last court decision: Life imprisonment
Place of detention: Panyu Prison

LIAO Xuekang

Place of residence: Renshou County, Sichuan Province
Date and place of arrest: 1st September 2012
Charges: Unknown
Last court decision: Five years in prison

LIU Dan

Place of residence: Renshou County, Sichuan Province
Date and place of arrest: 1st September 2012
Charges: Unknown
Last court decision: Two and a half years in prison

LIU Fengcheng

Place of residence: Yilan County, Heilongjiang Province

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Five years in prison

LIU Hancai

Place of residence: Renshou County, Sichuan Province

Date and place of arrest: 1st September 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Five years in prison

LIU Jingjun

Date of birth: 1972

Place of residence: Longshan District of Liaoyuan, Jilin Province

Date and place of arrest: 1st July 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Eleven years in prison

Place of detention: Liaoyuan Detention Centre

LIU Shaoming

Age: 59 years

Place of residence: Renshou County, Sichuan Province

Date and place of arrest: 1st September 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Two years in prison

LU Bagen

Age: 63 years

Place of residence: Zhenjiang City, Jiangsu Province

Date and place of arrest: 1st August 2013

Statement of the defendants: Handing out informational materials about Falun Gong

Last court decision: Seven years in prison

LU Fengyun

Age: 67 years

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Six years in prison

Place of detention: Harbin Number Two (Yaziquan) Detention Centre

LUO Yanjie

Place of residence: Shuangcheng, Heilongjiang Province

Date of arrest: August-September 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Thirteen years in prison

Place of detention: Heilongjiang Women's Prison

MA Guiyue

Age: 50+ years

Place of residence: Hefei City, Anhui Province

Date and place of arrest: 15th September 2013

Statement of the defendant: Speaking to people about Falun Gong

Last court decision: Three years in prison

Place of detention: Anhui Province Suzhou Prison

MENG Fanying

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Five years in prison

MO Huiping

Age: 37 years

Place of residence: Wuzhong City, Ningxia Autonomous Region

Date and place of arrest: 16th February 2013 in Wuzhong City

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Four years in prison

MO Zhikui

Age: 56 years

Place of residence: Yilan Town, Yilan County, Heilongjiang Province

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Twelve years in prison

Place of detention: Jiamusi City Prison

PENG Yujuan

Place of residence: Hefei City, Anhui Province

Date and place of arrest: 22nd August 2010

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Seven years in prison

Place of detention: Hefei Second Detention Centre

Other information: Her husband Wang Jianying was also arrested.

QIN Xiaomin

Place of residence: Jiyuan, Henan Province

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: 13th August 2013, three years in prison

SHU Anqing

Age: 40 years

Place of residence: Luzhou, Sichuan Province

Date and place of arrest: 10th November 2011

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Three and half years in prison

Place of detention: Gulin Detention Centre

SU Kun

Place of residence: Shibo District of Yunnan

Date and place of arrest: 4th May 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Six years in prison

Other information: His wife Zhang Xiaodan was also arrested.

SUN Liping

Place of residence: Liaoyuan City, Jilin Province

Date and place of arrest: 1st July 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Five years in prison

Place of detention: Liaoyuan Detention Centre

Other information: Husband Li Tieying also arrested, two children sent to an orphanage

SUN Wenfu

Place of residence: Shahezi Village, Fangzheng County

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Five years in prison

Place of detention: Jiamusi City Prison

SUN Yuqiang

Age: 70 years

Place of residence: Wanghaisi Village, Cang County, Hebei Province

Date and place of arrest: 31st December 2012

Statement of the defendant: Distributed brochures at Dabaitou Market

Last court decision: Three years in prison

Place of detention: Jidong Prison

WANG Guoxiang

Place of residence: Changchun

Date and place of arrest: 1st July 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Five years in prison

Place of detention: Gongzhuling Prison

Other information: Subjected to torture which caused cerebral haemorrhaging

WANG Jianying

Place of residence: Hefei City, Anhui Province

Date and place of arrest: 22nd August 2010

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Seven years in prison

Place of detention: Hefei Second Detention Centre

Other information: His wife Peng Yujuan was also arrested.

XU Feng

Place of residence: Yilan County, Heilongjiang Province

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Three years in prison

Place of detention: Jiamusi City Prison

XU Wenlong

Age: 25 years

Place of residence: Mudanjiang City, Heilongjiang Province

Date of arrest: August-September 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Six and a half years in prison

Place of detention: Tailai Prison

YAO Yuhua

Date of birth: 23rd October 1954

Place of residence: Shanghai

Date and place of arrest: 10th September 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Six years in prison

Other information: Police repeatedly came to harass her at home and at work, which caused her to lose her job.

YU Changxin

Date of birth: 1925

Date and place of arrest: 1st July 1999

Charges: Using the cult to obstruct justice

Last court decision: Seventeen years in prison

Place of detention: Air Force Detention Centre in Beijing

YUAN Hongying

Age: 59 years

Place of residence: Qiqihar, Heilongjiang Province

Date and place of arrest: 9th May 2012 in Shanghai

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Three and a half years in prison

Place of detention: Hongkou District Detention Centre

YUAN Xiaolan

Place of residence: Shanghai

Date and place of arrest: 19th January 2013

Statement of the defendant: Yuan was putting up Falun Gong posters at the intersection of South Suzhou Road and Xinqiao Road in the Jiangti District.

Last court decision: Five years in prison

ZHANG Guofen

Age: 75 years

Place of residence: Renshou County, Sichuan Province

Date and place of arrest: 1st September 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Four years in prison

ZHANG Huijuan

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Twelve years in prison

ZHANG Xiaodan

Place of residence: Shibo District of Yunnan

Date and place of arrest: 4th May 2012

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Four years in prison

ZHANG Xiaoying

Place of residence: Shanghai

Date and place of arrest: 19th January 2013

Statement of the defendant: Zhang was putting up posters at the intersection of South Suzhou Road and Xinqiao Road in the Jiangti District

Last court decision: Four years in prison

ZHANG Xinghe

Place of residence: Tai'an City, Shandong Province

Date and place of arrest: 28th December 2012

Statement of the defendant: Distributing calendars

Last court decision: Four years in prison

ZHANG Yi

Age: 35 years

Place of residence: Putuo District, Shanghai

Date and place of arrest: 1st February 2012

Statement of the defendant: Practicing Falun Gong

Last court decision: Four and a half years in prison

Place of detention: Shanghai Reformatory

ZHOU Shumei

Age: 55 years

Place of residence: Shanghai

Date and place of arrest: 7th February 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Four years in prison

Place of detention: Shanghai Women's Prison

ZUO Zhenqi

Place of residence: Yilan County, Heilongjiang Province

Date and place of arrest: 29th March 2013

Charges: Unknown

Last court decision: Six years in prison

ERITREA

According to Christian Solidarity Worldwide submission to the United Nations UPR process in 2014, between 2,500 and 3,000 Christians are detained indefinitely at any given time. Although some were initially released after pledging to renounce their faith, none have been formally charged or tried and all are held pending similar denials of faith. Since Orthodox Patriarch Antonios was forcefully deposed in 2007, 23 Orthodox priests are known to be still detained. Jehovah's Witnesses who were deprived of their citizenship after the ban of their movement in 1994 are also paying heavy tribute with over 70 long-standing prisoners.

Protestants

Dr. Kiflu GEBREMESKEL

Date and place of arrest: 23rd May 2004

Charges: Unknown

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

Other information: He has never been charged with a crime and has been held incommunicado ever since his arrest. His wife and four children have not been able to visit him.

Haile NAYZGI

Date and place of arrest: 23rd May 2004

Charges: Unknown

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

Other information: Haile Nayzgi has been moved to various locations since his arrest, but the actual charges against him have not been released.

Orthodox

Patriarch Abune ANTONIOS

Date of birth: 12th July 1927

Statement of the defendant: He protested against the interference of the Eritrean Department of Religious Affairs in his church's affairs

Court decision: Sentenced to house arrest in 2006

Place of detention: Asmara

Other information: He has been prevented from communicating with the outside world and reportedly denied medical care. One of his faithful has managed to visit him this year and to take a picture of him.

Jehovah's Witnesses

73 Jehovah's Witnesses

According to the last available information, 73 Jehovah's Witnesses, both men and women, are imprisoned in harsh conditions. Though none have been formally charged or tried, they are detained for conscientious objection, for religious activity or for undisclosed reasons.

C.O.= Conscientious Objection

UNK = Unknown

Name	Age	Sex	Prison	Date Arrested	Reason
Paulos Eyassu	41	M	Sawa Camp	24/8/94	C.O.
Isaac Mogos	38	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	4/5/05	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
Ermias Ashgedom	22	M	Meitir Camp	11/7/08	UNK
Habtemichael	71	M	Meitir	17/7/08	UNK

Mekonen			Camp		
Tesfai Teklemariam	59	M	Meitir Camp	5/8/08	UNK
Tareke Tesfamariam	61	M	Meitir Camp	4/8/08	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
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 Tsefazghi	63	M	Meitir Camp	23/12/08	UNK
Tsehaye Tesfamariam	71	M	Meitir Camp	5/1/09	UNK
Yoab.Tecle	61	M	Meitir Camp	23/4/09	Rearrested
Yoek 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	28/6/09	Religious

			Camp		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
Yodit Mekonnen	30	F	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Goitom Aradom	20	F	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Tesfazion Gebremichael	70	M	5 th Police Station	20/7/11	UNK
Wogahta Dawit	-	F	Asmara 6 th Police Station	4/7/13	Religious activity
Finan Kidane	-	F	Asmara 6 th Police Station	4/7/13	Religious activity
Gebru Berhane	-	M	3 rd Police Station	14/4/14	Religious meeting
Tekle Gebrehiwot	-	M	3 rd Police Staion	14/4/14	UNK
Tesfai Kiflai	-	M	5 th Police Station	14/04/14	Religious meeting
Tirhas Mebrahtu	-	F	5 th Police Station	14/4/14	Religious meeting
Sinit Kibron	13	F	5 th Police Station	14/4/14	Religious meeting
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	Religious activity

Daniel Meharizghi	35	M	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Religious activity
Amharai Osman	-	M	Meitir Camp	25/4/12	Religious activity
Yoseph Tesfamariam	48	M	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Religious activity
Thomas Tesfagabir	-	M	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Gebremedhin Gashazghi	-	M	-	24/4/14	Religious meeting
Tesfai Negash	-	M	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Mordochai Estifanos	-	M	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Mehari Tewolde	-	M	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Negash	-	M	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Michael Gashazghi	-	M	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Liya Hidru	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Nigisti Asfaha	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Alganesh Amare	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Wintana Shiwaseged	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Rahwa Tadesse	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Mikaal Tadesse	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Emnet Woldai	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting

Salem Ghebrehiwot	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Nebait Afeworki	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Senait Berhane	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Mihret Yemane	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Eden Ghebreyonas	-	F	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Eliab	2	M	-	27/4/14	Religious meeting

IRAN

The 2014 US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Report has published in an annex a list of 120 Baha'is, 48 Christians of various denominations, 14 Dervish Muslims and 88 Sunni Muslims in the list of religious prisoners serving prison terms in 2013.

Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l is documenting below more than 100 individual cases of prisoners professing various faiths.

Protestants

Pastor Saeed ABEDINI

Date of birth: 7th May 1980

Place of residence: Western U.S.A.

Date of arrest: 26th September 2012 in Tehran

Charges: Assembly and collusion against national security (Clause 610) - Undermining national security (Clause 498) - Membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security (Clause 499)

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

Articles of the criminal code: Article 610 – Article 498 - Article 499

Place of detention: Rajai Shahr Prison

Last court decisions: 27th January 2013, eight years in prison for endangering national security by aiding underground Evangelical churches. On 25th August 2014, his appeal for a reduction of his sentence was rejected.

Other information: Pastor Saeed was granted U.S. citizenship in 2010 through marriage to his American wife. He has also been pressured by prison officials to recant his faith or remain imprisoned indefinitely. Saeed was often beaten and received death threats in prison. Guards forced him to wear the uniform of a murderer. He has been denied bail. In March 2014, he was transferred to a private hospital in Iran after spending two months in a hospital for injuries allegedly suffered at the hands of guards and inmates. In

May, an armed contingent of Iranian guards stormed the hospital where he is detained and severely beat him.

Sevada AGHASAR

Age: 28 years (Firouzi)

Place of residence: Robat-Karim, 20 km south-west of Tehran

Date and place of arrest: 21st August 2013 in Karaj, about 50 km west of Tehran

Charges: No official charge

Statement of the defendant: His arrest is related to his online contact with a number of Farsi-speaking Christians.

Place of detention: Evin Prison.

Date of release: Sevada Aghasar was released on bail 2nd March 2014

Other information: The arrest was made without a warrant.

Davoud ALIJANI

Date and place of arrest: December 2011 and 1st May 2013, Ahwaz

Charges: Conversion from Islam to Christianity, encouraging the conversion to Christianity of other Muslims, and propaganda against the regime by promoting Christianity as missionaries.

Statement of the defendant: Holding Christmas celebrations

Place of detention: Mr. Alijani is 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

Date of release: Davoud Alijani was released on 13th January 2014.

Mehdi AMERUNI (Church of Iran)

Date of arrest: October 2012

Charges: Action against national security and propaganda against the regime

Last court decision: On 16th July 2013, three years in prison

Hossein Saketi ARAMSARI (Stephen)

Date and place of arrest: 23rd July 2013 in Golestan

Charges: Evangelism

Place of detention: Ward 7 of Karaj Central Detention House

Last court decision: One year of detention in January 2014 by Branch 1 of Revolutionary Court in Karaj

Other information: Saketi Aramsari was granted bail for conditional release, but for unknown reasons judicial authorities prevented his family from posting the bail for his release.

Pastor Vruir AVANESSIAN

Age: 61 years

Date and place of arrest: 27th December 2012 in the northern district of Tehran

Charges: Action against national security and proselytizing Farsi-speaking citizens

Statement of the defendant: Gathering at a residential home to celebrate Christmas

Place of detention: Evin Prison in Tehran

Last court decision: His trial was held behind closed doors on 7th September 2013 in Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran. On 5th December, he was sentenced to three and a half years in prison.

Other information: Avanesian, an Armenian belonging to the Assemblies of God, is suffering severe health challenges.

Somayeh BAKHTIYARI

Date and place of arrest: 24th April 2013, Tehran

Charges: Organising house church meetings
Place of detention: Evin prison
Other information: Christian convert activist.

Masoud DELIJANI

Date of arrest: 17th March 2011

Charges: Holding illegal house church gatherings, evangelizing Muslims and action “against national security”

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

First court decision: On 9th July 2011, he was released on bail and re-arrested two weeks later.

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

Other information: Before being released on bail, he spent 114 days mostly in solitary confinement.

Pastor Farshid FATHI

Birth date: 1978

Date of arrest: 26th December 2010

Charges: Propaganda against the system (Clause 500) Undermining national security (Clause 498)

Articles of the criminal code: Article 498 - Article 500

Place of detention: Evin Prison, including extended periods of solitary confinement.

Last court decision: 12th January 2012, sentenced to six years in prison by the Revolutionary Court of Kermanshah

Other information: Assemblies of God pastor arrested during the 2010 Christmas crackdown. In April 2013, Fathi’s family moved to Canada. On 20th April 2014, Pastor Farshid Fathi was transferred to Taleghani hospital after a beating by Revolutionary Guards.

Ebrahim FIROUZI

Age: 28 years

Place of residence: Robat-Karim, 20 kilometres south-west of Tehran

Date and place of arrest: 7th March 2013 in Tehran

Charges: Membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security (Clause 499) - Propaganda against the system (Clause 500)

Statement of the defendant: Launching and administering a Christian missionary website, distributing Bibles. Security authorities and interrogators fabricated allegations.

Articles of the criminal code: Article 499 - Article 500

Place of detention: After his arrest, Firouzi was sent to Ward 209 of Evin Prison and was subject to intense interrogations for ten days. He was then transferred to Ward 350 and released on bail after 53 days in custody.

Last court decision: On 15th July 2013 the Revolutionary Court in Robat-Karim sentenced him to one year in prison and two years of exile to Sarbaz, a remote border city.

Bijan Farokhpour HAGHIGHI (Church of Iran)

Date of arrest: October 2012

Charges: Action against national security and propaganda against the regime

Last court decision: On 16th July 2013, Bijan Farokhpour Haghighi was sentenced to three years in prison.

Matthias HAGHNEJAD (Church of Iran)

Date and place of arrest: 5th July 2014, Bandar-Anzali

Place of detention: Rajaei-Shahr prison in Karaj

Last court decision: On 30th September 2014, he was sentenced to six years in prison.

Other information: Pastor Matthias was arrested at his home together with Mohammad Roghangir, Soroush Saraie. Pastor Matthias has been targeted

regularly by the Iranian regime and has been imprisoned on three other occasions

Vahid HAKKANI

Date and place of arrest: 8th February 2012

Charges: Assembly and collusion against national security (Clause 610), membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security (Clause 499), propaganda against the system (Clause 500).

Statement of the defendant: Attending a house church.

Articles of the criminal code: Article 610 – Article 499 - Article 500

Last court decision: 17th June 2013, three years and eight months in prison

Place of detention: Adel-Abad prison in Shiraz

Other information: In bad health, he was transferred to hospital in November 2013, after having to post bail of about \$70,000. Shiraz Revolutionary Court said his leave period will not be counted toward his prison sentence and he will need to stay extra time in prison to make up for his time away in hospital. That is illegal according to Iranian law. Went on a hunger strike on 20th March 2014, to protest rejection of his conditional release appeal by judicial authorities.

Pastor Behnam IRANI (Church of Iran)

Age: 47 years

Place of residence: Karaj

Date of arrest: 31st May 2011

Charges: Acting against national security and organising a group to overthrow the regime

Statement of the defendant: Holding house church services and evangelizing Muslims

Last court decision: On 30th September 2014, he was sentenced to six years in prison.

Place of detention: Zabol 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 a suspended sentence of five years in prison. Shortly before the time he was to be released from his one-year prison term on 18th October 2011, he was informed by letter that he was now required to serve his five-year suspended prison sentence from 2008. In February 2014, Pastor Irani successfully underwent surgery to treat stomach and colon complications. He was beaten in prison and transferred to an unknown location on 7th June 2014.

Jamshid JABBARI

Date and place of arrest: 1st December 2013 near the university of Kerman

Charges: Insulting Islam (Clause 513)

Place of detention: Unknown

Other information: Christian student and blogger

Shahnaz JAYZAN

Date and place of arrest: December 2011 and 1st May 2013, Ahwaz

Charges: Conversion from Islam to Christianity, encouraging the conversion to Christianity of other Muslims, and propaganda against the regime by promoting Christianity as missionaries.

Statement of the defendant: Holding Christmas celebrations

Place of detention: Mr. Alijani is 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

Date of release: On 28th January 2014

Shahin LAHOUTI

Date and place of arrest: 12th October 2012 in Shiraz

Charges: Action against national security

Statement of the defendant: Conversion to Christianity

Last court decision: Two and a half years in prison

Place of detention: Adel-Abad Prison in Shiraz

Other information: He was released on bail in December 2013 and then sent back to prison in April 2014.

Masoud MIRZAEI

Age: 28 years (Firouzi)

Place of residence: Robat-Karim, 20 km south-west of Tehran

Date and place of arrest: 21st August 2013 in Karaj, about 50 km west of Tehran

Charges: No official charge

Place of detention: Evin Prison.

Date of release: He was released on bail 2nd March 2014

Other information: The arrest was made without a warrant.

Sahar MOUSAVI

Date and place of arrest: 24th October 2011

Place of detention: Unknown

Other information: Christian student activist. Prior to her detention, Mousavi has been barred from continuing her postgraduate studies, reportedly because of her political learnings.

Mohammad-Reza PARTOVI (Koorosh)

Date and place of arrest: 8th February 2012

Charges: Assembly and collusion against national security (Clause 610), membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security (Clause 499), propaganda against the system (Clause 500).

Statement of the defendant: Attending a house church

Articles of the criminal code: Article 610 – Article 499 - Article 500

Last court decision: 17th June 2013, three years and eight months in prison

Place of detention: Adel-Abad prison in Shiraz

Duration of the detention: In May 2014 he was granted conditional release.

Silas RABBANI

Date and place of arrest: 5th May 2014 in Karaj by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence and National Security (VEVAK)

Place of detention: Rajai Shahr prison in Karaj

Last court decision: On 30th September 2014, he was sentenced to six years in prison.

Other information: Silas Rabbani is an associate pastor at a church in Karaj. He is married and father of two.

Massoud REZAIE (Church of Iran)

Date of arrest: October 2012

Charges: Action against national security and propaganda against the regime

Last court decision (16th July 2013): On 16th July 2013, Massoud Rezaie was sentenced to five years in prison.

Mohammad ROGHANGIR (Church of Iran)

Date of arrest: October 2012

Charges: Action against national security and propaganda against the regime

Last court decision: On 16th July 2013, Mohammad Roghangir was sentenced to six years in prison.

Suroush SARAIE (Church of Iran)

Date of arrest: October 2012

Charges: Action against national security and propaganda against the regime

Last court decision: On 16th July 2013, Suroush Rezaie was sentenced to two and half years in prison

Seyyed Alireza SEYYEDIAN

Date and place of arrest: 14th March 2012

Charges: Assembly and collusion against national security (Islamic Penal Code, Article 610), propaganda against the system (Clause 500).

Statement of the defendant: Holding regular meetings with former Muslims and distributing Bibles among the youth

Articles of the criminal code: Article 610 – Article 500

Place of detention: Section 350 of Evin Prison, Tehran

First court decision: Sentenced to six years imprisonment in December 2011

Last court decision: Three and a half years of imprisonment on appeal.

Date of release: Seyyedian was granted 5 days temporary leave from Evin Prison early in 2014.

Other information: Alireza converted to Christianity and was baptized while living in Turkey. In the verdict it was also stated that he had communicated with Zionist satellite channels.

Homayoun SHOKOUHI

Date and place of arrest: 8th February 2012

Charges: Assembly and collusion against national security (Islamic Penal Code, Article 610), membership in organisations that could disrupt national security (Clause 499)

Statement of the defendant: Attending a house church

Articles of the criminal code: Article 610 – Article 499

Last court decision: 17th June 2013, three years and eight months in prison

Place of detention: Adel-Abad prison in Shiraz

Other information: Wife Fariba Nazemian and 17-year old son Nima Shokouhi were also arrested.

Maryam Naghash ZARGARAN

Age: 35 years

Date and place of arrest: 15th July 2013

Charges: Conducting propaganda against the Islamic regime and acting against the national security

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 610 of the Islamic Penal Code

Last court decision: Five years in prison

Place of detention: Evin Prison, Tehran

Sufis/ Dervishes

Mostafa ABDI

Date and place of arrest: 30th January 2013.

Charges: Membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security. Assembly and collusion against national security through cooperating with Majzooban Noor website.

Statement of the defendant: Administrator of the Sufi website <http://www.majzooban.org/en>

Place of detention: Evin prison

Last court decision: 3 years in prison

Article of the criminal law: Article 610 – Article 499

Ali AJDARI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Omid-Ali AKBARI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to three years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Abdol-Reza ARAYESH

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Hamid-Reza ARAYESH

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Arrested: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Spreading corruption on the earth, membership of illegal group (being Dervish/friary), assembly and collusion with the intent to disrupt national security, causing physical harm and violation of public order, carrying illegal weapons and moharebeh (enmity with God)

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

First court decision: In October 2013 he was sentenced to permanent exile in the province of Khuzestan by Branch 2 of the Revolution Court of Shiraz

Last court decision: In May 2014 he was sentenced to four years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Mohammad ARAYESH

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Seyed Ebrahim BAHRAMI

Date and place of arrest: 13th May 2013

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Charges: Enmity against God (Moharebeh), clauses 183, 186 & 187 – Assembly and collusion against national security (Islamic Penal Code,

Article 610) – Undermining national security (Clause 498) - Membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security (Clause 499) - Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm, violation of public order, carrying illegal weapons, participating in the gatherings with the aim of overthrowing the Islamic Republic and enmity against the God and corruption on earth

Statement of the defendants: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Articles of the criminal code: Articles 183, 186 & 187 - Article 610 – Article 498 - Article 499

Place of detention: Sent to Intel prison on 6th May 2013 and then to Adel Abad prison on 12th May 2013.

Last court decision: Sentenced to 4 years in prison, paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries cause to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar on 29th May 2014.

Other information: At the end of June 2014, he was condemned to 7 years exile in Sardasht. He spent nearly one year in Adel-Abad prison under temporary detention. He was put under physical and psychological pressure and torture in Shiraz Intelligence Detention Centre, known as No.100 (Plaque 100/Pelak sad)

Omid BEHROUZI

Date and place of arrest: 27th October 2011

Charges: Membership in a sect endangering national security – Propaganda against the state – Insulting the Supreme Leader – Disturbing the public mind – Establishing and membership in a deviant group – Disrupting the public order

Statement of the defendant: Contribution to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>)

Place of detention: Evin Prison, Tehran

Last court decision: Branch 15 of Tehran’s Revolutionary Court sentenced him to 7 years ½ in prison

Gholam-Ali BEIRAMI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to three months and one day in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Amanollah CHERAGHI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Ghasem DAGHTAN

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Mostafa DANESHJOO

Date and place of arrest: 18th May 2011, Tehran. September 2011

Charges: Membership in a sect endangering national security – Propaganda against the state – Insulting the Supreme Leader – Disturbing the public mind – Establishing and membership in a deviant group – Disrupting the public order

Statement of the defendant: Contribution to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>)

Place of detention: Evin Prison, Tehran

Last court decision: Branch 15 of Tehran’s Revolutionary Court sentenced him to 7 years ½ in prison

Other information: Daneshjoo served a seven-month prison sentence for “publishing lies” and “disturbing the public mind” which ended in December 2011. Before he could be released, judicial authorities consolidated his case with that of the other six defendants and transferred him to Evin Prison. He has been transferred to several different prisons and wards during his detention and kept in solitary confinement.

Farzad DARVISH

Date and place of arrest: in Shiraz on 10 September 2011

Charges: Membership in opposition group (Majzooban Noor) with the intent to disturb national security and propaganda against the Islamic Republic

Last court decision: On 22nd July 2013 the Branch 2 of Shiraz’s Revolutionary sentenced him to one year imprisonment plus three years internal exile in Sistan and Baluchestan Province

Khorshid DASHTAKI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Arrested: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Ali DEGHAN

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Amir-Hamzeh DEGHAN

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to three years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Esmail DEGHAN

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Issa DEGHAN

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Kazem DEGHAN

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Spreading corruption on the earth, membership of illegal group (being Dervish/friary), assembly and collusion with the intent to disrupt national security, causing physical harm and violation of public order, carrying illegal weapons and moharebeh (enmity with God)

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

First court decision: Sentenced in October 2013 to permanent exile in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan by Branch 2 of the Revolution Court of Shiraz

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to four years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Mohammad-Ali DEGHAN

Date and place of arrest: 13th May 2013

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Charges: Enmity against God (Moharebeh), clauses 183, 186 & 187 – Assembly and collusion against national security (Islamic Penal Code, Article 610) – Undermining national security (Clause 498) - Membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security (Clause 499) - Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm, violation of public order, carrying illegal weapons, participating in the gatherings with the aim of overthrowing the Islamic Republic and enmity against the God and corruption on earth

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Articles of the criminal code: Articles 183, 186 & 187 - Article 610 – Article 498 - Article 499

Place of detention: Adel Abad prison

Last court decision: On 29th May 2014, he was sentenced to 4 years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Mehdi DEGHAN

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Shahram DEGHAN

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Sohrab DEGHAN

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Reza ENTESARI

Date and place of arrest: 4th September 2011

Charges: Assembly and collusion against national security (Islamic Penal Code, Article 610) – Membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security (Clause 499) – Propaganda against the system (Clause 500) – Insulting the Supreme Leader (Clause 514)

Statement of the defendant: Contribution to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>)

Articles of the criminal code: Article 610 – Article 499 - Article 500 – Article 514

Place of detention: Evin Prison, Tehran

Last court decision: Branch 15 of Tehran’s Revolutionary Court sentenced him to 8 years ½ in prison.

Amir ESLAMI

Age: 35 years

Date and place of arrest: 4th September 2011

Charges: Assembly and collusion against national security (Islamic Penal Code, Article 610) – Propaganda against the system (Clause 500) - Membership in a sect endangering national security - Propaganda against the state - Insulting the Supreme Leader - Disturbing the public mind -

Establishing and membership in a deviant group - Disrupting the public order

Statement of the defendant: Contribution to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>)

Articles of the criminal code: Article 610 – Article 500

Place of detention: Evin Prison, Tehran

Last court decision: Branch 15 of Tehran’s Revolutionary Court sentenced him to 7 years ½ in prison

Mohsen ESMAILI

Date and place of arrest: 13th May 2013

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Charges: Assembly and collusion against national security (Islamic Penal Code, Article 610) – Enmity against the God (Clauses 183, 186 and 187) - Membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security (Clause 499) - Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm, violation of public order, carrying illegal weapons, participating in the gatherings with the aim of overthrowing the Islamic Republic and enmity against the God and corruption on earth

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order.

Articles of the criminal code: Articles 183, 186 & 187 - Article 610 – Article 499

Place of detention: Adel Abad prison

Last court decision: In May 2014, he was sentenced to 1 year in prison, paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar.

Ebrahim FAZLI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011

Charges: Activities against national security and disturbing the public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in January 2014 to two years imprisonment by Kavar Court

Other information: Was shot and injured after being attacked by religious extremists and Basij militia members during the attacks in Kavar. After hospitalization, he and two other wounded Dervishes were moved to an unknown place by plainclothes agents where they were reportedly been interrogated numerous times despite their critical health condition.

Zabihollah GERDPOUR

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basij and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Abdolghafour GHALANDARI NEJAD

Date and place of arrest: 6th August 2012 (first time) - 20th April 2013 (second time) in his home town Bandar Abbas – March 2014 (third time)

Charges: Acting against national security, propagating against the regime, cooperating with Majzooban Noor Website and contact with foreign media

Statement of the defendant: Gonabad Dervish and one of the collaborators of Majzooban Noor website

Place of detention: Bandar-Abbas prison

Last court decision: In May 2014 he was sentenced to two years in prison by the Bandar Abbas Revolutionary Court.

Mehidi GHANBARI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Nasrollah GOLSHAN

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Ali KARAMI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011

Charges: Conspiracy to disturb the social and national security" (Article 610 of the Islamic Penal code)

Statement of the defendant: Contribution to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>)

Last court decision: In May 2014 he was sentenced to three years in prison by branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court presided over by judge Mohammadzadeh

Other information : He was arrested along with more than 15 other lawyers and managers of Majzooban Noor website (Nematollah Gonabadi Order News Site) September 2011 in Tehran and he was released on bail after enduring more than one month behind bars in solitary confinement in Ward 209 of Evin prison.

Afshin KARAMPOUR

Date and place of arrest: September 2011

Charges: Membership in a sect endangering national security – Propaganda against the state – Insulting the Supreme Leader – Disturbing the public mind – Establishing and membership in a deviant group – Disrupting the public order

Statement of the defendant: Contribution to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>)

Place of detention: Evin Prison, Tehran

Last court decision: Branch 15 of Tehran’s Revolutionary Court sentenced him to 7 years ½ in prison.

Other information: Karampour chose not to appear or defend him himself in court and refused to file appeal in protest against numerous pre-trial irregularities and ill-treatment in detention by Intelligence Ministry agents.

Asghar KARIMI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011

Charges: Activities against national security and disturbing the public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in January 2014 to two years imprisonment by Kavar Court

Other information: Was shot and injured after being attacked by religious extremists and Basij militia members during the attacks in Kavar. After hospitalization, he and two other wounded Dervishes were moved to an unknown place by plainclothes agents where they were reportedly been interrogated numerous times despite their critical health condition.

Mehrdad KESHAVARZ

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to three years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Ahmad-Reza KOUHI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Abouzar MALEKPOUR

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to three years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Mehdi MARAND

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Hamid MEHDIZADEH

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Ali MOAZZAMI

Date and place of arrest: 7th September 2011 in Sharivar. Released on bail in October 2011

Charges: Assembly and collusion with the intent to disrupt national security

Statement of the defendant: Administrator of the Sufi website (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>)

Articles of the criminal code: Articles 183, 186 & 187 - Article 610 – Article 498 - Article 499

Last court decisions: Sentenced to 2 years imprisonment on 23rd May 2013 upheld on appeal

Bakhshali MOHAMMADI

Date and place of arrest: 2004 in Oj Tappeh village of Miyandoab

Charges: Enmity against the God

Place of detention: Detained in Uremia prison until November 2013. Since 4th November 2013, he has been transferred to Yazd central prison.

Last court decision: 13 years in prison / 15 years and 6 months in prison (different information from different sources)

Other information: He was initially sentenced to death but his sentence was overturned by the Supreme Court in September 2007.

Hamid-Reza MORADI SARVESTANI

Date and place of arrest: 4th September 2011

Charges: Membership in a sect endangering national security – Propaganda against the system (Clause 500) – Insulting the Supreme Leader (Clause 514) – Agitating the public consciousness (Clause 698) – Disruption of public order (Clause 618)

Statement of the defendant: Contribution to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>)

Articles of the criminal code: Articles 183, 186 & 187 - Article 610 – Article 500 - Article 514 - Article 618 – Article 698

Place of detention: Evin Prison, Tehran

Last court decision: Branch 15 of Tehran’s Revolutionary Court sentenced him to 10 years ½ in prison.

Karamat MORADI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Behzad NOURI

Date and place of arrest: 10th September 2011 in Shiraz

Charges: Membership in opposition group (Majzooban Noor) with the intent to disturb national security and propaganda against the Islamic Republic

Last court decision: On 22nd July 2013 Branch 2 of Shiraz’s Revolutionary Court sentenced him to two years imprisonment plus three years internal exile in Bushehr Province.

Farzaneh NOURI

Date and place of arrest: 10th September 2011, Shiraz - released provisionally on bail of 50 million toman (5,500 euros) 21 days later.

Charges: Membership in opposition group (Majzooban Noor) with the intent to disturb national security and propaganda against the Islamic Republic

Statement of the defendant: The reason is that she is the mother of Farhad Nouri, a journalist with the Sufi news website Majzooban Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>)

Last court decision: On 22nd July 2013 Branch 2 of Shiraz's Revolutionary Court sentenced her to two years imprisonment plus three years internal exile in Khuzestan province

Kasra NOURI

Age: 22 years

Place of residence: Shiraz

Date and place of arrest: 14th March 2013

Charges: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order and various national security crimes concerning his activities with the Sufi website

Statement of the defendant: Administrator of the Sufi website
<http://www.majzooban.org/en>

Place of detention: Nezal prison (Fars province), a military prison **Last court decision:** 4 years and 4 months in prison

Other information: Kasra Nouri, was arrested by security forces twice. He was first arrested on 11th January 2012, held in Shiraz Intelligence Office's Detention Center and Adel Abad prison for 46 days. He was released on bail. On 14th March 2012, he was again arrested because of interviews with foreign media. He is suffering from a terrible health condition (spinal disc, sciatic nerve pain and respiratory disease).

Reza PISHKAR

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Behyar RAJABI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to three years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijs and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Mohammad Ali SAADI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011

Charges: Activities against national security and disturbing the public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in January 2014 to two years imprisonment by Kavar Court

Mohammad-Ali SADEGHI

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: 13th May 2013 in Kavar 1st September 2011 and released - 2nd time on 30th April 2013

Charges: Membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security (Clause 499) – Assembly and collusion against national security (Clause 610) - Enmity against God (Clauses 183, 186 and 187)

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order.

Articles of the criminal code: Articles 183, 186 & 187 - Article 499 – Article 610

Place of detention: Adel Abad prison

First court decision: Sentenced to seven years of exile in Maragheh

Last court decision: In May 2014 he was sentenced to 3 years in prison, paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar. In June 2014 was sentenced to 7 years into exile in the city of Maragheh by branch 2 of Shiraz's Revolutionary Court.

Mohammad-Ali SHAMSHIRZAN

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Spreading corruption - Membership of illegal group - Assembly and collusion with the intent to disrupt national security, causing physical harm and violation of public order, carrying illegal weapons and moharebeh (enmity with God)

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

First court decision: Sentenced in October 2013 to permanent exile in the province of Hormozgan (Bandar Abbas) by Branch 2 of the Revolution Court of Shiraz

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to four years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Farshid YADOLLAHI

Date and place of arrest: September 2011

Charges: Membership in a sect endangering national security – Propaganda against the state – Insulting the Supreme Leader – Disturbing the public mind – Establishing and membership in a deviant group – Disrupting the public order

Statement of the defendant: Contribution to the Sufi website Majzooban-e Noor (<http://www.majzooban.org/en>)

Place of detention: Evin Prison, Tehran

Last court decision: Branch 15 of Tehran’s Revolutionary Court sentenced him to 7 years ½ in prison

Mohammad-Reza ZAHEDIANSKISH

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to two years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Manouchehr ZARE

Place of residence: Kavar county in Fars Province

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 (released in anticipation of process)

Charges: Involvement in a skirmish and causing physical harm and violation of public order

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation with the Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order

Last court decision: Sentenced in May 2014 to three years in prison and paying blood money (diyeh - to compensate the injuries caused to Basijis and plaincloth forces) by the 1st branch of the General court in Kavar

Sunni Muslims (88)

The Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran dated 13th March 2014² lists 88 Sunni Muslims (13 Baluchis and 75 Kurds) who were in prison in 2014: 31 were sentenced to death and are on the death row; 8 are serving prison terms ranging between 10 and 20 years; 25 got prison terms from 5 to 9 years and all the others less than 5 years.

The official charges are usually: Enmity against God (Clauses 183, 186 & 187) – Assembly and collusion against national security (Clause 610) – Undermining national security (Clause 498) - Membership in organisations that aim to disrupt national security (Clause 499) – Espionage (Clause 501) – Involvement in Salafi and terrorist groups.

Shi'a Muslim (1)

Ayatollah Mohammad Kazemini BOROIJERDI

Date of arrest: October 2006

² See <http://shaheedoniran.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/A-HRC-25-61-updated.pdf>

Charges: Enmity against God and spreading propaganda against the regime
Statement of the defendant: 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 the Shi'a Muslim majority
First court decision: Death sentence
Last court decision: Sentenced to 11 years in prison
Other information: In addition to the imprisonment, the government has banned him from practicing his clerical duties and confiscated his home and belongings.

Zoroastrians

Mojtaba AHMADI

Date of arrest: December 2009

Charges: Blasphemy, conspiracy and anti-regime propaganda

Court decision: In May 2010, he was sentenced to 6 years in prison: blasphemy (3 years), conspiracy and anti-regime propaganda (3 years).

Other information: Mojtaba Ahmadi is the cousin of Mohsen (see below).

Mohsen SADEGHIPOUR

Date of arrest: December 2009

Charges: Anti-regime propaganda favoring the Zoroastrian faith, insulting Islamic practices, insulting the Supreme Leader and promoting activities against the Islamic Republic through the propagation of Zoroastrianism and disrupting the public order.

First court decision: Branch 26 of Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced him to four and a half years in prison, 74 lashes and a fine.

Last court decision: Branch 54 of Tehran Appeals Court upheld the sentence in its entirety.

Place of detention: Evin Prison, Tehran

Abolfazl (Pouria) SHAHPARI

Date of arrest: February 2009, along with his brother Dariush (see below)

Charges: Anti-regime propaganda, gathering and conspiracy, insulting the Supreme Leader, membership in the Iran Zoroastrian Committee and blasphemy by propaganda for Zoroastrianism

Place of detention: In late August 2011, he was summoned to Evin Prison and detained in Ward 240.

Final court decision: 2.5 years in prison and 74 lashes

Other information: Member of the Iran Zoroastrian Committee.

Mohammad Javad (Dariush) SHAHPARI

Age: 21 years

Date and place of arrest: February 2009 for participating in the Ashura Day protests in Tehran.

Charges: Anti-regime propaganda, gathering and conspiracy, insulting the Supreme Leader, membership in the Iran Zoroastrian Committee and blasphemy by propaganda for Zoroastrianism

Place of detention: In May 2012, he was summoned to Evin Prison and detained in Ward 209, including some time in solitary confinement.

Final court decision: 2 years and 4 months in prison and 74 lashes

Other information: Member of the Iran Zoroastrian Committee.

Baha'is (120)

The Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran dated 13th March 2014³ lists 120 Baha'is who were in prison in 2014. Many prison terms are not known. One was sentenced to 12 years in prison, two to 10 years, two to 8 years, one to 7 years, 1 to 6 years, 10 to 5 years and many others to less than 5 years.

³ See <http://shaheedoniran.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/A-HRC-25-61-updated.pdf>

The official charges are usually: Forming an illegal cult - Acting against national security – Espionage – Propaganda against the regime - Posing a threat to the holy regime of the Islamic Republic by teaching Bahaist ideas through communication with the usurper country of Israel – Plotting overthrow - Membership in an anti-Islamic group – Membership in illegal groups and assemblies - Membership in the deviant sect of Baha'ism with the goal of taking action against the security of the country, in order to further the aims of the deviant sect and those of organisations outside the country.

A number of prisoners are lecturers or work for the Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education, an organisation aiming to provide higher education to Baha'is, as they are often barred from attending Iran's other universities.

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

Ages: Taefi 50, Khanjani 80, Naimi 51, Tazangi 54, Tavakkoli 61 and Tizfahm 40 years

Date and 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 and 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)

Court decision: Sentenced to 20 years in prison in August 2010

Other information: In September 2010, the 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.

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

Date and 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

Place of detention: Gohardasht

Court decisions: 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 also sentenced to four years in prison.

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

Date and place of arrest: Vaseghi was arrested on 16th March 2010; Nabilzadeh on 13th July 2010; Vahdat and Eshragi on 24th October 2010. All were arrested in Mashhad, Razavi Khorasan.

Charges: Undermining national security and propaganda against the government through membership in and promoting the Baha'I faith

Place of detention: Mashhad

First court decision: Sentenced to five years in prison

Last court decision: Appeal launched

Taraneh TORABI and an infant child

Date and place of arrest: 22nd September 2012 in Sangsar, Semnan

Charges: Organising an illegal group with the goal of aiding the Islamic Republic's enemies - Membership in an illegal organisation with the goal of attracting Muslims and preaching against the Islamic Republic and propaganda against the Islamic Republic.

Statement of the defendant: Organising classes for Bahá'í children

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

Last court decision: On appeal the sentence was commuted to 20 months in prison.

Place of detention: Semnan Prison

Other information: Married to Erfan Eshani (see above), with a child born during her imprisonment

Faran HESAMI

Date and place of arrest: 25th July 2012 in Tehran

Charges: Conspiracy and assembly with the intention to act against the national security by membership in the perverse Baha'i sect

Statement of the defendant: Involvement with the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education. She was a lecturer at the Baha'i Online University.

Place of detention: Evin prison, Tehran

Court decision: Sentenced to five years in prison on 9th May 2012

Other information: She is the wife of Kamran Rahimian (see below).

Afshin IGHANI

Age: 39 years

Date and place of arrest: September 2011 in Semnan

Charges: Formation of a group and membership in illegal groups - Assemblies with the intention of disturbing national security - Actions against national security through propaganda against the regime.

Place of detention: Semnan

Court decision: Sentenced on 5th May 2010 to four years, three months and one day in prison

Peyman KASHFI

Date and 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

Court decision: Sentenced on 15th June 2010 to four years in prison

Bhfar KHANJANI

Age: 36 years

Date and place of arrest: 21st June 2011 in Mashhad, RazaviKhorasan

Charges: Forming groups and membership in groups - 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: Sentenced on 4th May 2010 to four years in prison

Last court decision: Appeal denied on 6th February 2012

Kamran RAHIMIAN

Date and place of arrest: 14th September 2011 in Tehran

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

Statement of the defendant: Involvement with the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education. He was a lecturer at the Baha'i Online University.

Place of detention: Gohardasht

Court decision: Sentenced to four years in prison

Other information: He is the husband of Faran Hesami (see above).

Kayvan RAHIMIAN

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

Statement of the defendant: Involvement with the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education. He was a lecturer at the Baha'i Online University.

Court decision: Sentenced on 12th June 2012 to five years in prison and a fine of about 8,000 USD/ 6,000 EUR

Place of detention: Evin prison, Tehran

Didar RAOUFI

Age: 39 years

Date and 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

Mahvash Shahriari SABET

Age: 37 years

Date and place of arrest: 5th March 2008 in Mashhad, Razavi Khorasan

Charges: Espionage, propaganda activities against the Islamic order
Establishment of an illegal administration - Cooperation with Israel - Acting against the security of the country

Statement of the defendant: Affiliation to the group "Friends of Baha'i"

Place of detention: Evin prison, Tehran

First court decision: Sentenced on 14th June 2010 to 20 years in prison

Azizollah SAMANDARI

Age: 56 years

Date and 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, Tehran

First court decision: Sentenced on 4th October 2011 to five years in prison

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

KAZAKHSTAN

Baptist believers and passtors belonging to unregistered churches were sentenced to a few days of imprisonment after refusing to pay heavy fines imposed on them for merely exercising their religious freedom.

Protestants

Zhasulan ALZHANOV

Charges: Attending a meeting for worship without state permission and failure to pay a fine for this activity (January)

Distributing Christian literature allegedly containing elements inciting religious hatred and discord (October)

Court decision: Sentenced on 9th January 2014 to ten days in prison and a heavy fine by Barubai District Specialized Administrative Court under Article 524 (Failure to carry out court decisions)

Sentenced to ten days in prison on 6 October 2014

Other information: This is the fourth time Zhasulan has faced trial. He was sentenced to a ten-day prison term in a separate case earlier this year, for failing to pay earlier fines for exercising their right to freedom of religion.

Vyacheslav CHERKASOV

Charges: Attending meeting for worship without state permission and failure to pay a fine for this activity (January)

Distributing Christian literature allegedly containing elements inciting religious hatred and discord (October)

Court decision: Sentenced on 9th January 2014 to two days in prison and a heavy fine by Barubai District Specialized Administrative Court under Article 524 (Failure to carry out court decisions)

Sentenced to ten days in prison on 6 October 2014

Other information: This is the sixth time Vyacheslav has faced trial. He was sentenced to a ten-day prison term in a separate case earlier this year, for failing to pay earlier fines for exercising their right to freedom of religion.

Vyacheslav FLOCHA

Charges: Attending a meeting for worship without state permission and failure to pay a fine for this activity

First Court decision: Sentenced by Judge Serik Amirov of Petropavl Specialized Administrative Court to five days in prison beginning 6th March 2014 under Article 524 (Failure to carry out court decisions)

Other information: The Judge told Flocha in the hearing that a restraining order was being placed on his home; however this does not appear in the written verdict. Flocha is married, with ten children. Flocha is on the Kazakhstan travel ban list.

Maksim KANDYBA

Age: 19 years

Charges: Attending a meeting for worship without state permission and failure to pay a fine for this activity

Last court decision: Sentenced 20th January to 10 days in prison by Semei Specialized Administrative Court under Article 524 (Failure to carry out court decisions)

Other information: Kandyba is on the travel ban list in Kazakhstan.

Viktor KANDYBA

Age: 47 years

Charges: Attending a meeting for worship without state permission and failure to pay a fine for this activity

Last court decision: Sentenced on 27th May 2014 to ten days' imprisonment under Article 524 (Failure to carry out court decisions) by Judge Gibrat valiyeu of Semei Specialised Administrative Court.

Other information: He was given the maximum term of imprisonment because of the "social danger" of his intentional refusal to pay the fine and recognise his guilt.

Bakhytzhhan KASHKUMBAEV (Presbyterian Pastor)

Age: 68 years

Date and place of arrest: 17th May 2013 in Astana

Charges: Psychological manipulation of the victim through the use of a "red-coloured hallucinogenic drink" and carrying out missionary activity

Duration of detention: Nine months in prison awaiting trial

Last court decision: Sentenced on 17th February 2014 to a suspended four-year prison term in Kazakhstan's capital Astana. Moreover, he was told to pay a fine of 2 million Tenge (€ 7,900) for "moral damages" and of 100 MFIs for missionary activities.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 103 ("Intentional inflicting of serious harm to health")

Date of release: 17th February 2014

Other information: He was the pastor of Grace Church in Astana. He spent about a month in a psychiatric clinic during his pretrial detention. Late on 7th October, a court in Astana ruled that Kashkumbaev could be transferred to house arrest due to his poor health. But on October 8, police rearrested Kashkumbaev on new charges moments after his release from a detention center in Astana.

Vitaly KRASILNIKOV

Charges: Attending a meeting for worship without state permission and failure to pay a fine for this activity

Court decision: Sentenced on 21st January 2014 to one day in prison by Oksemen Specialized Administrative Court under Article 524 (Failure to carry out court decisions)

Pavel LEONOV (Pastor)

Charges: Attending a meeting for worship without state permission and failure to pay a fine for this activity

First court decision: Fined 100MFIs on 4th March 2013 under Article 347-1, Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced 20th January 2014 to three days of detention by Judge Bukdarly Orazbek of the Ayagoz District Court for refusal to pay the fine from 4th March 2013 under Article 524 (Failure to carry out court decisions)

Other information: Leonov is also on a list of those not allowed to leave Kazakhstan.

Aleksandr PUKHOV

Age: 87 years

Charges: Attending a meeting for worship without state permission and failure to pay a fine for this activity

Court decision: Sentenced 3rd March 2014 to five days in prison by Judge Rauza Aliyeva of Petropavl Specialized Administrative Court under Article 524 (Failure to carry out court decisions)

Other information: Pukhov is on the Kazakhstan travel ban list.

Denis YENENKO

Age: 31 years

Charges: Attending a meeting for worship without state permission and failure to pay a fine for this activity

Last court decision: Sentenced to six days in prison on 17th April 2014 under Article 524 (Failure to carry out court decisions)

Date of release: 23rd April 2014

LAOS

Christians

ANNA, CHAI, CHANTHANARM, MANIVANH, NEAL, PETSAMONE, and Sampong SUPATTO

Date and place of arrest: 29th September 2014 in Bouham village

Other Information: They were arrested after holding an unauthorized religious meeting. The arrests were conducted after the village officials had issued a warning on the previous Sunday that Christians were no longer allowed to gather for worship in Boukham village. Christians have been assembling for worship in Boukham village for 3-4 years.

NORTH KOREA

It is estimated that 150,000 to 200,000 prisoners are currently in North Korea's network of political prison camps. No verifiable statistics are available concerning religious prisoners. Some foreign evangelists have been arrested and sentenced to prison terms. They were released after negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang.

Christians

33 unnamed persons⁴

Date of arrest: March 2014

⁴ See Mail Online, 5 March 2014

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2573621/Kim-Jong-Un-orders-33-people-executed-contact-Christian-missionary-say-South-Korean-press.html>

Charges: Attempting to overthrow the regime by collaborating with South Korean Baptist Kim Jung-Wook to set up a network of underground churches.

Kenneth BAE (Korean-American Evangelical Missionary)

Date of birth: 1st August 1968

Place of residence: China

Date of arrest: November 2012

Charges:

- Working with evangelical organization Youth With a Mission (YWAM);
- Setting up bases in China for the purpose of toppling the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
- Encouraging North Korean citizens to bring down the government;
- Conducting a malignant smear campaign.

Statement of defendant: Developing missionary activities

Court decision: The Supreme Court sentenced to 15 years hard labour on 30th April 2013

Date of release: 8th November 2014

Jeffrey Edward FOWLE (American citizen)

Date of birth: 1958

Date and place of arrest: In May 2014 in Pyongyang

Charges: Christian evangelization

Statement of defendant: He had left a Bible behind in a nightclub.

Date of release: 21st October 2014

John SHORT (Australian citizen)

Age: 75 years

Place of residence: Short is an Australian living in Hong Kong for 50 years.

Date of arrest: 16th February 2014

Charges: Leaving Christian leaflets in a Buddhist temple

Statement of defendant: Traveling with a tour group in North Korea

Duration of the detention: 13 days

Date of release: Early March 2014

Other information: In the 1990s, Short was arrested in China for doing evangelical work and was a “persona non grata” with Chinese authorities for almost two years.

Kim Jung-WOOK (South Korean missionary)

Age: 50 years

Date of arrest: 7th October 2013

Charges: Attempting to overthrow the government by spying and setting up underground churches

Last court decision: The court found him guilty on 30th May 2014 and sentenced him to hard labour for life.

Other information: Kim Jung-Wook is a Baptist missionary who participated in helping defectors leave North Korea.

SAUDI ARABIA

Ahmadis

Sultan Hamid MAARZOUK AL-ANZI

Date and place of arrest: 14th May 2012, in Ahrar

Place of residence: Ahrar, Al Azizya close to the northern border of Saudi Arabia

Charges: Apostasy

Statement of defendant: Converting to the Ahmadi faith which is forbidden in Saudi Arabia

Place of detention: General prison in Ahrar al Azizya close to the northern border of Saudi Arabia

Other information: Two clerics persistently tried to persuade him to give up his faith and return to be Islam. He was told he would be charged under apostasy in Islam, the punishment for which is death.

Saudh Faleh AWAD AL-ANZI

Date and place of arrest: 14th May 2012, in Ahrar

Place of residence: Ahrar, Al Azizya close to the northern border of Saudi Arabia

Charges: Apostasy

Statement of defendant: Converting to the Ahmadi faith which is forbidden in Saudi Arabia

Place of detention: General prison in Ahrar al Azizya close to the northern border of Saudi Arabia

Other information: Two clerics persistently tried to persuade him to give up his faith and return to be Islam. He was told he would be charged under apostasy in Islam, the punishment for which is death.

SINGAPORE

The government of Singapore enforces compulsory military service and does not recognize the right to conscientious objection. Sixteen young Jehovah's Witnesses are each serving a total of 39 months of imprisonment in the Armed Forces Detention Barracks.

C.O.= Conscientious Objection

*= 1st term and **=2nd term

Name	Age	Prison	Term/Release	Reason
Thiagarajan s/o Rajandran	22	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	39 months** 21/8/14	C.O.
Huang Zhen Wei	24	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	39 months** 4/9/14	C.O.
Prithvi Raj s/o Many Segar	23	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	39 months** 6/1/15	C.O.
Chan Fu Xiang	24	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	39 months** 7/2/15	C.O.
Phua Zhe Shen	22	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	39 months** 6/10/15	C.O.
Soo Teck Yew, Aaron	22	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	39 months** 6/10/15	C.O.
Loke Yong Chin, Mel-Travis	22	Armed Forces	39 months** 10/2/16	C.O.

		Detention Barracks		
Ang Hwee Sheng	22	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	15 months* 11/9/14	C.O.
Choo Han Meng	21	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	15 months* 14/10/14	C.O.
Goh Yi Wen, Ryan	21	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	15 months* 14/10/14	C.O.
Gan Zhi Rong, Joshua	20	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	15 months* 13/11/14	C.O.
Oh Yu Rong, Michael	20	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	15 months* 18/11/14	C.O.
Xing Fu Guang, Paul	20	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	15 months* 18/11/14	C.O.
Tay Heng Ong, Jephthah	21	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	15 months* 25/2/15	C.O.
Gaius Kai Wen Nappalli	19	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	Pending Court-Martial	C.O.
Sebastian Soh Wei	19	Armed Forces Detention Barracks	Pending Court-Martial	C.O.

SOUTH KOREA

Jehovah's Witnesses

On 30th June 2014, 618 young Jehovah's Witnesses⁵ were serving 18-month prison terms for conscientious objection to military service. From the Korean War period to the present, South Korea has repeatedly prosecuted young Jehovah's Witness men for their refusal to do military service. No provision is made for alternative service. Throughout this time, South Korea has sentenced 18,000 Jehovah's Witnesses to a combined total of 34,700 years in prison for their conscientious objection to military service.

Charges: Conscientious objection to 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, Par. 9

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. 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 Jehovah's Witnesses; 438 other Jehovah's Witness complaints are still pending before this Committee. The Committee decisions remind South

⁵ See full list of prisoners here <http://www.jw.org/en/news/legal/by-region/south-korea/jehovahs-witnesses-in-prison/>

Korea that it is in violation of this provision under international law. The government of South Korea has stated that it does not intend to implement the Committee's views.

SUDAN

Christian

Mariam Yahya IBRAHIM

Place of residence: Khartoum

Date of arrest: February 2014

Place of detention: Omdurman women's prison, Khartoum

Charges: Apostasy and adultery

Last court decision: She was sentenced to 100 public lashes for adultery, and to death for apostasy.

Date of release: 23rd June 2014

Other information: She was abandoned by her Muslim father when she was six and was subsequently educated in the Christian faith. The court however identified her as a Muslim and charged her for marrying a Christian man, which is forbidden by law. At the end of June 2014, she was released because of huge international pressure, arrested again at the airport of Khartoum while in possession of a US visa, imprisoned again and finally freed on 27th June. She finally could leave the country and emigrate to the United States.

TAJIKISTAN

Jamaat Tabligh Muslims

Erkin ABDUHALILOV, Talabsho ABDUSAMADOV, Khudaydod ALNAZAROV, Mahkamjon AZIZOV, Umarjon AZIZOV, Mahmadjon BAKIYEV, Faridun BOBOYEV, Jamshed BOYAKOV, Rustam BOYMUHAMEDOV, Amirali and Murodali DAVLATOV (brothers), IGBOLSHO, Abdujabbor IZZATULLAYEV, Saynuridin KALUGSHOYEV, Saidkomil KHALOV, Doniyor KHASHIMOV, Nasrullo KHISOMOV, Mahmatali KURBONOV Churakhon MIRZOYEV, Abduvali MURODOV, JALOLIDDIN, Ismoil MAHMUDOVI, NASRULLAYEV, Muhibullo RAHMONOV, Nosir RAKHIMOV, Bashir SAIDOV, Azizhudja SALIMOV, Habibullo SHARIPOV, Churabek SAIDZODA, Toirjon SAMADOV, Nemat SANGINOV, Abdukahor SATTOROV, Abdumanon SATTOROV, Raufjon SHEROV, Rahmonazi TALIBOV, Suhrob TEMIROV, Ahmad VALIYEV

Charges: Being part of an extremist organisation

Last court decision: On 18th May 2010, prison terms of between three and six years and heavy fines.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code's article 307-3 ("organisation of banned extremist religious organisations"). Part 1 specifies prison terms of between five and seven years for leaders of such organisations. Part 2 of the same article specifies fines of between 1,000 and 2,000 times the 'minimum calculation index' - 25 Somonis before 1 July 2009 and from this date 35 Somonis - or prison terms of between three and five years for those participating in such organisations.

Statement of the defendants: They deny being part of any organisation.

TURKMENISTAN

Jehovah's Witnesses

Zafar ABDULLAEV

Age: 24 years

Date of arrest: 6th March 2012

Charges: Conscientious objector to military service

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 219.1 of Turkmenistan Criminal Code

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

Date of release: 6th March 2014

Merdan AMANOV

Age: 19 years

Date of arrest: 7th July 2014

Charges: Conscientious objector to military service

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 219.1 of Turkmenistan Criminal Code

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

Last court decision: Sentenced to one year imprisonment

Date of release: 22nd October 2014 (Presidential amnesty decree to mark the 23rd anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence from the Soviet Union)

Matkarim AMINOV

Age: 23 years

Charges: Conscientious objector to military service

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

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

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.

Place of detention: Strict regime section at the Seydi Labour camp, 746222 Lebap vilayet Seydi, uchr. LB-K/11, Turkmenistan

Date of release: 22nd October 2014 (Presidential amnesty decree to mark the 23rd anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence from the Soviet Union)

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

Arslan DOVLETOV

Age: 22 years

Date of arrest: January 2013

Charges: Conscientious objection to military service

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.

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

Last court decision: In January 2013, the Dashoguz court sentenced him to 18 months in prison.

Date of release: July 2014

Dovran MATYAKUBOV

Age: 21 years

Charges: Conscientious objector to compulsory military service

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

Court decision: In December 2012, he was 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.

Place of detention: Strict regime section at the Seydi Labour camp, 746222 Lebap vilayet Seydi, uchr. LB-K/11, Turkmenistan

Date of release: 22nd October 2014 (Presidential amnesty decree to mark the 23rd anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence from the Soviet Union)

Ruslan NARKULIEV

Age: 21 years

Charges: Conscientious objector to military service

Court decision: Sentenced on 30th September 2014 to two years imprisonment

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

Place of detention: Strict regime section at the Seydi Labour camp, 746222 Lebap vilayet Seydi, uchr. LB-K/11, Turkmenistan

Other information: He was not amnestied on 22nd October 2014 (Presidential decree). He could probably not be put on the list of the objectors to be released because his sentence was too recent.

Navruz NASYRLAYEV

Age: 24 years

Date of arrest: May 2012

Charges: Conscientious objector to compulsory military service

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.

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

Date of release: May 2014

Last court decision: The court sentenced him to two years in a strict regime labour camp.

Pavel PAYMOV

Age: 23 years

Charges: Conscientious objector to military service

Court decision: Sentenced on 26th February 2014 to one year's imprisonment at Ashgabad's Rukhabad District Court

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

Place of detention: First held at the pre-trial detention prison at Yashlyk in Akbugday District. He is likely to be transferred in the labour camp in the desert near Seydi in the eastern Lebap Region.

Date of release: 22nd October 2014 (Presidential amnesty decree to mark the 23rd anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence from the Soviet Union)

Suhrab RAHMANBERDIYYEV

Age: 19 years

Charges: Failure to serve compulsory military service

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

Court decision: On 18th November 2013, found guilty of violating Criminal Code Article 219, Part 1. Sentenced to an 18 month prison 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.

Place of detention: Strict regime section at the Seydi Labour camp, 746222 Lebap vilayet Seydi, uchr. LB-K/11, Turkmenistan

Date of release: 22nd October 2014 (Presidential amnesty decree to mark the 23rd anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence from the Soviet Union)

Bibi RAHMANOVA

Age: 33 years

Date of arrest: 8th August 2014

Charges: Assaulting a police officer

Statement of the defendants: The police verbally and physically assaulted her.

First court decision: The court sentenced her to four years in prison.

Last court decision: She was released from prison and left the country though the charges were not dropped.

Date of release: 2nd September 2014

Aibek SALAYEV

Age: 35 years

Charge: Distributing pornography

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

First court decision: On 12th April 2012 he was 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.

Place of detention: LBK-12 Prison Colony

Date of release: 22nd October 2014 (Presidential amnesty decree to mark the 23rd anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence from the Soviet Union)

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

Bahram SHAMURADOV

Age: 40 years

Charges: Distributing pornography

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

Last court decision: On 2nd July 2014 he was sentenced to four years in prison.

Date of release: 22nd October 2014 (Presidential amnesty decree to mark the 23rd anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence from the Soviet Union)

Place of detention: He is believed to have been transferred to the Seydi Labour Camp.

Amirlan TOLKACHEV

Date of birth: 25th October 1992

Place of residence: Turkmenabad

Charges: Conscientious objector to military service

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

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:

Criminal Code Article 219, Part 1. This punishes refusal to serve in the armed forces in peacetime with a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment.

Last court decision: Sentenced in July 2013 to 18 months in prison by Turkmenabad City Court

Place of detention: General regime Seydi Labour Camp, 746222 Lebap vilayet Seydi, uchr. LB-K/12, Turkmenistan

Date of release: 22nd October 2014 (Presidential amnesty decree to mark the 23rd anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence from the Soviet Union)

UZBEKISTAN

Protestant

Tohar HAYDAROV

Age: 27 years

Place of residence: Gulistan

Date of arrest: 18th January 2010

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

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

Place of detention: UYa 64/49 otryad 13 pos. Shaikh-Ali g. Karshi, Kashkadarya Region, Uzbekistan

First court decision: On 9th March 2010 he was 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 to help them force Tohar, a convert to Christianity, to return to Islam.

Jehovah's Witness

Sanobar BIKMULLINA

Date and place of arrest: 11th January 2014 in Kagan, Bukhara

Charges: Teaching religious beliefs without specialised religious education and without permission from the central organ of a registered religious organisation, as well as teaching religious beliefs privately

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Administrative Articles 184-2, 240 Part 1, and 241

Last court decision: Ordered to pay a fine of 210 USD

Duration of detention: Six days

Date of release: 17th January 2014

Said Nursi Readers (Muslims)

Muzaffar ALLAYOROV

Date and place of arrest: April 2009 in Bukhara

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced to six years in prison

Nutfullo AMINOV

Age: 34 years

Date of arrest: Early 2010

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to eight years in prison

Mukhtar HOTAMOV

Age: 33 years

Date of arrest: Early 2010

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to six years in prison

Yadgar JUAEV

Date and place of arrest: April 2009 in Bukhara

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced to six years in prison

Alisher JUMAEV

Date and place of arrest: April 2009 in Bukhara

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to five and a half years in prison

Umidjon JUMAYEV

Age: 35 years

Date of arrest: Early 2010

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to six years in prison

Shuhrat KARIMOV

Date and place of arrest: April 2009 in Bukhara

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 244-2, Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to six years in prison

Salohiddin KOSIMOV

Date and place of arrest: April 2009 in Bukhara

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 244-2, Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to six years in prison

Ikrom MERAJOV

Age: 42 years

Date and place of arrest: April 2009 in Bukhara

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to nine years in prison

Other Information: He was a University lecturer and studied works written by Said Nursi.

Kamal ODILOV

Age: 32 years

Date of arrest: Early 2010

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to six years in prison

Shakholo RAKHMANOVA

Date of arrest: November 2009

Charges: Attempts to change the constitutional order of Uzbekistan

Statement of Defendant: She was simply teaching Islam in a mosque in Karshi.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 159 (“attempts to change the constitutional order of Uzbekistan”), and article

244-1 (“preparation or distribution of materials threatening public security and public order”)

Last court decision: In April 2010 she was sentenced to six and a half years in jail.

Ilkhom RAJABOV

Age: 31 years

Date of arrest: Early 2010

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to eight years in prison

Jamshid RAMAZONOV

Date and place of arrest: April 2009 in Bukhara

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to five and a half years in prison

Bobomurod SANOEV

Date and place of arrest: April 2009 in Bukhara

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to five and a half years in prison

Rashid SHARIPOV

Age: 39 years

Date of arrest: Early 2010

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to seven years in prison

Tukhtakul SHODIYEV

Age: 27 years

Date of arrest: Early 2010

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to seven years in prison

Botir TUKHTAMURODOV

Date and place of arrest: April 2009 in Bukhara

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to six years in prison

Iskandar UBAYDOV

Age: 20 years

Date of arrest: Early 2010

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to six years in prison

Anvar ZARIPOV

Age: 32 years

Date of arrest: Early 2010

Charges: Participation in an extremist organisation

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 244-1 Part 3 Point A and Article 244-2 Part 1

Last court decision: Sentenced to six years in prison

Muslims

The 2014 Annual Report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom covering freedom of religion in 2013 has released a list of 99 Muslims sentenced on the grounds of their religious activities or affiliations⁶:

1 prison term of 18 years; 6 prison terms of 12 years; 3 prison terms of 10 years; 46 prison terms ranging from 3 years to 8 ½ years

1 was granted amnesty; 1 died in custody; 3 were sentenced to a fine; 12 suspended sentences; 7 probation sentences; 3 fines; 15 unknown sentence; 1 prison term of 15 days.

Human Rights Without Frontiers Prisoners' List:

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 Qu'ran, discuss their faith and to learn how to pray

Place of detention: Yangibazar Detention Centre in Tashkent Region

⁶ Source: Initiative Group of Independent Human Rights Defenders of Uzbekistan (IGIHRDU)

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 244.1: Production and distribution of materials that create a threat to public security and public order.

Furkat ABDULLAYEV

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Jailed for meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to nine years of detention

Nodyr BARNAYEV

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Jailed for meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to nine years of detention

Mehrinisso HAMDAMOVA

Age: 46 years

Date of arrest: November 2009

Charges: Attempts to change the constitutional order of Uzbekistan

Statement of Defendant: She was simply teaching Islam in a mosque in Karshi.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 159 (“attempts to change the constitutional order of Uzbekistan”), and article 244-1 (“preparation or distribution of materials threatening public security and public order”)

Last court decision: In April 2010 she was sentenced to seven years in jail.

Zulhumor HAMDAMOVA

Date of arrest: November 2009

Charges: Attempts to change the constitutional order of Uzbekistan

Statement of Defendant: She was simply teaching Islam in a mosque in Karshi.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 159 (“attempts to change the constitutional order of Uzbekistan”), and article 244-1 (“preparation or distribution of materials threatening public security and public order”)

Last court decision: In April 2010 she was sentenced to six and a half years in jail.

Abdugani KAMOLOV

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Jailed for meeting with others to study the Qu’ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to nine years of detention

Zukhriddin KAMOLOV

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Jailed for meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to nine years of detention

Rakhmatillo KHAMDAMOV

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Jailed for meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to nine years of detention

Shakirzhon KHAMDAMOV

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Jailed for meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to nine years of detention

Bobur KHATAMOV

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to nine years of detention

Place of detention: Karshi Labour Camp

Rakhmatilla MAKHMUDOV

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Jailed for meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to nine years of detention

Zoirjon MIRZAYEV

Age: 27 years

Date and place of arrest: 8th April 2014 in the Tashkent Region

Charges: Possession of extremist materials

Last court decision: He was sentenced to five years in prison.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Criminal Code Article 246 Part 1

Other Information: Officials found 29 recordings of Muslim sermons on his mobile phone which were considered "extremist".

Ulugbek OTAKUZIYEV

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to nine years of detention

Ravshan RAHMATULLAYEV

Date and place of arrest: Around 28th December 2012

Charges: Illegal establishment or reactivation of illegal public associations or religious organisations, as well as active participation in their activities

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:

– 216 ("Illegal establishment or reactivation of illegal public associations or religious organisations, as well as active participation in their activities");

– 244-1, Paragraph 3 ("Dissemination of materials containing ideas of religious extremism, separatism, and fundamentalism, calls for pogroms or violent eviction, or aimed at creating panic among the population, as well as the use of religion for purposes of breach of civil concord, dissemination of calumnious and destabilizing fabrications, and committing other acts aimed against the established rules of conduct in society and public order"). Point a, under which Rahmatullayev was convicted, specifies "with previous planning or by a group of individuals";

– 246 Part 1 ("Smuggling, that is carriage through the customs border without the knowledge of or with concealment from customs control of materials that propagandize religious extremism, separatism, and fundamentalism").

Statement of the defendant: Met in private for joint prayers and Qu'ran reading

Last court decision: Six years in prison, on 17th July 2013 in Tashkent

Place of detention: Karshi [Qarshi] Labour Camp

Mukhammadin SOTIVOLDIYEV

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to nine years of detention

Avazbek TURAYEV

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to nine years of detention

Rakhmonzhon TURABAYEV

Date of birth: 1984

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1 ("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations")

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to 13 years of detention for leading an "illegal religious meeting"

Khayrullo TURSUNOV

Age: 38 years

Place of residence: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Date and place of arrest: 7th April 2012, Aktobe Kazakhstan, 13th March Uzbekistan

Charges: Extremist religious activity

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

Place of detention: Aktobe Kazakhstan, moved to Almaty on 13th February 2013, moved on 13th March to Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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

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

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

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

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

Final court decision in Uzbekistan: He was sentenced to 12 years in prison by the Kashkadarya Regional Criminal Court in June 2013.

Ravshanbek UMARBAYEV

Date of birth: 1969

Date and place of arrest: 2010

Charges: Meeting with others to study the Qu'ran and pray.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 244-1, Part 3 (a) ("Production and dissemination of materials containing a threat to public security and public order") and Article 244-2, Part 1

("Creation, leadership or participation in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organisations") and Article 159, Part 4 ("Violent attempts to change the Constitutional order").

Last court decision: Sentenced on 28th June 2010 to 14 years of detention for leading an "illegal religious meeting"

VIETNAM

Hmong Christians

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

Charges: Activities aimed at overthrowing the People's Government

Final court decision: On 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 (Dien Bien Province) to perform prayer rituals and to demand religious freedom.

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 countries here listed are **Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia** and **Tunisia**.

EGYPT

The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Right (EIPR) has documented 48 cases of vigilante harassment and judicial prosecution from January 2011 to the end of 2013. In some of these cases, customary sanctions were applied, while in others employers levied penalties.

In 28 of the cases, the issue reached a court of law. The number of these cases before courts increased from only three in 2011 to 12 in 2012 and 13 in 2013. Courts convicted 27 of 42 defendants tried on defamation charges.

Three defendants were acquitted and charges against 11 defendants were rejected due to lack of standing.

Copts

Makram DIAB

Age: 49 years

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 defendant: Saying to a Salafi Muslim that Muhammad had more than four wives, which resulted in an argument

Place of detention: Assiut General Prison

First court decision: Sentenced to six years in prison on 29th February 2012

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

Other information: The first trial lasted only 10 minutes and no defense attorney was present. The first appeal process triggered a massive riot by Muslim attorneys.

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 (3 years for defaming Islam and the Prophet Mohammed, 2 years for insulting the president and one year for insulting Mohamed Safwat who made the allegations against him).

Ayman Youssef MANSOUR

Age: 22 years

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 defendant: Posting on Facebook (no details provided)

First court decision: On 22nd October 2011, he sentenced to three years in prison for deliberately insulting, attacking and mocking Islam on Facebook.

Gamal Abdu MASSOUD

Date of birth: 1996

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 defendant: 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 by a juvenile court.

Last court decision: Appeal lost

Other information: Mobs rioted and destroyed his home and the homes of some of the other Christians in his town.

Romani Murad SAAD

Place of residence: Province of Assiut

Charges: Ridiculing Islam's holy book, the Qu'ran, at the lawyers union library

Last court decision: Sentenced on 1st June 2013 to one year in prison with hard labour and a 500 EGP fine as well as 10,000 EGP as a temporary civil compensation to the plaintiffs

Other information: Sentenced in absentia

Karam SABER

Charges: Contempt of religion, promoting infidelity, inciting polytheism, and insulting God.

Statement of the defendant: He published a book in 2010 entitled "Where is Allah?" which was a compilation of short stories.

First court decision: Sentenced to five years in prison in absentia in June 2013.

Last court decision: The Beba Misdemeanour Court in Beni Sueif confirmed the five-year prison sentence on 11th March 2014.

Shia

Amr ABDALLAH

Date and place of arrest: 14th November 2013

Charges: Blasphemy and defamation of the Prophet Muhammad's companions.

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: Sentenced to five years in prison by the Gamaliya Misdemeanor Court on 26th February 2014

Atheist

Alber SABER (Ayad)

Date of arrest: 13th September 2012

Charges: Blasphemy and contempt of religion: sharing an anti-Islam film (Innocence of Muslims) on social networking sites (Facebook). He later faced charges relating to other statements critical of Islam and Christianity which police investigators allegedly found online and on his computer at his home.

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 defendant: He denied promoting the video.

First court decision: Sentenced to three years in prison

Last court decision: On 25th January 2013 a Cairo court upheld the lower court’s verdict.

Other information: Alber Saber is from a Coptic family but he claims to be atheist.

INDONESIA

Atheist

Alexander AAN

Age: 31 years

Place of residence: PulauPunjung

Date of arrest: January 2012

Charges: Spreading religious hatred

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

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

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code or law: Article 28(2) of the 2008 Electronic Informaton and Transaction Law (dissemination of information aimed at insighting religious hostility) and Criminal Code Articles 156a(a) and 156a(b) for blasphemy and encouraging others to embrace atheism

Date of release: 27th January 2014.

Shi’a Muslim

Andreas GUNTUR

Place of residence: Pulau Punjung

Charges: Blasphemy

Court decision: 14th March 2012, sentenced to four years in prison at Klaten District Court (Central Java)

Other information: He is the leader of Amanat Keagungan Ilahi against which the Indonesia Council of Ulema issued a fatwah in 2009, claiming that the movement rejected conventional Islamic rituals.

Tajul MULUK

Place of residence: Sampang, East Java

Charges: Blasphemy and “causing public anxiety”

Statement of the defendant: Asserting that the current version of the Qu’ran is not the original one and questioning belief concerning the five pillars of Islam and six pillars of Islamic faith.

Court decision: Sampang district court sentenced him to two years in prison on the 12th July 2012.

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

Age: 62 years

Place of residence: Jakarta

Date of Arrest: 26th October 2010

Charges: Blasphemy

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

Court decision: Sentenced to five years in prison on 8th February 2011

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

Other information: Protesters demanded that Bawengan be handed over, and chanted “kill, kill” outside the court as he was led away under heavy security. The angry mob then trashed the courtroom before targeting Christian sites, burning down a number of churches and schools.

PAKISTAN

The 2014 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom had a list of prisoners⁷ detained for alleged activities considered blasphemous or religiously insulting. Blasphemy laws carried in Section 295C of the Penal Code carries the death penalty in Pakistan. The use of this bylaw has creating an environment where some religious fanatics believe that they are entitled to take law into their own hands. There have been many instances where the local administration and police have either colluded with perpetrators or have stood by and done nothing to assist the accused, fearing the crowd. The use of the blasphemy law has become a quick way of resolving disputes arising from business rivalry, honour disputes, disputes over money and property. The accused are often lynched or languish for years in jail without trial because lawyers are too afraid to defend them. Judges have previously been attacked in Pakistan for acquitting blasphemy defendants and two politicians who discussed reforming the law were shot dead.

Death sentence

Christians

Muhammad ASGHAR (British Protestant)

Age: 70

Date of arrest: September 2010 in the city of Rawalpindi

Charges: Blasphemy. He was accused of writing letters to several people claiming to be a prophet.

Last court decision: Sentenced to death in January 2014 by Rawalpindi court.

⁷ See the list at <http://www.uscirf.gov>

Other information: Asghar is from Edinburgh. His lawyers claimed that he had a history of mental illness in Scotland, but the court did not accept UK medical reports.

Qaisar AYUB

Age: In his 40s

Date and place of arrest: He was arrested on 15th November 2014 in Lahore.

Charges: Blasphemy.

Place of detention: Unknown

Duration of detention: Unknown

Other Information: Qaisar is accused of posting blasphemous messages on a Christian website that he was moderating.

Asia BIBI (Protestant)

Age: 37 years

Place of residence: Ittanwali

Date of arrest: 19th June 2009

Charges: Blasphemy

Place of detention: Central Jail in Multan

Statement of the defendant: She allegedly insulting the prophet Muhammad during an argument with some Muslim neighbors when she drank water from a well with an allegedly “unclean” cup used by Muslim women.

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

First court decision: Sentenced to death in November 2010

Last court decision: The Lahore High Court upheld the death sentence

Other information: When Bibi’s case came to prominence in 2010, three politicians – Salmaan Taseer, Shahbaz Bhatti and Sherry Rehman – all from the Pakistan People’s Party, which was then in power, took up the case and

called for reform. The consequences speak for themselves. Taseer was shot dead by his bodyguard in January 2011. In March the same year, Bhatti was killed by Taliban assassins. Rehman was forced into semi-hiding.

Shafqat EMMANUEL, Shaguftah EMMANUEL (husband and wife) - Catholic

Age: Shafqat (38) and Shaguftah (42)

Place of residence: Gojra

Date of arrest: 20th July 2013 in the city of Gojra

Charges: Blasphemy. They allegedly sent a text message in English deemed insulting to the Prophet Mohammed from their mobile telephone to an imam.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Filed by police, Section 295-B and 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code and 25-D of The Telegraph Act of 1985.

Statement of the defendants: Shaguftah told the police that her cell phone had been lost for a month and that she did not know who could have sent the messages. The couple are not educated and unable to send messages in English.

Place of detention: Toba Tek Singh District Jail

Last court decision: Trial court in Toba Tek Singh on 4th April 2014 handed death sentence to the Christian couple.

Other information: With an intention of forcing them to confess, the police tortured Shafqat in front of his wife and four children. Their lawyer said that they would challenge the verdict in High Court. The legal team of the World Vision in Progress is defending the couple and taking care of their young children.

Anwar KENNETH

Age: 26 years

Place of residence: Karachi

Date and place of arrest: 2002

Charges: Anwar was accused of blasphemy when he distributed Christian literature and claimed to be a prophet.

Statement of the defendant: No statement.

First court decision: Sentenced to death.

Other information: Defendant was known to be suffering from mental health problems when the alleged offence occurred.

Savan MASIH

Age: 26 years

Place of residence: Karachi

Date and place of arrest: Arrested in March 2013 in Karachi.

Charges: Sawan Masih was accused of blasphemy when he engaged in a dialogue with his Muslim friend.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Statement of the defendant: Claimed that the complainant only filed a case as part of a ploy by a businessman to drive Christians away from the Colony they live in Karachi.

First court decision: Sentenced to death.

Other information: 180 Christian-owned homes and properties in Lahore's Joseph Colony were torched but a court later liberated 133 Muslim suspects.

Life imprisonment

Masood AHMAD (Pakistani-British Ahmadi)

Age: 72 years

Date and place of arrest: In 2013 in Lahore

Charges: Blasphemy

Statement of the defendant: He had read a verse from the Qu'ran during a religious discussion.

Duration of the detention: Over two months

Date of release: After three unsuccessful attempts in lower courts, a British-Pakistani national, Dr Masood Ahmad, has been granted bail by the Lahore High Court in Pakistan in January 2014.

Other information: Masood Ahmad, a homeopathy practitioner, has Pakistani-British dual citizenship.

Masqood AHMAD

Age/ Date of birth: 52 years

Place of residence: District Narowal

Date and place of arrest: Arrested in Sambrial

Charges: Maqsood Ahmad was accused of blasphemy for throwing the Holy Qu'ran on the floor.

Statement of the defendant: According to Maqsood Ahmed he had prohibited his daughter from wearing makeup before reciting the Holy Qu'ran. He was also known for having disciplined his wife and daughter to have illicit relations with men residing in the same locality. Therefore, Maqsood Ahmad's wife and daughter became annoyed and accused Maqsood Ahmad of throwing the Holy Qu'ran to the floor.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-C – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Place of detention: Sahiwal Jail

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment and the judge imposed him a fine of Rs. 20,000.

Rehmat ALI

Age: 80 years

Place of residence: Mtala Colony

Date and place of arrest: Arrested in Mtala Colony.

Charges: Rehmat Ali was accused of blasphemy.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-A & 295-B – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Place of detention: District Jail, Faisalabad

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment.

Other information: He is a psychiatric patient.

Imran GHAFOOR

Age: 28 years

Place of residence: Hajavery Town, Faisalabad

Date and place of arrest: Arrested on July 1, 2009 in Faisalabad.

Charges: Imran Ghafoor was accused of burning the Holy Qu'ran and also some holy papers in front of his shop.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-A&B – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Statement of the defendant: The blasphemy allegations arose after business jealousy and rivalry because

Imran's business flourished whilst the accusers, Farayad Butt businesses were not doing so well.

Place of detention: Central Faisalabad prison.

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment.

Abdul KAREEM

Age: 24 years

Place of residence: Saddar Farooqabad

Date and place of arrest: Arrested on October 15, 2006 in Saddar Farooqabad.

Charges: Blasphemy.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-B – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Statement of the defendant: Claimed that the allegations of complainant (Mushtaq) for blasphemy were alleged to have taken place whilst he was in jail (false accusations). According to Abdul Kareem, Mushtaq was infuriated after being severely injured by Kareem and he wanted to take revenge on Kareem.

Place of detention: District Jail Sahiwal

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment on June 21, 2007 with rigorous imprisonment.

Arif MAHDI

Age: 32 years

Place of residence: District Multan

Date and place of arrest: 8th April 2006, Multan.

Charges: Arif Mahdi was accused of blasphemy as he found the Islamic booklets on the ground while he was painting a wall of the mosque.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-B – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Statement of the defendant: Claimed that the headman of the village (Malik Mehmood) took advantage of the situation and made a false accusation.

Place of detention: New Central Jail Multan

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment on 20th October 2006.

Muhammad MUSHTAQ alias MASTA

Age: 32 years

Place of residence: Multan

Date and place of arrest: Arrested in Makhdoom Rasheed.

Charges: Muhammad Mushtaq, was accused of disgracing the Holy Qu'ran.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-B – of the Pakistan Penal Code & 7 ATA.

Statement of the defendant:

Place of detention: New Central Jail Multan

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment.

Inayat RASOOL

Age: 27 years

Place of residence: Zafarwal in Shakargarh Tehsil

Date and place of arrest: 23th June 2006, Zafarwal Narowal.

Charges: Inayat Rasool was accused of desecrating the Holy Qu'ran by throwing the Holy Qu'ran into the canal.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-B – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Statement of the defendant: He was attending a carnival of Chanpeer and on his way home while crossing a canal bridge, he saw some pages of Holy Qu'ran in the dirty water.

Place of detention: District Jail Sahiwal

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment with rigorous imprisonment on 29th December 2008.

Muhammad SAFDAR

Age: 51 years

Place of residence: Kabirwala, District Khanewal

Date and place of arrest: 1st October 2010 in Kabirwala, Khanewal.

Charges: Muhammad Safdar was accused of blasphemy.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-B – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Statement of the defendant: Safdar's wife had a dispute with the wife of Muhammad Abdullah, a neighbour of Muhammad Safdar. That led Muhammad Abdullah to falsely accuse him of blasphemy.

Place of detention: New Central jail Multan

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment with rigorous imprisonment on 17th January 2011.

Muhammad SHAFI

Age: 58 years

Place of residence: Muzaffar Garh

Date and place of arrest: Arrested in Dera Deer Panah.

Charges: Muhammad Shafi, was accused of blasphemy because he removed a poster with printed verses of the Holy Qu'ran and of trampling it with his foot.

Place of detention: New Central Jail Multan

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment and the judge imposed him a fine of Rs. 230,00 in the instance that the fine cannot be paid a sentence of two years imprisonment is to be made.

Muhammad SHAHZAD

Age: 32 years

Place of residence: College Road, Gujranwala.

Date and place of arrest: Arrested in Garjakh-Gujranwala.

Charges: Muhammad Shahzad was accused of blasphemy.

Statement of the defendant: He was working at his mil shop when he saw Mouhammad Yousaf, a mentally ill individual burning the Holy Qu'ran so he rushed to stop him but before he arrived, Yousaf had already burnt the Holy Qu'ran. Shahzad later took the burnt pages and tried to rescue others from the flames but people who saw him, mistakenly assumed that he was an accomplice.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-B – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment on 18th January 2011.

Shamas UD DIN

Age: 35 years

Place of residence: Gondal Ghari, Sialkot

Date and place of arrest: Arrested in Marala.

Charges: Shamas Ud Din was accused of blasphemy.

Statement of the defendant: He was running a shop selling artificial jewelry in the main market of Sialkot city. One of his friends, who had applied for a loan from the bank in order to buy land, asked Shamas to act as a witness in order to obtain a loan. Shamas discovered that his friend and the bank

manager had colluded together to obtain fraudulently loans getting innocent uneducated bank account holders as witnesses. Shamas wrote a letter to the bank manager in which he explained that their act was against Qu'ran and Sunnah. He also wrote a letter to the head of the mosque requesting him to teach the scriptures to the bank manager and to discipline him because his acts were against Qu'ran and Sunnah. But Shama's friend changed the original letter into a blasphemous one.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-A & 295-C – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Place of detention: District Jail Sahiwal

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment on 5th June 2010 and the judge imposed him a fine of Rs. 150,000, in the event that the fine was not paid a further sentence of one year's imprisonment was imposed.

Other information: He is the father of 3 children. He has developed psychiatric problems.

Muhammad YOUSAF

Age: 50 years

Place of residence: Gujranwala

Date and place of arrest: 24th March 2003 in Garjakh-Gujranwala on.

Charges: Muhammad Yousaf was accused of blasphemy as he burnt the Holy Qu'ran.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-B – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Place of detention: Sahiwal Jail

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment on 18th January 2011.

Other information: He is mentally ill.

Asif

Age: 31 years

Place of residence: Village of Machikay in Gujranwala.

Date and place of arrest: 18th June 2006 in Ferozewala, Gujranwala.

Charges: Asif was accused of burning the pages of Holy Qu'ran.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-B – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Statement of the defendant: Claimed that he was burning waste papers and mistakenly a few pages of the Holy Qu'ran were also burnt.

Place of detention: District Jail Sahiwal

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment with rigorous imprisonment on 31st January 2008.

Other information: He is currently mentally ill.

Imran

Age: 26 years

Place of residence: Faisalabad

Charges: Imran was accused of blasphemy after a property dispute.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Statue 295-B – of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Statement of the defendant: He has psychiatric problems.

Place of detention: District Jail Faisalabad

First court decision: Sentenced to life imprisonment.

SAUDI ARABIA

Muslim

Raif BADAWI

Age: 1984

Date and place of arrest: 17th June 2012

Charges: Apostasy and setting up a website that undermines general security and ridiculing Islamic religious figures

Statement of the defendant: Raif stated that Muslims, Jews, Christians and atheists are all equal. He claims he never attacked Islam and that he only sought to provide a forum for open debate.

First court decision: On 29th July 2013 Badawi was sentenced to 600 lashes and seven years in prison. An additional three months was added for ‘parental disobedience’.

Last court decision: On 7th May 2014, Badawi was re-sentenced to 1000 lashes and ten years in prison. He also received a fine of 1 million riyal (equal to about \$267,000).

Other information: Raif was first sentenced for violating IT law and insulting Saudi Arabia’s Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice through his online writings and hosting those of others on the “Free Saudi Liberals” website.

TUNISIA

Muslim

Jabeur MEJRI

Date and place of arrest: 5th March 2012

Charges: Transgressing morality, defamation and disrupting public order

Statement of the defendant: Published caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed, including one in which he was naked and one which portrayed a pig sleeping on the Kaaba

First court decision: On 28th March 2012 a primary court in Mahdia sentenced him to seven and a half years in prison and a fine of 1200 Tunisian Dinars (≈USD \$800).

Last court decision: On 25th April 2013 the Court of Cassation upheld his sentence.

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

Date of release: 4th March 2014, presidential pardon

Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l recommendations to the EU

Considering that on 24th June 2013, the Council of the European Union adopted the Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Religion or Belief, committing the EU to:

- 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 decriminalization of such offences.
- Forcefully advocate against the use of the death penalty, physical punishment, or deprivation of liberty as penalties for blasphemy.

Human Rights Without Frontiers recommends to all EU institutions to develop strategies aiming at the removal of any law criminalizing freedom of expression, in particular with regard to religious issues.

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World Watch Monitor (<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/>)