



The Bridge Report

IRANIAN PASTOR'S DEATH SENTENCE REVERSED — HE IS RELEASED!

"Not to us, LORD, not to us, but to Your Name be glory, for Your faithfulness, for Your loyalty".... Psalm 115:1 Salaam! (Peace be upon you!)

I glorify and give grace to the Lord with all my heart. I am grateful for all the blessings that He gave me during my whole life. I am especially grateful for His goodness and divine protection that characterized the time of my detention.

I also want to express my gratitude towards those who, all around the world, have worked for my cause, or should I say - the cause I defend. I want to express my gratitude to all those who have supported me, openly or in complete secrecy. You are all very dear to my heart. May the Lord bless you and give you His perfect and sovereign Grace.

*Indeed I have been put to the test, the test of faith which is, according to the Scriptures **"more precious than perishable gold."** But I have never felt loneliness, I was all the time aware of the fact that it wasn't a solitary battle, for I have felt all the energy and support of those who obeyed their conscience and fought for the promotion of the justice and the rights of all human beings. Thanks to these efforts, I have now the enormous joy to be with my wonderful wife and my children. I am grateful for these people through whom God has been working. All of this is very encouraging.*

*During this time, I had the opportunity to experience in a marvelous way the Scripture that says: **"Indeed, as the sufferings of Christ abound for us, our encouragement abound through Christ."** He comforted my family and gave them the means to face that difficult situation. In His Grace, He provided for their spiritual and material needs, taking away from me a heavy weight.*

*The Lord helped me through the trial, allowing me to face the challenges that were in front of me. As the Scriptures say, **"He will not allow us to be tested beyond our strength."** Cont. p. 4*



PRAYER BREAKFAST AT THE UNITED NATIONS



Sponsored by The Christian Embassy United Nation

By Laura Fels

*September 18 — what a day it was! As so often, I have to pinch myself as I consider this incredible platform that we have to bring the truth and love of Christ to world leaders. **Diplomats from 100 different countries gathered together that morning!***

Despite the heavy wind and rain, we had a full house. It was held in a tent this year, due to renovations taking place in the UN building. The violent wind brought to mind that I had emailed to ask for prayer for a "fresh wind of the Holy Spirit to sweep across the UN". It was indeed holy ground!

The room was elegantly decorated and a string quartet played in the background as we welcomed the ambassadors and diplomats. The diplomats enjoyed mingling together so much so, it was difficult to get them seated at the tables before the program could begin!

*The program included a moderator, Scripture readings, and prayers offered by various ambassadors. Our soloist sang the Lord's prayer with such power, depth, and conviction, it was truly to God's glory. **Ravi Zacharias** (one of the world's foremost Biblical apologists) brought a gracious and interesting message. He clearly presented Jesus. He spoke about evil, injustice, and violence; and ended with an incredible thought: **"either we accept the sacrifice of the Son of God or we will continue to sacrifice our sons on the battlefields"**.*

One comment we received read, "I was deeply moved by Dr. Zacharias' remarks as his clarity of mind and humility touched my heart. Many thanks." Though the breakfast ran slightly overtime, everyone sat attentively as Ravi concluded his remarks. On comment cards, diplomats used words like "powerful", "thought-provoking", "riveting", "profound", and "moving" to describe the message.

Afterwards, many of the attendees requested Bibles, DVDs of the JESUS film in their home language, or transcripts of Ravi's talk.

Over the next weeks, Christian Embassy staff will be visiting the diplomats' offices, delivering the requested materials and seeking to develop deeper relationships. We will endeavor to follow up with those who requested items and make further conversation, using Ravi's message to springboard into the gospel.

*In the future, as you hear news about speeches and resolutions taking place at the UN, know that many of the ambassadors and diplomats who attended this breakfast were influenced by Ravi's speech. **Pray that what they heard would resound in their hearts and that the truth of needing to accept the sacrifice of God's Son will become clearer and make a profound influence in their lives and work at the UN.***

IRAN — PROCLAIMING LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVE!



The official name of this country is The Islamic Republic of Iran. It is also called Persia, as it is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations; the Persian people, known for their rich history and culture. Since 1979, however, the country became an *Islamic republic* with a theocratic government that instituted *Shar'ia Law* which the authorities strictly enforce. That means that the government has endeavored to take full control over the popula-



tion of 75 million, demanding they submit to the Koran and Allah in all matters of life and conduct. Owning a Bible is punished by imprisonment, evangelizing is a serious crime, and converting from Islam to Christianity is punishable by death.

In spite of such drastic measures, the number of Iranian Muslims coming to Christ is accelerating—from app. 200 forty years ago, to close to 400,000 today (@Open Doors). An Iranian friend told me that, presently in Iran, there are app. 1,000 Muslims who daily embrace the Christian faith. They meet in secret in each other's homes out of sight from the government. In one city, there are more than 300 house churches. Due to the severe economic embargo imposed on the country by the world leaders, the population is lacking in the most basic needs, and sickness and malnutrition are widespread. Some predict that, if there is no change of course, Iran will shortly suffer a complete economic collapse. The fear is that, if pushed to the wall, the leaders will deploy a nuclear weapon against their arch enemy, Israel.

The above scenario is very much like the Soviet Union just before the collapse of Communism. God's hand moved over those nations and revealed Himself to hundreds of thousands of young atheists hungry for truth and the reality of a living God! **We believe that God is now visiting the Iranian people with His Spirit and calling those who are hungry to fellowship with Him! People around the world are interceding and serving them with the love of Jesus. Where evil abounds, grace abounds more!**

We have been and are presently actively partnering with a number of individuals and groups who are doing significant ministry to the Iranian people — from **Kazakhstan to the Caucasus**, from **Norway to the Netherlands**, from **Great Britain to the United States**. In this issue, I am highlighting significant testimonies from two of them:

Yousef Nadarkhani, a Muslim turned Pastor after his conversion from Islam to the Christian faith. On Sep 8, he was released from a three year imprisonment and his death penalty verdict was overturned. **This was due to faithful believers who prayed and acted on his behalf!** I have enclosed his thank you letter to the Body of Christ.

Laura Fels has been serving the world's diplomats and their families in the United Nations with the CEUN for almost three decades. **Please join us in prayer!**

FROM R.K.'S CORNER

Perhaps the gravest, under-publicized atrocity in the world is the persecution of Christians. A comprehensive study last year found that Christians are persecuted in 131 out of 195 countries in the world containing 70 percent of the world's population. The best estimates are that about 200 million Christians live in communities where they are suffering, and close to 150,000 Christians a year are murdered for their faith.

In addition to North Korea, China, and Cuba, the main perpetrators live in Islamic countries in which **Shar'ia Law** is established by their governments. Unlike in the past, today there is no major outcry in the West against these gross human rights violations. The reason is that the public in general is unaware of the scale and barbarity of this persecution as it is rarely publicized by the mostly atheistic, passive, and indifferent Western media and governments.

The good news behind the news is that, when the Christian church is persecuted, it grows! Several of our friends and partners serve the Lord among Muslims. In this issue, I am highlighting a testimony from Iran and from another who works among Muslim peoples. **Each of them asks for prayer as they continue to reach out to the unsaved with the love and care of Jesus.** Please mark your donations **Iranian Workers**.

Cont. from p.1 Despite the fact that I have been found guilty of apostasy according to a certain reading of the Shar'ia, I am grateful that He gave the leaders of the country, the wisdom to break that judgment taking into account other facts of that same Shar'ia. It is obvious that the defenders of the Iranian right and the legal experts have made an important effort to enforce the law and the right. I want to thank those who have defended the right until the end.

I am happy to live in a time where we can take a critical and constructive look at the past. This has allowed the writing of universal texts aiming at the promotion of the rights of man. Today, we are debtors of these efforts provided by dear people who have worked for the respect of human dignity and have passed on to us these universal significant texts.

I am also indebted to those who have faithfully passed on the Word of God, the Word which makes us heirs of God.

Before ending, I want to express a prayer for the establishment of an unending and universal peace, so that the will of the Father be done on earth as it is in heaven. Indeed, everything passes, but the Word of God, source of all peace, will last eternally.

May the grace and mercy of God be multiplied to you. Amen!" 09-08-2012 Youcef Nadarkhani



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