

Christmas Cards to Prisoners

Once again, this Christmas we encourage you to take a few minutes to send a Christmas Card to a Christian prisoner. On the facing page, you will find brief information about and addresses for prisoners in Iran, Tajikistan and Turkey.



The address for Bakhrom Kholmatov is the prison where he is being held, while the addresses for Ebrahim Firouzi and Andrew Brunson are c/o Middle East Concern, who will work to get your card delivered to them or their families. Please note there is no guarantee that your card will reach the prisoner. However, there is still great value in sending one as it will make clear that the prisoner is known and cared about overseas, which can influence how he is treated. If received by the prisoner, your card will be a great encouragement (sometimes prisoners are told about cards but are not permitted to have them).

Card Writing Guidelines

1. Begin by choosing a Christmas card (use one with a Bible verse/Nativity scene if you like).
2. Write a short greeting – Bakhrom and Ebrahim do not speak English (a prison guard or fellow prisoner may be able to translate).
3. Assure the prisoner that you are praying for him.

DON'T make any criticism of the government

DON'T mention Church in Chains (or any similar organisation)

DON'T refer to their arrest or sentence

How should I address the envelope?

With great care – prison addresses are quite long.

Print the address clearly and carefully. Affix correct postage and airmail sticker.

What does it cost to post the card?

€1.35 (from Ireland)

From the UK: 65p (to Andrew Brunson & Ebrahim Firouzi) £1.17 (to Bakhrom Kholmatov)

When is the latest date for posting for Christmas?

Thursday 7 December is the official date **but please do post your card anytime in December** as it will bring encouragement whenever it arrives.

Prisoner Names and Addresses



Ebrahim Firouzi (31) has been in prison in Iran since March 2013 and is due for release in January 2020. A former Muslim, he has been arrested and interrogated several times for his Christian activities. Ebrahim has been going through a difficult time. In

July, he was transferred to a high security section with few facilities. The guards confiscated his glasses and other personal items. Ebrahim went on hunger strike in protest but conditions were not improved.

**FAO: NC for
Ebrahim Firouzi
Middle East Concern,
PO Box 1376,
Luton LU1 9PP
ENGLAND**

Postage: €1.35
65p from U.K.



Andrew Brunson (49) is an American pastor who has been detained in Turkey since October 2016. He and his wife Norine led Izmir Dirilis (Resurrection) Church for 23 years. Andrew has been

accused of links to a terrorist organisation but it is widely believed that he is being held as a “*bargaining chip*” by President Erdogan who wants the USA to hand over Turkish political activist Fethullah Gülen, who lives in Pennsylvania. Andrew has had a difficult time in detention.

**FAO: RD for
Andrew Brunson
Middle East Concern,
PO Box 1376,
Luton LU1 9PP
ENGLAND**

Postage: €1.35
65p from U.K.



Bakhrom Kholmatov (42) is pastor of an evangelical church in Khujand in northwest Tajikistan in central Asia. He was arrested in April 2017 after secret police officers raided his church and confiscated song books and Christian literature. In July he was

sentenced to three years in prison for “*singing extremist songs in church and so inciting religious hatred*”. In October, Pastor Bakhrom was moved to Yavan Prison in the southern Khatlon Region, about 360 kilometres from his home in Khujand.

**Bakhromu Khasanovichu
Kholmatovu
6th otryad
Ispravitelno-Trudovaya
Koloniya, yas. 3/6
Yavan
TAJIKISTAN**

Postage: €1.35
65p from U.K.