

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 China, Iran and Uzbekistan.



Each of the three prisoners is serving a long prison sentence. When your Christmas card is received at their prison, it will make clear that the prisoner is known and cared about overseas, which can influence how they are treated. If given to 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 – these prisoners 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 or her.

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?

€1.05 (from Ireland) 97p (from the UK)

When is the latest date for posting for Christmas?

Monday 7 December is the official date but please do not post your card later in December as it will bring encouragement whenever it arrives.

Prisoner Names and Addresses



Pastor Zhang Shaojie (50) **Zhang Shaojie**
of Nanle County Christian Church in China's central Henan province was arrested in November 2013 after a dispute over church land with Communist Party officials. **P.O. Box 14**
Xinxiang City
Henan Province 453002
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Zhang, who served as the local head of the government-approved China Christian Council was held in custody until July 2014, when he was sentenced to twelve years in prison on trumped-up charges of "gathering a crowd to disrupt public order" and fraud. Officials have threatened his family, including his elderly parents and daughters.

Maryam Naghash Zargaran
Evin Prison
Saadat Abad
Tehran
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Maryam Naghash Zargaran (36), also known as Nasim, was arrested in 2013 and charged with "action against national security". She had been an active house church member and was involved in Pastor Saeed Abedini's orphanage project. She is serving a four-year sentence in Evin prison in Tehran. Maryam underwent heart surgery nine years ago and has needed regular check-ups ever since. She suffered a heart attack in prison last year. In October 2015, she was granted medical leave but was sent back to prison before her treatment was finished.



Tohar Haydarov (32) is a Baptist from Tashkent in Uzbekistan who was given a ten-year jail sentence in 2010 on false charges of selling drugs. Tohar is imprisoned in a labour camp near Karshi (400 km from his home city). Fellow Baptists from Tashkent who visit him regularly several times a year said earlier this year that he is "physically fine". His friends hope that he will be released sometime in 2016 after completing half his sentence.

Haydarov, Tohar
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