



### Rev Wilson Issavi released on bail in Iran

Rev Wilson Issavi (65) was released from prison on bail at the end of March 2010 and is now awaiting trial. He has not been informed of the trial date. Rev Wilson was arrested after a meeting at a friend's home in Isfahan on 2nd February 2010. He was accused of 'converting Muslims' and also of not co-operating with police, presumably for continuing to hold meetings after police sealed the Evangelical Church of Kermanshah and ordered him not to reopen it.

**During his imprisonment, Rev Wilson was tortured and threatened with execution.** His cell was so filthy that he contracted a life-threatening infection. Rev Wilson was taken to hospital for treatment but was then returned to prison, and is still suffering from the effects of the infection.

*(Compass Direct)*

**Maryam and Marzieh Update:** Maryam Rustampoor and Marzieh Amirizadeh (who were released last November after eight months' imprisonment) were back in court in Tehran last week. Both of them remain unwell, weak and suffering from various illnesses. However, despite their frailties they are determined to be faithful to the Lord. Although they were not detained, the court process is ongoing and the outcome has not been announced. *(Elam Ministries)*



**PRAISE GOD... that Rev Wilson has been released from prison and pray that he will recover well from his ordeal. Pray also that Maryam and Marzieh will be cleared of all charges against them.**



### 24 Coptic Christians injured by mob

Mounir Mina (pictured) was one of 24 Coptic Christians who were injured during a mob attack in northern Egypt last month. The violence erupted after a sheikh used a mosque loudspeaker to proclaim **jihad** against Christians in the coastal town of Marsa Matrouh, in Reefiya district, 320 kilometres west of Alexandria.

**Rocks were thrown at a church building and at Christians and their properties, homes were looted and fires were started.** The mob was enraged by the building of a wall around newly-bought land adjacent to the church building, which also houses a clinic and community centre. In 2009 the governor of Marsa Matrouh approved the building of the church centre and granted a security permit to conduct religious services. This is the third serious attack on Christians in Egypt in 2010 – it follows the killing of Malak Saad at Teta in February and the murder of six Copts as they left a church in Nagaa Hammadi in January. *(Compass Direct, AINA)*

**Maher and Dina Update:** Acid was thrown at Dina El-Gohary (15) in late March as she and her father, Maher, ventured out from their hiding place in Alexandria to get some bottled water. Her jacket was set on fire by the acid. Maher reacted quickly by taking Dina's jacket off thus preventing any injury to her. Maher (who is a former Muslim) and Dina are seeking to have their Christian identity officially recognised by the Egyptian state. *(AINA)*



**PRAY... for an end to the violent attacks on Christians in Egypt and pray also for God's protection on Maher and Dina and for a just solution to their plight.**

## Alimujiang Yimiti's appeal rejected by Chinese court

Authorities in Xinjiang province in northwest China have rejected an appeal from Uyghur house church leader **Alimujiang Yimiti** (37), who was sentenced in October 2009 to 15 years' imprisonment on a charge of providing state secrets to overseas organisations. A former Muslim, Alimujiang is pastor of a house church in Xinjiang, where he lives with his wife **Guli Nuer** and their two sons.



The People's High Court upheld the decision of the Kashgar Intermediate Court and said that the sentence of 15 years' imprisonment was correct. Alimujiang's lawyer, Li Baiguang, claims that Alimujiang's real 'offence' was talking to visiting Christians from the United States. Alimujiang was formally arrested on 20th February 2008 and his wife and local Uyghur Christians were interrogated; all the questions related to religion. (*Radio Free Asia*)

**PRAY... that the Lord will encourage Alimujiang in the aftermath of this disappointment and pray also for his wife, Guli Nuer, as she looks after their two young sons.**



## 17 more Christians imprisoned in Eritrea

On 27th March 2010, military officials arrested 17 young soldiers gathered for prayer in Segenaite in southern Eritrea, where they were doing their compulsory military service. They are being held in a police station cell, and it is not clear whether they will be moved to another detention centre.

**A total of 28 Christians have been arrested in Eritrea since the beginning of March.** There were already approximately 2,200

Christians in prison, for their refusal to stop practising their faith outside of the government-sanctioned churches (Eritrean Orthodox, Catholic and Lutheran). This is lower than the number in prison at the beginning of 2009, as many have been released because of poor health. At least 12 Christians have died in Eritrean prison camps. Many of those who were released (on very strict bail conditions) were sent back to compulsory military service. (*Open Doors*)

**PRAY... for these young soldiers (likely to be in their late teens) as they suffer imprisonment for simply meeting to pray. Pray also for God's strength for all Christians in prison in Eritrea.**

## "Around The World in Prayer"

Christians from Dublin, Wicklow and the Midlands joined together at Crinken Church in Shankill, Co. Dublin earlier this month for our Spring Prayer Day.

In a fast-moving programme, the attendance of about 60 people divided into small groups which moved around between colourful prayer stations representing 10 countries – **China, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Iran, Mexico, North Korea, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan** – where Christians face persecution. They spent about 15 minutes at each station learning about the needs of the country and then responding in prayer for the government leaders in the country and for the Christians facing persecution.



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