



Uzbek Baptist to appeal 10 year jail sentence

Lawyers for Tohar Haydarov, a 27-year-old Baptist from Tashkent, are preparing an appeal to the Uzbek Supreme Court against a ten year jail sentence imposed on him on drugs charges earlier this year.

The image (left) is of a Prayer Card that has been circulated by Tohar's friends who are convinced that the charges against him have been fabricated. They describe him as "a man with a pure conscience and an honest Christian". Several of his non-Christian neighbours gave written statements to police back in January referring to him as "a conscientious, honest and orderly person". An earlier appeal against his conviction was dismissed in April despite major discrepancies in the prosecution case.

After his trial back in January, Tohar was transferred to a labour camp near Karshi (400 kms away from his home town). Friends from his church who have been able to visit him on two occasions – speaking to him by phone through a glass wall – state that his health is "normal". They say, "he is hoping that justice will happen and he will be released." (Forum 18)

WRITE TO TOHAR

Tohar's friends have appealed for cards and letters to be sent to Tohar at:

Haydarov, Tohar
UYa 64/49, otryad 13,
pos. Shaikh-Ali,
g. Karshi,
Kashkadarya Region
180020 UZBEKISTAN

Church in Chains advises that cards should contain a simple greeting and an assurance that you are praying for Tohar.

DO NOT mention Church in Chains or criticise the Uzbek government.

Postage: 82c.

PRAY... for the lawyers who are preparing Tohar's appeal and pray also that the Uzbek Supreme Court will give a fair decision and order his release from labour camp.

Maher El-Gohary attacked in Cairo

Two men on motorbikes attacked Maher El-Gohary with daggers as he walked in Cairo earlier this month. Maher and his 16-year-old daughter Dina (pictured) have been attacked on several occasions since he applied in 2008 to change the religious section of his identity card from Muslim to Christian.



"They were aiming at my neck to behead me," said Maher. "Something inspired me to turn and give them my shoulder, instead of facing them." Maher fell to the ground covered in blood. "Had it not been for passers-by who were unaware of my identity, and my efforts to quickly stand up and defend myself, I would have been killed," he said. During the attack one of the men shouted the Islamic Jihadi cry of "Allah is Great" while stabbing him. The attackers called him an infidel, and cursed his Christian faith.

Maher and Dina have been living in hiding for the past two years. They were prevented from leaving Egypt in September 2009 and a court case to have their passports returned to them has been adjourned until November. (AINA)

PRAY... that the LORD will continue to protect Maher and Dina from harm and pray that the Egyptian government will act to resolve their situation.



Iranian Christian remains imprisoned without charge

Ali Golchin, a Christian man who was arrested on 29 April, remains in prison without charge. His father was allowed a ten minute visit with him on 17 June and reported that his son cried throughout the visit. Ali has been held in solitary confinement since his arrest and has lost a lot of weight. Sources in Iran have indicated that they

believe that Ali has been subjected to systematic and harsh torture.

Christian human rights organisations think that the reason Ali has not yet been charged with any crimes is because the authorities have not been able to find any evidence of misconduct from this young man who has been raised in a Christian family.

Ali's wife, a Christian who was formerly a Muslim, has been subjected to ongoing pressures and intimidations from Iranian security police and has been ordered not to attend any church service. She has been told very clearly that if she desires to pursue her husband's case with the governmental authorities she must return to Islam. (*Farsi Christian News Network*)

PRAY... that Ali will know the encouragement of the Lord during this time of great suffering and pray that he will soon be released from prison.

More Christians expelled from Morocco

Moroccan authorities expelled eight more foreign Christians in late June, bringing the total of deported Christians since March to 128. Authorities called the foreigners from Egypt, France, Lebanon, Nigeria, Spain and Switzerland to police stations across Morocco on Friday 25 June and told them they had 48 hours to leave the country.

Two foreign women married to Moroccan Christians were included in this third wave of deportations, raising concerns that local authorities intend to harass the country's small but growing Protestant community. "They are all in fear," a source said, "because this happened to people who are married." The current wave of deportations began with the closure of the Village of Hope orphanage in March. (*Compass Direct*)



PRAY... for all those Christians who have been expelled and pray also for the estimated 1,000 Moroccan Christians who were formerly Muslims and who are also facing opposition.



30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World

Every year, hundreds of thousands of Christians around the world join in 30 days of united prayer for the Muslim World during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan (this year it starts on 11 August).

The 30 Days Prayer Booklet is a great guide to prayer for the month – the 52-page colour booklet contains background information about Islam and a different country or theme for prayer for each day.

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CHURCH IN CHAINS

PO Box 10447, Glenageary, Co. Dublin, Ireland

T 01-282 5393 E info@churchinchains.ie W www.churchinchains.ie