

### Week 4: Pray for Ebrahim Firouzi (Iran)

**Arrest and background** Ebrahim Firouzi (31) has been in prison since March 2013 and is due for release in January 2020. A former Muslim, he comes from Robat-Karim, 40 km southwest of Tehran. He has been arrested several times for his Christian activities, beginning in January 2011, when he was accused of evangelising, apostasy and association with foreign organisations.

Ebrahim was arrested again in March 2013, when security agents raided his office. He was held for 53 days in Evin prison in Tehran and interrogated for ten consecutive days. He was temporarily released on bail of property title deeds. In July 2013, the Revolutionary Court in Robat-Karim sentenced him to one year in prison and two years' internal exile in a remote town on the Pakistan border, on charges including propaganda against the Islamic regime, evangelism, contact with anti-Islamic agents abroad and running a Christian website.



In August 2013, while on a short leave from Rajai-Shahr prison in Karaj, 20 km west of Tehran, Ebrahim was arrested again, in a meeting in his friend's office, and accused of spying for the Israeli Intelligence service, Mossad. He was held in Evin prison until October 2014, then transferred back to Rajai Shahr prison.

Ebrahim was due for release in January 2015, but instead was retried in March 2015, convicted of "actions against national security" and sentenced to an additional five years in prison. He is waiting for an appeal hearing.

Ebrahim went on hunger strike in June 2015 to protest against being held in a ward of dangerous criminals and to demand a transfer to a ward of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. He ended his hunger strike after five days when the authorities promised a partial improvement in his conditions.

**Family** In 2016, Ebrahim's elderly mother, who is visually impaired, appealed to government officials to handle her son's case fairly and to release him. Crying as she delivered her message to the authorities, she said that because of her disability she is unable to go from court to court to follow the case or to visit her son in prison. She and Ebrahim's sister are struggling without the breadwinner at home.

**Latest news** Ebrahim's health deteriorated in 2016, and it was reported that the authorities were withholding medical treatment. In 2015, it had been reported that he was suffering acute pain in the left side of his chest.

#### Prayer Diary

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Ask God to protect Ebrahim in prison.</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Pray for his release.</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ask God to encourage Ebrahim and bless his witness.</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Pray for good health and peace.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Pray for Ebrahim's mother and sister and ask God to provide.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Ask God to protect and encourage the church in Iran.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Pray that the authorities would stop arresting Christians.</b>