

Week 4: Pray for Sevada Aghasar (Iran)

Arrest and background Sevada Aghasar is an Armenian Orthodox Christian from Tehran. He is a well-known musician and Christian songwriter and was imprisoned in July 2017 because of his Christian activities. He is serving a five-year sentence in Tehran's Evin Prison.

Although Sevada is a member of one of the historic, permitted churches, the authorities became suspicious that he was promoting Christianity through Facebook and that he was in contact with Christian converts from Islam. "*His crime,*" according to Farsi Christian News Network, "*is witnessing to fellow Iranians and leading them to Jesus*"



In August 2013, security officers arrested Sevada with his friends Ebrahim Firouzi (currently serving a five-year prison sentence) and Masoud Mirzaei, both converts from Islam, at Masoud's insurance office in Karaj, 50 km west of Tehran. Sevada was able to contact his family briefly before being incarcerated in Evin Prison, where he was held until his release on very heavy bail in March 2014. (Masoud was also released.) A year later, Sevada appeared in court charged with "*action against national security through collusion and gathering*". He was sentenced to five years in prison but freed on bail pending an appeal. In July 2017, he was summoned to Evin Prison to begin serving his sentence.

Previously, in 2012, Sevada was one of fifty Christians briefly detained at a Christmas celebration at which most of the attendees were converts from Islam.

While the government sees house churches as a major threat, being mainly composed of converts from Islam, the security organisations also keep members of the historic, permitted Armenian and Assyrian churches under surveillance. These churches are not allowed to accept converts and their services must be conducted in the Armenian or Assyrian languages, not Farsi (Persian, the official language of Iran). They are not allowed to use or publish Bibles or other Christian books in Farsi.

Family Sevada is single. He is a member of an Armenian Orthodox church that meets in Majidiyeh, a suburb of Tehran.

Latest news There has been no news of Sevada since his summons to prison in July 2017.

Prayer Diary

Sunday	Ask God to keep Sevada safe in prison.
Monday	Pray for good health.
Tuesday	Pray for an early release.
Wednesday	Ask God to encourage Sevada in his faith.
Thursday	Pray for his witness to other prisoners and guards.
Friday	Ask God to protect his Christian friends from harassment.
Saturday	Ask God to bless Sevada's church in Majidiyeh, a suburb of Tehran.

