



ASIA BIBI (PAKISTAN) Asia has now been in prison for five years. She is under sentence of death under the blasphemy laws. Appeal hearings against the death sentence have been postponed on five occasions in 2014 – the latest being on 27 May, and no new date has been set. The repeated postponements indicate a fear by lawyers and judges to hear the appeal. A Church in Chains delegation met the Pakistani Ambassador to Ireland in late April to emphasise the concern of Christians in Ireland that the appeal be heard.



DR KIFLU GEBREMESKEL (ERITREA) Dr Kiflu has been in prison without charge for ten years. No new information has been received in recent months. Over 1,500 Christians remain in prison in Eritrea – a fact highlighted during Church in Chains' participation in the annual protest vigil at the Eritrean Embassy in London in May. Also in May, four Roman Catholic bishops in Eritrea spoke out bravely in a pastoral letter about the dreadful situation in the country, calling for – among other things – humane treatment of prisoners and fair trials.



FARSHID FATHI (IRAN) Farshid has two and a half years left to serve of a six-year sentence, imposed for distributing Bibles. Just before Easter, Farshid was assaulted in prison by a guard when he went to the aid of a fellow-prisoner who was being beaten. Farshid sustained a broken foot and toe and was denied medical treatment for several days. The delay in receiving treatment meant that Farshid was told that an operation would not be effective and he must wait for his broken bones to heal naturally.



TOHAR HAYDAROV (UZBEKISTAN) Tohar has almost six years left to serve of a ten-year sentence following his conversion from Islam. No new information has been received in recent months. Last year, he was reported to be suffering from back pain preventing him from working with other prisoners outside the labour camp. Friends from Tohar's church travel the long distance (400 km) to visit him as often as they can (usually every two months).



BEHNAM IRANI (IRAN) Behnam is serving a six-year sentence for holding church services. He has been in poor health for the past two years and had abdominal surgery in February 2014. In late May, Behnam's Bible was confiscated by prison authorities and on Saturday 7 June, Iranian secret police entered his prison cell and proceeded to beat him before he was taken to appear before a judge. He was subsequently transferred to an unknown location. It is feared that Behnam is going to face fresh charges.



ALIMUJIANG YIMITI (CHINA) Alimujiang has served six and a half years of a 15-year sentence, imposed because of his active faith as leader of an ethnic Uighur church. Alimujiang's wife, Guli Nuer, is allowed a 15 minute visit every three months. She recently reported that he has lost a lot of weight and looks pale, but is doing well spiritually. He encounters many in prison who are antagonistic. She said their 8-year-old son is always dreaming about when his father will get out. Their older son (13) has lost hope and is sad and discouraged.