

18 November 2009



Maryam & Marzieh Released!

Maryam Rustampoor (27) and Marzieh Amirizadeh (30) were released from prison in Tehran earlier today at 3.30pm local time (12 noon Irish time). They were released without bail but may yet have to face a court hearing and still need our prayers. ***"Words are not enough to express our gratitude to the Lord and to His people who have prayed and worked for our release,"*** they said.

Maryam and Marzieh were arrested because of their Christian faith on 5 March 2009. Though their health has suffered greatly while in prison, they are doing as well as could be expected, and are rejoicing in the Lord's faithfulness to them.

"Maryam and Marzieh have greatly inspired us all. Their love for the Lord Jesus and their faithfulness to God has been an amazing testimony," says Sam Yeghnazar, Director of Elam Ministries (one of Church in Chains' overseas partners).

Maryam and Marzieh spent 259 days in the notorious Evin prison in Tehran, during which they suffered greatly from ill health, solitary confinement and interrogations for many hours while blindfolded. Maryam has suffered from severe food poisoning while Marzieh was in pain due to an on-going back problem, as well as an infected tooth and intense headaches.

On many occasions, they were pressurised to give up their Christian faith but they steadfastly refused. At a court hearing in August, they were repeatedly asked to renounce their faith but they replied, ***"We will not deny our faith."***



PRAISE GOD... for the release of Maryam and Marzieh, and pray that their health will be fully restored. Pray also for their continued safety and for their full acquittal from the two charges against them – Propagation of the Christian Faith and Apostasy.