

Week 2: Pray for Homayoun Zhaveh (Iran)



Homayoun Zhaveh (64) is a Christian convert from Islam who began serving a two-year sentence for house-church membership in Tehran's Evin prison in August 2022. His wife Sara Ahmadi (44) is serving an eight-year sentence for house-church leadership in a separate section of Evin prison. Homayoun has advanced Parkinson's disease and Sara was his primary carer before their imprisonment. Homayoun and Sara, who live in Tehran, were arrested by Ministry of Intelligence agents on suspicion of belonging to an "illegal organisation" in June 2019 while they were on holiday with several other Christian families in the northern city of Amol, near the Caspian Sea.

The other Christians were also questioned but only Homayoun and Sara were detained – first in Sari, near Amol and then in Evin prison. Homayoun was released on bail after a month but Sara was held for 67 days.

Their case was heard in November 2020 at the Revolutionary Court in Tehran. Homayoun was sentenced to two years in prison for "action against national security" through membership of "Zionist missionary Christianity" groups. Their lawyer later stated that Homayoun's medical condition would prevent his taking part in any anti-security actions even if he wished to. Sara was sentenced to eleven years in prison (later reduced to eight years on appeal) and they were banned from foreign travel or membership of any social or political group for two years after their release and were given six months' community service at a centre for people with learning disabilities.

Article18's advocacy director Mansour Borji reacted, "To hand down a prison sentence to a man of Homayoun's age, suffering with advanced Parkinson's – and only because of his membership of a house church – would be shocking were it not for Iran's proven track record of systematically persecuting Persian-speaking Christians, regardless of their age, health, or any other reasonable considerations."

Homayoun and Sara remained out of prison waiting to be summoned until August 2022, when they answered a summons to an administrative office of Evin prison, expecting to receive back confiscated property, but instead were imprisoned. Homayoun was able to call relatives to ask them to come to the prison to collect the car in which he and Sara had arrived.

Family

Homayoun's wife Sara is serving an eight-year sentence in another section of Evin prison.

Latest News

On 30 September 2022, Homayoun's 64th birthday, Article 18 reported that he had been denied medication in prison.

Prayer Diary

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| Sunday | Ask God to protect and sustain Homayoun in prison. |
| Monday | Pray for him to receive the medical care he needs. |
| Tuesday | Pray that Homayoun would be released soon.. |
| Wednesday | Pray that prisoners and guards would look after him. |
| Thursday | Ask God to encourage Homayoun in his faith. |
| Friday | Pray that his witness might bless other prisoners and guards. |
| Saturday | Ask God to comfort Homayoun as he misses Sara. |



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