

LENT PRAYER PROJECT

Week 2

Sunday 25th February

Shagufta Kiran is a former nurse and mother of four who was arrested in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, in July 2021 and accused of forwarding a blasphemous WhatsApp message. She is awaiting trial in jail in Rawalpindi and her case hearings have been repeatedly adjourned. Ask God to bless Shagufta and keep her safe and well.



Monday 26th February

Shagufta is being held in solitary confinement but is allowed to walk outside during the day. She reportedly has her Bible and reads it and prays whenever she feels sad or lonely. Pray for hope and encouragement as Shagufta waits.

Tuesday 27th February

Shagufta's case hearings have been repeatedly adjourned and bail applications filed by her lawyer were rejected in March and April 2023. Pray that Shagufta would be tried soon and found innocent.

Wednesday 28th February

Ask for courage and protection for Shagufta's lawyers and judges.

Thursday 29th February

Shagufta and her husband Rafique Masih have four children – three sons who were aged 10, 12 and 15 at the time of her arrest and a daughter aged 18. The family has had to flee Islamabad because of threats and now live in hiding. Pray for safety, comfort and hope for Shagufta's family.

Friday 1st March

Rafique visits his wife in prison in Rawalpindi about once a month. Pray for provision, strength and wisdom for him as he supports Shagufta and his children.

Saturday 2nd March

Pakistan's blasphemy laws are often misused to settle personal scores, resulting in many innocent people spending years enduring appalling conditions in prison awaiting trial, their families forced into hiding for fear of attack by extremists. Pray for reform of the controversial laws.

— Thank you for praying with us this month! —



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Church in Chains Prayer Diary

February 2024

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.
2 Corinthians 12:9

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Thursday 1st February

Armenian Christian **Hakop Gochumyan** remains in Evin prison after he was arrested in August when visiting Iran with his wife Elissa and their two young children. We pray for Hakop's release and for courage for him and his family!

Friday 2nd February

Christian convert **Mina Khajavi** was summoned to Evin prison in January to begin serving a six-year prison sentence for leading a house church. We pray for hope and healing for 60-year old Mina who walks with a limp since a car accident in 2022 and has developed arthritis.

Saturday 3rd February

We rejoice and thank God that Sudanese Christian couple **Nada** and her husband **Hamouda**, who faced the threat of death after being accused of apostasy, have left Sudan with their three children to begin a new life in the USA.

Sunday 4th February

We pray for protection over Christians in Nigeria's Middle Belt, who are under constant attack by Muslim militants and for an end to the terrible bloodshed!

Monday 5th February

Today we pray for provision and blessing for the 10,000 Nigerian Christians who were displaced by the recent "Black Christmas" attacks.

Tuesday 6th February

Pray for Meitei Christians in Manipur (India) who face opposition from both Meitei Hindus and Kuki Christians and are struggling since last year's ethnic violence.

Wednesday 7th February

Please pray for good ongoing and encouraging relationships with our network of overseas partners and God's wisdom and protection on them.

Thursday 8th February

Thank God for the opportunities of regular radio interviews on **Spirit Radio**, **UCB Ireland** and **Life FM** (Cork). Pray that listeners would want to take action as a result and get in touch with us.

PRAY FOR YEMEN

Friday 9th February

Yemen has been in a state of civil war since 2014 and last March the UN said the situation in the country was the “*the world's worst humanitarian crisis*”. An estimated 21.6 million people are in need of humanitarian aid and protection. We pray for urgent help for all Yemenis!



Saturday 10th February

Following weeks of Houthi-led attacks on ships in the Red Sea, the USA and UK launched military strikes in Yemen in January. The Houthis, an Iran-aligned group based in Yemen, have said their attacks are a response to Israel's bombardment of Gaza. Today we pray for peace in the Red Sea and Yemen and a just and lasting peace in Israel and Gaza.

Sunday 11th February

We pray for provision for Yemeni Christians, who are doubly vulnerable in this crisis, as emergency relief is mostly distributed through local Muslim leaders and local mosques.

Monday 12th February

Many Christians had to leave Yemen in the past ten years and church buildings have been destroyed and damaged during the civil war. We pray for hope and protection for the what remains of the church in Yemen.

Tuesday 13th February

We ask God to give Christian converts, whether they live in Yemen or abroad, strength and wisdom so that they would know how best to live out their faith.

Wednesday 14th February

We ask the Lord to give Christians discernment and courage as they follow Him despite the danger. We pray that their lives would draw others to Christ!

Thursday 15th February

We pray for provision and protection for Christian aid organisations that are helping those suffering from thirst and starvation in Yemen.

Friday 16th February

Thank God for SAT-7 and other Christian television, radio and internet programmes that broadcast to Yemen. We pray for revelation and blessing for all people who are secretly searching for truth.

Saturday 17th February

We pray for peace for the troubled nation of Yemen and that our Yemeni brothers and sisters will soon be able to worship in freedom!

LENT PRAYER PROJECT

Week 1

Sunday 18th February

Mehdi Akbari is a member of a house church in Iran. He was arrested with three fellow Christian converts during coordinated raids on their homes in Tehran in January 2019. Since October 2020 he has been serving a ten-year sentence in Evin Prison for “*acting against national security by forming an illegal evangelical Christian group*”. Pray that Mehdi would be released early.



Monday 19th February

When Mehdi was first arrested, he was put in solitary confinement and interrogated for thirty days. We ask for protection and good health while he remains in prison.

Tuesday 20th February

Mehdi was a single parent to his only child Amir-Ali (18) who had cerebral palsy. In December 2021 Mehdi was informed that Amir-Ali had died in the care facility where he had lived since his father's imprisonment in 2020. Mehdi applied for leave from prison but it was granted too late for him to attend the funeral. Ask God to comfort Mehdi as he remembers his son.

Wednesday 21st February

In July 2023, in a letter smuggled out of prison, Mehdi wrote about his grief, saying it was “*like a suppressed cry and an unexpressed sorrow*”. Pray for hope and encouragement for Mehdi.

Thursday 22nd February

There are many other Christian prisoners of conscience in Evin Prison. We pray that Mehdi would be allowed to have regular fellowship with Christian inmates.

Friday 23rd February

Regarding the court verdict he was given, Mehdi said, “*I don't know what to say if someone asked me how I acted against national security. I only know that I am, and will remain, a Christian, and that I will preach about the light of God and kingdom of heaven to everyone.*” Thank God for Mehdi's faith and pray for his witness in prison.

Saturday 24th February

The government views house churches as a major threat because they use the Farsi language and are composed almost entirely of converts from Islam. Security police are constantly trying to find and close them and leaders are often tortured in an attempt to track down all members. We pray for freedom for Iranian Christian converts to meet and worship.