

## Week 2: Pray for Mina Khajavi (Iran)



Christian convert Mina Khajavi (61) was detained in a raid on a house church meeting in Tehran in June 2020 and two years later she was sentenced to six years in prison for “acting against national security” through leadership of a house church. The raid was the first of several coordinated raids over two days on house churches in Tehran, Karaj and Malayer.

At least 13 Christians were detained following the raids and dozens more were interrogated, but all except Mina have been released. Two Christian leaders who were sentenced alongside Mina (Joseph Shahbazian and Malihe Nazari) were pardoned and released in 2023.

Mina was detained for twenty days and was blindfolded the whole time. She was tried in May 2022 and at one of the trial hearings Judge Iman Afshari, who has reputation for

severe sentencing of Christians, offered Mina a reduction in her sentence if she recanted, but she refused. In June 2022 Mina was sentenced to six years in prison for “*acting against national security*” through leadership of a house church and was fined 800 million tomans (around €38,000).

Mina lost her appeal in August 2022 and was summoned to Evin Prison to begin serving her sentence, but prison authorities told her she could return home to recover from a badly broken ankle – she had been run over by a car and had her ankle broken in three places, which necessitated the insertion of metal plates. Mina continues to walk with a limp and has developed arthritis.

In January 2024 Mina was summoned to prison again and began serving her sentence, spending time in solitary confinement while she was interrogated. She is due to be released until December 2029 but has appealed for a retrial and in light of the early release granted to Joseph and Malihe it is hoped that Mina will be acquitted or have her sentence reduced.

### Family

Mina has a husband and daughter, who are permitted monthly visits. The authorities accused her of converting them but she said they decided to become Christians after seeing the change her new faith made to her life.

### Latest News

The authorities have provided Mina with a bed that is suitable for her arthritis – before this she was forced to climb to an upper bunk every night. Recently-released prisoners describe her as having a positive attitude and high spirits.

## Prayer Diary

<b>Sunday</b>	Ask God to protect and encourage Mina in prison.
<b>Monday</b>	Pray for good health and recovery from pain.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Ask God to give Mina peace and hope.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pray for a retrial to be held soon and for release.
<b>Thursday</b>	Ask God to bless and comfort Mina's husband and daughter.
<b>Friday</b>	Ask God to sustain the other Christians in Mina's house church.
<b>Saturday</b>	Pray for freedom for house churches to meet in Iran.

