

Prisoner Profile



PRISONER NAME

Youcef Nadarkhani

LOCATION

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

ARRESTED

October 2009

REVISED

May 17, 2012

Youcef Nadarkhani, a 34-year-old pastor from Rasht, about 750 miles northwest of Tehran, was arrested in October 2009 after he protested a government policy that required children, including his 8- and 9-year-old sons, to study the Quran in school. Youcef told school officials that the Iranian constitution allows for freedom of religious practice. As a result of his protest, secret police called him before a political tribunal and arrested him for protesting. The charges were later amended to apostasy and evangelism of Muslims. Youcef was tried on Sept. 21st, 2010 by the 1st Court of the Revolutionary Tribunal and sentenced to death on Nov. 13 for apostasy.



The pastor is imprisoned in Lakan prison, where authorities have used various methods, including medication, to convert him back to Islam.

After Youcef refused to convert to Islam, his wife was arrested, put on trial without an attorney and sentenced to life in prison. She was later released after an attorney appealed her sentence. The Nadarkhanis' children were cared for by a relative while they were both in prison.

Iranian Government: Nadarkhani Offended Islam

An Iranian envoy has denied an execution order was issued for Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani, but revealed a list of charges against the evangelical Christian that allegedly make him guilty of "offending Islam." The envoy said Nadarkhani was inviting juveniles into his home, without their parent's permission, to preach Christianity. He also claimed Nadarkhani converted his basement into a church without the government's permission. He also said that in preaching Christianity, Nadarkhani was offending Islam, a serious charge that shows the true reason why his case is so concerning to the government.

Will Youcef's Lawyer Be Sent to Prison?

The main defense lawyer for Youcef Nadarkhani was himself sentenced to nine years in jail for allegedly acting against national security. Human rights lawyer and defense attorney Mohammad Ali Dadkhah received the word while defending another of his clients in court. Dadkhah is also banned from teaching or practicing law for ten years.

It is unclear what will happen in Nadarkhani's case if his lawyer is imprisoned. Dadkhah told the ACLJ that no other attorney will represent Nadarkhani out of fear of being imprisoned or disbarred themselves.

What you can do

Post this PrisonerAlert.com Prisoner Profile on the bulletin board in your church, Sunday School class or Christian school. Share a copy with your pastor, members of your Bible study group or other Christian friends.

Address for Youcef Nadarkhani

Lakan Prison
Rasht
Islamic Republic of Iran

Circulation To Date for Youcef Nadarkhani

Prisoner Alerts Sent

 106045

Prisoner Alerts Viewed

 31232

Government Officials Emailed

 5987

Encouraging Letters Written

 7524

Please note

When writing a letter, never mention the name of the source of your information or the name of any organization such as Voice of the Martyrs or Prisoner Alert. It is not dangerous for a prisoner to receive letters from individuals, but if an organization is mentioned they may be accused of links with 'foreign organizations' and receive harsher sentences. Also, please do not state anything negative about their government. For the latest information, including letter writing tools and helps, please visit PrisonerAlert.com.

Excerpt from an actual letter created on PrisonerAlert.com

I gave thanks for you when I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray the eyes, ears and hearts of those who persecute you may open to Jesus. Philippians 1:29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake. Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

听到你在基督耶稣里的信心, 我为你献上感恩.
我们祷告那些逼迫你的人的心眼能够向耶稣打开.

腓 1:29

因为你们蒙恩, 不但得以信耶稣基督, 并要为他受苦。

罗 8:18

我想现在的苦楚, 若比起将来要显于我们的荣耀, 就不足介意了。

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