

COLOMBIAN PASTORS
COLOMBIA

Persecution against Christians in Colombia is on the rise. Unknown groups are attacking pastors and church leaders with impunity. The peace agreement between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Government will complete two years this November. However, though the armed conflict has officially ended, certain regions have seen an increase in violent attacks.

Guerrilla groups issue death threats to Christians involved in evangelism, fearing believers will oppose their reign of terror. Many pastors have lost their lives or have been threatened in the recent past. Please send a note of encouragement to Colombian Pastors.

OpenDoors[®]

SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

Ebrahim Firouzi (31) was charged with “promoting Christian Zionism” following his arrest in March 2013. He was tried at the Revolutionary Court in his hometown of Robat Karim, just to the south-west of Tehran. He was charged for conducting evangelism activities. He has been imprisoned since August 2013, and though he was due for release in 2015, he has been kept back under new charges of “acting against national security, gathering and collusion”. He was sentenced to a further five years in jail.

Please send a note of encouragement to Firouzi that he may hold on to Christ through these very difficult days.

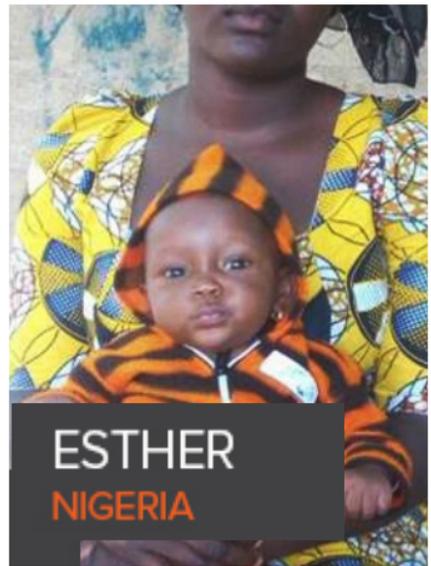
Our advocacy partners, Article 18 will facilitate delivering the notes of encouragement to Ebrahim Firouzi



OpenDoors[®]

SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

While 17-year old Esther was in Boko Haram captivity (Oct. 2015 - Nov. 2016), she was under constant pressure to denounce her faith. But Esther was determined not to give in. “If I perish, I perish, but I will not become a Muslim,” she decided in her heart. It was a brave decision, but it had dire consequences. She tried to hide her tears as she told an Open Doors worker that she was continually raped. Esther eventually became pregnant, and gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Rebecca. The military rescued Esther and the others around November 2016. But the joy of her freedom was soon overshadowed by sadness. People were not so eager to welcome back the ‘Boko Haram women’, far less their children.



Esther received help from Open Doors with trauma counselling and food aid. She said, “I have no family other than Open Doors. After hearing my story, you did not despise me but encouraged me and showed me love.”

OpenDoors[®]

SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE



An Iranian convert to Christianity serving ten years in prison for “missionary activities”, Nasser, turned 57 recently. He was first arrested in June 2016 alongside three Azerbaijanis, following a raid on a wedding party. The four men were sentenced a year later, but the Azerbaijanis have not been forced to return to Iran to serve their sentences. Nasser lost his appeal against his sentence in Nov. 2017 and was moved to Evin Prison in January. He recently wrote from prison, “I thank God in perfect joy and peace for considering me worthy to be here because of my faith in and witness to Jesus Christ.”

NASSER NAVARD GOL-TAPEH

IRAN *IMPRISONED*

Our advocacy partners, Article 18 will facilitate delivering the notes of encouragement to Nasser Navard Gol-Tapeh

OpenDoors[®]

SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE



NATHAN AND REBECCA SHARIBU

NIGERIA

On February 19, Boko Haram kidnapped more than 100 girls from the secondary school in the town of Dapchi, Nigeria. On February 26, the government confirmed that 110 girls remained unaccounted for. Leah Sharibu, daughter of Nathan and Rebecca Sharibu, was the only Christian in the group. On March 21 all the girls, except for Leah, were released through back-channel efforts. Leah's father told local media he heard that it is because she is a Christian and refused to convert to Islam. Latest reports reveal that extremists have claimed Leah as their slave for life. Please pray for Leah to stand strong at this time, and for her parents to be encouraged.

OpenDoors[®]

SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE



PASTOR VICTOR BET-TAMRAZ

IRAN *SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS*

Pastor Victor Bet-Tamraz was arrested with two members of his church in 2014 as they celebrated Christmas together. The government had already closed the Tehran Pentecostal Assyrian Church which he led, in 2009. He was found guilty of “conducting evangelism” and “illegal house-church activities”, among other charges, and given a ten-year prison sentence. His first appeal hearing was heard in June this year, but the court’s decision is awaited. He is on bail at the moment, and it is hard to be in a state of uncertainty not knowing if he will be called to serve his prison term.

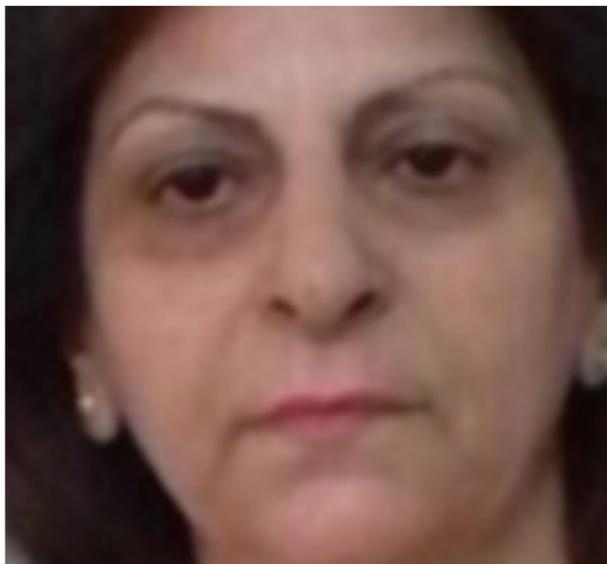
Our advocacy partners, Article 18 will facilitate delivering the notes of encouragement to Pastor Victor and his wife

OpenDoors®

SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

Shamiram Isavi Khabizeh, the wife of Victor Bet-Tamraz, is appealing against a five-year prison sentence for “acting against national security and against the regime by organizing small groups, attending a seminary abroad and training church leaders and pastors to act as spies”.

Shamiram is awaiting the results of her appeal, and is out on bail at the moment. Kindly pray that her appeal is heard and she can be set free. Your encouragement will help her in this time of uncertainty.



SHAMIRAM ISAVI KHABIZEH
IRAN *SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS*

Our advocacy partners, Article 18 will facilitate delivering the notes of encouragement to Pastor Victor and his wife

OpenDoors[®]

SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

encourage WITH LETTERS

We invite you to share an uplifting word with those that are going through hardship. Join us as we encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ through letters.

GUIDELINES FOR LETTER WRITING:

- Do not mention Open Doors in your letter or on the card
- You may provide your name, but not your full address
- Do not criticize a country's religion or religious extremists, its government, judicial system, or political leaders
- Please do not send money or make proposals to help
- Be brief and encouraging
- Send letters to Open Doors Canada
8-19 Brownridge Rd.
Halton Hills, ON L7G 0C6