

Pray for Iran

We have often stressed over the last few years how important it is to pray for the grace of God to be outpoured big time in Iran, and on Iranians all around the world. He loves these people, and wants many to call on His name in that country. We cannot afford to forget how much many of His people are suffering in that country however.

Issa Motamadi, faces a trial before a national Revolutionary Tribunal, according to a World Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission report published by Assist News Service because he and his wife chose a Christian name for their newborn son. He has been arrested and imprisoned by Muslims on allegations of apostasy.

Issa Motamadi and his wife, Parvah, are converts to Christianity, and while technically the Iranian constitution bans persecution of anyone for their religious beliefs, it remains common for authorities to level a non-religious legal allegation against someone they want to use as an example.

Supporters of the couple are pleading with Christians around the world for prayer for the family and also are asking for human rights and religious liberty groups to intercede for Motamadi with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The investigation of individuals' beliefs is forbidden, and no one may be molested or taken to task simply for holding a certain belief," is the rule of law in Iran's constitution. However, a secret service official with responsibilities for minorities, advised that Motamadi will not be freed unless he renounces his faith and returns to Islam. The judge in the case will accept no other solution. He also hinted it may take several executions before Iranians realize the consequences of apostasy.

The couple drew attention to themselves with their choice of names for their infant. Such an action is considered an irrevocable abandonment of Islam because a Christian name identifies the child as being born to Christian parents. Also, if a child is considered Christian from birth, the child never could be accused of apostasy. The Commission chose not to reveal the child's actual name.

Sources also reported to the Commission's researcher, Elizabeth Kendal, that authorities may soon move to arrest Parvah and falsely accuse her of drug trafficking. Issa's mother, who is not Christian, has been traumatized by the accusations.

The researcher noted that 14 centuries ago, Muslims who were fleeing persecution sought refuge in what then was Christian Abyssinia, now Ethiopia, where they were granted asylum by the emperor. The Abyssinian experience, according to Kendal, is repeated widely around the world today.

"For example, multitudes of Shiite Muslims who fled persecution in Iraq during the rule of Saddam Hussein have found both refuge and religious liberty in the 'Christian' West," she wrote. **"Yet today, Issa Motamadi is holed up in an Islamic prison in**

Rasht, wrongfully accused and separated from his family and loved ones simply on account of his devotion to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Creator of the world."

Iran threatens retaliation against America if its nuclear plants are attacked James Woolsey, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in February that "[President] Ahmadinejad [of Iran] who is close to Hezbollah, says that he knows of the 29 sensitive sites in the U.S. and the West, which he has spied out and is ready to attack in order to, quote: 'End Anglo-Saxon civilization.'

This may all sound like complete hyperbole and 'auto-puff, but read this article before dismissing it out of hand.

Well before the recent escalation of conflict with Israel more than 100 "martyrdom-seeking volunteers" affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps gathered to warn the U.S. they would blow up American interests around the world if their country's nuclear installations came under attack. Mohammad-Ali Samadi, spokesman for a government-orchestrated campaign to recruit suicide bombers, said more than 55,000 volunteers had been registered, according to Iran Focus.

The group – called the Headquarters to Commemorate the Martyrs of the Global Islamic Movement – was established in 2004 to carry out suicide attacks against three targets: The infidels occupying Iraq, Israel and author Salman Rushdie. In February, it launched a new recruitment drive to fight "global blasphemy."

Iran estimated then that Israel would strike Tehran's nuclear facilities within a year and has been planning retaliatory attacks against Israeli, American and British interests, according to senior Lebanese political sources. The sources said while Iran is expecting lone Israeli military action, Iranian intelligence estimates the Jewish state is coordinating a planned attack with the U.S. Source: *WorldNetDaily*