

# Help Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani

Accused of Apostasy in Iran. Sentenced to Death.

He and his family need your help, prayers, and swift action to save his life.



# When asked to recant his faith, Pastor Yousef stated, “Repent means to return. What should I return to?”



## Background

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In a dingy Iranian prison cell a man kneels in prayer. A devoted father and faithful husband, he prays for his wife and two children. His prayers for them and for the members of his small church are direct and fervent. After all, this day might be his last.

This man's name is Yousef Nadarkhani and the Iranian government has sentenced him to death. His crime? Apostasy. For choosing a different faith than the extremist version of Islam promoted by the government of Iran.

Religious minorities in Iran face some of the worst societal discrimination and government harassment in the world. Minorities such as Christians and Baha'is are snatched off the streets by security forces to be imprisoned and tortured for their 'deviant' beliefs. Even minority Muslim groups such as the Sufis face public lashings to punish and humiliate them.

Despite the religious freedom guarantees in Iran's constitution, which includes a parent's right to raise his child under the family's religious teachings, every child in Iran faces mandatory indoctrination in the specific version of Islam favored by the elite Islamic clergy that rules the country. Pastor Yousef protested the indoctrination of his children and was promptly arrested in his hometown of Rasht on October 13, 2009.

Since his arrest the Iranian authorities have used every means at their disposal to try to force Pastor Yousef to deny his faith. In addition to the ever-present threat of death, they have held him

incommunicado, tortured him, imprisoned his wife and threatened his children. Even his lawyer, Mohammad Dadkha, a valiant Muslim advocate for human rights, has been suspended from practicing law and sentenced to 9 years in prison for supporting the cause of freedom in Iran.

After years in prison, the Iranian Supreme Court remanded his case back to the local court that initially sentenced Pastor Yousef to death. Despite multiple violations of international law and Iran's own Constitution, the Iranian court once again sentenced Pastor Yousef to death on September 25, 2011.

***Now only the Ayatollah Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran, can spare the life of this innocent man.***

It is hard to believe that in this day and age, a government would publicly condemn a man to death for his religious convictions, but that is exactly what has happened here. We at Jubilee Campaign call on people of good conscience throughout the world from any or no faith community to rise up and denounce this travesty of justice. Join with us in calling for the release of Yousef Nadarkhani.

As of the date of this printing, the state court of Gilan Section 11 has not issued its written verdict. But as various human rights groups have reported, the Iranian regime often enacts death sentences without advance notice to prisoners' families. Time is of the essence.