

FARIBA KAMALABADI

Iran

In Iran, while some Christian communities are “tolerated,” all are still treated as lower-class citizens regardless of safety concerns. A predominately Muslim country, Iran discriminates against Christians, not permitting believers to worship freely or even to read Scripture in Iran’s primary language, Farsi. Additionally, speaking to Christian converts from Islam could land you in prison in Iran. Indeed, converting from Islam to Christianity in Iran is illegal, and converts from Islam face the greatest risk of persecution among believers. For this reason, house churches are illegal. If arrested, many Christians are tortured or sentenced to arbitrarily long prison terms.

But just as Christians face severe persecution in Iran, Baha’is are another (if not the most) severely persecuted religious minority in Iran, often facing arbitrary arrests, raids, and harassment as they are considered an unrecognized religious group. The Baha’i faith, which focuses on social ethics and the oneness of humanity, has faced growing challenges as more than 320 Baha’is have been affected by persecution throughout Iran since 2022 alone, with reports indicating at least 90 Baha’is are still imprisoned today all because of their faith. Read more about the persecution of Baha’is in Iran, [here](#).

One example of a Baha’i follower suffering on account of her faith is Fariba Kamalabadi, an Iranian wife and mother of three arrested twice because of her beliefs and involvement with her faith community, particularly for her role as a religious leader. She remains incarcerated today and faces a second ten-year prison sentence.

Pray with us today for Fariba, her safety, health, and freedom.



Religion: Baha’i

Sentence: Currently serving her second 10-year prison sentence.

Motive for persecution: Her role as a religious leader and figure in a country that persecutes Baha’is.

Follow more of Fariba’s story [here](#) and read how one imprisoned Baha’i woman turned to poetry to survive her imprisonment [here](#).

Read more about persecution of Christians across Iran [here](#).

See the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom’s Victims List [here](#) and pray with us for all who suffer for their beliefs.

