

Iran

When news broke of the Supreme Court's decision that it was not a crime to preach Christianity in a house church in Iran, Laleh rejoiced along with the others in her fellowship. However, since she became a follower of Jesus after watching Christian programming on satellite TV shows, she has always felt the need to keep her faith secret and she still feels uneasy talking about it with strangers. Meeting at the house church in a nearby town was her only connection with other Christians, some of whom are still in prison for preaching the Gospel. Could things be changing?

Iran is an Islamic republic and attempts to convert Muslims have, until recently, been punishable by death. At the end of 2021, Iran's courts declared that it was not illegal to

preach Christianity although the law is not consistently applied.

This was a huge shift in a nation that is notorious about persecuting religious minorities. Some believe that authorities' efforts to push a fundamentalist Islamic agenda has encouraged fewer Iranians to embrace Islam, associating it with a corrupt political system. Recent secular studies have confirmed the reports that Christian workers have been making for years about the growth of the Church in Iran.

Estimates suggest that there are over half a million Christians in Iran, but it is suspected that there are many more, possibly twice that number, given that most Christians still worship in secret, at home-based churches and private gatherings.

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...If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

JOHN 8:31-32

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How can we pray?

Pray for Christians in Iran to have good discipleship resources. Many Christian leaders have been imprisoned or have fled the country and materials are hard to get.

Pray for Iran to offer full religious freedom to all its citizens.

Pray for more Muslims in Iran to encounter Jesus and walk in His Freedom.