Shia Islam is the official religion and all laws must be consistent with the official interpretation of Sharia law. According to the Iranian state, only Armenians and Assyrians can be Christian. Ethnic Persians are by definition Muslim, and ethnic Persian Christians are considered apostates. This makes almost all Christian activity illegal, especially when it occurs in Persian languages - from evangelism to Bible training, to publishing Scripture and Christian books or preaching in Farsi. In 2014, at least 75 Christians were arrested. More Christians were sentenced to prison and pressure on those detained increased, including physical and mental abuse.

**PRAY**

+ There are many Christians who are languishing in Iranian prisons; pray that they will be released this year

+ That the Iranian leadership might loosen its tight hold on Christian activity

+ That many more will come to the Lord through satellite television and distribution of Bibles

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