

# **IRAN: Rameel Bet Tamarz, an Assyrian citizen, was released from Evin prison**

Mohabat News (29.02.2020) – <https://bit.ly/3al1BJk> – “The political turmoil of Iran and the spread of coronavirus in prisons were not unaffected on the decision of the judiciary and security agencies to release a group of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in recent days.”

Reports from Iran indicate that Rameel Beth Tammarz, son of Pastor Victor Bet Tamraz, has been released from prison on Wednesday, February 27.

It was going to release “Ramil Beth Tammarz”, the Assyrian Christian, on March 22, but he was released about eight days earlier through receiving a leave of absence. “The political turmoil of Iran and the spread of coronavirus in prisons were not unaffected on the decision of the judiciary and security agencies to release a group of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in recent days.”

In an interview with the website of Article 5, Dabrina Bet Tamraz, daughter of Pastor Victor, also confirmed the release of her brother and said: many of the prisoners, who should be released less than the next three months, were released due to the crowding and fears of a Coronavirus outbreak.

Rameel Bet Tamarz was sentenced to four months in prison on

charges of holding house churches.

The Assyrian Christian spent a month in prison and had sentenced to three months in prison in January this year.

Dabrina Bet Tamraz had previously said that her brother's morale is very good in prison and she has the opportunity to pray with Youcef Nadarkhani and Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh, two Christian converts, and each of these imprisoned Christians has a short sermon to each other. On Friday, August 26, 2016, police raided a garden in Firouzkouh, near Tehran, and arrested eighteen Christian citizens there, among whom the trial case of Rameel Bet Tamarz, Amin Afshar Naderi, Hadi Askari, Mohammad Dehnavi and Amir Saman Dashti went to court.

Rameel Bet Tamarz is the son of pastor Victor, a former leader of the Assyrian Pentecostal Church in ShahrAra in Tehran. He was also detained at a private party on December 26 and charged with acting against national security and espionage. Pastor Victor was also sentenced to four years in prison but was released on bail due to his physical condition.

Shamiram Isawi (wife of Pastor Victor) was also summoned to the Revolutionary Court in June 2017 and was temporarily released on bail of 100 million Tomans. This Christian citizen was also sentenced to 5 years imprisonment on January 6, 2018 on charges of acting against national security by holding house churches and Christian seminars abroad, and training Christian leaders in Iran on the charge of espionage. He is also awaiting an appeal.

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# **IRAN: Mari Mohammadi, a Christian convert, was released from Prison**

Mohabat News (28.02.2020) – <https://bit.ly/32ILbb0> – Clinics and dispensaries in prison are very poor in terms of facility and hygienic. The high number of prisoners is greater than the capacity of prisons and the risk of deadly coronavirus infection in prisons is higher.

Reports from Iran indicate that Fatemeh (Mari) Mohammadi, a Christian convert, was temporarily released from Gharchak Prison on 30 million Tomans (approximately \$ 2000 USD) bail on Wednesday, 26 Friday 2020.

The release of this Christian convert will be valid until the end of the judicial process. Mari Mohammadi was arrested on Sunday, January 12, 2020, during the protest rallies following the crash of the Ukrainian passenger plane by the Revolutionary Guards in Tehran. According to the Human Rights Activists in Iran, the court hearing the charges against Mari Mohammadi will be held on Monday, March 2 , 2020 , at Branch 1167 of the Tehran Criminal Court.

Along with releasing this prisoner of conscience, the condition of prisons was dangerous due to the spread of the coronavirus. Clinics and dispensaries in prison are very poor

in terms of facility and hygienic. The high number of prisoners is greater than the capacity of prisons and the risk of deadly coronavirus infection in prisons is higher.

Regarding the current condition of Iran and the closure of government centers due to spreading coronavirus, it is unclear whether the court of political and social activists will be postponed or not.

The appeal court had previously announced that the case of *Pastor Victor Bet Tamraz*, his wife *Shamiram Isavi*, and three Christian converts was scheduled to be held on February 24, but the court was also postponed.