

News and Current Events :: Iran Sentences 18 Christians to Prison for Their Faith in New Crackdown on Christianity

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Iran's revolutionary court is believed to have sentenced 18 Christian converts to prison for their faith in a new crackdown on Christianity in the Islamic Republic, a report said.

Fox News noted that the charges include evangelism, propaganda against the regime, and creating house churches to practice their faith. It added that the total sentences come close to 24 years, but it's not known how many years each individual received, due to the lack of transparency in Iran's judicial system.

"The cruelty of Iran's dictatorial leaders knows no limits," said Saba Farzan, the German-Iranian executive director of Foreign Policy Circle, a strategy think tank in Berlin.

A number of the imprisoned Christians were arrested in 2013, and sentenced in accordance with Article 500 of the Islamic Penal Code, which penalizes threats to Iran's clerical leaders.

Morad Mokhtari, an Iranian convert to Christianity who fled the Islamic Republic in 2006, added: "Iranian religious authorities prefer that they leave Iran because the authorities can't control them," Mokhtari said. "Just their name is evangelism. Imagine someone says he's a Christian and has a Muslim name."

Read more: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/iran-sentences-18-christians-to-prison-for-their-faith-in-new-crackdown-on-christianity-139902/>