



## KEEP THE FLAME OF HOPE ALIVE IN ERITREA!

“God, I know there is no cell deep enough, no iron bars strong enough to separate me from you. God, be with me. Give me strength.” – Pastor Haralan Popov, Belene 1953.

Dear friend,

It is not often that I feel great joy and tremendous sorrow on the same day, as I feel today.

I rejoiced when Brother Rolando Lagos was unexpectedly set free from prison. We have been praying for him since he was sentenced to 26-years for being a defender of religious freedom in Nicaragua.



At the same time, I was brokenhearted hearing that Iranian Pastor Ebrahim Firouzi died in the court-mandated exile. Our DOHI family has been praying for him since his arrest 11 years ago. Maybe you viewed his powerful testimony on our website – *Pastor Ebrahim Firouzi interview.*

The courage and sacrifice of this Godly man reminds me of my father. His bravery is a great example for all of us. Like Father, Pastor Firouzi emphasized the importance of praying and sending letters of encouragement to imprisoned Christians.

One of the tragic consequences of persecution is the overwhelming feeling of isolation – that the whole world has forgotten you.

YOU AND I play an important part in giving a prisoner HOPE by writing them that we are praying for them and that we have not forgotten them. God’s timing is perfect when the prisoner is in deep sorrow and despair, often a postcard arrives with words of encouragement.

### **THIS YEAR PASTOR KIFLU WILL SPEND HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY IN PRISON!**



Deep in a dark cell in Eritrea’s prison, a humble man of God, Pastor Kiflu Gebremeskel, is languishing behind bars. For twenty years his family has been separated from their beloved father and husband.

Recently, we were able to interview Pastor Kiflu’s daughter. I’d like to share some of that interview with you.

*“In the beginning, Dad wrote us letters and we were allowed to send him a small gift at Christmas. But we have not been able to communicate with him for years. I do know that my dad is in a cell with four other pastors. He and Pastor Haile Naigzhe have been in prison for 20 years, and the other three pastors have spent about 17-19 years in jail.”*

In Eritrea, officials separate Christians from regular prisoners, fearing that, if mixed together, Believers will evangelize the other prisoners.

Authorities also employ “enforced isolation,” denying prisoners contact with their loved ones or anything that reminds them of home or life on the outside.

Their goal is to bring both the prisoner and their family to a state of devastating hopelessness.

*“Five years ago, prison guards entered my father’s cell and destroyed all of his personal belongings – letters, books, gifts from his family – including his most precious possession, his Bible!*

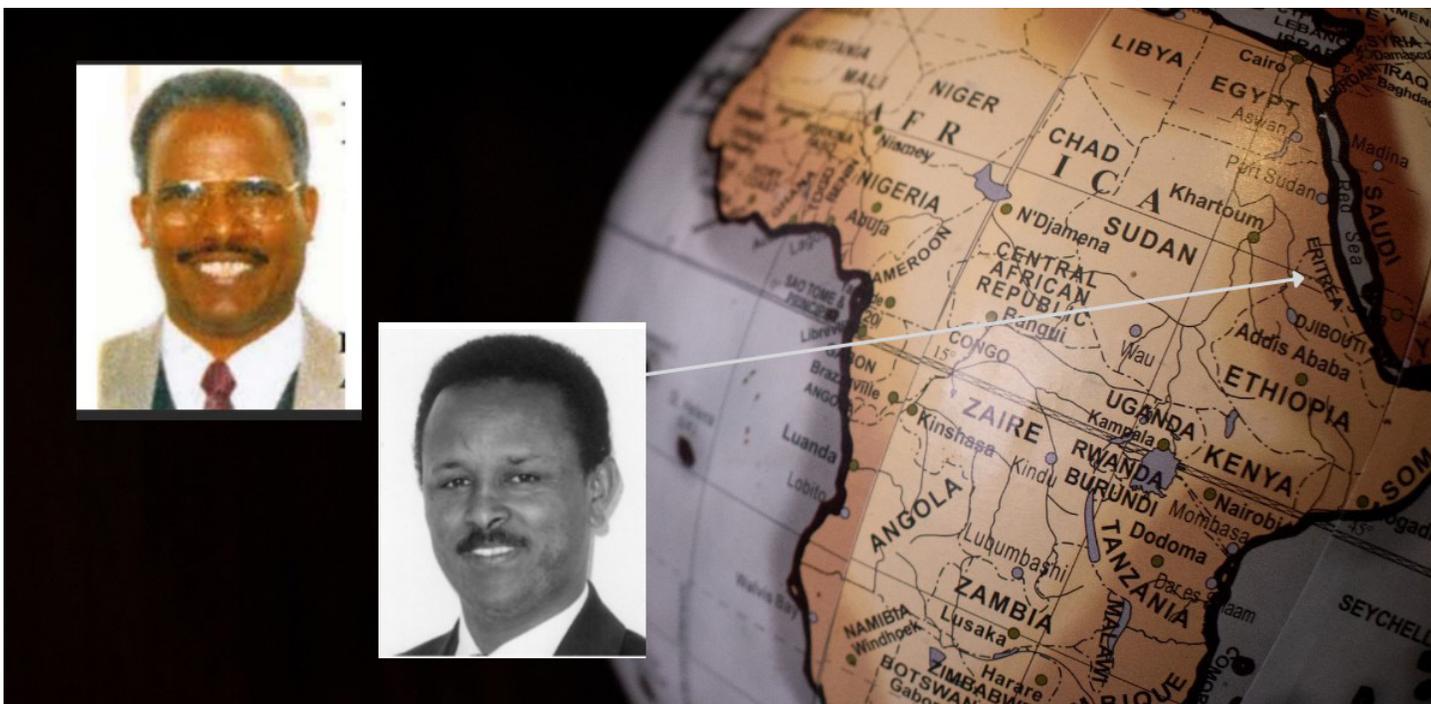
*Thankfully,” his daughter concluded, “The pastors in my father’s cell had already memorized a large portion of the Bible!”*

We asked Pastor Kiflu’s daughter what message she has for us in Door of Hope International. Her answer was:

*“Listen to the heartfelt cry coming out of the Persecuted Church.”*

*“Pray for us. Share our stories with your friends. Ask your government to help. And if you can, help the families of imprisoned Christians who are in desperate need of assistance.”*

Today, I am asking you to PRAY for Pastor Kiflu and the other Christian prisoner’s freedom in Eritrea.



I am also asking you to ADVOCATE on their behalf by signing the attached card. We will send your card, along with others, to the appropriate government officials, asking them to intervene for the release of Pastor Kiflu.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness and for helping us continue our work at this critical moment for all Eritreans.

There are many Eritrean Christians counting us. We cannot let them down!

Together in His Ministry,

**P.S. Please SUPPORT us as we advocate for the victims of religious persecution worldwide. Any amount you give will help to get their stories out and provide practical help for their families.**