



PRAYER LETTER 74

This letter is written by Rev. Sargez Benyamin, Executive Secretary of the **Synod of the Evangelical Church of Iran in Diaspora (SECID)**, on behalf of the Synod of Iran, a member of the ACO Fellowship.

Rev. Sargez Benyamin is currently pastoring in Nürnberg, Germany, for a congregation of Farsi-speaking people converted to Christ.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Undoubtedly, 2026 can be considered one of the most exceptional, turbulent, bloody, and difficult years in the contemporary history of Iran. The year began with millions of protesters taking to the streets, an unprecedented event in the past 47 years for Iranians, which resulted in a large and unparalleled massacre in the history of street protests. Then a 39-day war broke out, which many believe ended inconclusively and further disrupted the country's economic and political situation.

On the other hand, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Iran has also experienced very difficult blows this year. The bitter events in the country were accompanied by the death of Rev. Serge Shavardian due to natural causes. Rev. Shavardian had served faithfully for many years as the moderator and a member of the board of our Synod, as well as the pastor of the Armenian-speaking Church of St. John and the Persian-speaking Emmanuel Church in Tehran.

Finally, on June 4 of this year, the regime bulldozed our church in Mashhad in the hours after midnight and simultaneously began a process to evict and take over the compound of St. Peter's Church in Tehran. This process was recently completed with the eviction of staff and other members present on the compound. We thank all the international church organizations who stood for our brothers and sisters in Iran and expressed their concerns and offered their prayers.

Rev. Sargez Benyamin

You can find information and statements about those events on the following websites:

United Nations:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/07/iran-un-experts-urge-reversal-tehran-church-compound-seizure-and-return-its>

WCC:

<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/wcc-expresses-grave-concern-over-seizure-of-st-peters-evangelical-church-and-synod-secretariat-in-tehran>

Article 18:

<https://articleeighteen.com/news/24560/>

Christianity Today:

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/2026/07/iran-shutters-landmark-church/>

A call to prayer:

1. Pray for the members of the Evangelical Church of Tehran, St. Peter's Church, and for the government to return the premises to them.
2. Pray for people's very difficult economic situation, as many are unable to pay rent or even buy food in Iran.
3. Pray for a change in the rulers' attitude toward the people, especially toward the church.
4. Pray for true peace in Iran and between Iran and its neighbors, and for the consequences of war to be overcome.
5. Pray for care, wisdom, and courage as we continue on the path alongside other evangelical churches and other Christian traditions.
6. Pray for the successful holding of this year's ACO Fellowship Executive Committee meeting in Germany.