

City of Refuge - Profiles of Refugees Requesting Resettlement - Fall 2011

File number, Canadian Visa office and the number of people included on the file.

1562. Nairobi (2) Justine is 25 years old and came to know the Lord 8 years ago. She was kidnapped and raped in the Congo, her older sister was also brutally raped. She and her sister fled to Uganda in June '06 where they continue to be threatened because they have no male protector. They speak French and some English.

1566. Nairobi (3) Safina is 29 years old, **Congolese** widow with a step brother and sister ages 23 and 20. Her mother, a Tutsi was kidnapped; Safina only able to secure her mother's release by agreeing to marry the military chief holding her mother, her subsequent refusal to marry, led to her father being killed. She fled to Uganda where she has been raped and lives in constant fear of being found by the men who are loyal to the military chief. (her uncle has been sponsored by a church in Smithers BC)

1581. Nairobi (1) Tesfalem is **Eritrean** and 29 years old. He was forced to leave university where he had studied business for 2 years to complete his military service. Christian soldiers are forbidden to fellowship in anyway and he was caught in a prayer meeting and jailed for 3 months where he was regularly beaten and mistreated before managing to escape. In order to avoid further detection by the Eritrean authorities he began working with Non Governmental Agencies. He fled to Ethiopia in 2004 where he continues to be a target for death threats. He speaks English and has friends in the Toronto area.

1583. Nairobi (3) Gilbert is 33 years old, his wife Ruth is 25 and cousin Emmanuel is 28 are **Congolese**. They fled to Kampala in 2002 after the rebels burned down the family home, killing most of his relatives in retaliation for his brother's work as a Human Rights activist. They have been recognized as refugees by the Ugandan government and the UNHCR, He speaks French & English. He studied Theology for 4 years at a Bible College, obtaining a Degree and has taught primary school for 2 years. They filed reports with the police and the UNHCR of a severe beating which happened in Kampala but no one was able to offer him any protection or recourse. He speaks French & English

#1638. Cairo (4) Emebet is **Ethiopian** and was recently abandoned by her husband after she gave birth to their 3rd child. In 2004 her father was arrested and was killed in prison. In May '05, Emebet and her 2 brothers were arrested and detained for 10 days. They were each severely tortured, her older brother later died as a result of his injuries and her younger brother fled and is now living in Italy. In 2007 Emebet and her husband were part of a missionary team in northern Ethiopia when Muslim fanatics attacked their group; with the help of World Vision they managed to escape to Cairo in 2007. Life in Cairo with 3 children was very difficult and this led her husband to attempt entering into Israel in August '10. He was captured by Egyptian police and since then she has not seen or heard from him again and assumes he was deported to Ethiopia. She speaks English and has completed high school.

#1656. Cairo (2) Abiet is **Eritrean** and 28 years old, her husband Yousief is **Ethiopian** and 31 years old. She was a Muslim and at 17 years old became a Christian. Her parents were very angry at her for converting and 'dating' an Ethiopian man. (Eritrea considers Ethiopia as the oppressor and enemy) Several times, her parents encouraged the Eritrean authorities to arrest Abiet for 24 hours. The authorities would threaten that if she did not recant her faith, she would be sent to Sawa prison which had a terrible reputation. It was well known that girls sent to Sawa would end their living in a metal container. In 2002, soldiers detained Abiet for 2 weeks before transporting her, to what she assumed would be Sawa prison but during a rest stop she took advantage of an opportunity to escape. Abiet met a woman from her tribe who provided assistance for her to travel by camel to Khartoum, Sudan. After her disappearance, her 'boyfriend' Yousief was arrested and brutally beaten for 2 months before being deported to Ethiopia. His parents also did not approve of his proposed marriage so he travelled to Khartoum to be with Abiet. They were married in a church in 2005. They lived in Khartoum for 18 months until they were threatened with deportation. They could not safely enter Eritrea or Ethiopia as Pentecostal Christian so they decided to flee to Cairo.

#1660. Cairo (3) Wonedwosen and his wife Addis are a young **Ethiopian** Oromo couple and they fled to Cairo in July '06 with their 2 year old daughter. Wonedwosen was arrested by security forces and accused of being an Oromo Liberation Front member. He was detained for 6 months and brutally beaten and often tortured for information. He was released after his family paid a bribe. In Feb '04 he was again arrested on suspicion of involvement with the OLF and detained for 5 months until his family secured his release by paying another bribe. Wonedwosen was arrested in 2005 and so brutally tortured that he required hospitalization. His relatives paid smugglers to take him via Sudan to Cairo. He completed grade 12, speaks Amharic and some English. He is an elder in an Evangelical Church and works as a house painter.

#1673. Kuala Lumpur(4), Neem and his wife Jamielah first fled from **Afghanistan** to Iran to escape tribal and political persecution and in 2008 they fled to Malaysia after being ordered to leave by the Iranian government. Through contact with the Bridge International Church, which works with Iranian and Afghan refugees in Malaysia, this family became Christian in 2009. Their lives are at great risk because the offense of converting to Christianity is punishable by death in many Islamic countries. If the Malaysian government discovers they have become Christians, they will be deported back to Afghanistan.

#1674. Kuala Lumpur(6) Abdul and his wife Kobra are also from **Afghanistan**. They and their 4 sons have also become Christians through contact with the Bridge International Church and face the same dangers as the previous family, #1673. Both Afghan families are recognized by the UNHCR as Convention Refugees, which will increase their opportunity to be resettled if sponsored.

#1697. Kuala Lumpur(3) Fariba, her son and husband **Shahriar** are **Iranian** converts to Christianity. Fariba's parents arranged her first marriage when she was 17 years old. The marriage had many problems, including extreme abuse for many years by her husband. In 2000, she managed to escape with her son to Germany where she obtained refugee status. She found Christian friends and in 2001 she became a Christian. Fariba lived in Germany for 7 years before her husband tricked her into returning to Iran, claiming her mother was dying. Her husband started abusing her again but this time she had the approval of her parents to obtain a divorce. She married Shahriar, who also became a Christian and together they fled from Iran to Malaysia to escape her ex husband who is pressing charges against her for becoming a Christian and kidnapping his son. UNHCR Convention Refugee Status pending

1701. Pretoria (1) John is a single 33 year old **Congolese** living in a refugee camp in Namibia since 2000. He witnessed his parents being killed but he managed to escape. He did have brothers and sisters but he has never heard from them since he fled and does not know if they survived. In Namibia he has studied theology and has several certificates as well as a diploma of Ministry in Practical Theology and Leadership Studies. He speaks French, English & Swahili and has completed high school.

#1704. Cairo (3) Dehab, Eritrean mother with 2 sons ages 12 and 15. Dehab fled with her sons to Khartoum, Sudan in Oct 2009 because a warrant had been issued for her arrest after the authorities realized she was a Pentecostal Christian. The Pentecostal church is one of many Evangelical churches which were banned in 2002 by Eritrean government. She has worked for a high ranking government official for several years and is afraid of being kidnapped by spies, working for the Eritrean government, who might be concerned that she could reveal sensitive government information.

#1710. Cairo (1) David is 38 years old, **Ethiopian** and travelled to Eritrea in 1999 with his elderly **Eritrean** father. David was forced to join the Eritrean military service but applied for leave to care for his sick father in 2001. His request was denied so he escaped and was arrested in 2003 for desertion. As a Pentecostal believer he endured much suffering in jail but after 2 years he was given a temporary release to care for his dying father. He escaped to Khartoum Sudan in 2005, He completed High School, has computer experience and understands some English.

#1726. Pretoria (1) Paul is a 48 year old **Congolese** in Osire Refugee Camp in Namibia. He and his wife were arrested in 2001 for his political activism. He was brutally tortured for 3 days and when he was released he found his house burned down and his wife missing. He went to his brother's house where he found his only son. Several weeks later soldiers broke into the house, beating his young son and nephew before taking them away, the soldiers killed his brother, his sister in law and their baby girl and in the confusion Paul managed to escape. Paul has 2 years of university, worked as a librarian, speaks 4 tribal languages plus French and English. He has some health concerns but has no access to proper treatment.

#1728. Pretoria (7) Bellarmin and his wife have an 8 year old daughter and a 5 year old son. They also have 2 dependent nieces, the eldest is 27 and the youngest who is 17, is also the mother of a newborn son. Bellarmin was a Bible college teacher and pastor when he was arrested on suspicion of aiding rebels. He was severely beaten in detention, his wife was stabbed and sexually violated, and his eldest niece had been repeatedly raped by soldiers in front of family members. This **Congolese** family escaped from to Namibia with the assistance of church members. In 2009, while in the Osire Refugee Camp, his youngest niece was raped and became pregnant. He has an undergraduate degree in English as well as a Theology degree and speaks French & English.

#1752. Cairo (3) Solomon and his wife are **Ethiopian** and they have a young daughter. His father was abducted and has disappeared, he and his sister have been arrested and tortured for alleged support of the Oromo Liberation Front. After 3 weeks he escaped from prison and fled with his wife to Cairo. He has a Primary Health Care certificate and has worked in a hospital.

#1754. Pretoria (9) Monga and his wife have 2 adult & 4 minor children and 1 grandchild. This **Congolese** family has Convention Refugee status which will be helpful if they are interviewed. They moved within Congo to escape widespread insecurity only to find they were not safe anywhere. During a home invasion his wife and children were beaten and he was arrested. Accused of plundering his country, he was tortured and threatened with death; only the compassion of one of his capture allowed him to escape, find his family and flee to Namibia in 2009. He speaks French and has worked as an accountant.

#1757. Cairo (2) Amine and his wife are Eritreans. Amine has been imprisoned for long periods of time under terrible conditions simply for being a Pentecostal believer; first in 2002 for 18 months, then in 2005 for 6 months and again in 2009 for 9 months. They escaped to Khartoum, Sudan early in 2011. He has completed grade 12, speaks English and has worked as a carpenter.

Months to interview 80% of the applications after entered into Visa office database: Cairo 26, Damascus 11, Nairobi 57 and Pretoria 45