

The **Voice**  
of the **Martyrs**

# KIDS of Courage

Exchanging  
strength  
with Christian  
children around  
the world who  
risk all for  
Jesus Christ

## UzBEKistan Where is Vera's Father?



# < UPDATE >

## Kids of Courage in Uzbekistan

The Voice of the Martyrs received news in early 2007 about the persecution of two Christian families in Uzbekistan. A VOM worker traveled to Uzbekistan to encourage the families. The worker talked to two children in the families, Vera, age 6, and Mukhlisa [moo-KLEE-sah], age 10. Here is what they told him.

### Vera

*My father is the pastor of a church. He was arrested in January, right during the service. Mother and I went to where Father is. It has many windows, and all the windows are barred. We did not see Father; they did not allow us.*



*Vera praying in her father's car.*

*Our house is together with the church. Our family lives in two rooms. Earlier, many people came to the church. But since the persecutions started, we gather seldom and in small groups.*

*I saw many wonders God did for us. For example, when Father was arrested, we got many new friends, and you also came to us. It is all done by God, and He does not leave us alone.*

*I am not worrying about Father because I pray for him. I run to his car and sit in it and pray. It still smells of Father. I pray there, and talk to Father, because his smell is still here.*

*Vera's family before her father's arrest. Vera is in yellow next to her father.*



### Message from Vera to KOC Readers

Authorities in Uzbekistan do not like America. But I think American children are good.

Please pray that all children will have a mother and father. Pray that no one gets arrested and everyone is fine. What else can I tell you about us? Well, that Jesus saves children in Uzbekistan just as He saves children in America and the whole world, and that we love Jesus very much.

*Vera and her Noah's Ark storybook.*



### Mukhlisa

*We used to live in a mahalla [mah-hah-lah]. A mahalla is like a small village or district. It is a community where all the neighbors know each other.*

*My father is the pastor of a Christian church. Last year they showed Father on TV and said he was a Christian. They said "Christians are worse than terrorists." Then, several days later, some strangers beat up my father and took him outside the city in a car and left him there.*

*We got scared and moved to another mahalla. But a policeman told us to get out. Now we live in someone else's apartment in a city. We will probably go to school here, because no one knows us, so they will not forbid us to go to school. Now that we have moved to the city, it is not as scary, but still it is a little scary.*



*Mukhlisa (center) and her family. Her sisters are Sevara, 18, Surayo, 16, and Mukhayo, 12.*

A photo of Vera & her friends is on the front cover. Vera is wearing a pink sweater.