

# PRAYER LETTER

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2008**

Religious Support Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Army Division Military Transition Teams

High Value Prayer Focus:  
**Fawaz Al-Rabii**

**Wanted as an Al-Qaida operative. He escaped from a Yemeni prison in 2006.**

*From Defense Intelligence Agency Web Site (2006)*  
[www.dia.mil/site6\\_images/cards/index.htm](http://www.dia.mil/site6_images/cards/index.htm)

Ask God to give Fawaz dreams and visions that will lead him to understanding the true character and nature of God. Ask that his bondage to Satan will be broken. Ask that he will see and experience the irresistible grace of God found in God's provision for the forgiveness of his sins and that he will have the spiritual freedom to repent.



## Prayer Requests from 2-IA Area of Operations:

- The ideology motivating suicide bombing of women and children comes from hell. Ask God to set the people of Iraq and the terrorists themselves free from the demonic oppression inspiring terrorism.
- A cultural system requiring restitution as a condition for forgiveness and reconciliation results in endless cycles of vengeance and retribution. Ask God to give offended families, tribes, and ethnic groups grace and mercy towards one another.

## **Matthew 5:14-15 & Romans 12:19**

<sup>14</sup>For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly father will forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

<sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

## **Devotional Thought on Reconciliation through Justice -vs- Mercy**

Reconciliation can occur with the administration of justice through retribution and restitution, or it can occur with mercy through repentance and forgiveness. Repentance requires first confession and then a promise. In confession we apologize and acknowledge how much we have hurt the other person. Then, we promise not to do it again. Under strict justice, no one wants to apologize because doing so admits guilt and invites punishment. Therefore, forgiving first facilitates reconciliation better than being sorry first. Forgiveness happens when we forgo our perceived prerogative to exact punishment on the offender. Forgiveness helps us, whether or not the other person ever apologizes. It releases us from emotional bondage to offenses and from assuming responsibility that ultimately belongs to God. Forgiveness does not mean the offender escapes from natural, divine, or governmental consequences. It does not mean we trust the offender again, and it does not mean we are reconciling, because restored relationship requires both forgiveness and repentance. If we refuse to forgive others when we ourselves want to be forgiven, then we demonstrate that we aren't truly sorry for our own offenses by holding others to higher standards for justice than we hold for ourselves.