

## **KIDNAPPED SOUTH KOREANS RELEASED**

### **S KOREA DENIES HOSTAGE PAYMENTS**

Aug.31, 07. The 19 Korean hostages in Afghanistan were freed in small batches on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, ending a six-week ordeal.

Two women, from the original group of 23 Christian church workers, were freed earlier in the month. Two men were killed soon after the kidnapping.

Seoul has said it agreed to pull its troops from Afghanistan by the end of the year, and stop any more Christian missionaries traveling to Afghanistan.

South Korea has denied rumours it paid a multi-million dollar ransom for the release of 19 hostages in Afghanistan. A presidential spokesman rejected claims by some Afghan officials that a secret financial deal had been reached.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/6971993.stm>

Praise the LORD for His grace and deliverance for the 21 who were released in different stages. The blood of the two male members who were killed will not go in vain – the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. Y'shua the Messiah said:

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile, insult and slander you, and when they persecute you, telling all kinds of vicious lies about you because of Me. Rejoice, and be glad for your reward in heaven is great, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:10-12)*