

***"(God) will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."***  
~ Revelation 21:4 ESV

### **SRI LANKA: Escalating Violence Against Christians**

Sources: Morning Star News, Release International

The church in Sri Lanka has been facing increasing violence and discrimination in the past year. Contributing to the problem has been a recent rise in Hindu extremism taking root alongside the long-time Buddhist aggression.

From January through to September, the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL) reported 67 incidents. In one example, a mob of about 100 people from surrounding villages attacked a church building in Beliatta, demanding an end to worship services and threatening the lives of the pastor and his family. Three days later, about 500 people gathered in protest, forcing the pastor and his family into police protection.

Hindu nationalist groups, such as the RSS, have also extended their reach from India into Sri Lanka. Meetings with Hindu villagers have promoted hatred and violence against Christians in their communities, particularly in areas of eastern Sri Lanka. VOMC's partner, NCEASL, has been able to assist victims of violence, including the help they require when filing charges against those responsible.

While Christians have often been able to respond with forgiveness and move on, the persecution can be discouraging as well. An attorney with the NCEASL reported: "It has been a sad situation. On one hand there has been growth in the church because of persecution, but there have also been instances where it has completely broken the church." For more accounts on the challenges facing the Sri Lankan church, go to the [Sri Lanka Country Report](#).

***May the peace, strength and encouragement of the Lord fill the hearts and minds of Christians throughout Sri Lanka. Pray for the NCEASL and other organizations that are helping them through these difficult times. Also intercede for their persecutors, that they will witness the love of Christ and reach out to Him in faith.***

Share a Prayer



### **UZBEKISTAN: Church Raid and Confiscations**

Source: Forum 18



Photo: World Watch Monitor

On September 30th, approximately 20 police officers raided a worship centre in Kyzl-Suu, searching the building and filming those present. The officers also brought along four unidentified women who began pushing people around, searching the bags of the women present and stealing anything they wanted. Despite protests, the police would not stop their actions.

As part of the search, which was conducted without a warrant, officials confiscated numerous items including sound equipment, books, and a computer. After more than two hours, participants were forced into a bus and taken to a police station for questioning.

As a result of the psychological pressure experienced during the interrogation, one woman and a five-year-old girl had to be taken to the hospital. Following the officials' mandate to obtain photographs and statements from everyone, the remaining church members were

finally released more than 12 hours later.

When subsequently questioned about the raid, the duty officer at the Bostanlyk District Police Station claimed that the raid never happened and refused to answer any questions.

**Prayerfully uphold all the church members who had been forced to endure this ordeal, along with many other believers in Uzbekistan facing similar challenges and threats. Ask God to grant His people wisdom and favour when dealing with the authorities. May their gracious response and honourable conduct serve as testimonies of His love to those who oppose them.**

Share a Prayer



## PRAISE REPORT

### IRAN: Rapid Growth Despite Intense Persecution

Sources: The Christian Post, Elam, Sat-7

Iranian Christians are witnessing one of the fastest growing underground church movements in the world. Yet, along with this exponential growth, are the fires of intense persecution. Any form of evangelism committed by Christians is considered illegal and, therefore, can even lead to the death penalty. Faith in Christ results in serious consequences and converts from Islam face arbitrary arrest and detention. In addition, they are often forced to divulge information on other Christians.

Despite the severity of opposition, the Iranian church is growing rapidly. One media outreach, *Sat-7*, reports that at least two to three people every day contact the ministry to acknowledge their newfound faith in Christ. Today's media has proven to be a major resource in reaching this nation which is presently closed to more traditional methods of evangelism. To further utilize the effectiveness of media ministry, VOMC also partners with *Hovsepian Ministries* in the production of videos that are being used for outreach throughout Iran and around the world. For more information, go to [Hovsepian.com](http://Hovsepian.com).



Photo: Release International

*If you would like to post a prayer of praise or petition on behalf of our persecuted family around the globe, visit [VOMC's prayer wall](#).*

Share a Prayer



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