

***"It is a persistent evil to persecute a man who belongs to the grace of God. It is a calamity without remedy to hate the happy."***

~ Cyprian of Carthage

### **PAKISTAN: Kidnapped Girl Forcibly Converted to Islam**

Sources: Pakistan Christian Post, Release International

Sadaf Masih, a 13-year-old from Bahawalpur, has been kidnapped, forcibly converted to Islam, and married to a Muslim. Despite evidence, the family's cries for justice have fallen on deaf ears.

On February 6th, Sadaf was abducted by influential men in her community. Her parents reached out to the family of the abductors and was assured that she would be returned. Yet after eight days, the perpetrators returned to say that Sadaf had converted to Islam and was now married. They showed the family a marriage certificate which falsely stated that she was 18 years old.

Christians in the village have been warned that a police report would be filed against them if they tried to contact her or press charges against those responsible. Despite these threats, a case has been registered. However, the police are hesitant to confront the kidnapers.

According to Nasir Saeed, a spokesperson for CLAAS-UK (Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement), forcible conversions of Christian and Hindu girls continue to be a problem in Pakistan. Despite international pressure, the government has not taken any action against the practice. Courts frequently rule in favour of Muslims due to pressure from Islamic groups.

***Please remember Sadaf in your prayers as she faces this terrible situation. Despite her suffering, may she demonstrate the compassion of Christ to her kidnapers. Also uphold her concerned family members who are endeavouring to bring her safely back home. Pray that the Pakistani government and courts will heed the pressure of those advocating on behalf of the kidnapped young teen so justice can be properly served.***



### **COLOMBIA: Church Traumatized by Fatal Shooting**

Source: World Watch Monitor



Photo: World Watch Monitor

Pastor Leider Molina, 24, had just finished preaching at his church in Cauca (northwest Colombia) on Friday, February 9th. As he stepped out of the building, he was shot with five bullets. The young man was known as a passionate preacher and active youth leader in his church and city.

The region has suffered an escalation of violence in recent months as armed groups fight for control of drug trafficking routes. The various rebel factions involved all consider the Christian church an enemy because the Gospel leads young people away from the violence and illegal activities.

According to sources in the area, some Christians have fled with their families, while others who are hoping for government intervention opted to remain – even in the face of danger. Despite death threats and violence, church leaders are continuing with their ministry work in the area.

**May the Gospel of peace continue to reach many Colombians in this volatile area, drawing them to Christ and greatly impacting their lives. Ask God to also provide His comforting peace to Pastor Molina's family, friends and congregation members in their time of grief and suffering, using the example and passion demonstrated through the young church leader's life to inspire them to stand firmly for Jesus. Pray that the authorities will be able to assist the Christian community with the peace process, bringing needed relief throughout the country.**

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### **CUBA: Pastor Threatened for Repairing Churches**

Source: VOM USA

A Cuban pastor has been repeatedly threatened and harassed for his efforts to repair church buildings that were damaged during the 2018 hurricane. In an effort to continue without further interference from authorities, he and other believers have been working on the repairs through the night. Despite this, the pastor was recently threatened by one of the opposing neighbours who approached him with a machete.

Adding to the mounting pressure, local officials have denied the pastor car registration and the right to put up a sign for his own church. Members of the Cuban government consider the repairs illegal because they do not recognize any church buildings constructed after the 1959 revolution. These buildings have served as places of worship for many years, even though some of them have no walls or proper floors. To learn more about Cuba, go to our [country report](#).



Photo: VOM USA

**Pray that the threatened pastor, and others representing the church in Cuba, will remain faithful in the midst of persecution. Ask God to strengthen the resolve of this pastor, and all who are assisting him, so the restoration work that has already begun can be fully completed. Even more importantly, may their endeavours to proclaim the Gospel continue so that many more will be reached throughout the nation, including Cuba's governing authorities.**

**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](#).**

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The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of:  
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For information on additional ways to support members of the persecuted church overseas, review this [listing of options](#).