

***"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee."***

~ Augustus Toplady

NIGERIA: Violence Continues Unabated

Sources: Morning Star News, Christian Post, Release International, VOMC Ministry Partner

The ongoing violence in Nigeria by Fulani herdsmen has continued unabated. Christian villagers and churches are frequently targeted by militants holding to strict Islamic ideology. In recent weeks, several incidents have come to light, indicating the need for continued prayer, as well as a call for action by Nigerian authorities. In this report, a few of the more recent incidences will be highlighted.

On April 12th, family and friends were gathered to celebrate a marriage in the village of TEGINA KABATA when Fulani militants interrupted the ceremony. The couple, together with some of the church members, were taken hostage.

Another attack on April 14th, this time in the village of HURA near the state capital of JOS, resulted in the deaths of three young children. A total of nine villagers were killed, including a pregnant mother who slipped as she tried to flee. The attackers shouted, "Allahu akbar! Come out, come out!" as villagers made their attempts to escape.

On April 19th, at least 36 homes had been destroyed and four residents killed when about 100 herdsmen invaded the village of UNGUWAN MAGAJI. According to witnesses, the gunmen shot at random as the villagers fled.

Gunmen also invaded ATANG village on April 22nd, shooting in the air. At the time of this attack, they entered the home of Emmanuel Iliya Agiya, a church elder and son of the village chief, taking him away at gunpoint. The next day, gunmen raided the village of KUJENI. A woman and child were injured, and 25 houses were burned, as well as a church building.

An email from one of VOMC's ministry partners in Plateau State reports that two elderly Nigerian missionaries, along with a couple of youth, were shot on May 5th. The two ministry workers served at a mission training centre and its affiliated boarding school. Both workers were also very involved in helping the local Fulani community through the provision of education and first aid. It is suspected that the attackers were not local but from areas nearing the Nigeria and Niger border. Co-workers at the training centre are thankful to report that all four wounded victims are alive and receiving medical treatment.

For previous reports on the relentless attacks that have occurred against Christians in Nigeria, go to our [country report](#).

In the face of this incessant and devastating violence, may Christians in Nigeria find their hope and resting place in the 'Rock of Ages.' Intercede for the wounded victims who are now in need of healing from their injuries, as well as the safety of those who've been kidnapped. Remember the grieving loved ones of the many who were killed in the recent attacks. Also pray that Nigeria's governing authorities will find a way to quell these attacks, and that God's Holy Spirit will work mightily in the hearts of the perpetrators.



Photo: Release International

LAOS: Girl Facing Charges After Resisting Attack

Sources: Vision Beyond Borders, BosNewsLife, AsiaNews



Bountheung Phetsomphone
(right) and his friend
Photo: VOM USA

Nang Tookta Phetsomphone is a Christian girl who worked for a Chinese national but quit when he failed to pay her wages. A month later, he asked her to return to the store, promising to pay her. When she arrived, he forced her into a restroom and pulled out a knife, threatening to kill her unless she submitted to him. Somehow, in the midst of the struggle, her attacker was stabbed and killed.

Immediately following the incident, Tookta reported what took place and was detained. Eventually she was released from provincial custody without charge, but district authorities refused to drop the case and continued to detain her. These authorities are demanding that her family leave their Christian faith and pay a large monetary restitution to the family of her attacker. They will only "consider" releasing her if the family complies. At last report, Tookta has not been able to talk to any family members nor obtain legal representation.

Tookta's father has faced legal problems for his work as pastor for many years. It is believed that the charges against Tookta are another way of punishing Bountheung and his family for their Christian faith and witness. In 2012, he was detained after refusing an order to leave the village. In 2015, Bountheung was again arrested for "spreading the Christian faith." For more on his situation, review [this report](#).

Please prayerfully uphold Tookta as she deals with the trauma of this horrific attack, as well as the serious charges against her. Pray that the district authorities of this Communist country will drop the charges and cease their oppression of Laotians who are endeavouring to minister to the spiritual and

practical needs of others in their communities. In fact, may the outreach of the Gospel in Laos continue to touch many lives – resulting in a great harvest of souls.

CHINA: Worshipers Dragged from House Church

Sources: China Aid, Christian Post, International Christian Concern

The Xingguang Church in Xiamen city meets in a residence because they refuse to join the government-sanctioned Three-Self Patriotic Movement. On May 3rd, security officers burst into the home while the church was gathered for worship. The Christian men who had been guarding the door were pinned down and worshippers were forcefully dragged out of the home. Calling the meeting illegal, the officers demanded that church members stop recording with their cell phones and then confiscated them. However, a short video clip has been made [available here](#).

Throughout the proceedings, no warrant was presented. At least three of the Christians were injured and one had to seek medical treatment. Six of the worshippers were detained for several hours before being released that evening. The authorities have issued an order officially banning the church gathering. For more about the persecution facing Christians in China, visit our [country report](#).



This woman was among the believers
who were present during the raid.
Photo: ChinaAid

Pray that the members of the Xingguang Church will find ways to continue encouraging one another and thus grow stronger in their Christian faith. Pray that President Xi and his administration will ease in their opposition to the Gospel. May each of these political leaders experience the love and saving grace of God and, as a result, come to faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, who is longing to be their personal Saviour and Lord.

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](#).

The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of:
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