

***"My times are in Your hand;
rescue me from...my enemies
and from my persecutors!"***

~ Psalm 31:15 ESV

INDIA: Christian Teen Murdered

Sources: Persecution Relief, Morning Star News, Hindustan Times, Matters India, India Today, Christian Post

An innocent teenaged boy was killed and then mutilated by Hindu militants in the village of Kenduguda, Odisha, on June 4th. Samaru Madkami was home from a residential school due to the pandemic lockdown. His father, Unga, served as a leader of the Bethel House Church which met in their home.

At around 11:00 p.m., a group of villagers arrived at the Christian family's house and called for Unga to come to a meeting. Having taken his daughter to the doctor, he was not home. So Samaru went with the group instead, only to find a mob waiting in the jungle. There the youth was stoned and stabbed to death. The attackers returned in an attempt to also take Samaru's cousin, but he was able to escape and report the incident to police.



Photo: Persecution Relief

By the next morning, a dozen arrests had been made. Confessions extracted by police led them to the body, which had been cut into pieces and buried in a pit. Some of those responsible stated that the Christians had been practising black magic, blaming this as the cause of the sickness experienced by several people in the village. Although authorities state that the community's water supply was the true cause of the illness, in the villagers' minds, the alleged black magic practices justified the murder of the teen.

In the three years since Unga and Samaru had made the decision to follow Christ, they have faced continual harassment and threats for their faith. Attempts have been made on Unga's life before. According to the church's pastor, who lives in another village, plans have since been made by disgruntled villagers to kill all three of the Christian families in Kenduguda. Yet, it is believed that the allegations of black magic were merely a pretence to justify the brutal killing.

Shibu Thomas, founder of Persecution Relief, has been involved with more than 1,500 cases of persecution in the past four years. This, however, is by far the most disturbing. "The hate and aggression in the minds of the religious fanatics and the brutal nature of this crime leave me dumbfounded!" he declared. For more on the persecution facing India's Christians, go to our [country report](#).

Please remember Samaru's grieving family and members of their house church group in your prayers as they deal with this horrific loss of life. Ask God to protect this small group of believers in the community and render justice in the situation. May they continue to be a light amid the darkness surrounding them. Pray that the other villagers will respond to God's light and, as a result, experience His unconditional love and forgiveness.

PAKISTAN: Shot for Buying a House in a Muslim Area

Sources: UCA News, AsiaNews, International Christian Concern



Nadeem Joseph recovering in the hospital.
Photo: Screenshot - YouTube / Daimjee TV

Two members of a Christian family were shot and wounded after buying a house in a Muslim neighbourhood. Nadeem Joseph purchased a house in Peshawar's TV Colony and moved in with his family in late May. However, when a neighbour named Salman Khan found out they were Christians, he told them they must leave immediately, claiming Christians are enemies of Islam.

For days, Salman Khan continually threatened the family. Finally, on June 4th, he arrived at their home with his sons and gave the Joseph family 24 hours to leave. Noticing that Salman and his sons had assault rifles, Nadeem tried to call the police but was shot twice in the stomach before he could do so. The perpetrators then turned their guns on the other family members, wounding Nadeem's mother-in-law in the shoulder.

None of the neighbours intervened to help the Christians. The family managed to call an ambulance and both Nadeem and his mother-in-law are now recovering in hospital. A police report has been filed. There is evidence that the Khan family were also involved in the cocaine trade and several members of the offending family have now been arrested in connection with this attack. At last report, Salman Khan had fled the colony and is being sought by police.

Religious intolerance and discrimination in Pakistan are widespread. This discrimination often dictates the jobs Christians are permitted to have, the education they receive, and even the neighbourhoods in which they can live. To receive further information on persecution in Pakistan, and to review previously posted reports, go to our [country report](#).

Pray for a full recovery on behalf of Nadeem and his mother-in-law. May all those responsible for the attack be brought to justice. Also pray that the injustices of Pakistan's societal prejudices will be realized by the perpetrators – as well as those of the general populace – so that positive changes can come about throughout the country and thus enable all citizens to have equitable lives. In the meantime, may those following Christ have the grace to consistently demonstrate His nature by extending forgiveness and lovingkindness to their unbelieving neighbours.

REPORT UPDATE

CHINA: Church Raided Again

Sources: ChinaAid, International Christian Concern, Christian Solidarity Worldwide

On May 3rd, security officers burst into a home where members of the Xingguang Church in Xiamen were meeting. Worshippers were dragged from the building ([see the full report](#) of this initial raid). In a second series of attacks, several homes where church members gathered for meetings were raided on June 11th. More than 100 officials from various governmental departments were involved in these attacks.

Demolishing various rooms in the homes, as well as property, the officials proceeded to confiscate educational material and furniture, along with personal belongings. In all, more than 12 homes were ruined. Some of the church members managed to capture short video clips of the raids, even though -- in at least one case -- a phone was taken away for doing so. Some of the available video footage has been shared by Bob Fu, founder of ChinaAid, and is available for viewing at VOMCanada.com/xingguang.



Officials destroying Christians' property.
Photo: ChinaAid

Pray for the members and leaders of the Xingguang Church, and those of other churches throughout China, who have been facing incessant aggressive pressure from authorities. May they find opportunities to encourage one another in their faith. Also intercede for each of the officers involved, along with the country's governmental leaders, that they would come to understand the reverential fear of God and realize their need to turn to Him in faith.

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 persecuted church overseas, review this [listing of options](#).