

***"It is the Lord who goes before you.
He will be with you; He will not leave you or
forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed"***

~ Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV

SOMALIA: Christian Couple Arrested

Sources: Middle East Concern, Geeska Afrika Online

At an October 5th news conference, police in the self-declared autonomous region of Somaliland announced that a Christian couple had been arrested for being "apostates and evangelists spreading Christianity." On September 21st, the two were taken from their home in Hargeisa where police also found Christian literature in their possession.



The police spokesperson, Faisal His Elmi, stated that the arrest came from an anonymous tip. He also threatened that "whoever dares to spread Christianity in this region should be fully aware that they won't escape the hand of the law enforcement officers and that the spread of Christianity will not be allowed and is considered blasphemy." He encouraged others to report Christians who share their faith.

The detained couple, who are the parents of three children, will face trial by a regional court. Their arrests and detentions have generated fear among other believers in the area, causing many of them to flee for safety. To learn more about the persecution of Christians in Somalia, visit our [country report](#).

May the God of all comfort be wonderfully sensed by this couple and their children, reminding them to trust in Him for protection from the threat of assault and endangerment. Pray that His peace, which surpasses all understanding, will fortify and restore their souls. Likewise, may the other Somali believers who have fled the area in search of safety be greatly encouraged by the promises of the Lord's divine presence and leading. Intercede for the church leaders in Somalia who are faithfully serving as beacons of light in dark places so that many others will be drawn into the Kingdom of God.

CHINA: Advocate in America Faces Death Threats

Sources: ChinaAid, News West 9, World Magazine



Photo: Bob Fu

Bob Fu (Fu Xiqiu), the founder and president of ChinaAid, is a ministry partner with The Voice of the Martyrs. In addition to providing support for Christians in China, the organization he established in 2002 highlights human rights abuses in the country.

Recently, Guo Wengui (also known Miles Kwok) has been posting YouTube videos naming several Chinese Americans whom he claims are "agents of the Chinese Communist Party" (CCP). Among those listed is Bob Fu, whose integrity as a sincere follower of Christ and concerned advocate for true justice has been well proven over the years. His accuser, Guo, is a Chinese billionaire who came to the United States in 2015 after allegedly falling out of favour with the CCP. In the videos, Guo calls for his supporters to "eliminate" Bob.

Busloads of protestors, many apparently from out of state, have been demonstrating in front of Bob's house in Midland, Texas. Going door-to-door in the neighbourhood, they have distributed flyers claiming him to be a "fake pastor" and "evil cheater." Protest signs declare that he is a Chinese spy. As federal and local authorities believe that the threats are real, they have taken Bob and his family to a safe location for protection. However, the security measures have not stopped the protestors, who are refusing to disclose where they are from and whether or not they are being paid to be there.

Bob says that he has never met Guo, nor had any dealings with him. Despite Guo's claims of many others being engaged as CCP agents, it's believed that Guo himself is actually working on behalf of the CCP, seeking to discredit the ministry of ChinaAid. In 2019, a commercial research firm, Strategic Vision, sued Guo, stating that he was a "dissident hunter, propagandist, and agent in the service of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party."

Bob has the close support of many leaders locally, nationally, and around the world. In June, VOMC's Greg Musselman had the opportunity to speak with Bob about the increasing persecution of Christians in China. This informative video interview is [available here](#).

Prayerfully uphold Bob, his wife Heidi, and their children, as they adapt to their new surroundings after being forced to leave their home. Despite the constant threat of harm, may they rest in the assurance that the Lord is watching over them and providing a place of refuge in His loving arms. May God also mightily intervene in the lives of their opposers so that, by His infinite grace, the truth will prevail, hostility will dissipate, and the protests will stop – allowing Bob and his family to resume living in peace and safety within their home community. Last but not least, keep the ministry of ChinaAid in your prayers, asking God to continue using it to reveal the plight of persecuted believers and, at the same time, express the love of Christ to others who are in desperate need of eternal salvation (Matthew 16:26).

PRAISE REPORT

PAKISTAN: Christian Acquitted of Blasphemy

Sources: International Christian Concern, Church in Chains, Aljazeera, AsiaNews

After spending more than six years in prison, and being sentenced to death for blasphemy, Sawan Masih was acquitted on October 5th by the Lahore High Court. He was arrested in 2013 after a neighbour accused him of calling Mohammed a false prophet during a conversation. Sawan denies the accusation, claiming that it was part of a plot to drive Christians from the community and seize their properties for

industrial use.

Since Sawan's conviction in 2014, the case has been presented before the courts repeatedly and encountered frequent delays. It is now hopeful that there will be no obstacles to his release. Charges of blasphemy have frequently been used as a means of taking advantage of Pakistani Christians. For more information on the various challenges encountered by Christians in this country, and to review previously published reports, go to our [country report](#).



Praise God for this encouraging news! Please pray that Sawan will be reunited with his family without further delay. May the Lord continue to watch over his wife Sobia and their three children as they anxiously await Sawan's safe release. Continue to remember the many other Christians throughout Pakistan who are vulnerable to opposition from authorities and fellow citizens because of their faith. Additionally, pray that the governing leaders in Pakistan, as well as members the general populace, will come to see the ways in which these laws are being abused so measures will be taken to stop the unjust treatment and sentencing of Christians.
