

"Faith is the 'yes' of the heart, a conviction on which one stakes one's life."

~ Martin Luther

PAKISTAN: Gunman Kills Christian Youth

Sources: Pakistan Christian Post, Pak Christian News, Morning Star News

On February 5th, Sunil Masih and three other Christian youth were standing in a market of Punjab's Gujranwala District when six men arrived on motorcycles. One of the men shouted, "Kill all the Christians." At that point, a different man, Zaman Butt, opened fire, killing a 14-year-old boy named Sunil. During the attack, another Christian youth was grazed with a bullet. The assailants then fled the scene. Sunil was rushed to a local hospital but pronounced dead on arrival.

Apparently, the altercation began days prior when Zaman Butt, along with a group of intoxicated individuals, arrived at the local Christian colony and attempted to kidnap a boy named Sharoon. While this targeted victim was able to fend off his attackers, he was badly beaten.

The perpetrators are reportedly members of a pedophile criminal gang known for targeting followers of Jesus. According to a local pastor, the gang is well known to police, but their criminal activities have often been ignored. "Their vile depredations target the weak Christian community because authorities ignore our pleas for help," Pastor Asif lamented.

While a police report has been filed, and the identities of those involved in the incident are known, at last report, the perpetrators were still at large. For more reports on the persecution of Christians in Pakistan, go to our [country report](#).

Please prayerfully uphold the family members and friends of Sunil as they mourn the tragic loss of his young life, asking God to provide them greatly needed comfort and healing. In the meantime, may His Holy Spirit also be actively working to transform the hearts and minds of those involved in this case, prompting the authorities to bring all members of the criminal gang to justice and ultimately hopeful repentance. Further, ask our Heavenly Father to ensure divine protection, safety and peace are provided to the vulnerable members of this Christian community, as well as to the many other followers of Jesus whose lives are at risk in this South Asian country.



Sunil Masih

Photo: British Asian Christian Association

VIETNAM: Christian Sentenced for Leading Prayer Meetings

Sources: Radio Free Asia, UCA News, BNN, Vietnam Plus, International Christian Concern

Nay Y Blang is a member of the Central Highlands Evangelical Church of Christ – a religious group that is not officially recognized by the Vietnamese Communist Party. In May 2023, the Christian leader was arrested and charged with taking advantage of "democratic freedom to infringe upon the interests of the state," as well as "the legitimate rights and interests of organizations and individuals." These accusations arose from the prayer meetings he had been holding in his home.

During the trial, at which there was no defence lawyer present, Nay admitted to hosting the prayer meetings. Yet, he did not agree with the accusatory claims that the gatherings were subversive towards the government. Pastor Aga, who started the church and now lives in the United States, insists that the organization is strictly religious. However, at the end of the trial on January 26th, Nay was sentenced to 54 months in prison.



Nay Y Blang in court.

Photo: Radio Free Asia / Cong An Nhan Dan

This is not the first time that Nay has been convicted for his Christian activities. In April 2005, he was sentenced to more than five years in prison for allegedly "undermining the unity policy." In September 2022, the believer was also fined for "abusing democratic freedoms and belief freedoms."

While registered religious groups in Vietnam face restrictions, members of unregistered groups (such as those who attend Nay's church) encounter frequent harassment, abuse and criminal charges. The persecution of unregistered churches is particularly severe in rural areas and for members of ethnic minorities. Additional information on the challenges experienced by Christians in Vietnam is available at our [country report](#).

Pray that Nay will be encouraged and strengthened by the abiding presence of God's Spirit during his time in prison. While waiting for release from custody, may he receive opportunities to reach others for Christ through the life-changing message of the Gospel. Please also prayerfully remember the many other Christians in Vietnam who regularly encounter harassment from officials, asking the Lord to remind these persecuted believers of His unfailing love and sustaining promises.

CHINA: Christians Arrested for Leading Children in Worship

Source: ChinaAid

According to an anonymous prayer letter received by ChinaAid, three Christians were arrested and detained on January 18th because they had led children from their church in singing hymns and prayer. The next day, police raided the homes of the three detained church members, who have been identified as Dai Chuanli, Wang Dandan and Ma Jiahui. Each of these believers was given a 15-day administrative detention.

This is the third time since September 2023 that members of the Fuyang Maizhong Reformed Church have been detained for their worship activities. Other believers from the church continue to face frequent harassment from community officials, who have pried open the doors of their homes and pressured landlords to evict Christian residents.

Administrative detentions are commonly used as a way of harassing and intimidating believers without having to lay charges against the individuals. For other reports on the persecution of Chinese believers, go to our [country report](#).



Christians in China faithfully disciple their children.
Photo: ChinaAid

Please uphold the congregants of this government-harassed church in your prayers, along with the members of unregistered Christian communities throughout China. May these oppressed believers receive wisdom and strength from the Lord, enabling them to not only endure the challenges they're facing, but also triumphantly overcome them. And despite the overt opposition from Chinese Communist Party officials, may their children continue to be trained in the ways of God so they will likewise courageously serve Him.

The "Persecution & Prayer Alert" is a ministry of:
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