



"We want things to go the way we choose and God wants us to choose to trust His ways. We expect more and God expects us to trust Him more."

~ Ann Voskamp, author of *Waymaker*

INDONESIA: Children Injured in Mob Violence

Sources: International Christian Concern, Mission Network News, Christianity Today

On July 27th, a violent incident occurred in Padang City, Indonesia, when several men attacked a prayer house, which was established to provide religious education to Christian children. Armed with sticks, the assailants ordered the believers to disperse, and then they proceeded to smash the building's windows. During the attack, two children (ages eight and eleven) sustained injuries after being struck by objects that had been thrown amid the violence.

After the Christians had exited the premises, the men began wrecking the contents inside. The destroyed items included furniture and electronics. Authorities have arrested nine suspects in connection with the raid. The city's mayor has since claimed that the incident was merely a "misunderstanding," stating that the assailants mistakenly believed the facility was a church building.

This event follows a similar attack that took place in the city of Sukabumi one month earlier, when a large mob targeted a retreat centre for Christian students. The attackers alleged that a private residence was being unlawfully used as a worship site. Following the incident, in which significant damages were made to the retreat house and nearby vehicles, eight individuals were arrested. More information about Christian persecution in Indonesia, including videotaped reports on other incidents, is available at our [country profile](#).



Children in Indonesia.

Photo: ILO / Yodhi Prasetyo ([cc](#))

- ***Pray for complete physical healing on behalf of the two injured children, and for the emotional recovery of all who were otherwise affected by these recent acts of violence.***
- ***May those responsible for the attacks not only be brought to justice, but may they also encounter the truth of God's Word and thus experience genuine transformation of their hearts and minds.***
- ***Pray that Indonesian authorities at every level of government would actively uphold and protect the religious rights and freedoms of citizens representing all faith communities.***

VIETNAM: Worship Gathering Disrupted

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, International Christian Concern, Radio Free Asia

While a Catholic priest was meeting with approximately 20 worshippers in a private residence on August 11th, local police abruptly cut off the power supply of the building and proceeded to raid the gathering, demanding an immediate cessation of the service. This incident occurred in Binh Khang – a village located in Vietnam's northeastern province of Thái Nguyên – at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Authorities arrested three individuals during the incident: the homeowner, the mentioned leader of the local Catholic community, and another church member. Multiple worshippers, including the priest, posted video footage of the police raid on social media.

Although no official reason was given for the arrests, one local official can be heard on video questioning the attendees about their hometowns. In Vietnam, religious activity permits are frequently denied if applicants are not



A village in northeastern Vietnam.

Photo: Pexels / Quang Nguyen Vinh

from the immediate area. However, in this case, it is believed that all those present at the worship gathering were local parishioners.

For previously published reports addressing the challenges encountered by Christians in this Southeast Asian nation, go to our [country profile](#).

- ***Pray for the swift and safe release of the three church members who were arrested during this recent raid.***
- ***May the governmental opposition faced by our Christian brothers and sisters in Vietnam subside.***
- ***Intercede on behalf of all those in this country who are currently opposed to the Gospel message, praying that they would be receptive to the ministry of the Holy Spirit and, therefore, drawn to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus.***

REPORT UPDATE

CHINA: Pastor Arrested for "Illegal Business Operations"

Sources: ChinaAid, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, The Christian Post

Pastor Huang Yizi, a prominent church leader in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, was informed on July 30th that he had been formally charged with "illegal business practices" relating to the distribution of sermon recordings. The Christian leader and several other church members were initially taken into custody on June 26th. At the time, the reason for their arrests was unclear. (A previously published report about the arrests is [available here](#).) However, following the recent announcement of formal charges, further information has now come to light.

In China, only government-registered churches are allowed to operate websites; and even then, all content is subject to scrutiny. Unregistered house churches encounter additional restrictions, particularly when it comes to evangelistic tools like sermon recordings. Furthermore, the government-regulated social media platform WeChat rarely allows Christian content to be shared within the country.



Pastor Huang Yizi
Photo: ChinaAid

In the face of these challenges, some Christians have developed audio players preloaded with hymns and sermon recordings, making it easier for believers to access Biblical content. These devices are especially popular among Christians with visual impairments, as well as those who cannot attend church services. Pastor Huang and other members of his church have been charged with selling these audio players without a business permit. Yet, the church maintains that the distribution was part of their ministry outreach and not intended for profit.

At last report, Pastor Huang remains in detention, along with three of the other arrested church members. Two Christian women, Ding Liqing and Shao Haiyan, had previously been taken into custody but were granted bail on July 26th. According to Pastor Huang's wife, Lin Aili, the women appeared noticeably thinner but showed joy on their faces, testifying to God's presence with them throughout the ordeal.

- ***As was the case for the two released Christian women, pray that Pastor Huang and the other three church members remaining in custody will likewise experience God's peace, strength and protection as they await vindication.***
- ***Additionally, please uphold Pastor Huang's wife, Lin Aili, and the family members of the other detained believers, praying that each one of them will be comforted and sustained as they endure separation from their loved ones in the interim.***
- ***In general, pray for the ongoing ministry efforts of the church in China, asking the Lord to empower believers in this Communist country – specifically granting them wisdom and creativity – as they faithfully continue spreading the Gospel amid opposition.***