



***"Christ died for our sins; now
He has forgiven all our sins. He
loves us. That's why we must show
love to the people who hate us."***

~ Habila Adamu, a Nigerian believer

PAKISTAN: Catholic Pilgrim Killed During Van Attack

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

In the early morning hours of September 7th, a van carrying as many as 18 Catholics was travelling to a pilgrimage site in Mariamabad when three young men on motorbikes intercepted the vehicle by swerving in front of it. The motorcyclists had noticed a cross and Christian posters on the outside of the travelling van.

One eyewitness, who was a member of the travelling group, reports that the men began shouting disparaging remarks to the women on board. When a passenger in the front seat by the name of Afzal Masih told the unruly youth to stop harassing the female passengers, they became aggressively hostile.

After causing the van to stop, the assailants forcibly removed Afzal from the front seat and began to physically beat him. Other passengers attempted to intervene; however, in the process, they were also assaulted. During the attack, the perpetrators referred to the passengers as *Chuhra* (a derogatory term used by Muslim militants in reference to Christians). At this point, despite their injuries, the pilgrims were eventually able to resume their journey.

Further down the road, though, the van experienced a tire issue. When the driver stopped at a repair shop to check the tire pressure, the same assailants reappeared – this time armed with an automatic weapon. One of the attackers, who has since been identified as Muhammad Waqas, fatally shot Afzal in the neck. The slain victim's cousin, Harris, was shot in the arm and later treated in hospital. Afzal, who was only 44 years old, leaves behind a traumatized wife and four sons.

A police case has been registered against Muhammad Waqas and his two unidentified accomplices. Despite the attackers' clear use of anti-Christian rhetoric, the authorities have attempted to frame the incident as a case of gang violence, portraying Afzal as an innocent bystander.

This tragic event follows a pattern of anti-Christian violence during the annual pilgrimage to Mariamabad, which has subsequently led to an increase of security measures along the route. Last year, a similar incident occurred in which another vehicle was attacked, although thankfully no injuries were reported. For further reports addressing the difficulties facing Christians in Pakistan, visit our [country profile](#).

- ***Pray that God's comfort, peace and strength will sustain Afzal's grieving wife and sons, along with their other family members and friends, as they mourn over this tragic loss.***
- ***May the Lord ensure this widow and her children receive adequate provisions for their daily needs.***



Afzal Masih, surrounded by his loved ones.

Photo: Morning Star News

- *Also prayerfully uphold Afzal's cousin, Harris, interceding for his complete physical recovery, as well as his emotional healing – and that of all the other passengers who were forced to witness this deeply traumatic incident.*
- *May the Holy Spirit work powerfully in the hearts of Muhammad and his accomplices, leading them to a point of true repentance and the surrender of their lives to our Lord Jesus Christ.*

NIGERIA: Over 7,000 Christians Killed Thus Far in 2025

Sources: Mission Network News, The Christian Post, The Catholic World Report, Morning Star News

Reports of violence against Christians in Nigeria continue to multiply, with attacks from multiple sources surging in both frequency and intensity. According to a report released on August 10th, more than 7,000 Nigerian Christians had been killed within the first 220 days of 2025 – an average of 32 deaths per day. Additionally, at least 7,800 followers of Jesus were abducted for their faith, more than 19,000 churches have been destroyed, and over 1,100 Christian communities are now dealing with displacement in the aftermath of these attacks.

While the danger stems from various sources, the majority of attacks were perpetrated by Boko Haram jihadists and radical Fulani herdsmen. On August 24th, for instance, two Christians were killed when Fulani militants ambushed a group of farmers in Benue State. A similar incident took place on August 27th in Bauchi State. When five Christians went to check on their farms, they encountered a group of Fulani herdsmen who were using their land to graze cattle. The Christian farmers were attacked, resulting in one of them being killed and three others injured.



Persecuted believers in Nigeria are familiar with grief.
Photo: Evangelical Church Winning All

Three days later, on August 30th, five believers who had been working on their farms in Borno State were killed by Boko Haram militants. The next day, members of Boko Haram attacked the village of Mussa during the night, killing three Christians who were asleep at the time of the invasion.

While such incidents of violence continue to be reported daily, the relentless stream of devastating attacks against Nigerian Christians can regrettably lead to a sense of complacency among those personally unaffected by religious persecution. Yet, may the touching stories of believers whose lives are being directly affected – including the many faithful followers of Christ who are responding to their attackers with the hope of the Gospel – be used by God to reignite a renewed fervency for greatly needed prayerful support.

To learn how the Lord is powerfully working through His faithful followers in Nigeria, you may view our recently recorded video interview with the founders of Christian Faith Ministries: [Nigeria: Attacks on Christians in Benue State](#). For additional reports and videos, please go to our [country profile](#).

- *Pray that God will continue to guide and bless the efforts of Nigerian believers who are faithfully demonstrating His love, hope and peace to others in need of eternal salvation by sharing the Gospel message, even in the midst of ongoing persecution and hardship.*
- *May believers around the world be moved to support our Nigerian family in Christ through unceasing prayer, advocacy and practical humanitarian aid.*
- *Ask the Lord to comfort all those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, minister healing to survivors recovering from physical injuries and trauma, mightily intervene on behalf of Christians held in captivity by Islamic militants, and provide greatly needed help and restoration to displaced believers who have lost their homes and livelihoods as a result of the violence.*

CHINA: House Church Bible Study Gathering Raided

Source: ChinaAid

Several Christians were gathered on the morning of August 22nd for a Bible study at the Beijing Holy Love Fellowship church when multiple police officers suddenly entered the facility. After demanding to see the believers' identification cards, the authorities recorded the personal details of all those who were present. At the time of publishing this report, no official statement or charges have been issued by the Beijing police.

The Beijing Holy Love Fellowship, which happens to be one of the most prominent house churches in China's capital region, was clearly under the scrutiny of city officials prior to the raid. The recent invasion follows a series of other incidents in which several church members were previously detained and sentenced for their involvement in religious or human rights activities.



One of the church members being interrogated by police.

Photo: ChinaAid

Unregistered churches in China continue to encounter surveillance, interference and legal threats. In addition, church members are frequently charged with offenses such as "disturbing social order" or conducting "illegal business operations." These accusations are often used by Communist officials to suppress religious gatherings and intimidate those who attend them. To learn more about Christian persecution in China, go to our [country profile](#).

- ***Prayerfully uphold the members of this thriving church as they face potential repercussions for their participation in Christian activities, asking the Lord to provide each one ongoing strength, encouragement and protection.***
- ***Pray that the authorities involved in the disruption of Christian gatherings will personally encounter the profound life-changing love of Christ through the witness of His followers and, as a result, become receptive to the truth of the Gospel.***
- ***Please also remember the many Chinese followers of Jesus who are currently being detained because of their faith, asking the Lord to give them endurance, hope and divinely appointed opportunities to share the Gospel while awaiting their release from imprisonment.***

The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of:
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