



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, July 12, 2018

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

~ Max Lucado

INDIA: Prayer Meeting Attacked; Twenty Injured

Source: International Christian Concern

Twenty Christians were seriously injured after a mob stormed the prayer meeting they attended. According to local reports, more than 150 believers were gathered together on July 2nd when 25 Hindu villagers attacked them, beating them with wooden rods. When the mayhem finally concluded, 20 Christians were severely injured; some with broken bones. Ten motorcycles were also damaged, along with furniture and musical instruments.

Following the assault, the village leader filed multiple false criminal charges against six of the Christians. One of those accused, Gautam, stated that they were charged under the anti-conversion legislation, even though there were no attempts made in terms of conversion. "We peacefully conduct prayers every Monday and people voluntarily attend these prayers," he added.

Please pray for healing on behalf of all those who were injured in this recent attack. Ask the Lord for His provision for the church and its members in their endeavours to replace what was destroyed. Also pray that the charges will be dropped against the falsely accused Christians, and that the Godly conduct and attitude demonstrated by the church members will serve as a bright light for the other villagers, showing them the way to faith in Christ.

PAKISTAN: No Church Allowed in Village

Sources: World Watch Monitor, Pakistan Today, UCANews

Six months after Christians in the village of Nayya Sarabah were stopped from meeting for worship, the community's officials are now demanding that the church building be destroyed. Local Muslims are refusing to allow a church facility within the village.

Since the construction of the church building in 2012, services have been held regularly for the past several years. However, in December 2016, local Muslims objected. After negotiations, a compromise was reached, allowing the church members to continue meeting. One year later, in December 2017, an application was submitted to the local police station and the church members were forced to sign a pledge, stating that they would no longer meet in the village. Authorities claimed that this legal agreement was for their own safety, explaining that the police were unable to provide security for them.

After almost six months without gathering in the church facility, the Christian villagers were called together on July 2nd for a meeting where they were ordered by officials to demolish their building. In exchange, it was proposed that the church be allowed to build on state land outside the village -- using property that had initially been set aside for a school.

Church members are now conflicted. While wanting to meet together in peace, they have nothing in writing granting them the right to actually build on the new land. On top of that, the impoverished Christians do not have the funds available to build a new church facility again.

Pray that the church leaders will be given wisdom and direction in their struggle to do what is best for their needy congregation members. May peace from God guide the interaction between the Christians and their fellow villagers, so they would be able to resolve the issue amicably. Pray that the authorities will seek to bring harmony among all the community members throughout the negotiation process.

PRAISE REPORT

ALGERIA: Christian Acquitted

Sources: World Watch Monitor, Evangelical Focus, Gospel Geral

In April 2016, Idir Hamdad was returning to Algeria from a study trip to Amman, Jordan. When his luggage was inspected at the airport upon return, customs officials found his Bible and some other Christian books, along with some cross-shaped keychains he had been given. He was interrogated for eight hours, during which time the officers insulted his faith and told him that if he renounced Christianity, he would be freed.

Eventually all the items, including his personal Bible, were confiscated. In September, Idir learned that he had been convicted *in absentia* and, therefore, given a fine plus six months in jail for importing religious items without a licence.

On May 3rd, 2018, an appeals court overturned his initial prison sentence but upheld the fine of 20,000 dinar (approx. \$225 CAN). Finally, on July 9th, all charges against him were dropped. In its ruling, the court stated that Idir has been prosecuted "simply because he converted to Christianity, and what he was carrying were only gifts." Idir is thankful that this situation has finally been resolved. "I am happy to be free at last," he proclaims.

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 at www.vomcanada.com/prayerwall.htm.

The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of:
The Voice of the Martyrs Canada, P.O. Box 608, Streetsville, Ontario, L5M 2C1
Tel. (905) 670-9721 Website: www.vomcanada.com

Sign up to receive our free monthly publication at www.vomcanada.com/nlorder.htm.
You may also opt to receive inspiring teaching messages by email. Just go to www.vomcanada.com/pnpord.html and select "A Message from the CEO."

Please do not reply to this email, as it comes from an address that is not monitored. To contact us, use our online form at www.vomcanada.com/contact.htm.

If you would like to encourage someone to read or receive this weekly prayer alert, please use our online form at www.vomcanada.com/pnpforward.htm and help spread the message of the persecuted church around the world.

For information on additional ways to support members of the persecuted church overseas, review the list of options at www.vomcanada.com/take-action.htm.