



## **Persecution & Prayer Alert**

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada  
www.vomcanada.com

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*"The will of God, to which the law  
gives expression, is that men should  
defeat their enemies by loving them."*

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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### **COMOROS: Sunni Islam Declared Official Religion**

Sources: Deutsche Welle, World Watch Monitor

Constitutional reforms approved in a referendum on July 30th have created concerns in the African island nation of Comoros. Opposition leaders called on people to boycott the referendum, believing that it was not legitimate.

Along with extending the power and term of the president, one area of particular concern to religious minorities in the country is the removal of a clause separating religion and state. Previously, the country was considered an Islamic state, but the constitutional change now officially declares it as such with the following declaration: "The state draws from this religion the principles and rules of Sunnite observance."

Local sources are concerned over how this development is going to affect Christians and other religious minorities. During his campaign, President Azali Assoumani promised that, if approved, his government would be imposing tougher measures on any citizens who are not Sunni Muslim. More than 95 percent of the population (consisting of approximately 825,000 citizens) are Sunni, with about two percent Christian.

Proselytization of any kind, other than Islam, is illegal. Foreigners have generally been free to practise their religion as long as they do not share it with Comorians. These constitutional changes could further restrict religious freedoms. For more information on Comoros, visit [www.vomcanada.com/comoros.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/comoros.htm).

*May God bring peace to the people of this island nation. Intercede for President Assoumani, asking the Lord to work in his heart and help him to realize the need to respect the rights of all*

*citizens of Comoros. Pray for the country's Christians as they seek to please God in their lives and endeavour to reach out to their neighbours with the saving love of Christ.*

### **INDIA: Plans of Weekly Church Closures**

Source: World Watch Monitor

Christians residing in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra state have been warned by fellow villagers of the intent to close one church every week. Since June, more than a dozen homes belonging to Christians have been attacked across five villages.

The believers have been told that, unless they renounce their faith, the water supply will be cut off and food subsidies will be stopped. In a recent incident that took place on August 5th, Gallu Kowasi was badly beaten in the village of Kospundi by locals who were demanding that he abandon his faith. Several others have faced threats of death or expulsion.

In the village of Bharagad, Christians filed a police complaint, but the authorities did nothing. Instead, they later received letters warning them against any further complaints. The opposition stems from a belief that the churches have been destroying local traditions and culture by luring others to convert.

*Remember your persecuted brothers and sisters in India as they seek to share the Gospel of Christ despite the opposition they face. May they rest in the assurance of God's blessing and love in the midst of persecution (Matthew 5:11). Pray that His healing will take place in the lives of the injured victims and His abiding presence will encourage those who've been ostracized.*

## **PRAISE REPORT**

### **UGANDA: Three Abducted Children Safely Recovered**

Source: Morning Star News

After further investigation, a report was recently issued on the safe recovery of three children who were kidnapped in December 2015. At the time of their captivity, it was believed they were abducted as a means of pressuring the family to return to Islam (see [www.vomcanada.com/ug-2015-12-17.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/ug-2015-12-17.htm)). Their father, Madengho, who at the time was a recent convert to Christ, believed that Islamist militants had initially come to deal with him. When they couldn't locate Madengho, they took his young children instead: Musitafa, Amuza and Shakira.

After being held in an undisclosed location for almost two-and-a-half years, the children finally managed to escape on May 5th. Not knowing where they were going, the three siblings were found wandering the streets of a village approximately 80 kilometres from their home. The relative who discovered them at first couldn't recognize the children's identities due to their poor

condition. According to reports, they were malnourished and had faced daily indoctrination in the Quran.

Since their homecoming, Musitafa, Amuza and Shakira have been provided counselling and nourishment. However, they continue to need physical and emotional healing. Even so, Madengho is extremely thankful for the blessing of his children's safe return while, at the same time, trusting the Lord for the restoration of their health and well-being. "Thank God for saving my children in a miraculous way," he declares. "The God who saved them is able to restore them back to a good, sound mind." Please remember this newly reunited family, specifically praying for the children's full recovery.

*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](http://www.vomcanada.com/prayerwall.htm). Another effective way to serve the persecuted is through volunteering: [www.vomcanada.com/volunteer.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/volunteer.htm).*

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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](http://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](http://www.vomcanada.com/take-action.htm).