



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, October 18, 2018

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

~ James 1:2-4 ESV

KENYA: Two Teachers Killed in Bombing

Sources: Reuters, Daily Nation, World Watch Monitor

Two Christian teachers in Kenya were killed when al Shabaab militants threw an explosive device at the house in which they were living. The two victims were staying in a home specifically for non-local teachers of the Arabia Boys Secondary School located in Mandera County near the border with Somalia.

The attackers assumed that non-local teachers would likely be non-Muslims. According to local officials, at least 20 militants attacked the home in the early morning of October 10th. Guards on duty were unable to prevent the attack because of the overwhelming number of attackers. Two of those present in the home managed to escape, but the other two were shot as they tried to escape the fire.

In February, the government transferred all non-local teachers from volatile border areas. However, an estimated 18 chose to remain despite the danger. Numerous attacks by al Shabaab have taken place against Christians in the Mandera region. For more information on incidences of persecution in Kenya, go to www.vomcanada.com/kenya.htm.

Remember the families and friends of the two slain teachers as they mourn their tragic loss. Pray for the safety of others serving in these dangerous areas. May the authorities be able to provide necessary protection for humanitarian workers serving within the country, as well as their own innocent civilians.

VIETNAM: Church Faces Shutdown Order

Source: International Christian Concern

As believers met for worship on the morning of October 7th in Cuor Dang Commune, Daklak Province, local authorities entered the home where they were meeting, demanding that they stop all religious activities. Those present refused to leave, saying that any action would have to wait until after they were finished. Because the home was crowded, the officials were forced to wait outside.

As the congregants dispersed, orders were given that the church leader, Ama Sim, was to go with them for questioning. The church refused, fearing that he might disappear. The officers finally relented and told them, "We are giving you a warning this time; but next Sunday if you still gather, we will bring more crowds to shut you down."

The Christians who were at the gathering are members of the Montagnard people, an ethnic minority that frequently faces persecution because of their ethnicity and Christian faith. The government in Vietnam is also nervous about large gatherings, fearing "subversive activities."

Praise God for the strength and bravery of these believers in the face of threats. Pray for their continued endurance and protection, despite ongoing opposition. Intercede for the local authorities that they too will experience the Lord's transformative power in their lives. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, may the Gospel spread throughout Vietnam.

PERSECUTION UPDATES

NIGERIA: Aid Worker Killed; Leah "Slave for Life"

Sources: Daily Post, CBN, The Cable

"Islamic State West Africa Province" (ISWAP), the Boko Haram faction currently holding 15-year-old Leah Sharibu, has released a statement claiming to have executed a second Red Cross aid worker during the past month. In the statement, the group claimed that Hauwa Leman, along with Saifura Ahmed (who was killed in September), were apostates because they joined the Red Cross.

As part of the announcement, ISWAP also stated that they would no longer kill Leah Sharibu, as they had earlier threatened. Instead, they vowed to keep her as a "slave for life." Also held as a slave is Christian UNICEF worker Alice Ngaddah.

The Nigerian government is facing increasing pressure to ensure the safety and release of Leah and others in Boko Haram captivity. Remember Leah, Alice and the other captives in your prayers, as well as their distraught families. More information on Leah's captivity is available at www.vomcanada.com/ng-2018-08-30.htm.

TURKEY: Andrew Brunson Released!

Sources: Middle East Concern, International Christian Concern

Christians in Turkey and around the world are praising God for the release of Andrew Brunson from Turkish captivity. While the charges were not dropped, the court ruled on October 12th that he should be released for good behaviour and time served. He was allowed to leave the country and return to the United States. (Previous report: www.vomcanada.com/tr-2018-10-11.htm.)

While we are thankful for his release, it is disappointing that he was convicted on bogus terrorism charges. According to Middle East Concern, Andrew's lawyer in Turkey will be appealing the conviction and sentence in order to clear his name.

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.

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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 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.