



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
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*"The prayers of the saints and the fire of God
move the whole course of the world. They are the
most potent, most disturbing, most revolutionary,
most terrifying powers that the world knows."*

~ T.F. Torrance

EGYPT: Seven Fatalities in Bus Attack

Sources: Reuters, World Watch Monitor, Tunisie Numerique

Seven people were killed and at least 14 wounded when a bus of Christians was attacked while travelling to a monastery in Minya on November 2nd. Six of those killed were from the same family. The attack happened in almost the identical location as a similar attack in May 2017 which killed 28 Christians (see www.vomcanada.com/eg-2017-06-08.htm).

According to witnesses, one bus managed to escape without harm but a second smaller bus was forced to stop, permitting the terrorists to open fire on the passengers. The attackers then fled the scene.

In both the previous and latest attacks, ISIS has claimed responsibility. The militant group gave the recent arrest of six women as a reason for this month's incident. Egyptian authorities announced on November 4th that they had located and killed nine members of the terrorist cell responsible for this terrible incident.

Remember those who are grieving the senseless loss of their loved ones. Pray for the surviving victims who were injured as they recover from their wounds and the emotional trauma of the attack. May the authorities be able to provide the protection that's needed for Egypt's most vulnerable citizens.

INDONESIA: Proposed Religious Education Law

Sources: UCA News, World Watch Monitor

Christian organizations in Indonesia have raised concerns about a new religious education bill that would require government permits before conducting any classes, including Sunday school, catechism or Bible classes. The law, if passed, would require a minimum of 15 participants, along with approval from the government's Religious Affairs Ministry.

One church leader believes it will be used by hardline groups to ban church activities and harass Christians. "It limits Christians in conducting important and inseparable parts of religious activities," he states. Those concerned have launched a petition demanding that informal classes, such as Sunday school, be left to the regulation of individual religious groups.

Pray that the governing officials responsible for the proposed bill will be open to input and the need for modifications to ensure religious freedoms. Uphold the country's church leaders and congregation members, asking God to grant them wisdom and discretion as they raise their concerns. May Christian families throughout Indonesia, as represented by the churches, be free to train their children in the ways of the Lord.

REPORT UPDATES

UKRAINE: Registration Deadline Passes for Luhansk Churches

Source: Forum 18

Since rebels in the Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine declared independence in 2014, the self-declared government has oppressed religious groups in various ways. As part of their efforts to control the churches, the Luhansk State Security Ministry announced a complete ban on one Baptist denomination for not submitting to compulsory registration. For more information, go to www.vomcanada.com/uk-2018-08-16.htm.

On August 20th, the ministry announced a deadline of October 15th for all church groups to re-register or be declared illegal which entails the closure and seizure of their properties. In compliance, numerous religious communities filed the necessary papers for the re-registration and awaited news. As of the deadline, however, no Baptist, Seventh-Day Adventist, or Pentecostal community has been granted registration and many were denied. Catholic churches have not yet heard the results of their applications.

To avoid property seizure, Adventist communities have discontinued activities after their applications were all rejected. Other churches have continued to meet despite the imminent threat of closure. Some religious groups chose to not attempt the registration, believing it was futile under the current political environment. Continue to pray for Christians in Luhansk as they face these ongoing threats.

PAKISTAN: Asia Bibi Released But Location Unknown

During the night of November 7th, Pakistani authorities released Asia Bibi from the Multan jail following her acquittal a week before (see www.vomcanada.com/pk-2018-11-01.htm). Under tight security and a media blackout, she boarded a flight to an unknown destination. Initial media reports claim that she had been flown out of Pakistan. However, government officials insist that she is still within the country but at a safe location. Please remain mindful to pray for Asia, her family, and the nation of Pakistan.

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.