



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, January 30, 2020

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be
frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord
your God is with you wherever you go."*

~ Joshua 1:9 ESV

BANGLADESH: URGENT PRAYER NEED!

Source: The Voice of the Martyrs Canada Contacts

Please immediately stop and pray for this critical need right now as it's a very time-sensitive situation and in the process of happening as you read this.... The Voice of the Martyrs Canada has just received news that three Christian families were attacked in a Rohingya refugee camp this past week.

These families were actively involved in ministry within the camp and have faced significant opposition due to their Christian faith and testimony. In the attack, a pastor and his daughter were abducted. Just this morning, we received news that the kidnappers plan to forcibly marry the pastor's daughter to a Muslim man. This is to happen very soon.

Ask God to mightily intervene in this critical situation. Pray that these plans will be thwarted, and that the kidnapped pastor and his daughter will be safely returned to their concerned family. God states in His Word: "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3 NKJV). Let's take hold of God's promises as we intercede on behalf of His persecuted people.

INDIA: Pastor Repeatedly Beaten

Sources: Release International, Morning Star News

Pastor Jai Singh was part of a house church that had gathered for worship on January 5th in the village of Bichpari when a mob of 250 to 300 people surrounded the home. He was dragged to a school where he was beaten multiple times by different groups of people before being driven to a Hindu temple and forced to sit in front of idols. By the time the abuse was finished, his garment

was covered in blood. After the assault, the perpetrators took Pastor Jai to a police station where he was left in severe pain.

Police took him to a hospital for treatment and then brought him back to the station where he, along with the owner of the house church meeting and other participants, were charged for allegedly offering money to convert people to Christianity. The pastor remained in custody until bail was granted two days later.

At last report, Pastor Jai was unable to walk and had difficulty remaining in one position for more than five minutes. An undisclosed Christian organization has provided medical assistance at a hospital in Delhi. For more information on the persecution of Christians in India, go to www.vomcanada.com/india.htm.

Please pray for the complete healing of Pastor Jai and others who were injured in the recent attack. Despite the trend of increased opposition against the Gospel in India, pray that the country's believers will continue standing firm in their faith. Ask God to provide them needed protection and, through the ministry of His Holy Spirit, serve as their Comforter, Helper, Counsellor and Advocate. May the attackers recognize the love of Jesus being demonstrated in the lives of these Christians and, as a result, come to acknowledge Him as their Saviour.

SUDAN: Church Buildings Destroyed for a Second Time

Sources: Sudan Tribune, HUDO Centre, Christian Post

Make-shift buildings, erected after three church buildings were destroyed by fire on December 28th, were burned down on January 16th. While those responsible are still unknown, local Christians believe it is the work of Islamic jihadists.

The Sudan Interior Church, Roman Catholic Church and Orthodox Church were all located in the village of Bout in Blue Nile State. After the buildings were destroyed, the church members quickly erected replacement structures so they could continue to meet. Even though a case was filed with the police, church members report that there has been no investigation nor has any protection been provided by the authorities. A Sudanese human rights organization, HUDO, has expressed concern and is calling on the government to take "urgent action in safeguarding the constitutional rights of the affected citizens."

In recent months, some positive signs have been seen, as the government is transitioning away from the authoritarian rule of Omar al-Bashir. The current minister of religious affairs has publicly apologized to Christians for the "unjust and clumsy policies." Even so, the opposition of militants remains in many areas in this predominantly Muslim country. To learn more about the country of Sudan, go to www.vomcanada.com/sudan.htm.

Please lift up these Sudanese Christians in your prayers, as they seek God's direction in the days to come. Pray that He will provide them the necessary resources to rebuild; this time, without any threat of opposition or destruction of their places of worship. May the authorities ensure these believers receive needed protection, and that investigations will take place so the

perpetrators responsible for the attacks will be found. Pray that many of the country's inhabitants will come to faith in Christ throughout Sudan.

CHINA: Government-Recognized Church Faces Demolition

Source: China Aid

The Donghu Church in Xining received official approval from authorities in 2003, and has been operating as a government-approved Three-Self Church by meeting the legal requirements. With more than 300 members, it is the oldest and largest church in the district. Yet, despite its official status, the church has still faced opposition from authorities.

In December 2017, the fire department closed the church building, citing that there was a "hidden danger." While that closure was later suspended, the church purchased a new building early the following year. However, as the government did not approve of the new building, the church was forced to gather elsewhere. The congregants then began meeting in the Donghu Hotel. This move was also opposed and, in early December 2019, the fire department sealed the church door.

Despite this most recent closure, more than 200 of the remaining church members continued to meet by climbing through a window into the building. On Christmas Day, however, the power was cut off to the building in the middle of the service, leaving the people in the dark. The church has now received a formal notice of immediate closure, including a statement that the building will be demolished. This opposition demonstrates the ongoing efforts of the Chinese government to shut down the churches, even those having government approval. For more information, go to www.vomcanada.com/china.htm.

Remember these believers in your prayers as they face this season of difficulty and uncertainty. Pray that they will discover new opportunities to worship together and reach out in their communities with the Gospel message. May the authorities working to oppose the churches realize that they are fighting against the 'eternal God of the universe' and, as a result of this awareness, turn in humility and repentance to Him.

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:
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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.