



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
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"If our enemy cannot put up with us any longer and takes to cursing us, our immediate reaction must be to lift up our hands and bless him. Our enemies are blessed of the Lord. Their curse can do us no harm. May their poverty be enriched with all the riches of God, with the blessing of Him whom they seek to oppose in vain."

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

EGYPT: Christian Woman "Converts" after Kidnapping

Source: International Christian Concern

Rania Abd al-Meseh was kidnapped on April 23rd by two veiled women in the Monufia Governorate. Three days later, a video began circulating in which she allegedly announces her conversion to Islam. Those who know her, however, are convinced that she was under duress at the time of the videotaping, based on her body language.

Rania is the mother of three daughters. Her brother Ramon notes that her social media accounts frequently refer to her Christian faith. When she left home, she was wearing a cross necklace. "If she was wanting to convert to Islam," he reasoned, "she would have left the necklace at home."

Christian women are frequently kidnapped in Egypt, forced to convert to Islam, and then married to Muslim men. In some cases, the women do convert of their own free will, further complicating any attempts to rescue those who are truly unwilling captives. For those who are rescued, the shame-honour culture makes it very difficult for them to return to their former lives. For more on the difficulties facing Christians in Egypt, go to www.vomcanada.com/egypt.htm.

Please lift up Rania in your prayers. Pray that she will stand firm in her Christian faith, greatly encouraged by the help and abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. Also uphold her daughters and other family members as they deal with this devastating situation. May Rania's whereabouts be revealed, and the truth of her situation disclosed, so that she will be joyfully reunited with her distraught family.

INDIA: Daughter of Slain Pastor Wounded

Sources: Morning Star News, International Christian Concern, The Telegraph India

On October 13th, 2015, Pastor Chamu Hassa Purty was shot and killed while at his home in Sandih village, Jharkhand. The murder happened after he had prayed for a sick boy in a nearby village and then helped him get to hospital.

Five years later, on the evening of April 16th, two men came to the door of the Purty home, asking if it was the home of the pastor who was killed. Threatening the family members who were there, the men shouted: "That pastor was killed, but you did not learn a lesson. You have continued assembling in large numbers for Christian prayers. Where is the woman working as a spy?" Chamu's widow insisted they were not spies and demanded that the men leave the premises.

When Chamu's daughter, Neelam, entered the room to see what was happening, one of the men declared, "She is the one!" The day before, Neelam had returned from another community where she was employed as a teacher, since the school had shut down due to the coronavirus lockdown. The man holding a gun shot her and then fled. The bullet pierced Neelam's thumb and entered her thigh.

With the help of the local pastor, Neelam was transported to hospital where she underwent surgery a few days later. According to news sources, she is recovering well. A police report has been filed and the officers have identified some suspects. It is believed that those responsible for this attack may well be connected to the slaying that took place five years earlier. To view other reports on the persecution of Christians in India, go to www.vomcanada.com/india.htm.

Pray that Neelam will fully recover from her injuries. May this young woman and her family, who are all undoubtedly reliving the trauma surrounding their loved one's death, experience the peace of God that transcends all understanding and His divine protection over their lives. Intercede for those responsible for the recent shooting, as well as the murder that took place five years prior, that they will not only be brought to justice but also genuine repentance. For only then will they be able to experience right standing with God through His Son Jesus Christ.

PAKISTAN: Church Building Attacked Over Land Dispute

Sources: Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement, Outlook India, UCA News

On May 9th, a group of Muslim men vandalized the Trinity Pentecostal Church in the town of Kala Shah Kaku over an alleged land dispute. The group was led by Malik Aun Abbas, a local property dealer who claims he has rights to the land. The men demolished the main gate and boundary wall. They then entered the church, broke the cross, damaged a wall, and threatened to burn the building and the Christians who were present. Police were called to the scene but the men escaped before the authorities arrived.

According to Pastor Samuel Hadayat, who has led the church for 22 years, an empty plot of neighbouring land measuring 101 square metres was purchased last year to better accommodate their growing congregation. However, the former owners have recently put pressure on the Christian community to relinquish the empty lot. Leaders of the church insist they have legal title to the entirety of the property, including last year's purchase of land.

When the church building located on the original property was closed due to quarantine, the perpetrators attempted to take advantage of the situation by carrying out the attack. A police report has been filed, in which Pastor Samuel Hadayat wrote, "They tried to create a fight between the Muslims and the Christians, and create hatred between both religions."

Punjab senator Kamran Michael vows to ensure the arrest of those responsible for the attack, "It is terrorism to hurt the religious sentiments of a community," he affirms. For further information and previously reported incidents of persecution and oppression committed against Christians in Pakistan, go to www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm.

Pray that this dispute will be settled amicably through legal mediation, and that peace and unity will take place among the members of this Punjabi town. May God's justice prevail, resulting in the conviction and heart-change of those responsible for the attack. Pray that the church will be a shining light of Christ's love, grace and forgiveness in their community.

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.