



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.
Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ.
One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrow will erase.
It will be worth it all when we see Christ."*

~ E.K. Rusthoi

PAKISTAN: Call to Expel All Christians

Sources: International Christian Concern, Mission Network News

A video from a Muslim cleric has gone viral in Pakistan, promoting hatred towards Christians and demanding that all of them be thrown out of the country. Referring to the followers of Jesus as "the worst infidels of the universe," the cleric speaking in the video declares that "Christians have no right to live in this Islamic country."

While the video is new, the message is not. The country's constitution refers to religious freedom for all citizens, but the government offers little to no help for religious minorities. Messages such as those contained in the video encourage intolerance which can lead to violence.

Over the years, blasphemy laws have been frequently abused by the accusers, as false allegations against Christians are often used for personal gain and may result in innocent believers unjustly languishing in prison for years or the tragic loss of their lives. To learn more about the persecution of Christians in Pakistan, or to access previously posted reports, go to www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm.

Pray that Pakistan's government officials and military leaders will defend the constitutional rights of Christians and other citizens who are representative of the country's various minority groups. May the antagonistic message contained in the cleric's video fall on deaf ears, so that those who hear it will not be influenced by the strife and hatred that he is instigating. Pray for the protection of Christians who must face such allegations and threats on a daily basis,

asking God to give them the grace, wisdom and favour to live peaceably among the people of their communities.

NIGERIA: Men Assassinated as Warning to Christians

Sources: New York Times, Morning Star News, The Nigerian Voice

A Nigerian terrorist group released a video on July 22nd showing five men lined up for execution. The group included three humanitarian aid workers who disappeared last month, along with a security guard and a state employee.

In the 35-second video, the captors address "all those being used by infidels to convert Muslims to Christianity," threatening the country's Christians with the same fate as their abducted victims if they continue evangelizing. The video ends with at least four of the men being shot to death; however, the fate of the fifth is uncertain due to conflicting reports.

According to an unnamed witness, two of the aid workers and the security guard were Christians. It is believed that the terrorists responsible for this crime are from a splinter group of Boko Haram known as the "Islamic State West Africa Province" or "Khalifa."

The governor of Borno State, Babagana Umara Zulum, has expressed his condolences and pledged to continue seeking ways to end the violence. Further information on the suffering inflicted upon Nigeria's Christians is available at www.vomcanada.com/nigeria.htm.

Remember the family and friends of those who have been killed in this horrific incident. Pray that those responsible for the executions will be located by the authorities and thus held accountable for their actions. May governing officials throughout Nigeria dedicate themselves to the ending of terrorist violence which has caused numerous casualties, the destruction of multiple homes and villages, and so much unnecessary heartache for thousands of injured and displaced victims.

REPORT UPDATE

PAKISTAN: Pregnant Teen Confined to a Single Room

Sources: Aid to the Church in Need, Independent Catholic News

In October 2019, 14-year-old Huma Younus was kidnapped from her home, forcibly converted to Islam, and then married to her kidnapper (see www.vomcanada.com/pk-2020-02-20.htm). Since the abduction, her parents have been working on her behalf, seeking to annul the marriage, which by law is forbidden before the age of 18 without parental permission.

Court hearings have been previously delayed. The one scheduled for July 13th was postponed because the courtroom was shut down due to COVID-19. According to the lawyer assisting the family, Huma has been able to contact them by phone. He reports that she is now pregnant.

When asked if there was a way to depart from the residence where she is being held hostage, Huma said that she is confined to one room and not permitted to leave.

The girl's abductor, Abdul Jabbar, has a brother who is a member of the armed forces. This brother has threatened the lives of Huma's family, stating that he would kill anyone who tries to help them. Jabbar's lawyer has used every means possible to delay the court proceedings. If the decision is delayed for three more years, it will likely be dismissed when she turns 18.

Please continue to pray for Huma's safety and eventual release. In the meantime, may God administer emotional, physical and spiritual strength to this teen and her distraught family. Also pray for the many other young girls in Pakistan who are facing similar situations, that they will reflect the character of Christ in their lives -- even while waiting for deliverance from captivity -- so their captors will surrender their lives to Him and do what is honorable in His sight.

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:
The Voice of the Martyrs Canada, P.O. Box 608, Streetsville, Ontario, L5M 2C1
Tel. (905) 670-9721 Website: www.vomcanada.com

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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.