



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit."*

~ Psalm 34:18 ESV

INDONESIA: Christian Family Killed in Terrorist Attack

Sources: The Salvation Army, Jakarta Globe, Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin, International Christian Concern

The Indonesian police and military have launched a hunt for the Islamic terrorist group responsible for killing four Christians of a single family and setting fire to homes in Central Sulawesi. This is the third attack within the past three months that was committed by members of a small group, known as the East Indonesia Mujahidin, who have pledged allegiance to ISIS.

The family attended a Salvation Army church in the village of Lewono Lembantongoa. At least ten attackers entered this village on the morning of November 27th. One of the Christians was beheaded, while the others had their throats cut. Six homes belonging to Christians were destroyed in the raid. The other 150 families of the village fled for safety.

The attack has been condemned by religious and governmental leaders. The international head of the Salvation Army, General Brian Peddle, calls for prayer on behalf of "each person who has been affected, for the continuing witness of our people, and for healing in the communities." Indonesia's president, Joko Widodo, is calling for unity, saying, "We must be united as a nation to stop these acts of terror." For more information on the persecution of Christians in Indonesia, go to www.vomcanada.com/indonesia.htm.

Please lift up to God in prayer the families and friends of the Indonesian believers who have been brutally slaughtered. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring conviction upon those responsible, putting an end to the violence and allowing the displaced villagers to safely return to their homes. May the people of Indonesia join together in unity and cohesion as they continue to uphold the country's constitution which includes the rights of all citizens to live in safety and security, protected from any form of militancy and violence.

UGANDA: Pastor and Two Christian Boys Slain

Source: Morning Star News

Pastor Wilson Niwamanya and his 12-year-old son were on their way home to Kabale on November 21st when they were stopped by Islamic militants. They were returning after delivering Christian literature along the Democratic Republic of Congo border when four men stepped out of the bush and forced them to stop the motorcycles they were riding. Grabbing Pastor Wilson, one of the assailants declared, "This man must die for disrespecting our religion."

The perpetrators began to beat the pastor on the head with blunt objects and then stabbed his son, Simon Peter, fleeing the crime scene when other motorcyclists approached. Simon Peter died at the scene, whereas Pastor Wilson succumbed to his injuries a few days later. Another Christian worker who was with them escaped with injuries to his hand. According to his wife, Pastor Wilson had received text messages prior to the incident, warning him to stop distributing literature that allegedly discredits Islam.

In a separate incident, relatives killed the six-year-old son of a former Islamic sheikh after he refused to renounce his faith in Christ. The Muslim relatives met at the home of Emmanuel Hamuzah on November 23rd and, for two hours, tried to convince him to return to Islam. Later that evening, Emmanuel was outside his home with his son when five relatives reappeared. When Emmanuel once more refused to recant, they began to beat him; while others stepped on his son's neck, causing suffocation to the child. The attackers fled when neighbours came to help, but the injured boy died before he could obtain medical attention.

While Muslims in Uganda are a minority, there are large concentrations in some areas. Some groups have become increasingly aggressive, particularly towards those who have left Islam. For more details, go to www.vomcanada.com/uganda.htm.

May the God of love and mercy embrace Pastor Wilson's wife and surviving children, whose hearts are overflowing with grief and loss. Please also prayerfully remember Emmanuel, his wife, and their three other children, as they mourn the horrific death of their injured child. May the Lord minister great comfort to these families in the midst of their pain, along with the blessed hope and reassuring promise of eternity. Pray that those who instigated these attacks will come to understand that same eternal hope which can only be found in the light and love of Christ.

NIGERIA: Christians Targeted in Islamic Militant Attacks

Sources: Release International, Morning Star News, Sahara Reports, World Watch Monitor

On the morning of November 1st, armed Islamic militants associated with the Boko Haram terrorist group invaded the village of Takulashi. With the use of automatic weapons, they shot everyone in sight -- burning and looting homes during the rampage. When the militants left the

area two hours later, 12 members of the primarily Christian village were found dead, including a church pastor. The attackers also took three women and four children hostage.

The village where the massacre took place is only ten miles from Chibok, where 276 young students were kidnapped by Boko Haram in April 2014. (A previously posted report on this situation is available at <https://www.vomcanada.com/ng-2019-04-18.htm>.)

In another incident, which took place in the southwest state of Ekiti, suspected Fulani herdsmen killed Rev. Johnson Oladimeji as he was travelling home on November 26th. When his wife was unable to reach him on the phone, family members began searching for him. He was found the next day in his car along the side of the highway. Allegedly, the assailants were waiting in the bush and shot at his vehicle as he drove by.

Two days later, in Kaduna state, militant Fulani herdsmen raided two predominantly Christian villages. Seven Christians were killed in the attacks; and two children, named Rebecca and Clement, were kidnapped.

In many areas of Nigeria and several other African nations, Fulani Islamic militants have terrorized communities. While some of the attacks were committed with the intent of plunder, in many cases, Christians have been targeted because of their faith. These repeated acts of militancy have led to the stigmatization of the Fulani people as a whole.

In an interview with World Watch Monitor, a pastor in Burkina Faso, who himself is from the Fulani tribe, admitted that "there is not a very good view" of his people. However, he went on to explain that "not all Fulani are terrorists and not all terrorists are Fulani. We, the Fulani, are also the image of God and one first needs to see that." Pastor Adama (not his real name for security reasons) has been reaching out to his own people with the Gospel of peace. To read more about his encouraging testimony, go to www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2020/10/burkina-faso-fulani-pastor-brings-hope-to-stigmatised-communities.

Please remember to pray for God's strength and protection to be upon "Pastor Adama" and all the other believers in West Africa who are faithfully proclaiming the message of Christ -- "the Prince of Peace" -- essentially, the world's only true source of peace. Intercede for the victims who have been kidnapped, asking that they too will be sheltered from harm and safely released. Also uphold the families of those who have suffered and died in these recent attacks. In the depths of their loss, may they draw closer to God who promises to be "near to the brokenhearted" (Psalm 34:18). Pray that there will be a miraculous resolution to these ongoing human rights violations, for none of Nigeria's challenges are greater than our Almighty God.

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