



## Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada  
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, February 11, 2021

*"Cast your burden on the Lord,  
and He will sustain you; He will never  
permit the righteous to be moved."*

~ Psalm 55:22 ESV

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*Thank you for prayerfully upholding our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ, petitioning for God's divine intervention in their lives and situations. One of the many countries regularly featured in VOMC's "Persecution & Prayer Alert" reports is China. On February 18, 2021, from 7 to 9 p.m. (EST), we will be co-hosting a webinar titled, "China: Opportunity or Threat?" This event will feature special guest speaker, Bob Fu, founder of ChinaAid and author of "God's Double Agent." For more information, and to register, please go to: [www.digitalconsultants.ca/voiceofthemartyrs](http://www.digitalconsultants.ca/voiceofthemartyrs).*

### **PAKISTAN: Nurse Beaten After Blasphemy Allegation**

Sources: CLAAS, International Christian Concern, Church in Chains

A Christian nurse, known for her Gospel singing, has been charged with blasphemy against Islam. Tabitha Nazir Gill was accused by a co-worker on January 28th after a dispute.

The head nurse at Sobhraj Maternity Hospital had issued orders that nurses were not to receive any cash from patients. When one of the nurses was seen collecting money, Tabitha reminded her of the policy; at which time, Tabitha encountered an attack and then was accused of inciting violence, along with blasphemy. Video footage has been released showing Tabitha being beaten, tied up, and locked in a room until police arrived.

After speaking with the parties involved, the local police determined that the accusations were baseless, and she was released. However, news of the incident spread quickly through social media, and a mob gathered at the police station the next day. In response, police filed a blasphemy charge against the Christian nurse despite lack of evidence.

According to a local pastor, Tabitha's two young children are "in a state of shock" after seeing the video of their mother's beating. A staff nurse named Kosar released a video of her own in which she said that what happened was unacceptable, reporting that Tabitha "is a good girl and has a kind attitude with everyone."

Accusations of blasphemy are commonly used to force favourable results in personal and business disputes. Even when the authorities reject the accusations, mob violence frequently results. For more on the persecution of Christians in Pakistan, and to review other posted reports, go to [www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm).

*Please pray on behalf of Tabitha, asking that there be a favourable outcome to these false charges. Also lift up Tabitha's family to the Lord as they deal with the traumatic effects of the situation. May her accusers realize the error of their ways and willingly drop their allegations. Continue to remember the many believers in Pakistan who are either presently imprisoned on similar charges or facing other forms of persecution because of their Christian faith.*

#### **D.R. CONGO: Over 100 Killed by Islamic Militants**

Sources: Open Doors, Christian Post

Over a hundred people, largely Christians, have died in mass attacks launched by Islamic extremists in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since the beginning of 2021. On January 4th, an estimated 22 people had been killed in an overnight raid on the village of Mwenda. A week earlier, at least 42 were slain in two separate attacks within the same region. Then, on January 14th, approximately 46 people died at the hands of the militant Islamic group, Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

The members of the ADF have a clear Islamic expansionist plan, explained a spokesperson for Open Doors. The majority of people in the country are Christian, but groups such as the ADF are determined to force their jihadist agenda to the region. In October 2019, the government started an offensive against the group, which resulted in the ADF increasing the number and intensity of their attacks.

*Please intercede on behalf of the many innocent people in the DRC who have been affected by these devastating raids, asking God to minister healing to those who were injured and/or traumatized, and to also provide needed comfort to those grieving the loss of loved ones. Pray that their government will be successful in its actions to thwart any further planned attacks of the country's rebel groups, protect civilians, and restore peace throughout the region. May the militants responsible for the attacks discover true spiritual peace and freedom which can only come through faith in Jesus Christ.*

## REPORT UPDATE

### **LAOS: Imprisoned Pastor's Family Facing Harassment**

Sources: Vision Beyond Borders, VOMC Contacts

Earlier in 2020, it was reported that Sithong Theppavong, the pastor of a small church in a farming area of Savannakhet Province, received repeated warnings to cease his ministry. On March 15th, 2020, he was arrested without any indication of charges. For more details on his arrest, visit VOMC's previously posted report at [www.vomcanada.com/la-2020-04-23.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/la-2020-04-23.htm).

Nearly a year later, his whereabouts remain unknown. According to a local source, his wife has faced harassment since the arrest and her motorcycle was taken from her. Further, anyone who asked about the couple's situation has undergone investigation by authorities. Concern is growing that Sithong may no longer be alive.

*Please prayerfully uphold Sithong, in hopes that he is still alive, as well as his concerned wife, during this time of agonizing uncertainty. May the Lord's grace and peace rest on each one who is being impacted by this situation. Pray that God, who is omnipotent and all-knowing, will reveal Sithong's whereabouts. Should the pastor still be alive, pray that he will be protected and strengthened until his safe release and reunion with his family. In the meantime, may all his loved ones, friends and congregation members receive greatly needed comfort, hope and peace.*

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