



## Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada  
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, April 22, 2021

***"I recommend that you read each story  
in a new light – one in which victory  
is found through overcoming."***

~ Floyd Brobbel, CEO of VOMC,  
referencing *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*

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### **UGANDA: Christian Woman Seriously Injured for Her Faith**

Source: Morning Star News

A mother of seven children in eastern Uganda has suffered serious wounds and, consequently, was forced to flee after her husband and other Muslim relatives attacked her on Easter Sunday for converting to Christianity.

Salimati Naibira, 37, had recently placed her faith in Christ after being miraculously healed. While on her way to a worship service on Easter Sunday, she saw her brother-in-law who asked where she was going. Salimati believes he became suspicious when she told him of her intent to visit a friend. During the service, she looked out the window and saw her husband approaching, along with other relatives who were shouting "*Allah Akbar.*" Church members fled for their safety, and though some of the church leaders tried to protect Salimati, they were overpowered by the attackers, who then took her away in a van.

The assailants took the abducted woman into a forest where she was beaten and slashed with a sword. Salimati was found that afternoon by a passing herdsman and taken to a medical clinic. On April 8th, she was picked up from the hospital by a Christian friend and, at last report, is in an undisclosed location recovering from wounds to her face, thigh and back.

Although Uganda has one of the largest Christian populations in Africa, a strong Islamist influence has begun to spread, resulting in increasing instances of persecution, particularly against those who leave the Muslim faith. For more on the persecution of Christians in Uganda, go to [www.vomcanada.com/uganda.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/uganda.htm).

*Please prayerfully uphold Salimati who is now in need of another healing touch from God, both physically and emotionally. Pray that she will be safely reunited with her seven children, and that the Lord's protection and comfort would surround these precious loved ones in the meantime. While waiting to be reunited with her children, may this victimized mother have the courage to hold fast to her newfound faith – standing firmly on His enduring promises – to the point that her love for Christ will only grow stronger during this season of affliction. May God's Spirit also work mightily in the hearts of her husband and the other family members responsible for the attack, so that they will personally experience the love of Jesus, and His transformative power, in their lives as well.*

### **RUSSIA: Theological Colleges Stripped of Licenses**

Source: Forum18

On April 6th, the Theological Institute run by the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Ingria was stripped of its higher education license. Another Lutheran college in Russia is in the process of fighting a similar action. The colleges of the Baptist Union and Pentecostal Union have likewise lost their licenses, and other colleges have been banned from accepting new students.

These actions began when inspectors determined that the schools did not abide by federal educational standards – something they are not legally required to do. The academic leaders argue that the structure of their programs is completely different from others under the licensing requirements. Under Russian law, religious educational institutions are permitted to choose to follow the federal policies if they wish, but they are not obligated to do so.

In order to get around the latest restrictions and keep their schools open, some educational institutions have opted to follow a lower level of licensing. Yet, this could create further difficulties when it comes to clergy education. Russia has recently passed a law mandating that anyone wanting to serve in a religious organization must be educated in Russia. Those who have received foreign education will be required to undergo further training in a Russian school before being allowed to serve. However, with Christian colleges losing their licenses as institutes of higher learning, they will not be able to provide the necessary education.

*Pray for the leadership of these various theological colleges, as they attempt to navigate this newly created legislative maze in order to provide the religious training required to properly equip future church leaders. May God give those representing these schools the wisdom needed to present their cases in such a way that the opposing government policies will be rightfully amended. Overall, pray for the continued growth of Russia's churches, the result of ensuring the effective training of Spirit-led leadership.*

## REPORT UPDATES

### **ERITREA: Recently Arrested Christian Prisoners Released**

Sources: Church in Chains, Barnabas Fund, International Christian Concern

Earlier this month, it was reported that 23 women had been arrested at a prayer meeting in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, along with 12 others in the city of Assab. (To review a previously posted report, go to [www.vomcanada.com/er-2021-04-08.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/er-2021-04-08.htm), where there is also a link to a video-recorded interview addressing these recent incidents.) In a surprising move, all but one of the Christians arrested in Asmara were released on April 11th. Typically, believers who have been arrested in Eritrea are held without charges against them, and not permitted any legal representation, for extended periods of time – sometimes many years.

While there is no information available on the well-being of those released, it has emerged that the one Christian still in custody from the recent Asmara arrest is male. On the other hand, the 12 believers arrested in Assab remain in custody, being held in a prison that is infamous for its harsh conditions.

It has also been reported that 14 formerly arrested Christian men have recently been released after four years' detainment in the Nakura prison. These men were part of a large group arrested in the summer of 2017 on direct orders from President Afewerki. As is typical in Eritrea, no reason was given for the releases and none of those released had ever faced trial.

It is believed that there are a total of 12 Christian men remaining imprisoned in Nakura to date. For more information on the persecution of Christians in Eritrea, and to review previously published reports, go to [www.vomcanada.com/eritrea.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/eritrea.htm).

*Praise God for these answered prayers! Please now pray for the physical, mental and emotional healing of each one who has recently been released from the Asmara and Nakura prisons. Continue to prayerfully remember the many other remaining imprisoned Christians throughout Eritrea, as well as their concerned families. May the Lord intervene on their behalf, extending His grace and providing for their spiritual and physical needs, as they await their hopeful soon release.*

### **ALGERIA: Appeal Postponed Relating to Distribution of Christian Literature**

Source: Middle East Concern

On February 27th, Pastor Rachid Seighir and Nouh Hamimi were sentenced to two years in prison for allegedly "shaking the faith" of Muslims through the Christian literature being sold in their bookstore (see [www.vomcanada.com/dz-2021-03-11.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/dz-2021-03-11.htm)). The charges follow a raid on the Algerian church-run bookstore in September 2017.

An appeal of the case was scheduled for April 18th. However, it has now been postponed until May 16th.

*Please continue to pray for Pastor Rachid and Nouh as they face this two-year prison sentence. Ask God to speak to the hearts of the court officials involved in this case so that mercy may be extended to these imprisoned believers, resulting in their acquittal upon appeal. Pray that the two Christian men, along with their families and fellow church members, will know the peace of God and the reassuring presence of His Holy Spirit during this time of uncertainty. As they await next month's court meeting, may they be strengthened, kept safe from harm, and greatly encouraged in their faith.*

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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](http://www.vomcanada.com)