



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted."*

~ Matthew 5:4 ESV

SRI LANKA: Family Refused Christian Burial

Source: National Christian Evangelical Association of Sri Lanka

After a member of the Grama Missionary Church in Karukkamunai, Sri Lanka, passed away, the family arranged for a funeral to be held at the public cemetery on September 27th. However, a local public official, along with other members of the community, intervened and refused to allow the family to hold a Christian funeral.

Claiming that the public cemetery was a "Hindu" burial ground, they argued that no Christian rites could be performed. Instead, the community members, led by the official, conducted the funeral according to Hindu customs. As the two daughters of the deceased woman were intimidated into compliance, they didn't file a police complaint.

This is a recurring issue facing Christians in the area. While local followers of Jesus have tried intervening in such matters, and they reported this incident to the police and civic authorities, no action has been taken against the opposing community members. For further information on the challenges encountered by Christians in Sri Lanka, go to www.vomcanada.com/srilanka.htm.

Please lift up in prayer the two daughters mentioned in this report -- along with other bereaved family members and friends -- who are not only grieving the loss of their loved one, but also dealing with the anti-Christian sentiments of their community while in the midst of their grief. Pray that these believers will experience the wonderful comfort and strength of the Holy Spirit, along with a renewed faith in their most loving and faithful God. May the antagonistic community leader, and other opposing Sri Lankans in the area, realize their need to coexist peacefully with all villagers, regardless of differing religious affiliations.

NIGERIA: Fatalities Caused by Recent Attacks

Sources: Daily Post, NaijaNews, Daily Trust, Morning Star News

On September 26th, a group of gunmen raided a church in Gavaciwa, Kaduna State, and opened fire in the midst of the worship service. One worshipper, Nasiru Abdullahi, was killed as a result of the violence and, in the aftermath of the invasion, numerous other believers were rushed to the hospital with injuries.

The state governor has condemned the attack, stating that it was deliberately divisive by playing on religious sensitivities. It is believed that the attackers are militant members of the Fulani herdsmen group. Security officials are continuing to investigate the incident.

Later that evening, 30 Christians were slain in two other communities of Kaduna State, allegedly they too were victims of the Fulani herdsmen. Dozens of homes had also been destroyed in the latest of many ongoing attacks. To learn more about the persecution of Nigeria's Christians, go to www.vomcanada.com/nigeria.htm.

Prayerfully uphold Nasiru's family, as well as the families of the other 30 Christians who were killed later that day, who are understandably in deep mourning over their tragic loss. Ask God to minister physical healing to the many surviving victims now recovering from injuries caused by the recent attacks, and to also provide emotional and mental strength for those who witnessed the violence. May the authorities governing Kaduna State be able to locate the perpetrators responsible for these crimes against their fellow Nigerians, and find ways to effectively establish peace and order among the people of this troubled nation.

REPORT UPDATE

INDIA: Christian Teenager Dies After Acid Attack

Sources: International Christian Concern, AsiaNews, Church in Chains

On August 11th, Nitish Kumar -- a Christian teenager from northern India's Bihar state -- was attacked with acid, leaving much of his body with severe burns. For more on the incident, view the report at www.vomcanada.com/in-2021-09-09.htm.

The reason for the attack, along with the identities of those responsible, remain unknown. Commenting on the time leading up to the attack, Nitish's brother, Sanjeet, recounted the increasingly alarming messages he received from those opposed to the Christian ministry in which the two brothers had participated. Nitish's family believes their evangelistic work in the community motivated the attack. However, the authorities have refused to file a case, claiming that Nitish threw the acid on himself following a family quarrel.

Nitish was transferred to the Apollo Burns Hospital in Patna, located about 80 kilometres from his village. Despite the best efforts of attending doctors, the young believer passed away on September 26th. One local pastor provided the following report: "The doctors have tried every possible way to revive Nitish. Every alternative day, the doctors gave one unit of blood and had regular dressings changed on almost his entire body. We hoped that he would bounce back to life, but we know God has His way and time." Additional information on the persecution of Christians in India is available at www.vomcanada.com/india.htm.

Prayerfully remember Nitish's parents, brother, as well as his other family members and friends, who are grieving the loss of his precious young life. Pray that the Lord will mightily intervene on their behalf by justly resolving this case, leading the police in their investigation so truth can prevail and the perpetrators will be properly identified. May the faith of this family be strengthened in the aftermath of this terrible tragedy, drawing them nearer to "the Father of mercies and God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3).

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