



Voice of the
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

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Voice of the Martyrs Canada
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*"While the government's powerful
backhoes can destroy church buildings,
they can never destroy the faith in the
hearts and souls of believers."*

~ Bob Fu, Founder of ChinaAid

IRAN: Imprisoned Christian Beaten for Medical Request

Sources: Article18, Christian Post

Amir-Ali Minaei has been held in Tehran's Evin Prison since April 2024. The Christian man is presently serving a 43-month term for "propaganda activities against the regime through establishing a house church."

During the period of time between his arrest and sentencing, Amir-Ali was diagnosed with a heart condition which was believed to be brought on by stress. In recent months, the imprisoned believer's condition has reportedly worsened. He has repeatedly asked to meet with a cardiologist for medical treatment, but all of his requests have been rejected.

After his most recent request in early March, Amir-Ali was physically assaulted by a prison official. During the attack, the believer was struck in the chest, which further aggravated his heart condition. Despite the beating, Amir-Ali remains without medical treatment, leading to concerns that his health may continue to deteriorate.

Christians in Iran who meet together for prayer and worship are subjected to frequent harassment and arrests. While church gatherings are permitted for Armenian and Assyrian minorities, they are off-limits for most of the population. Previously published reports concerning the persecution of Christians in Iran are available at www.vomcanada.com/iran.htm.

- *On behalf of Amir-Ali, please pray for greatly needed physical strength and healing.*
- *Also ask our Heavenly Father to soften the hearts of the prison officials so that this detained brother in Christ can receive necessary medical treatment.*

- *May the many Christians throughout Iran who are currently being imprisoned or threatened because of their faith in Christ receive wisdom, peace and courage.*
- *Prayerfully remember the ongoing efforts of Christian ministries throughout this Persian nation that are reaching out with the Gospel message via radio and satellite television broadcasts.*

PAKISTAN: Christian Man Assaulted and Humiliated

Sources: British Asian Christian Association, Pakistan Christian Post

On February 27th, an impoverished Christian man named Wasif Masih was collecting wood along the road when he was confronted by a group of six Muslim landowners. The men verbally abused the believer, referring to him as "chuhra" – a term frequently used in Pakistan to insult Christians. The perpetrators then physically beat Wasif and detained him for four hours on a poultry farm.

During the incident, the Muslim men forcibly shaved Wasif's head, along with one eyebrow and part of his moustache. The believer's face was also smeared with a black substance before he was paraded through the village streets on a donkey. When the procession reached the home of Muhammad Mushtaq, the father of one of the perpetrators, he immediately rebuked the culprits for their abusive treatment of Wasif, calling their actions "evil acts." When others began to arrive, the abusers released the injured Christian man and fled the area.

The men responsible for the incident are well known within the community for their violent actions. Two of them have since been arrested (including the son of Muhammad Mushtaq). Thus far, three others – Muhammad Junaid, Naeem and Teeter ul Haq – secured pre-arrest bail from the court. Wasif and his family are determined to seek justice for the assailants' acts of violence and humiliation. To review other reports addressing the suffering inflicted on Christians in Pakistan, go to www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm.

- *As Wasif recovers both physically and emotionally from this ordeal, pray that he will tangibly sense the assurance of our Heavenly Father's loving care.*
- *Additionally, may this dear brother in Christ receive peace and comfort, as well the ability to rejoice, knowing that he's sharing in his Saviour's sufferings (1 Peter 4:13).*
- *Pray that all the perpetrators who are responsible for committing these abusive incidents will be held accountable for their actions, so that justice will prevail.*

CHINA: Unregistered Churches Face Increasing Oppression

Source: ChinaAid

Two recently received reports indicate the ongoing coordinated opposition that members of unregistered house churches are facing throughout China. Since the groups are considered illegal, the authorities have tried using fines and arrests, along with threats and intimidation tactics, in their attempts to shut down the organizations.

For the All Ranges Church, two particular cases have been highlighted. In 2023, 20 pastors and church members were arrested by Public Security Bureau officials in Suizhou, Hubei Province. In September 2024, nine of the members were formally indicted. The Christians' "crimes" include providing a meeting space to hold worship gatherings, encouraging congregants to tithe, and teaching potential lay leaders how to host ministry-related gatherings for Christian youth.

In Nyingchi City, Tibet, ten members of the All Ranges Church were charged on December 25th, 2024, due to their alleged illegal business activities and missionary work. These believers have been accused of using medical clinics and childcare services to spread so-called "heretical fallacies."

A similar crackdown has been launched against the Living Spring church and its leaders. The municipal government of Hotan, Xinjiang, imposed penalties on March 24th and banned the Christians from conducting all religious activities. The members of the church, which was established in 2020, had been meeting regularly in residential communities, parks and private homes for prayer and worship. However, since these activities were not previously approved by the government, the authorities have deemed them illegal. As a result, exorbitant fines have been issued which far exceed the ability of the church to pay.

While Christians belonging to unregistered churches throughout China face increasing pressures, those in the region of Xinjiang are subjected to particularly extreme restrictions and intense scrutiny from officials of the Chinese Communist Party. For more details on the difficulties being encountered by Chinese Christians, go to www.vomcanada.com/china.htm.

- *Prayerfully remember the members and leaders of these oppressed churches, along with those of the many other unregistered fellowships throughout China, as they faithfully seek to spread the message of the Gospel in the midst of hostility.*
- *In particular, please pray for Christians residing in the region of Xinjiang, asking that these believers would not be intimidated by the government's stringent policies but rather emboldened to remain steadfast in their faith.*
- *Pray for radical changes to take place in the hearts of Chinese Communist Party leaders, bringing about increased freedoms throughout the country for our Christian brothers and sisters.*

The "Persecution & Prayer Alert" is a ministry of:
Voice of the Martyrs Canada, P.O. Box 608, Streetsville, Ontario, L5M 2C1
Tel. (905) 670-9721 - Website: www.vomcanada.com