



Voice^{of the}
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada

www.vomcanada.com

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*"...fellowship with the Father
and the Son is most vivid and
sweet, and Christian joy is greatest,
when the cross is heaviest."*

~ J.I. Packer

ETHIOPIA: Evangelist Martyred for Sharing the Gospel

Sources: Steadfast Global, The Voice of the Martyrs USA

Ibrahim Mohammed became a follower of Jesus in 2021 and immediately began sharing the "Good News" of the Gospel with others in his predominantly Muslim community. Within the span of one year, he led 80 people to Christ in the Oromia region of Ethiopia. Since then, the passionate evangelist has devoted himself to discipling these new believers. As a result of his Christian witness, Ibrahim began receiving death threats from local Islamic militants.

Despite the growing danger, he faithfully continued sharing the message of Christ. In early May, the dedicated believer donated a portion of his farmland to construct a church building. However, when Ibrahim's opponents discovered his plans, they became determined to stop the construction of the worship facility. On May 15th, Ibrahim was approached by an armed individual who was dressed in traditional Islamic clothing. The assailant declared that it would be Ibrahim's final day of evangelizing before suddenly shooting the Christian believer. (According to latest reports, a suspect has since been identified, but he recently fled the area.)

Though rushed to the hospital, Ibrahim tragically succumbed to his injuries three days later. This faithful believer leaves behind his wife and two young children, along with the church community he was instrumental in building. For previously published reports concerning Christian persecution in Ethiopia, go to www.vomcanada.com/ethiopia.htm.

- *Pray for greatly needed comfort, healing and peace on behalf of all who are mourning the loss of this dearly beloved servant of Christ.*

- *Give thanks for Ibrahim's faithful witness, courage and unwavering commitment to sharing the Gospel even when facing opposition.*
- *Pray for the continued growth of the ministry Ibrahim helped to build, asking that the seeds he planted would bear much fruit, and that many more people throughout Ethiopia would come to know Christ as a result of his lasting spiritual legacy.*

INDONESIA: Young Boy Dies Following Tragic Bullying Incident

Sources: International Christian Concern, GAMKI, Grid.ID

An eight-year-old boy, referred to as "KB" in Indonesia's local news reports, tragically died following a severe beating he received from a group of older male students at a school in Pangkalan Kasai, a village located within the province of Riau. According to various sources, the incident occurred because the boy was a Christian and belonged to a different ethnic group.

The five older students – ranging from 11 to 13 years of age – had previously bullied the Christian boy by harassing him. Their verbal insults escalated into a violent physical attack on Monday, May 19th. After being severely beaten, the assaulted Christian boy returned home early and told his mother, Siska, that he was feeling sick. As the child's condition quickly worsened, his parents suspected that something serious had occurred.

On Wednesday, May 21st, the young boy's father, Gimson Beni Butarbutar, spoke with one of his son's classmates, who informed him about the attack. Gimson then expressed his concern to the students' homeroom teacher before meeting with the principal on Friday. It was eventually disclosed that one of the students had violently struck the Christian boy in the stomach with his knee. However, all those involved in the beating denied any responsibility for the fatal outcome.

The injured youth was taken to the hospital where he began vomiting blood, in addition to experiencing convulsions and shortness of breath. By the early morning of May 26th, the eight-year-old child passed away from his injuries. The five youths who were accused of the fatal attack have been identified, and police investigations are currently underway. In the wake of this tragic incident, the distraught Christian parents are now calling for justice on behalf of their son.

The young boy is remembered as a bright student who actively participated in his local Sunday school lessons. To review other reports addressing incidences of persecution in Indonesia, visit www.vomcanada.com/indonesia.htm.

- *Prayerfully uphold the young boy's grieving parents, Gimson and Siska, along with the couple's surviving younger child, as they now process the deep grief and trauma of losing their precious loved one.*
- *May the Lord's presence greatly console this heartbroken family, providing them with supernatural strength and "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" during this time of unimaginable sorrow (Philippians 4:7).*
- *Pray that not only will justice be served, but also that the youths responsible for this incident would realize the gravity of their actions, and thus experience the transformative forgiveness and saving grace of Jesus Christ.*

- *In addition, please intercede for the members of this Indonesian community – especially those who have been shaken by the devastating tragedy – asking God to bring healing, unity and the hope of the Gospel to these villagers as well.*

REPORT UPDATE

IRAN: Laleh Saati Receives Conditional Release

Sources: Article18, Human Rights in Iran, Church in Chains

Laleh Saati is a Christian convert and former asylum-seeker who was incarcerated in February 2024 and sentenced to two years in prison. (For more information on the imprisonment of this 46-year-old Iranian follower of Jesus, visit www.vomcanada.com/tagged-items/laleh-saati.htm.) Throughout Laleh's time in custody, concerns have been raised about her physical health and psychological well-being. Most recently, it was reported that the Christian woman was denied needed medical treatment for a hand injury that had occurred as a result of a fall.

Thankfully, Laleh was released from prison on May 31st. However, her release will only be granted on the condition that she refrains from speaking with any media reporters or other contacts outside of Iran. The Christian woman is also forbidden from leaving the county for two years. While grateful for her release, Laleh continues to be subjected to psychological pressure from members of the Iranian government. Her mother has also been interrogated by intelligence officers regarding news reports documenting Laleh's imprisonment, which the authorities claim were published on "hostile sites." Further charges have been threatened against Laleh and her mother because of the publicity surrounding this case.

While the church in Iran is growing rapidly, believers are forced to practise their faith in secret due to governmental oppression. VOMC's Minister-at-Large, Greg Musselman, recently spoke with Joseph Hovsepian about the challenges encountered by Iranian Christians. To view this candid and yet very inspiring interview, go to www.vomcanada.com/video/ir-2025-04-09.htm.

- *While we can praise God for Laleh's recent release from prison, pray that this sister in Christ will now receive the urgent medical treatment she needs – along with full physical and emotional restoration.*
- *Ask the Lord to provide divine wisdom, peace and protection to Laleh and her family as they deal with the restrictions and threats being imposed on them by governing officials.*
- *Continue to remember the many Christians who are presently imprisoned in Iran, praying that each one of these detained believers will experience the comforting presence, protection and incomprehensible joy of the Lord – even while in the darkest of places – as they await their hopeful soon release.*