



Voice^{of the}
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
A ALERT

Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, August 7, 2025

*"The Spirit Himself bears witness
with our spirit that we are children
of God, and if children, then heirs –
heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,
provided we suffer with Him in order
that we may also be glorified with Him."*

~ Romans 8:16-17 ESV

DR CONGO: Dozens Killed in Church Attack

Sources: Open Doors, CNN, BBC, AP

During the early hours of Sunday, July 27th, more than 40 Christians were killed when Islamic militants attacked a church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The worshippers had gathered for a late-night prayer meeting at their church in Komanda, a town located in the province of Ituri, when members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) suddenly entered the building and began to shoot those who were present. In addition to attacking the church, the militants set fire to several houses and shops in the community. Reports also indicate that at least 20 children were taken hostage during the raid.

Associated with the Islamic State terrorist group, the ADF rebels specifically operate along the border between Uganda and the DR Congo. They are known for their frequent raids of villages, as well as the horrific destruction and loss of life usually left in their wake. Although the militaries of Uganda and the DRC have been working together to dismantle this violent militant group, further threats of attack persist as the rebels seek to establish an Islamic caliphate in the region. For more reports concerning this situation, go to www.vomcanada.com/drc.htm.

- *In the aftermath of these senseless acts of violence, prayerfully uphold all those in need of God's comfort as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.*
- *Please also remember the recently abducted children, praying that they will receive urgently needed angelic protection and care while awaiting their hopeful soon release.*

- *Continue to pray that those in authority will receive Godly wisdom and discernment as they endeavour to rescue these young hostages, bring the rebel forces under control, and encourage unity and peace among the different faith groups in the area.*
- *Pray that our Christian brothers and sisters throughout this region will be equipped with compassion, courage and greatly needed resources as they minister to those affected by the rebel group's attacks, offering hope and comfort in the name of Jesus.*

EGYPT: Christian Convert Charged with Terrorism

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Christian Post, Christians in Crisis

On July 22nd, Egyptian authorities formally charged Saeid Mansour Abdulraziq (a convert from Islam to Christianity) with joining a terrorist organization, stirring unrest and spreading false information. Since converting to the Christian faith in 2016 and joining the Russian Orthodox Church, Saeid experienced persistent rejection from his family and community, as well as intimidation from local police. Despite these challenges, he regularly shared his newfound faith with those around him.

In 2018, due to increasing hostility, Saeid travelled to Russia where he applied for asylum. However, when the former Muslim's outspoken stance against Islam sparked tensions within some of Russia's Muslim communities, he was arrested and imprisoned by Russian officials. Eventually, Saeid was deported to Egypt in 2024. Upon his return, Egyptian authorities interrogated the accused Christian man and warned him against proselytizing.

In recent weeks, Saeid sought legal assistance to obtain updated identification documents so that his government-registered religion would reflect his conversion to Christianity. However, on July 15th, the believer was suddenly arrested and, one week later, charges were officially filed against him.

According to Saeid Fayaz, a Christian lawyer based in Cairo, this incident reflects the experiences of many other Christian converts in Egypt: "Thousands of Christian converts in Egypt have no rights and they receive little support. They live in isolation and constant fear. [Saeid Mansour Abdulraziq] believed in the Egyptian constitution, which provides for religious freedom, not realizing that it is a one-way freedom." To view other published reports concerning the challenges facing believers in Egypt, go to www.vomcanada.com/egypt.htm.

- *Pray that God will mightily sustain Saeid as he endures imprisonment, asking that this detained believer would experience divine peace, strength and encouragement in powerful ways.*
- *May God grant greatly needed wisdom, courage and direction as Saeid and his legal counsel endeavour to have these charges dropped.*
- *Pray that the Gospel message will continue to spread throughout Egypt, leading many more people to encounter the love, truth and hope of Jesus Christ.*

KYRGYZSTAN: Pastor Sentenced to Serve at a Labour Camp

Sources: Forum18, Release International

In November 2024, national security police in Kyrgyzstan arrested Pastor Pavel Shreider and placed him in detention. At the time of the church leader's arrest, authorities also raided his home, along with the residences of several other Christians. In the process, thousands of books and Bibles were confiscated, along with cash and cell phones.

The indictment against Pastor Pavel alleges that he, along with other unidentified accomplices, had "conceived of inciting religious hatred in order to undermine the integrity and security of the state." It went on to claim that he had "illegally organized a religious cell, based on the principles of Protestant Christianity, in which he exerted a manipulative influence on church members, as well as through religious literature that is negatively aggressive in nature towards other religions."

After a three-month trial, the 65-year-old pastor was sentenced to serve for three years in a labour camp. Upon the completion of his sentence, the Christian leader is scheduled to be deported to Russia. Although Pastor Pavel was born in Kyrgyzstan during the time it was part of the Soviet Union, he had lived in Russia for many years before returning to his homeland with his family in 2013. Denying all the charges against him, he and his lawyer are presently preparing to appeal the verdict.

Kyrgyzstan enforces strict laws governing all forms of religious activity within the country. In March 2025, Pastor Pavel's church was banned after being labelled as "extremist." This action followed the introduction of newly revised legislation in February 2025, which significantly tightened the requirements for religious organizations. More information about Christian persecution in this Central Asian nation is available at www.vomcanada.com/kyrgyzstan.htm.

- *Pray on behalf of Pastor Pavel and his family, asking the Lord to provide them peace, strength and protection, as well as the ability to maintain an unwavering trust in Him.*
- *Pray that the court decision will ultimately be overturned, and that all the charges against the accused pastor would subsequently be dropped.*
- *Remember to pray for the many other faithful believers in Kyrgyzstan who, like Pastor Pavel, are resiliently sharing the "Good News" of the Gospel amid a politically hostile environment.*

The "Persecution & Prayer Alert" is a ministry of:
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