



Voice of the
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"Christian love draws no distinction
between one enemy and another,
except that the more bitter our enemy's
hatred, the greater his need of love.
Be his enmity political or religious, he
has nothing to expect from a follower
of Jesus but unqualified love."*

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

CHINA: Church Members Charged for Hosting Sunday School

Sources: ChinaAid, Bitter Winter

In early May, six Christians were arrested in Kaili, a city located within China's Guizhou province. Authorities accused the believers of fraud and "organizing minors to engage in activities undermining public order." The alleged "crime" leading to these charges was hosting a children's Sunday school program and allowing families to worship together as a church.

The six church leaders – five men and one woman – have now been formally charged. Yet, legal experts raised concerns about the nature of these accusations, noting that such charges are typically associated with inciting youth to engage in criminal behaviours, such as theft or violence. The detained Christians remain in custody as their family members arrange legal representation on their behalf.

Although Chinese regulations restrict minors from entering churches, informal religious activities involving children and their parents are generally considered outside the scope of these laws. For further information on the persecution of our Christian family in China, visit www.vomcanada.com/china.htm.

- *Please uphold these believers in prayer, asking the Lord to surround them and their children with His peace, strength and comfort during this time of difficulty and uncertainty.*

- *Pray that God will provide wise and capable legal counsel for the accused church leaders, and that all the charges against them would be dismissed.*
- *In general, prayerfully remember our other Christian brothers and sisters throughout China who are likewise endeavouring to faithfully disciple the next generation amid ongoing restrictions, asking that they too would be encouraged, protected and unwavering in their devotion to Christ.*

REPORT UPDATES

EGYPT: New Appeal Filed for Imprisoned Christian

Sources: Church in Chains, Coptic Solidarity, ADF International

In October 2025, Dr. Augustin Sam'an was arrested and charged with "contempt of Islam" due to the content he shared on his YouTube channel. (More details about his situation are available at www.vomcanada.com/eg-2025-10-30.htm.) As a result of the subsequent trial, this Christian scholar/apologist was sentenced on January 3rd to five years of hard labour. Not only were the court proceedings conducted in secret, without due notification given to his family or lawyers, but he was also denied access to legal defence. Finally, Dr. Augustin's lawyers were granted access to the file relating to his case on February 11th.

On April 24th, Dr. Augustin filed an appeal against his conviction, citing "significant procedural issues." A spokesperson for Coptic Solidarity, an advocacy group dedicated to defending the rights of Coptic Christians in Egypt, stated that "this is not a legitimate judicial proceeding." Tragically, Dr. Augustin's case is not unique. Since August 2025, dozens of other individuals affiliated with various religious minority groups have been arrested due to their online religious content.

While Egypt's constitution guarantees freedom of religion, the country's blasphemy laws have been disproportionately used to target Christians. These laws are described by critics as "a sword used solely to protect Islam and Muslims." To access other reports addressing the challenges encountered by believers in Egypt, go to www.vomcanada.com/egypt.htm.

- *Pray that God will providentially guide and strengthen the defence attorneys representing Dr. Augustin, granting them wisdom, clarity and favour as they advocate on his behalf.*
- *Ask the Lord to work within Egypt's governmental and judicial systems, leading officials to uphold laws that truly honour the country's constitution regarding religious freedom, and thus ensure all citizens are treated with fairness, respect and equality.*
- *May believers in Egypt be further encouraged to continue boldly and compassionately sharing the message of the Gospel with others, knowing that the Holy Spirit can minister in meaningful ways through their divinely inspired words and witness.*

IRAN: Believer Released Despite Ongoing Arrests of Church Leaders

Sources: Article18, Steadfast Global, SNN

In April 2024, Amir-Ali Minaei was arrested by Iranian authorities and sentenced to 43 months in prison for alleged "propaganda activities against the regime through establishing a house church." The Christian man's sentence was later reduced to 30 months. During his imprisonment, however, he endured physical abuse and suffered from serious heart-related health issues. (To view our previously published report, go to www.vomcanada.com/ir-2025-04-03.htm.)

In January 2025, Amir-Ali applied for a conditional release because of his declining health. His request was denied, reportedly due to a perceived lack of "cooperation" with intelligence agents. It was recently announced that the believer was thankfully granted early release on April 29th as part of an annual prisoner amnesty.

While Amir-Ali's friends and family members are rejoicing over his release, concerns remain for other followers of Jesus in Iran. On May 5th, authorities announced the arrests of three Christian leaders in the central province of Yazd. The prosecutor claimed that these believers had converted a "significant number" of people to what was described as "Zionist Christianity." The arrested Christians have also been accused of desecrating copies of the Quran, insulting Islamic individuals and holy sites, as well as praying for the victory of the "Zionist regime" amid Iran's ongoing war. For further reports concerning the challenges facing persecuted Christians in this troubled Middle Eastern nation, visit www.vomcanada.com/iran.htm.

- *Praise God for Amir-Ali's early release! Pray that the Lord will restore this believer's health, renew his strength, and fill his heart with peace and encouragement in the days ahead.*
- *Also prayerfully lift up the three recently arrested Christian leaders, as well as the many others who are presently imprisoned in Iran because of their faith, asking that they would be strengthened by God's abiding presence while awaiting release; and, in the interim, greatly sustained by their unshakeable hope in Him.*
- *Pray for the nation of Iran as a whole, in hopes that God's peace will prevail amid the ongoing tensions, and that His people would be protected, emboldened and steadfast as they continue to bear witness to His truth.*

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