

***"To endure the cross is not tragedy;
it is the suffering which is the fruit of an
exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ."
~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer***

ALGERIA: Arrests in the Midst of Political Turmoil

Sources: VOM Canada, Middle East Concern

After months of civil unrest, Algerian president Abdelaziz Bouteflika stepped down on April 2nd. Unfortunately, his abdication of leadership did not end the unrest, as the people demanded for all those who served under his governance to also resign and for a democratic election to take place very soon.

Thus far, the protests have been peaceful but there is fear that the situation may degrade. The protesters want to avoid repeating the scenario experienced in other countries during the so-called Arab Spring, which started in late 2010. Wounds from long years of civil war are still vivid in the spirit of many Algerians.

In recent days, a national VOMC source has reported that local Algerian authorities are targeting the country's churches. An Algerian Christian leader, who was accused of conducting an illegal worship service without prior permit, has been ordered to appear before a judge on May 16th. Two other church leaders in the villages of Makouda and Boudjima have also been summoned on similar charges.



Photo: Middle East Concern

Please intercede for these churches in Algeria as they face opposition from governmental authorities. Pray that the country's citizens will find peace and establish a democratic government that respects the rights of all people – including those of the Christian faith. May the accusations made against the church leaders be dropped, allowing the Gospel to continue ministering throughout Algeria without provocation or hindrance.

NEPAL: Five Christians Arrested

Sources: ADF International, International Christian Concern, Morning Star News



(From left) Pastor Dilli Ram Paudel, Kunsang Tamang, Gaurav Shrivastava and Leanna Cinquanta share a meal in Nepal.
Photo: Morning Star News

Five Christians, including two foreign nationals, were arrested on April 23rd on allegations of attempted proselytization. The arrests happened during an early morning raid on a hotel in Ghorahi. The police seized Bibles, computers and other items, including American currency. Before being arrested for preaching Christianity and converting through allurements, the five were scheduled to attend a Christian conference that day.

Among those arrested was the General Secretary of the Nepal Christian Society, Dilli Ram Paudel. Others included in the arrests were an Indian citizen, Gaurav Shrivastava; an American citizen, Leanna Cinquanta; and two Nepalese citizens, Kunsang Tamang and Pramid Kafle. After being detained for ten hours, Leanna's visa was revoked and she was deported to the United States. The others are facing criminal charges.

Opposition to Christians and other religious minorities has increased markedly since new laws were passed in August 2018, criminalizing any encouragement of religious conversion.

Please prayerfully remember the remaining Christians who are facing unjust allegations, asking God to mediate on their behalf. Pray that His truth and righteousness will be upheld so that His people in Nepal will be able to freely

practise their faith. May the existing anti-conversion laws be repealed so that the religious rights of all will be respected.

SUDAN: Christians Consulted by Transitional Committee

Source: Middle East Concern

On the morning of April 11th, President Omar al-Bashir was removed from power by the Sudanese Armed Forces and a transitional government was set up. The military leadership declared a three-month state of emergency to be followed by a two-year transition period, leading to democratic elections.

Christian leaders from across the country were invited to meet a committee of the transitional council on April 23rd to discuss concerns affecting the Christian community. Areas specifically addressed included interference caused by security forces in the operation of churches, as well as the illegal confiscation of church properties. Also addressed were unjust court cases against Christians, accusing them of acting as foreign operatives, and previously implemented government mandates such as the requirement that Christian schools be open on Sundays. The military council promised to further assess these issues.



Photo: Middle East Concern

The following day, April 24th, an announcement was made that Christian schools in Sudan will no longer be open on Sundays. The outcome for the other discussed issues of concern will be seen in the days to come.

Praise God for the willingness of the transitional council committee to listen to the concerns of the nation's Christian community and then follow through by taking proactive steps to resolve them. As a result, may Sudanese believers be free to worship without fear of recrimination. Also pray that this time of political transition will be administered with greatly needed wisdom, diplomacy and efficiency, leading to a positive outcome for the governing of Sudan and the resulting blessings of God upon the people.

If you would like to post a prayer of praise or petition on behalf of our persecuted family around the globe, visit [VOMC's prayer wall](#).

The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of:
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