

***"Lasting reconciliation among people is possible only when people have lasting reconciliation with God."***

~ Abdu Murray

### **INDIA: Pastor Dragged from Meeting and Beaten**

Sources: International Christian Concern, Barnabas Fund

A home prayer meeting was disrupted by Hindu nationalists in the Kanshiram Colony of Uttar Pradesh on July 28th. As some men and women were walking to the meeting, nationalists who recognized them as Christians began to physically and verbally assault them. When they arrived at the home where the prayer meeting was taking place, the harassment continued.

The attackers entered the house and dragged Pastor Raju Prasad outside where they commenced with their assault by beating him. When police arrived, Pastor Prasad was arrested and taken to the police station where the abuse resumed. After five hours of interrogation, the police determined that no conversions were taking place at the meeting and the pastor was released.

Despite the obvious physical abuse, even at the police station, no action was taken against those who beat him. While Pastor Prasad says that he expects opposition, he was surprised at this violent reaction when it was simply a prayer meeting for church members. For more information on the persecution facing Christians in India, go to our [country report](#).



***Remember Pastor Prasad and the others who were injured during this recent assault as they recover, asking God to protect them from any further attacks. Pray for the ongoing ministry of their church fellowship in the Kanshiram community so it will grow and flourish despite this opposition. May those who oppose the Gospel see the truth of Scripture and come to faith in Christ.***

### **KAZAKHSTAN: Registration Delays**

Source: Forum 18



Oskemen, Kazakhstan  
Photo: Wikipedia / Maonya (cc)

Despite its claimed allegiance to United Nations policies governing freedom of religion, the country of Kazakhstan places significant restrictions on any religious practice. Members of religious groups can only gather if registered, and they can only register if their group consists of at least 50 founding members. Even then, registration is often delayed.

The New Life Pentecostal Church in Oskemen was previously registered but is now seeking to register under a new name. In response, police have visited many of the members, interrogating them with extensive questioning. In some cases, the authorities arrived at the members' homes late at night and even threatened those who did not appear to cooperate adequately. The harassment has been carrying on since May.

It is believed that the officials are trying to reduce the number of eligible members below the required fifty in order to reject the applications. The department of religious affairs has denied any involvement in the questioning.

The opposition does not apply only to those of the Christian faith. Other religious groups, such as a Hare Krishna community and followers of Islam, have also faced interrogations about their faith. The officials have likewise challenged members of these groups about their personal beliefs in an apparent effort to prevent registration of their religious communities. To review previous reports specifically addressing the opposition of Christians in Kazakhstan, visit our [country report](#).

**Prayerfully uphold the members of the New Life church, along with others facing similar challenges. May their registrations be approved and the harassment cease. Ask the Lord to grant each of the interrogated individuals patient endurance, grace and wisdom during the questioning, enabling them to answer in a way that reflects the character of Christ. Pray that the governing officials in Kazakhstan will reconsider the unjust restrictions they have placed on citizens of all religious faiths.**

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## PRAISE REPORT

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### **BURMA: Christian Villagers Released**

Sources: Radio Free Asia, Christian Post, The Star Online

Political and religious conflicts are widespread in Burma (also known as Myanmar). The difficulties facing the Muslim Rohingya people have resulted in cries around the world for help and protection. However, there are also lesser-known groups suffering from the atrocities, such as the Chin people who are predominantly Christian. (For more information on the difficulties encountered by Christians in Burma, go to [this page](#).)

In 2018, the United Nations declared that Chin refugees would no longer be eligible for protection since the situation in the state had stabilized. Despite such pronouncements, the situation remains shaky. In February, a rebel group known as the Arakan Army detained 52 ethnic Khumi villagers in western Chin State during a conflict with government troops near the predominantly Christian village of Kintalin.

Over the months, the rebels repeatedly denied they were holding these Khumi people captive. However, on August 1st, it was announced that the villagers were being released to an internally displaced persons camp in Meezar. Pastor Moses has confirmed their safe arrival at the camp where they will be staying at this present time.

**Ask God to minister greatly needed healing and strength to each of the released Khumi villagers. In addition, pray for the many other refugees who are unable to return to their homes because of the country's volatile situation. May they receive necessary safety and provision while residing at camps in Burma and surrounding countries. Pray that the witness of Christians in these areas will serve as a bright beacon of God's light and hope to people representing all sides of the conflict, further reflecting the peace that can only be found in Christ.**

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](#).



Please continue to pray for the Khumi people.  
Photo: Wikipedia / M. Sangma

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