

**"...Why do I go about mourning  
because of the oppression of the enemy?  
Send out Your light and Your  
truth; let them lead me...."  
~ Psalm 43:2-3 ESV**

### **ALGERIA: Five-Year Sentence for Sharing Cartoon**

Sources: Morning Star News, VOMC Contacts

When posts are viewed on social media, few people think about the legal consequences of sharing them. In 2018, Hamid (surname withheld for security reasons) shared a cartoon he had received on Facebook and thought nothing more of it. He was contacted by police about it at the time, but the case was dropped – until officials showed up at his door three years later. By the next day, the 43-year-old poultry farmer had been sentenced to five years' imprisonment for allegedly insulting Muhammad.



Hamid is a father of four, with the eldest being six years old. He is a simple labourer who can barely read or write. One of his children is seriously ill and his wife is distraught over his arrest. When Hamid was taken for a hearing on January 21st, he believed the matter would be dropped again and agreed to appear before the judge that afternoon. However, during the meeting he was quickly convicted and sentenced. His attorney believes that there is a good chance they can get the sentence reduced on appeal.

When an Algerian pastor was recently speaking with a VOMC staff member about the challenging circumstances that are taking place in his homeland, he asked that we please remember our Algerian brothers and sisters in prayer. These requests are included in the prayer below. For more on the persecution of Christians in Algeria, and to review previously posted reports, go to our [country report](#).

***Remember in prayer the various legal cases presently taking place against Christians in Algeria, including those relating to the country's mandated church closures. May believers receive needed encouragement and strength amid this time of compounded isolation. Also uphold the many parents who are finding it increasingly difficult to provide for their families because of the pandemic. As for the strained socio-political situation in Algeria, please join us in praying that governmental leaders will effectively guarantee freedom of worship.***

### **REPORT UPDATES**

#### **CHINA: Prisoner Transferred for "Concentrated Education"**

Source: ChinaAid

Pastor Zhang Shaojie had been the leader of the Nanle County Christian Church in Henan. In July 2014, he was sentenced to twelve years in prison for alleged fraud and disrupting social order ([read more](#)). At the time, his family was forced to flee the country, arriving in the United States through the assistance of VOMC partner, ChinaAid.

Three years later, it was reported that Pastor Zhang was barely alive after suffering various forms of torture, and his daughter expressed concern for his mental and physical health. (A past report providing further details may be [viewed here](#).) When family members saw him in December 2019, they reported dramatic changes to his personality and that his mental state was failing. The family also raised suspicions about the medication he had been prescribed.



Zhang Shaojie  
Photo: ChinaAid

It was recently reported that Pastor Zhang has now been transferred to Zhengzhou City to serve the remaining five years of his sentence. The first two months in the new prison will be for treatment misleadingly referred to as "concentrated education." Following that time, only one visitor per month will be permitted, as long as they have proof of their relationship with him.

***Please intercede on behalf of Pastor Zhang, specifically for his need of mental, emotional and physical healing. Pray that the treatment he receives in prison will notably improve, and that he will get the medical attention and care he needs. Ask God to provide comfort, strength and hope not only to Pastor Zhang, but also to the concerned members of his family and church. Miraculously, may there be a way for him to be released from imprisonment earlier than the initial term.***

## UGANDA: Militants Attack Pastor's Family

Source: Morning Star News



The church building where Pastor Moses and his wife serve was damaged in January.  
Photo: Morning Star News

On December 27th, Pastor Moses Nabwana and his wife Naura were beaten because of the recent conversion of a Muslim imam. Pastor Moses was admitted to hospital due to the seriousness of his injuries ([read a previous report](#) on this incident). Four weeks later, the family was again attacked.

In the early morning of January 24th, unidentified assailants broke into the family's home. Naura reports that she heard loud noises and plates being broken. One of the attackers started strangling her, and two of her eight children were also injured. A ten-year-old daughter sustained cuts when she was thrown through a window.

Thankfully, family members were nearby and rushed to their assistance. A Somali sword was left behind, which Naura believes was going to be used to kill her.

After receiving treatment for his injuries from the original attack in December, Pastor Moses needed to return to the hospital on January 15th, where he remains at last report. Naura, who is also in great pain from her injuries, needs surgery. The family's church has provided financial assistance for their medical costs, and efforts are being made to arrange for the funding of additional treatments.

***Pray for a full recovery to take place in the lives of Pastor Moses, Naura and their injured children – including those who were affected emotionally due to the attack. May God's peace rest on each family member as they deal with the trauma brought about by the ongoing violence of militants. Ask God to give wisdom to local authorities as they try to locate the perpetrators of the attacks, in hopes of holding them accountable.***