

***"When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.  
In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust;  
I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?"***

~ Psalm 56:3-4 ESV

### **SAUDI ARABIA: Convert Faces Court Hearings**

Source: Middle East Concern

Christians in Saudi Arabia are requesting prayer for an Arab convert who is facing two court cases because of his faith. The Christian, referred to only as "A" in the report, spoke openly about his conversion to Christianity in a restaurant last year. He was subsequently reported to authorities and charged with attempting to convert Muslims. A hearing was held on March 11th, but the results of the case are not yet known at this time.

The accused believer is also scheduled for a hearing on March 26th regarding a separate charge. Several years ago, his sister was being abused by her family because of her faith in Christ. After helping his sister and her children flee the country, the family claimed that he had committed financial wrongdoing.

The sister's husband has regularly threatened the Christian man's wife and son. There is concern that, if the accused is imprisoned, his family will be vulnerable to attacks from his brother-in-law, as well as other opposing family members. This is not the first time that "A" has been brought before the courts because of his faith. He has previously experienced both imprisonment and flogging. For further information on the persecution of Christians in Saudi Arabia, visit our [country report](#).

***Please remember this Christian man and his immediate family in your prayers as they await the judgement of the courts regarding both cases. In the midst of threats from those opposing them, may they experience God's peace, strength and divine protection. As he and his legal representatives prepare for the upcoming hearing on March 26th, ask God to grant them needed wisdom, as well as the right words to say. Pray that both charges against this believer will be dropped and that he would be permitted to continue boldly sharing his faith with those who are spiritually hungry for the Gospel.***



Pray that believers will be allowed to share their testimonies with those in search of spiritual truth.

### **UGANDA: Pastor's Relatives Raped and Church Threatened**

Source: Morning Star News



Pray that Mariam and the pastor's relatives will continually look to the Lord for strength and healing.

In late January of this year, the wife of Caled Bwambale Hussein, the imam of Kasese, Uganda, came to faith in Christ and was baptized on February 6th. A week later, her husband heard the news and began to plot retribution. When Mariam Mbambu found out from a Christian neighbour that her husband intended to kill her, she fled with her five children, finding refuge through the local church.

On February 16th, three young relatives of Pastor Nelson Walina were raped by a group of men who, it was discovered later, were sent by the imam. One of the girls heard an attacker say to the others, "Please do not harm them – we were sent only to bring embarrassment and a warning signal to the church."

After Mariam took refuge at the All Saints Cathedral in Kasese, an unknown visitor began to attend. Some of the church members became suspicious and asked him about his faith, which he would not answer. Finally, through questioning, it was discovered that he had been sent by the imam to gain information about the church and its members. He also told the church leaders about those responsible for the rapes and warned them that the imam had paid 13 young men to attack the church.

The informant was arrested on February 29th for his part in the attacks. The imam, however, has remained free. On March 10th, Pastor Walina received a threatening text from the imam, ordering him to return Mariam and her children. Other texts from local Muslims have been received as well. "I have been receiving messages alleging that my Christian activities of converting Muslims to Christ will be met with severe punishment," Pastor Walina explains. "We need prayers and to know how best to assist the new convert and her children." To learn more about the persecution of Christians in Uganda, see our [country report](#).

***Intercede for the leadership and congregants of this church as they seek the Lord's direction concerning their Christian community (including the pastor's family) in the midst of this life-threatening situation. May the opposing imam and those responsible for the crimes be held accountable for their actions. Please also pray on behalf of the victimized girls, asking God to provide them needed healing and peace as they recover from the trauma of the assault. May all of these Ugandan believers experience safety and security under the shelter of the Most High God, while also serving as testimonies of His overcoming empowerment and saving grace.***

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## PRAISE REPORT

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### PAKISTAN: Young Christian Released on Bail

Sources: CLAAS, World Watch Monitor, Aljazeera

A young Christian who was convicted of blasphemy in 2018 at the age of 16 has been granted bail by the Lahore High Court in Pakistan. Nabeel Masih was accused after allegedly "liking" and sharing a picture on Facebook which was deemed disrespectful to the Kaaba (sacred shrine) in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. He was sentenced to ten years in prison.

On March 1st, Nabeel's lawyer successfully argued that there was no evidence indicating Nabeel was responsible for the Facebook post, which had been removed after his initial arrest to prevent further violence. He has been released on bail until the paperwork to acquit him is completed.

Blasphemy laws are frequently used for personal gain, vendettas, or as a means to oppress Pakistan's religious minorities. Even when the charges are found to be false, and subsequently dropped by the authorities, the formerly accused Christians frequently encounter mob violence. To review additional information on the persecution of Christians in Pakistan, including previously published reports, go to our [country report](#).

***Praise God that Nabeel will soon be acquitted of the charge against him! May the necessary paperwork to fully exonerate him be completed quickly. Pray for the protection of this young man and his family from any repercussions of violence or other forms of persecution upon his release. May the efforts of anyone seeking to harm them be thwarted. Continue to remember the many other Christians who are still being held in Pakistani prisons due to false blasphemy charges.***



The Kaaba in Mecca.