

***"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more, neither shall there
be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,
for the former things have passed away."***

~ Revelation 21:4 ESV

NIGERIA: High School Students Kidnapped

Sources: Christianity Today, Release International, Morning Star News, Daily Post Nigeria, BBC, CTV News, Sahara Reports

Shooting wildly, armed assailants breached the walls of Bethel Baptist High School in the early morning of July 5th. More than 100, and possibly as many as 164, students at this boarding school in Maraban Rido (located on the outskirts of Kaduna State's capital), are still missing after being kidnapped by militants as part of a coordinated attack. The suspected Fulani militants overcame security guards, initially abducting almost all of the school's 180 students at gunpoint. A few of the students fortunately managed to escape.

At last report, governing officials have not received any contact from the kidnapers. Distraught parents gathered at the school awaiting news, collecting the remaining belongings of their children: discarded sandals and other personal items that had been left behind. "May God take away their tears and the suffering they will face at the hands of the kidnapers," commented a woman as she pointed to a hole in the school's perimeter where the gunmen had forcefully entered.



A father prays for students at a breach in the school's wall.
Photo: Morning Star News

Around the same time, the nearby Faith Academy was also attacked. However, the academy's security team, together with soldiers in the area, managed to repel the assailants. In light of these recent raids, governing officials of Kaduna State have ordered Faith Academy, along with 12 other schools considered vulnerable to attacks, to shut down immediately.

These incidents are reminiscent of the mass kidnapping of Chibok students which was carried out in 2014 by members of the Boko Haram terrorist group. Many of these Chibok students are still missing. According to recent news reports, nearly 1,000 people have been abducted from Nigerian schools since December 2020 alone, with more than 150 of them still missing. In protest against the incessant kidnappings, hundreds of women, including parents of the Bethel school students, set up a blockade in the afternoon of the recent July 5th abductions on the highway in Maraban Rido. However, the military broke up the demonstration within hours.

Prayerfully remember these abducted students and their distraught families during this time of heartbreak and uncertainty. Pray for the protection of all the children remaining in captivity and for the needed comfort of those left behind. May God provide guidance and wisdom to Nigeria's military and police forces as they seek the safe return of the missing students, who are all so very precious in His sight, while also working mightily in the hearts of the perpetrators of these hateful crimes.

SUDAN: Government Advisor Beaten and Threatened

Source: Morning Star News



Botrous Badawi recovering in hospital.
Photo: Facebook via Morning Star News

Masked gunmen attacked a government religious affairs worker on the night of July 2nd, threatening to kill him for supporting the return of church properties to Christian communities. Botrous Badawi, a Christian and advisor to the minister of Sudan's Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments, was travelling south of Khartoum when a group of bandits forced his vehicle to stop. Armed with assault rifles, they beat him and threatened to kill him if he continued to advocate for the return of a property that was confiscated from the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church.

This attack was not completely unexpected, for Botrous had received numerous threatening text messages leading up to the incident. He did not recognize the attackers but suspects they were members of the Islamist-oriented National Intelligence Security Service – a notorious agency that had been disbanded by the transitional government and replaced

with a new organization.

Christians in Sudan continue to await the return of their church properties which were seized by the Islamist regime of former Sudanese president, Omar al-Bashir, who was deposed in April 2019. Since then, some of the changes brought about by the transitional government led to the expectation that the properties would be returned to their rightful owners. For more information on the challenges facing Sudan's Christians, go to our [country report](#).

As Botrous Badawi seeks to represent Christ within the Sudanese government, pray that he will have wisdom and guidance from God. As a result, may his words influence governing officials as they determine to do what is right and just regarding the seized church properties. Please also pray for Botrous' complete physical healing as he recovers from the beatings experienced during the attack. Finally, may those responsible for this act of violence be brought to justice, in hopes that they will turn from their wrongful ways and instead strive to live harmoniously and respectfully with fellow citizens of their country.

REPORT UPDATE

SAUDI ARABIA: Believer's Family Escapes into Exile

Source: Open Doors Canada

A Christian believer in Saudi Arabia, who was identified in previous *Persecution & Prayer Alert* reports as "A" or "Adam," has been sentenced with a large fine for allegedly attempting to convert Muslims to Christianity, as well as assisting his sister to flee the country. The accused believer was given 30 days to pay the fine unless an appeal was granted. (For more details about this situation, see [this page](#).)

In May, "Adam's" wife was held captive by her non-Christian family members in their attempts to convince her to leave him due to the charges, which were incidentally based on the allegations they had initially made against him. (This report can be [reviewed here](#).)

According to a recently received report, the timeline for his appeal is uncertain. In the meantime, he has thankfully been able to get his family to safety. His wife and younger son have relocated to a safe country where they are being protected, and his eldest son was able to leave Saudi Arabia earlier.



Pray that Christians will experience the Lord's peace and strength.

In a note of gratitude for the many encouraging messages the family has received from fellow believers, the Christian man's wife expressed: "How beautiful are your messages with all those words. You are a light that lightens my path; that comforts our soul and strengthens it. I am very happy with you, and it is a great honour to be part of this family – the family of Christ."

Praise God for the faithfulness of this enduring couple despite the tremendous pressures and challenges they have encountered. Continue to pray for the accused Christian man as he faces punishment for sharing his faith in Jesus with others. Pray that his appeal will be successful, and that God will continue to wonderfully minister to him and his exiled family as they await the court's acquittal. Despite their physical separation from each other in the meantime, may they grow even stronger spiritually and relationally during this difficult time, drawing needed strength, encouragement and hope from the Lord.

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