

"You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan."

~ John Bunyan

IRAN: Arrests of Christian Converts During Prayer Meeting

Sources: Middle East Concern, International Christian Concern

Three Christian converts were arrested while attending a prayer meeting in the Iranian coastal city of Rasht on September 5th. Intelligence agents raided the meeting and took Morteza Mashhoudkari, Ayoub Poor-Rezazade and Ahmad Sarparast for interrogation.

Morteza and Ahmad were transferred to Lakan Prison on September 18th, and then released on bail three days later. The charges against them have not yet been announced. Although Ayoub's family members were informed that he had also been transferred to Lakan Prison, the other two Christians state that he never arrived at the facility. At last report, Ayoub remains missing, leaving his family and friends very concerned for his well-being.



Morteza, Ahmad and Ayoub
Photo: Middle East Concern

Christians imprisoned in Iran frequently face horrific conditions. Over a dozen of these believers are known to be held captive in the notorious Evin Prison, which is located in the city of Tehran. Recent video footage that leaked from Tehran's prison shows inmates being subjected to physical and psychological torture, in addition to captured scenes of prisoners wrapped in blankets to stay warm during the colder temperatures. More information on the persecution of Christians in Iran is available at our [country report](#).

Praise God that Morteza and Ahmad have been released on bail. Ask the Lord to fill these believers with courage and hope as they face the uncertainty of future charges. Please also pray for Ayoub's protection, along with his need for encouragement and strength. May his concerned family and friends experience God's reassuring peace as they await news of his whereabouts. Continue to prayerfully uphold all those who are currently serving time in prisons across Iran simply because of their faith in Christ.

INDIA: Large Mob Attacked Church in Chhattisgarh

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, India Today, The Hindu, Asia News



Ask God to reassure believers in India that He never forsakes His children.

Around 60 Christians were gathered for worship on the morning of Sunday, August 29th, when a mob of over 100 people barged into the facility and began shouting Hindu slogans. The perpetrators proceeded to physically assault all of the attending church members, destroy their musical instruments, and tear apart a Bible before trampling it underfoot. The invading militants then placed Hindu idols in the building and began worshipping them.

Pastor Kawalsingh Paraste and his family were particularly targeted during this violent raid. When some of the Christians questioned the attackers, the vandals stated that (according to them) everyone who happens to be born in India must remain Hindu and, therefore, they can only worship Hindu deities.

The congregants of this recently attacked church, which is located in the village of Polmi, have been meeting at the same location for almost 20 years. Prior to the incident, they had lived in peace with other villagers for years. According to witnesses, the mob allegedly came from the neighbouring village of Bhejgar.

While a police report has been filed, Christian leaders in Chhattisgarh accuse the authorities of inaction. Arun Pannalal, the president of Chhattisgarh's Christian Forum, stated that at least ten attacks have occurred within the past two weeks alone, yet no action had been taken by the authorities. For further information on the persecution of Christians in India, including previously posted reports, go to our [country report](#).

May the peace that had existed for years in the village of Polmi – specifically among its Christian and Hindu members – be prayerfully restored, allowing the recently attacked followers of Jesus to freely resume the practice of their faith in safety once more. Intercede for the salvation of those responsible for the recent anti-Christian attacks in Chhattisgarh. May their hearts be touched by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, leading them to repentance for their wrongful actions. Pray that this recovering church community will convey the love of Christ to those around them in all circumstances.

REPORT UPDATE

ALGERIA: Appeals Denied for Pastor and Bookstore Salesman

Source: Middle East Concern

In addition to pastoring the Oran City Church in Algeria, Rachid Seighir owned and operated a book and stationery shop, where Nouh Hamimi worked as a salesman. On February 27th, both men were convicted of "shaking the faith" of Muslims through the literature that was sold at their bookstore. In June, the initial two-year sentences given to the accused men were reduced to one-year suspended sentences. These sentences were in addition to the separate fines imposed by the court. (See [this report](#) for more details.)

The two men appealed the verdict, convinced that they are innocent of all charges. However, on September 26th, the regional court of appeals upheld the verdict. Pastor Rachid and Nouh intend to pursue further appeals.



Rev. Rachid Seighir
Photo: Facebook via Morning Star News

Please continue to prayerfully remember our Algerian brothers in Christ as they now need to prepare for yet another appeal hearing. Pray that justice will prevail for Pastor Rachid and Nouh, asking the Lord to intervene in the hearts and minds of court officials on their behalf. May these sentenced believers sense the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit with them each day, giving them renewed strength, courage and wisdom. Ask Him to meet their needs, as well as those of their families, while providing them many opportunities to share the Good News of the Gospel with others. May all who are in search of a meaningful relationship with their Creator be led to salvation through faith in His Son Jesus.

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