



***"I have decided to follow Jesus
and there is no turning back."***

~ Quote attributed to 19th-century

Indian martyr, Nokseng.

Hymn lyrics by Sadhu Sundar Singh.

MALAYSIA: Christians Forcibly Registered as Muslims

Sources: International Christian Concern, Mission Network News

Christians constitute a minority of the population in Malaysia, where they are frequently marginalized and pressured to convert to Islam. According to recent reports from the community of Nabawan, the national identity cards of some Christians have been secretly changed, classifying them as Muslims rather than followers of Jesus. These changes were made without the believers' knowledge.

Individuals who are designated as Muslims in this predominantly Islamic country are subject to Sharia law – a requirement not imposed on those having other religious designations. As stated by VOMC's CEO, Floyd Brobbel,

"So now these Christians who were immune from Islamic courts are...going to have to follow Islamic tradition [and] Islamic law. There's no recourse for them."



A church in Malaysia.
Photo: Public Domain

As pointed out by Floyd, however, "Just because these Christians now are...classified as being Muslim doesn't mean that they're Muslim in their hearts or faith levels.... Christians will continue to do the work of evangelism and live out a Biblical worldview." Further information concerning the difficulties facing Malaysian Christians is available at our [country profile](#).

- ***Pray that God will provide guidance and wisdom to those who are working to resolve this issue of concern.***
- ***In the meantime, may Christians in Malaysia continue to rejoice in the eternal hope they have through the atoning life, death and resurrection of Christ.***
- ***Additionally, pray for increased evangelistic efforts to take place within this Muslim-majority nation, so that the "Good News" of the Gospel can be readily received by many more spiritually needy people throughout the country.***

LAOS: Christian Families Expelled

Source: Barnabas Aid

Four Christian families were forcibly evicted from their village in northwestern Laos on May 5th and 6th. According to local sources, opposing community leaders and other residents of Huang Khan Village in Luang Namtha province specifically targeted the Christians.

Thankfully, essential aid has been provided to those who were left homeless, and efforts are now being made to find them safe accommodations. Unfortunately, the eviction of these families is not an isolated situation for believers living in Photo: Barnabas Aid rural



Some of the believers who were evicted.
Photo: Barnabas Aid

districts of the country. While legislation passed in 2019, granting Christians throughout Laos the right to conduct worship services and practise their faith, the enforcement of this law has been inconsistent – particularly in rural areas. For previous reports addressing persecution in this Buddhist-majority nation, go to our [country profile](#).

- *Please lift up these recently displaced believers in your prayers, asking the Lord to continue meeting their daily practical and spiritual needs while leading them to suitable housing.*
- *Pray that the efforts of those who are assisting these families with needed humanitarian provision and encouragement during this time of relocation and emotional recovery will be blessed and multiplied.*
- *Ultimately, may relational restoration and a renewed sense of harmony take place between these evicted Christians and the villagers opposing them.*
- *In the interim, pray that appropriate action will be taken to ensure all followers of Jesus throughout Laos are granted due consideration and fair treatment within the country's legal system.*

INDIA: Christians Denied Burial Rights

Sources: UCA News, International Christian Concern, Clarion India, The Tablet

Since 2022, Christians in the Nabarangpur district of Odisha have faced at least eight separate instances in which they have been denied the right to bury their loved ones. In many of these cases, opposing community members refused to allow the burial of deceased Christians in a cemetery used by Hindus, forcing the families to instead bury their loved ones in the forest or other locations.



A cemetery in India.
Photo: Public Domain

In the latest incident, which took place in mid-May, the villagers claimed that they could not allow the burial of a Christian because it would defile their gods and the land. Despite attempts from local authorities to resolve the situation, the Hindu villagers could not be convinced to permit the burial, requiring the body to be taken to another location.

Several other incidents have been documented in which deceased Christians were either posthumously

"converted" to Hinduism or their grieving family members were forced to convert in order for the burial to be permitted. In some of these cases, individuals have feigned their conversions, while secretly stating that they remain Christians. For instance, on March 2nd, a 70-year-old believer named Kesab Santa passed away in a predominantly Hindu village. The Hindu villagers refused to allow the burial unless his cousin Turpu converted to Hinduism. As a result of the pressure, Turpu underwent the Hindu conversion process, along with his wife and two adult children.

Similar problems have also taken place in the neighbouring state of Chhattisgarh. On January 27th, the Supreme Court ordered the Chhattisgarh state government to specify exclusive burial sites for Christians in order to prevent further disputes. To learn more about the persecution confronted by followers of Jesus in India, go to our [country profile](#).

- ***As you bring these situations before the Lord in prayer, please uphold the families that are mourning the loss of their loved ones, while also having to deal with the added toll of harassment from disapproving community members.***
- ***Pray that God's abounding peace will rest on each one of these grieving believers, along with the comforting assurance that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8).***
- ***May peaceful resolutions be established in order to prevent further incidents of discrimination against our Indian family in Christ.***

The "Persecution & Prayer Alert" is a ministry of:
Voice of the Martyrs Canada, P.O. Box 608, Streetsville, Ontario, L5M 2C1
Tel. (905) 670-9721 - Website: VOMCanada.com