

***"To confess and testify to the truth
as it is in Jesus and, at the same time,
to love the enemies of that
truth...is indeed a narrow way."***

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church November 2nd, 2025

Each year, churches around the world set aside a specific day to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who are encountering persecution for their faith. This year, the designated date is Sunday, November 2nd, and the selected theme is *Unite in Prayer*. We encourage you to join along with thousands of other believers that day by prayerfully raising your voice to God – either individually or corporately with the members of your church or prayer group.

For more information, and/or to download free resources that will help increase awareness of the prayer needs represented by our persecuted family in Christ, visit [IDOP.ca](https://idop.ca).

EGYPT: Christian Researcher Arrested

Sources: Coptic Solidarity, Shalom World News

Dr. Augustin Sam'an is a researcher specializing in Christian apologetics and comparative religions. The believer operates a YouTube channel through which he responds to anti-Christian narratives commonly circulating in Egypt. Earlier this month, Dr. Augustin was arrested and charged with "contempt of Islam" in connection with the content he had been sharing online. The Christian apologist was subsequently detained for 15 days pending the authorities' investigation.

Blasphemy charges are not uncommon in Egypt, and Christians are often disproportionately targeted. The country's blasphemy law has been described as "a sword used solely to protect Islam and Muslims." For more details about Christian persecution in Egypt, and to access previously published reports, visit VOMCanada.com/Egypt.htm.



Photo: Pexels / Bernard Ribier

- ***Ask the Lord to mightily intervene in Dr. Augustin's case – leading to the dismissal of all charges against this accused believer – so that truth and justice will ultimately prevail.***

- ***Please intercede on behalf of Egypt's legal and governing officials when praying for fairness and integrity to be upheld within the country, in hopes they will rightly respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting to ensure justice is made available to all citizens, regardless of their faith.***
- ***Lift up our Christian brothers and sisters in Egypt who are faithfully sharing the message of the Gospel in the midst of a challenging environment, praying that they will receive God's divine protection, wisdom, discernment and spiritual strength.***

PALESTINE: Threats Against Christian Converts

Source: Voice of the Martyrs USA

Recent news reports have once again drawn global attention to the ongoing conflict in Gaza, and the complex challenges that arise amid attempts to obtain lasting peace in this volatile region. Among the broader tensions, Christians living in the Palestinian territories frequently find themselves caught between opposing forces – encountering hostility not only from the instigators of political unrest but also the members of their own families and communities.

For Christian converts in the West Bank, the risks are especially severe. One such believer and his family (which includes four children) have received death threats.

These believers, who were eventually forced to flee Bethlehem for a larger city, are now praying that they will be allowed to stay at their new location. In a separate case, another Christian convert was recently confronted by his Muslim parents – as well as their village imam, who demands that the new believer return to Islam within a month or face imprisonment through the edicts of their local community's Palestinian authorities.



Bethlehem

Photo: Wikimedia / Lux Mundi ([CC](#))

"When a Palestinian Muslim embraces Christ, it leads not only to a change in their religious beliefs, but their community also perceives that he or she has betrayed their own people," a ministry worker explains. "No one wants to be related to a traitor, so the pressure from family members on new Christian converts is often intense and violent." To review previously published reports, go to our [country profile](#).

- ***Pray for the protection of these Christian converts and other believers residing in the Palestinian territories, asking our Heavenly Father to provide them and their families safe places in which to live – all the while granting them greatly needed peace and comfort amid these times of political unrest and uncertainty.***
 - ***May God bring about a peaceful and lasting resolution to the ongoing tensions in this deeply divided region of the world.***
 - ***Pray for the continued work of ministries that are compassionately reaching out to Palestinians with the Gospel message of peace, along with the provision of humanitarian aid, so that many more residents within these communities will come to know Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord.***
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REPORT UPDATE

KYRGYZSTAN: Imprisoned Pastor Suffers Brain Damage

Sources: Forum18, USCIRF, Christian Daily International

Pavel Shreider, a 65-year-old pastor, is presently serving a three-year prison sentence in Kyrgyzstan for allegedly "inciting racial, ethnic, national, religious or regional enmity." Following his arrest in November 2024, the church leader was convicted on July 10th, 2025. (For further details on his arrest, see [this report](#).)

During Pastor Pavel's appeal hearing on September 9th, his family members noticed signs of significant physical weakness. When they had requested that he be transferred to a medical unit, a subsequent doctor's examination revealed that the Christian leader had suffered cognitive impairment due to a traumatic brain injury.



Pastor Pavel Shreider
Photo: USCIRF

Although the exact cause of the detained believer's injury is not definite, reports indicate that Pastor Pavel suffered significant abuse when he was initially arrested. Officers struck him numerous times in the head – even with the use of an iron pipe – in their efforts to coerce a confession. Authorities have denied allegations of torture involving the pastor or any of the other individuals who had been arrested at the same time.

On September 25th, Pastor Pavel was transferred to a high-security prison equipped with appropriate medical care. Prison authorities attempted to return him to his original facility on October 14th but determined that his condition had not yet sufficiently improved. A second transfer attempt is anticipated to take place in the coming days, with expectations that his appeal case will resume soon thereafter.

- ***Ask the Lord to minister complete physical and cognitive healing to Pastor Pavel, also bestowing upon him and his family greatly needed strength, comfort and peace, as they navigate this difficult and uncertain season.***
- ***Pray that the truth surrounding Pastor Pavel's arrest and mistreatment will come to light, and that court officials will rightfully release this church leader into the loving care of his concerned family.***
- ***Pray that, as Pastor Pavel and those arrested with him await their vindication, the fruit of God's Holy Spirit will be evident in each of their lives – drawing inmates, guards and court officials to eternal salvation through Christ.***