



***"To preach the Gospel for us
is to die; to be safe is to
stop preaching the Gospel."***

~ Mac Philips, a Nigerian Christian

MALAYSIA: Authorities Found Complicit in Pastor's Disappearance

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Open Doors Canada, Release International, Christianity Today, CNN

On February 13th, 2017, Pastor Raymond Koh was abducted from his car by 15 masked men in the Malaysian city of Petaling Jaya. The incident, which was captured on security cameras and took only 40 seconds to unfold, appears to have been executed by professionally trained individuals. From the beginning, there were strong indications of official government involvement in the kidnapping. More than nine years have passed since the abduction with no news of the pastor's whereabouts. (For previously published reports on this situation, including video footage of the kidnapping, see [this list](#).)

Demanding answers, Pastor Raymond's wife Susanna filed a lawsuit against the Malaysian government, alleging negligence. On November 5th, the country's High Court found sufficient evidence to suggest that the government and its police played a role in the pastor's disappearance, ordering authorities to reopen the investigation. The court also directed the government to pay Susanna 10,000 RM (\$3,370 CAD) per day, starting from the date of Pastor Raymond's disappearance until he is found. Additionally, a further 250,000 RM (about \$84,000 CAD) was awarded in compensation for the repeated delays the family has experienced, bringing the total amount to more than \$10 million and growing. The government's legal representatives for this case have announced their intention to appeal the ruling.

Following the High Court's decision, Susanna stated, "Though this will not bring Koh back, it is somewhat a vindication and closure for our family." Pastor Raymond's loved ones and supporters continue to press for answers, determined to uncover what happened that fateful day in 2017 and where the beloved church leader is now.



Pastor Raymond Koh

- ***Praise God for this significant court ruling. May the decision greatly encourage Susanna and all who have been tirelessly advocating for justice on behalf of Pastor Raymond.***
- ***Pray that the ruling will put pressure on the Malaysian government to fully cooperate and thereby release all information pertaining to the church leader's mysterious disappearance.***
- ***As Susanna and her family continue to live with uncertainty, ask the Lord to surround them with His sustaining grace, comfort and peace.***

IRAN: Christian Prisoner Denied Adequate Medical Care

Sources: Article18, Open Doors, Church in Chains

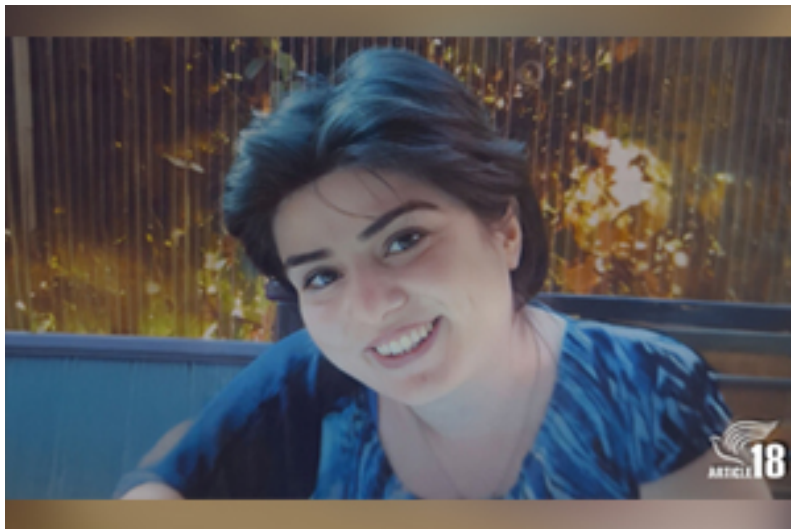
Aida Najaflou, a 44-year-old Christian convert, was arrested in February by Iranian authorities for allegedly "acting against the Islamic Republic" because of her faith in Jesus. The believer has suffered from physical ailments for years, including rheumatoid arthritis.

Since her imprisonment, Aida has repeatedly been denied proper medical care – a common hardship experienced by Christian prisoners in Iran. Her request for a lower bed was denied, forcing the Christian woman to climb into an upper bunk despite her health limitations. Tragically, Aida suffered a fall from her bunk bed on October 31st, resulting in a spinal fracture.

Following the accident, the believer was taken to hospital where doctors confirmed the fracture and recommended immediate surgery. However, against medical advice, officials transferred Aida back to prison on a stretcher, disregarding her painful injuries. Fellow inmates in the women's ward of Evin Prison staged a protest in support of Aida, which eventually resulted in her transfer to another hospital for treatment. At the time of publishing this report, further details remain unknown.

Religious and political prisoners commonly face harsh conditions in the country's notorious Evin Prison. Aida, who cannot afford to pay the exorbitant bail amount of 11 billion tomans (about \$135,000 CAD), is one of many Christians in Iran who remain incarcerated because of their faith. To review other reports about the persecution of believers in this oppressive Middle Eastern country, visit our [country profile](#).

- ***Pray that Aida will receive the urgent medical treatment she needs, and that her spinal injury will heal quickly and without complications.***
- ***Intercede for this believer's physical endurance and emotional resilience, praying that she will experience God's presence and peace in the midst of suffering.***
- ***Ask the Lord to powerfully intervene in Aida's case, softening the hearts of the Iranian authorities so that she will be rightfully released.***



Aida Najaflou
Photo: Article18

NIGERIA: Violence Against Christians Draws International Attention

Sources: Morning Star News, International Christian Concern, Christian Daily International

Violence against Christians in Nigeria continues to spread, even as international attention to the crisis grows. Recently, the United States designated Nigeria as a "a county of particular concern" due to the ongoing religious persecution, threatening military intervention if the situation does not change. In response to the recent global attention, the Nigerian government insists that its laws safeguard religious freedom and that efforts are underway to protect citizens of all faiths.

One of the greatest challenges facing Nigerian authorities is that much of the recent violence is fuelled by a mix of cultural, economic and religious factors. As Fulani herdsmen seek to expand their grazing areas, they often perpetrate violence against those who are already living on the land. When some members of this nomadic group adopt militant Islamic ideologies, combining their economic intentions with a desire to establish an Islamic state, religious persecution results.



A funeral in Plateau State.
Photo: Christian Daily International /
Morning Star News

Recent attacks by Fulani assailants give only a few examples of the ongoing violence against Christian-minority communities. In addition to the destruction of homes, businesses and churches, dozens of believers have been killed or kidnapped within the past few weeks alone.

On October 28th, 10 Christians, including a pastor, were killed in the Kauru area of Kaduna State and 20 others were kidnapped. Only a few days later, two more villages in Plateau State came under siege. Shortly after midnight, attackers entered Kwi and began killing their victims indiscriminately, taking the lives of 12 believers by daybreak. A few hours later, a second assault took place in Damakasuwa, killing five more.

On November 3rd, at least 10 additional Christians, including Pastor Simon Nbach, were killed in the village of Anwule Oglewu, Benue State; while three days later, two believers were killed in Nasarawa State and two others in Plateau State.

In a recent interview with VOMC's Minister-at-Large, Greg Musselman, Rev. Yunusa Nmadu from Christian Solidarity Worldwide Nigeria acknowledged that there has been some progress made by the current government, yet he stressed that far more must be done. Reflecting on the relentless daily violence, he expressed the deep frustration of Nigerian Christians who feel powerless to stop the devastating attacks. Please view this informative [video interview](#). Additional reports concerning persecution in this West African nation are available at our [country profile](#).

- ***Pray for further decisive action to be taken by the Nigerian authorities, specifically requesting that the government would strengthen its security measures and ultimately pursue lasting peace across the nation.***
- ***Remember the grieving families whose loved ones have been tragically killed in the attacks, as well as all those whose homes, communities and livelihoods have been destroyed. In addition to praying for their healing and restoration, ask the Lord to provide them greatly needed strength, practical provisions and hope as they recover from such unimaginable loss.***
- ***Intercede on behalf of our Christian brothers and sisters who have been kidnapped, asking God to divinely protect them while working out their safe release.***

The "Persecution & Prayer Alert" is a ministry of:
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