



***"...fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your
God; I will strengthen you, I
will help you, I will uphold you
with My righteous right hand."***

Isaiah 41:10 ESV

PAKISTAN: Advocating Church Leader Assassinated

Sources: British Asian Christians Association, International Christian Concern, Pakistan Christian Post

Pastor Kamran Salamat was widely respected for his ministry work and commitment to promoting interfaith peace. He served as pastor of a church in Islamabad, where he ministered faithfully and advocated for the rights of Christians in Pakistan. As a result of his ministry activities, Pastor Kamran was violently attacked in September and shot in the leg, leaving him seriously injured.

Concerned for his safety, the church leader's family encouraged him to move to Lahore. However, when the sense of danger persisted, the pastor relocated to Gujranwala with his wife and three children. Despite the distance, he remained devoted to his congregation, travelling to Islamabad each weekend to continue his ministry. Tragically, the pastor was also met with violence after relocating to his new residence.

On December 5th, while leaving home to drive his daughter Numeer to college, Pastor Kamran was ambushed by an unknown assailant who was riding a motorcycle. Armed with a gun, the attacker opened fire, hitting the church leader in the wrist, ear and lower abdomen. In an act of bravery, Numeer struck the gunman with her father's crutch, forcing him to flee. Although Pastor Kamran had been rushed to the hospital, he did not survive his injuries.

Police have initiated an investigation, looking through available video footage and collecting other evidence. The search for the suspect continues while Christians across Pakistan demand justice. Reflecting on Pastor Kamran's life, his brother-in-law, Pastor Shehzad Suleman, stated, "He was very brave and always said he did not care for his life while serving God – and today he has proved it." The dedicated church leader is survived by his wife Salmina, daughters Numeer (16) and Arina (11), and son Ariel (14). Further reports concerning the persecution of Christians in Pakistan are available at our [country profile](#).



Mourners gather to honour
Pastor Kamran Salamat.

Photo: Christian Daily International /
Morning Star News

- ***Please remember Salmina, Numeer, Ariel and Arina in your prayers as they mourn the loss of this beloved husband, father and church leader. Ask God to surround them with His comforting peace – while also sustaining them with greatly needed strength – during this time of deep sorrow.***
- ***Additionally, lift up Pastor Kamran's parishioners, praying that they would receive hope and encouragement as they reflect on his life of ministry and continue his legacy of faith.***
- ***Pray that God would guide the authorities in their investigation, so that the individual responsible for this attack will be brought to justice – in hopes they will reach a point of repentance and spiritual transformation.***

NICARAGUA: Imprisoned Lay Leaders Transferred to House Arrest

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Independent Catholic News

Christians in Nicaragua have been subjected to various forms of oppression and violence by the Sandinista government. In the summer of 2024, many religious leaders were arrested or deported, and numerous faith-based organizations were forcibly shut down. (To review previously published reports addressing the challenges believers are facing in this Central American nation, visit [this page](#).)

On August 10th, 2024, two laywomen – Carmen María Sáenz Martínez and Lesbia del Socorro Gutiérrez Poveda – were detained for their involvement with the Roman Catholic diocese of Matagalpa. Believed to be held at La Esperanza women's prison, they were denied all contact with their family members and lawyers. For more than 15 months, their concerned loved ones received no news of the ministry workers' conditions, nor did they know if the women were even still alive.



Carmen and Lesbia.
Photo: Christian Solidarity Worldwide

In an unexpected development, Carmen and Lesbia were among a small group of prisoners who were recently released from imprisonment. Even though no charges have been laid against the two women, they were placed under house arrest on November 29th. While this remains an unjust situation, the transfer marks a significant improvement following their prolonged incommunicado detention and solitary confinement. Sadly, several other Christian leaders who are classified as "political prisoners" remain incarcerated across the country.

- ***Pray that Carmen and Lesbia – along with the other recently released lay leaders who have since been transferred to house arrest – will experience complete recovery from the emotional trauma of their arrests and incarcerations.***
- ***As they now await freedom from the confines of their own homes, may each one of these believers also experience full restoration of their physical health and well-being, relationships with their family and friends, as well as their God-ordained ministry pursuits.***
- ***Continue to pray for those still arbitrarily detained in Nicaragua – as well as believers who have been forced into exile – because of their ministry activities.***
- ***Also, please intercede for the country's president, Daniel Ortega, and other governing leaders, praying that they will personally encounter the Christ of the Gospel and thus surrender their lives to Him.***

REPORT UPDATE

NIGERIA: The Recovery of 100 Kidnapped Students

Sources: Reuters, CTV News, The Christian Post

People around the world were shocked to hear of the recent kidnapping of more than 300 students and teachers from a Catholic boarding school in Nigeria. Thankfully, 50 of the students had escaped shortly after the abduction. (For further information on the November 21st kidnapping incident, see [this report](#).)

On December 7th, Nigerian authorities announced that 100 children have since been recovered. One of the rescued children reported that, while in captivity, they were detained in the forest, forced to sleep on a tarpaulin, and ordered to remain quiet. Those released were taken to a government house in Minna, the capital of Niger State.

Officials have not disclosed any details regarding the recovery operation, nor whether any arrests were made in the process. In



Photo: Unsplash / Samuel Martins

addition, no specific group has claimed responsibility for the school attack. To date, it is believed that 165 students and 12 staff members are still being held hostage by the abductors.

- ***While we can praise God for the safe release of these 100 students, may we remain mindful to continue interceding for the many others who are now awaiting their hopeful release from captivity. May they likewise be safely recovered and joyfully reunited with their families.***
- ***Pray that Nigeria's governing leaders will receive wisdom and assistance in their endeavours to strengthen security measures throughout the nation, intervene on behalf of victims of persecution, and ultimately protect other innocent lives from future threats of danger and violence.***
- ***While praying for Christians in Nigeria, particularly remember those who are more at risk in the northern part of the country. May the Holy Spirit bless their efforts to convey the message of Christ's love in the midst of ongoing opposition and danger so that the lives of many more in need of eternal salvation – including their persecutors – will be dramatically transformed.***

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