

***"Prayer enables us first inwardly
to overcome the enemy, and
then outwardly to deal with him."***

~ Watchman Nee

CHINA: Major Crackdown on Church Networks

Sources: ChinaAid, BBC, The Christian Post, France 24

In recent months, the Chinese Communist Party has intensified its campaign against some of China's largest unregistered church networks. This crackdown follows years of pressure on congregations such as those belonging to the Early Rain Covenant Church, which has faced major oppression since December 2018. In October 2025, authorities also launched coordinated raids on multiple campuses of the Zion Church network, arresting several church leaders. More recently, similar actions have targeted the Yayang Christian Church and its affiliated congregations.

In the early morning hours of December 15th, more than 1,000 officers raided 12 congregations linked to the Yayang Christian Church. During the raids, authorities arrested hundreds of believers and detained key church workers. In the days following, police vehicles remained stationed outside the homes of several church members.

On January 5th, hundreds of police officers and members of China's special forces surrounded the Yayang Christian Church in Wenzhou with scaffolding and barricades, blocking the building from public view. In addition to strictly warning citizens to not take any photographs or videos, authorities deployed drones and signal-blocking vehicles to monitor the area. Several individuals were taken into custody merely for sharing information on social media or through private messaging apps.

While the church remains blocked from view, the silhouette of the building clearly shows that the cross has been removed from the bell tower. There have also been reports that the bell tower itself is being dismantled. It is believed that the authorities intend to eventually demolish or substantially alter the church building.

Despite these recent campaigns, church members are standing firm in their faith. Dr. Eric Foley from VOM Korea observes: "As their leaders are put in jail, new leaders are raised up from the congregation to take their place. This is real church life...an all-church commitment to Jesus Christ." As these churches continue to conduct worship services – even in the midst of dire challenges – the Gospel message is boldly being proclaimed.

At last report, 20 members of the Yayang church are presently being held in detention, and the government's oppression remains ongoing. To review previously published reports addressing the persecution of Christians in China, go to VOMCanada.com/china.htm.



Yayang Christian Church
Photo: ChinaAid

- ***Pray that God's peace and strength will encourage the hearts of His oppressed people as they seek His guidance through these challenging times of persecution.***
- ***In the midst of the present hardships, pray that the Lord will continue to work powerfully in and through China's churches, enabling them to courageously proclaim the message of His sacrificial love and forgiveness.***
- ***May international pressure be applied in a concerted effort to overturn the Chinese government's oppressive policies, and thus bring relief to those who are suffering for their faith.***

KAZAKHSTAN: Police Coerce Complaints Against Unregistered Churches

Source: Forum18

Police in Kazakhstan continue to pressure congregations belonging to the Council of Churches Baptist in an ongoing campaign to force them to register with the government. Recent reports indicate that the authorities have coerced individuals into filing complaints against these churches, even dictating what they should say.

On September 29th, police arrived at the Shu Baptist Church after receiving a complaint alleging that the church was conducting lessons for children – an activity restricted by law. The woman who filed the complaint later admitted that it had been written "under pressure and dictation from the police."

On October 26th, a church in Balpyk-Bi was raided by police officers mandating that the congregation be registered with the government. When the officers returned on November 19th, they demanded statements from all the attendees and, throughout the ordeal, forbid them from leaving. Those who refused to comply by giving a statement were then taken to the local police station. Charges were subsequently filed against nine members for holding a worship meeting without state permission. Thankfully, on December 24th, the judge dismissed all nine cases due to lack of evidence.

Under Kazakhstan's religious laws, registration requirements are strictly enforced. For some groups, such as the Council of Churches Baptist, these requirements bring back memories of the oppression Christians faced under the former Soviet Union. Under Kazakhstan's religious laws, registration requirements are strictly enforced. For some groups, such as the Council of Churches Baptist, these requirements bring back memories of the oppression Christians faced under the former Soviet Union. More information on the persecution of believers in this Central Asian nation is available at our [country report](#).



A previous raid at the Shu Baptist Church.
Photo: Council of Churches Baptist via Forum 18

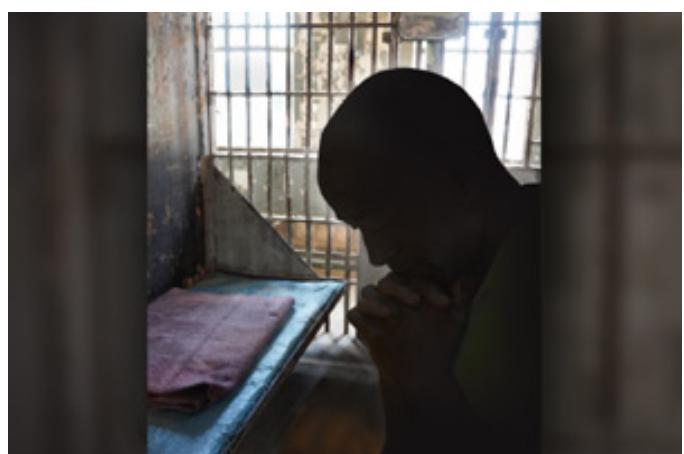
- *Pray on behalf of the church leaders in Kazakhstan as they navigate how to wisely respond to the ongoing demands of governing officials and appropriately deal with the legal challenges presently facing them.*
- *May congregations throughout the country experience God's divine protection, empowerment and provision, enabling persecuted followers of Jesus to remain steadfast in their faith despite intimidation and coercion.*
- *Additionally, ask the Lord to bless His people's endeavours to faithfully share the Scriptures with those in need of eternal salvation, so that many hearts will be enlightened to the truth of His Word.*

INDIA: Protest Leads to Arrests

Sources: The New Indian Express, Catholic Connect, News18

A 60-year-old pastor and his son, along with seven other Christians, have been arrested on allegations of conducting coerced conversions. The arrests took place after members of the militant nationalist group, Bajrang Dal, staged a protest outside a church building in the Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

On December 28th, Pastor David Gladion was leading a prayer meeting when protestors suddenly gathered outside, accusing him and his adult son, Abhishek, of luring Hindu women to convert to the Christian faith by offering money, employment and free education. The protestors claimed that approximately 150 people were in the church building at the time – many of them women.



After learning of the protest, authorities arrived at the scene. They then transported the two accused Christian men, along with seven unidentified followers of Jesus, to the police station. A case has since been registered against the believers.

Police state that "publicity vehicles" were used to invite villagers to prayer meetings. One such vehicle was seized, along with religious literature.

The protest against the believers was instigated by accusations from a local resident who claimed that he and others had been invited to the church. He alleged that the Christians also made derogatory remarks against Hindu beliefs and offered incentives to convert to Christianity.

Police state that the investigation is presently in progress, and that further action will be taken based on the resulting evidence. Many Indian states have laws against coerced conversion activities. Unfortunately, these laws are frequently abused through false accusations. To learn more about the challenges facing our Indian family in Christ, and/or to view related video clips, go to our [country profile](#).

- ***Ask God to guide the authorities' investigation so that the truth may be revealed and justice will ultimately be upheld.***
- ***In the meanwhile, pray that Pastor David, Abhishek and the other detained believers will experience the Lord's loving comfort, peace and mighty protection.***
- ***In spite of the frequently encountered opposition and false accusations, may the message of God's love and grace powerfully spread throughout India.***

NEW PODCAST EPISODE

In mid-December, a report was released raising concerns about Bill C-9, which is currently being deliberated by members of the Canadian Parliament. ([Read more details](#).) In a recently published audio podcast, VOMC's Greg Musselman interviews CEO Floyd Brobbel to discuss how this bill may affect faith communities across the country. To listen to this informative *Closer to the Fire* episode, and access other available podcasts, go to [BluBrry.com/CTTF](#).

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