



***"The greatest tragedy in life
is not in unanswered prayer
but in unoffered prayer."***

~ F.B. Meyer

INDIA: Attack on Evangelistic Team

Sources: International Christian Concern, 8Thirty8

A Christian evangelistic team was brutally attacked in early January near the village of Korrakudu in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. Not only were several believers injured during the ambush, the minibus they had been travelling in was also destroyed.

The team, which consisted of about 15 Christians from the Gospel Hall Church in Anantapur, had travelled to Korrakudu to conduct an evangelistic event. However, when the believers arrived at the village, they were informed that a local Hindu festival was underway, and that they would not be allowed to proceed with their plans. Respecting the situation, the team decided to continue their evangelistic work elsewhere in another location.

During the evangelists' departure, as they were approaching the outskirts of Korrakudu, a group of approximately 30 young men suddenly surrounded their bus. Using a variety of weapons, the assailants smashed the windows of the vehicle, then poured fuel over the bus. Before they could set fire to it, a local Hindu leader intervened. Unfortunately, when the passengers exited the vehicle, they were physically assaulted by the attackers.

It is believed that the aggressors were youths who had been provoked by Hindu nationalist organizations. A police report was filed, but village leaders requested leniency due to the age of the perpetrators. The representing local elders assured authorities that they would work to prevent such incidents from occurring again in the future. While the church leaders retained the police report for vehicle insurance purposes, the Christians willingly agreed to forgive their attackers and not pursue any further legal action.

Militant Hindu nationalist groups remain a significant source of aggression against the country's Christians, driven by the desire to make India a Hindu-only nation. As a result, the country has experienced an alarming rise in anti-Christian persecution during recent years. In his latest video report, VOMC's podcast host, Greg Musselman, discusses this concerning trend with a Christian lawyer and human rights advocate from India. This informative interview may be viewed at [this page](#). For other reports regarding the persecution of India's Christians, visit our [country profile](#).



A small bus in India.

Photo: Wikimedia / Karthikndr

- ***Pray for the physical and emotional healing of all those injured in this recently occurring attack, and for the financial losses caused by the perpetrators' destructive violence to be fully recovered.***
- ***May the Holy Spirit dramatically transform the hearts of the assailants, enabling them to understand and apply the teachings of Christ which emphasize the importance of loving Him and others***
(Matthew 22:37-39).
- ***Lift up our Christian brothers and sisters throughout India as they continue their outreach efforts which are providing greatly needed spiritual and humanitarian help to so many destitute and impoverished souls. As the message of God's love is spread across the nation, pray that multitudes more would come to faith in Christ.***

SRI LANKA: Mob Attack Leads to Injuries

Source: NCEASL

On the morning of December 6th, approximately 16 members of a church in Pasyala had gathered for a time of prayer and fasting at the home of their pastor. While they were praying together, a group of opposing neighbours – along with several other unidentified individuals – arrived at the residence. The imposing community members questioned the church secretary and the pastor's son, demanding to know whether the Christians had received an official permit to conduct worship services on the premises.

Although an explanation was provided, the intruders proceeded to physically assault the church members, including the pastor's three children. The church secretary immediately contacted the local police, notifying them of the violent outbreak. Dispatched officers arrived at the scene within 30 minutes of receiving the call. Upon their arrival, the pastor informed them that she had previously notified the station about the scheduled church meeting at her home.



A home in Sri Lanka.
Photo: Wikimedia / Dinkum ([CC](#))

When an ambulance was dispatched to transport the injured Christians to the hospital, some of the opposing community members attempted to prevent the vehicle from reaching the pastor's home. Thankfully, due to police intervention, the paramedics were finally able to transport the wounded church members – including the pastor's children. Some members of the mob, who had also sustained injuries during the confrontation, were taken for medical treatment as well.

That night, stones were thrown at the Christians' church building. This additional incident was also reported to the police, who provided protection to the threatened believers. Three days later, the authorities met with both parties involved in the dispute. In response to the inquiry of the officer in charge regarding whether or not the church was officially registered, a representing lawyer clarified that government registration is not legally required in Sri Lanka to conduct worship gatherings.

Subsequently, charges were filed against eight members of the mob. However, police also laid charges against two of the pastor's children, the church secretary, and one other congregant. In an effort to reduce tensions, the church held their worship service at a different location the following week. Since the matter was referred to the courts, there have been no further incidents.

Opposition against Christian activities in Sri Lanka often stems from community members who have been influenced by opposing Buddhist clergy. While legal permits are not required for Christian worship services, this fact is not widely understood, leading to ongoing disputes and harassment. To access further information addressing religious persecution in Sri Lanka, as well as insightful video reports, go to our [country profile](#).

- ***Ask God to minister through the presence of His Holy Spirit in the community of Pasyala, bringing His peace – which transcends all understanding – into the hearts of all those residing there (Philippians 4:7).***
- ***Pray that as the persevering church members of this community continue proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel, they will faithfully shine the light of Christ.***
- ***Throughout the process, may the Lord's presence go before them, preparing hearts and fostering new opportunities for connection and growth.***
- ***Ask for the Lord's divine protection to remain over these dedicated Sri Lankan believers, so they will be shielded from any future threat of attack and further encouraged to continue standing strong in their faith.***

PAKISTAN: Kidnapped Girl Returned to Her Home

Sources: CLAAS-UK, AsiaNews, LICAS.news

In a ruling being lauded as a "powerful win for justice," the Lahore High Court has ordered that a 13-year-old Christian girl be immediately returned to her parents. This decision was announced on January 12th, two weeks after she was abducted while walking along a street. The kidnapping incident took place on December 29th when Aneeqa left her home in Sheikhpura to purchase groceries for her family. Following the incident, the girl's abductor – a man identified as Aslam – falsified her age, claimed that she had converted to Islam, and then forced her to marry him.

Thankfully, the court acted quickly when presented with the facts. After reviewing official records verifying Aneeqa's true age, the judge immediately declared the marriage void. As a minor, she is considered legally incapable of consenting to marriage or changing her religious status. The court ordered that she be removed at once from the custody of her kidnapper and safely returned to her parents. A warrant was also issued for Aslam's arrest..

Commenting on the ruling, Nasir Saeed from CLAAS-UK stressed the importance of "timely and decisive judicial intervention" in order to "prevent irreversible harm and...uphold the rule of law." Aneeqa's parents expressed heartfelt appreciation to the judge and legal advocates who ensured the safe return of their daughter.

Within various levels of Pakistan's government, efforts are underway to introduce legislation aimed at curtailing the forcible conversions and marriages of underage girls belonging to religious minorities. Despite these endeavours, however, such cases have continued to occur. Additional reports concerning the vulnerable members of Pakistan's Christian communities can be reviewed at our [country profile](#).

- ***Praise God for this timely intervention of justice, thanks to the swift actions of the Lahore High Court to recover Aneeqa and safely return the abducted young teen to her concerned family.***
- ***Pray that this victimized girl will fully recover from the trauma she has endured throughout the kidnapping ordeal.***
- ***May God's message of repentance, forgiveness and redemption take root and bear much good spiritual fruit in the nation of Pakistan, changing hearts and bringing many to faith in Christ.***



Girls in Pakistan.

Photo: Flickr / European Union ([CC](#))