



***"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."***

~ Revelation 2:10 ESV

## INDONESIA: Prayer House Forcibly Closed

Sources: AsiaNews, VOM Australia, International Christian Concern, BBC

For the second time in two years, the Tesalonika Christians Oikumene congregation in Teluknaga, Tangerang Regency, has encountered community opposition during Easter celebrations at their prayer house. The previous year, local officials sealed the building the day after Good Friday, forcing the believers to rent an alternative location in order to hold their Easter Sunday services.

This year, the authorities arrived in the middle of the Good Friday services, evicting everyone prior to sealing off the facility. This action was the result of protests from local villagers who opposed the church's activities. Some protesters are even demanding the permanent closure of the facility, claiming that the Christians do not have a valid permit.



A group of believers in Indonesia.  
Photo: VOMC

While policies restricting "prayer houses" are generally less stringent than those required for formal church buildings, the congregation had applied for a building permit in 2023. Unfortunately, the outcome of the application remains unresolved. In the interim, however, governing officials have thankfully intervened in the situation by providing the congregants a temporary facility. The mayor has also promised to find them a suitable location where they can peaceably meet for the long term.

In various other areas of the country, protests revolving around permit-related disputes continue to pose significant challenges for many Indonesian congregations. To review other reports addressing the challenges encountered by Christians in this Southeast Asian nation, go to our [country profile](#).

- ***Pray for the members of this congregation as they continue to seek God's help amid opposition in their community, asking Him to grant them patience, guidance, endurance and steadfast faith.***

- ***As in their case, may the Lord likewise intervene in the hearts and minds of governing officials in other parts of the country, also guiding them towards just and lasting resolutions that will both honour Him and uphold the dignity of Indonesia's faith communities.***
- ***In general, may the Lord work in the hearts of the country's overall population – not only making it possible for religious tolerance and understanding to take place, but also creating opportunities for believers to share His love and the "Good News" of His salvation.***

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## REPORT UPDATES

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### EGYPT: Court Hearing for Christian Convert

Sources: Church in Chains, International Christian Concern, USCIRF

Saeid Mansour Abdulraziq converted from Islam to Christianity in 2016, joining the Russian Orthodox Church. Immediately following his conversion, he began experiencing harassment and intimidation from his family members, the wider community, and local police. In an effort to find safety, Saeid sought asylum in Russia but was forced to return to Egypt in 2024.

An outspoken advocate for his Christian faith, Saeid was formally charged in July 2025. The accusations against him include participation in a terrorist organization, stirring unrest and spreading false information. (For more details on his arrest, go to [this page](#).)



Saeid Mansour Abdulraziq  
Photo: CSW

Religious freedom advocates contend that Saeid's arrest is solely the result of his conversion and Christian activities. While apostasy is not a criminal offence under Egyptian law, attempts to change one's religious identity on official documents have frequently led to national security charges.

While a court hearing was scheduled to take place on April 21st before Egypt's First Criminal Terrorism Circuit in Badr, the outcome is yet to be publicized. This court, which handles terrorism-related cases, has been widely criticized for its lack of transparency and frequent denial of defendants' basic legal protections. While awaiting his hearing, Saeid has reportedly suffered from physical abuse and a lack of access to many basic necessities.

- ***Please uphold Saeid in your prayers, asking God to provide him strength, comfort and peace, as well as the practical provisions that are needed to improve his physical health and well-being.***
  - ***Pray that Saeid will also receive capable and compassionate legal representation so that all the charges against him would be dismissed.***
  - ***Additionally, remember the many other Christian converts in Egypt who are facing hostility and uncertainty because of their faith, praying that they too would receive protection, courage, and the reassurance that they are not forgotten.***
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## PAKISTAN: Child Marriage Bill Reaches Final Hurdle

Sources: Christian Daily International, Dawn

On February 11th, the governor of Punjab signed the "Child Marriage Restraint Ordinance 2026" into effect. This recently implemented law aims to raise the minimum legal age for marriage to 18 and establish penalties for violation. Those advocating for the protection of the country's youth describe the legislation as a "moral and social victory." (For more details, see our previously [published report](#).)

Child marriage has long been a serious concern in Pakistan, particularly for young Christian girls who are frequently kidnapped, forcibly converted to Islam, and then married to their abductors against their will. Numerous reports documenting cases of such abuses against our young Pakistani sisters in Christ can be found at our [country profile](#).



Governor of Punjab,  
Sardar Saleem Haider Khan  
Photo: Wikipedia (CC)

Although currently in effect, this ordinance is temporary. The newly implemented law will automatically lapse in May – 90 days after its introduction – unless approval is granted by the Punjab Assembly. The legislation has already passed through the standing committee, but now awaits a final vote by the Assembly. Opponents argue that the restraint ordinance conflicts with their personal freedoms, as well as interpretations of Islamic law, which permit the marriage of young girls upon reaching puberty.

- ***Pray that members of the Punjab Assembly will seriously take into consideration the devastating consequences and trauma posed to vulnerable girls (and their concerned families) if this life-protecting legislation is not swiftly and rightfully approved.***
- ***Lift up the many young victims who have already been forcibly converted and married, asking God to provide greatly needed healing, protection and restoration in their lives.***
- ***Pray that Christians in this predominantly Muslim nation would not only be strengthened and encouraged in the midst of pressure and opposition, but also empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve as willing instruments of the Lord's compassion, forgiveness and saving grace.***

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