



***"Let all who take refuge in You rejoice;  
let them ever sing for joy, and spread  
Your protection over them, that those who  
love Your name may exult in You."***

~ Psalm 5:11 ESV

### INDIA: Christians Injured in Church Attack

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, International Christian Concern, Catholic Connect

More than 25 Christians – including children and elderly believers – were injured when a worship service was violently disrupted by Hindu nationalists on May 31st. The attack occurred in the village of Sadrapal, which is located within Chhattisgarh State, as more than 60 Christians gathered for worship. Among those injured were Pastor Hunga Mandavi and his pregnant wife. During the assault, the attackers demanded that the congregants renounce their faith in Christ.

Following the violent incident, the assaulted believers attempted to register a formal complaint with local police. However, the officers on duty at the time initially refused to file the report, contributing to delays in the provision of necessary medical treatment for several injured Christians. The complaint was eventually registered on June 5th. Authorities then arrested 12 suspected perpetrators on June 7th before releasing them three days later. Although the accused individuals maintain that the violence stemmed from a land dispute, the Christian community firmly denies this claim.



A village in Chhattisgarh.

Photo: Flickr / United Nations Development Programme (CC)

According to local sources, Christians in Sadrapal have been subjected to long-standing discrimination. For example, many were denied access to the village's water source, forcing them to travel long distances for their supply. Reports also indicate that attacks against Christians within the state have significantly increased since the passing of the revised anti-conversion laws in March 2026. "Almost every other day, we hear of such incidents in the state," noted a spokesperson for the Progressive Christian Alliance.

Christians in many areas of India continue to encounter ongoing hardships, frequently marked by hostility and false accusations. To review other published reports concerning the increase of persecution in this South Asian nation, visit our [country profile](#).

- ***In the aftermath of this most recently occurring attack, pray that God will minister needed healing and comfort to those who are now recovering from the trauma – strengthening them physically, emotionally and spiritually.***
- ***May the Lord also surround these believers with His divine protection and peace, making it possible for them to receive the help they need when confronted with any future threat of resistance.***

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- ***Lift up Christians throughout India, praying that they too would experience God's reassuring presence in tangible and meaningful ways, so they will be further encouraged to remain steadfast in their faith amid oppositional challenges.***

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## REPORT UPDATES

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### **NIGERIA: Four Convicted in Deadly Church Shooting**

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, BBC

Four years ago, the Pentecost Sunday service at St. Francis Catholic Church in Owo, Nigeria, was suddenly interrupted by gunshots and explosions. As worshippers fled the building, they were confronted by armed attackers. By the time the situation was brought under control, at least 40 congregants had been killed and dozens more injured. (Additional details about this devastating incident are [available here](#).)

Following an extended investigation, five men were charged in connection with the attack. On June 3rd, the Federal High Court convicted four of the accused – sentencing them to death – while the fifth man was acquitted due to insufficient evidence. While the defendants pleaded not guilty, each of them had given voluntary confessions. They further stated that their leader (who remains at large) had instructed them to carry out the attack, alleging that the Catholic church had committed blasphemy. The assailants were reportedly under orders to kill the priest, who survived the attack. The convicted men also claimed their affiliation with al-Shabaab, an Islamic terrorist group primarily based in Somalia.



Photo: Pixabay

Following the convictions, prosecutor Ayodeji Adedipe stated, "Justice has been served; justice has been done to the deceased who were murdered in cold blood." The defence counsel representing the convicted men, however, indicated that an appeal will be filed against the sentences.

- ***In light of these sobering convictions, please pray for all those who continue to be impacted by this tragedy, asking the Lord to provide the victims and their loved ones comfort, healing and the continued reassurance that their suffering has not been forgotten.***
- ***Also taking into consideration the many other cases of violence that have likewise impacted the country's Christian communities, ask the Lord to protect, strengthen and comfort those who live under the threat of unprovoked attacks from hostile terrorist groups.***
- ***Lift up the perpetrators of such senseless attacks against our fellow members of humanity, in hopes that they would be convicted of their sin by the Holy Spirit and thus turn in faith to Christ – who offers eternal life to all who willingly receive His gift of salvation.***
- ***As you uphold this troubled West African nation before the throne of God, pray that His righteousness and justice will ultimately prevail.***

## CHINA: Nine Zion Church Leaders Released as Others Face Prosecution

Source: ChinaAid

On November 18th, Communist authorities formally arrested 18 church leaders (pastors and other staff members) of the Beijing Zion Church, charging them with "illegally using information networks." These charges were part of the officials' ongoing campaign to target the church and its various campuses. (Learn more about these arrests by reviewing this [previously posted report](#).)

After spending more than eight months in detention, nine of the leaders were freed on June 18th. Their releases occurred after public security authorities exhausted the maximum period allowed for investigative detentions. When the family members of the discharged believers finally received the good news regarding the recent releases, they rushed to Beihai to welcome their loved ones after months of separation.

The remaining nine leaders – including the church's lead pastor, Ezra Jin Mingri – have since been transferred to the procuratorate for prosecution. In the interim, the charges against them escalated to "illegal business operations" and "fraud." At the time of publishing this *Persecution & Prayer Alert*, the church's lawyers have not yet been granted full access to the prosecutor's files.

Reports indicate that Chinese authorities are increasingly using economic crime allegations against churches, often in an effort to deflect accusations of systemic religious persecution. Further reports addressing the ongoing oppression of our Christian brothers and sisters in China are available at our [country profile](#).

- ***Praise God for the safe release of the nine Christian leaders who were recently reunited with their families! May they now experience His ministry of reconciliation and restoration following their time in detention.***
- ***Please prayerfully uphold the remaining church leaders who are still in custody, asking the Lord to sustain them and their concerned loved ones with His unwavering presence.***
- ***Remember the many other believers throughout China who are faithfully carrying out their ministry work in the midst of opposition, praying that they will also be further encouraged and empowered by the Holy Spirit.***



Eight of the Christians facing charges.  
Photo: Zion Church via ChinaAid

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