



***"If you are not willing to die for what is in the Bible, you should not give money for Bibles. Because if you give, we will smuggle more Bibles. And if we smuggle more Bibles, there will be more martyrs."***

~ Pastor Richard Wurmbrand

### KAZAKHSTAN: Congregants Charged Following Police Raid

Source: Voice of the Martyrs USA

A church in Semey, a bustling historical city situated in the eastern part of Kazakhstan, was raided on May 24th after police received a call that unregistered religious activities were taking place. Shortly following the notification, about 10 officers arrived at the scene during the Sunday church service.

When the service ended, all attendees – except mothers with children – were ordered to stay within the facility. Officers then explained to the remaining Christians that they were breaking the law by "performing religious rites." Charges were subsequently laid against 15 of the church members, including the pastor.



Several church members have been charged by police.

Photo: VOM USA

Legal restrictions, along with the mandate for church communities to receive official registration from the government (a lengthy process that often leads to denial of the required documentation),

have resulted in significant difficulties for Christians throughout the country. For a general overview of the challenges encountered by believers in this Central Asian nation, and/or to review previously posted *Persecution & Prayer Alerts* further addressing this particular concern, go to our [country profile](#).

- ***Please prayerfully uphold the pastor of this recently raided church in Semey, as well as the accused congregants, asking the Lord to grant them wisdom and guidance as they now deal with the charges laid against them.***
- ***As these believers navigate their way through the imposed governmental requirements, may a favourable resolution be found so that the church can continue its ministry within the community.***
- ***In the interim, pray that the members of this church – and those belonging to other congregations in Kazakhstan – will receive the strength, grace and resilience required to victoriously overcome the oppressive challenges they are presently facing.***

## PAKISTAN: Acquittal of Charges for Blind Christian Man

Sources: UCA News, AsiaNews

A Pakistani court has recently acquitted Naseem Masih, who was initially charged with blasphemy. According to findings based on substantial evidence, the judge presiding over Naseem's case ruled that the allegations against the accused were fabricated and that the prosecution "miserably failed to prove its case." The June 22nd ruling thankfully brings an end to 10 enduring months of wrongful imprisonment for the innocent businessman whose blindness (since birth) further compounded the suffering he experienced throughout his detention.

In August 2025, Naseem was drawn into a dispute with two Muslim men who kept pressuring him to abandon his business. When he refused, they falsely accused him of blasphemy – something that happens far too frequently in Pakistan. As a result, Naseem was charged on allegations that he had insulted the prophet Muhammad; a sentence that also happens to carry the death penalty.



Naseem (centre) with his representing lawyers.  
Photo: Christian Daily International-Morning Star News

Along with the difficulties of having to navigate through the prison institution without eyesight, his mother stated that Naseem had also been beaten in an attempt to force a confession. "As a mother, it was heartbreaking to see him suffer in that way," she recounts. However, with much relief over the recently occurring acquittal, she is now able to say, "God has heard the prayers of a desperate mother and delivered my son from the shadow of death." To learn more about the persecution of Christians in Pakistan, visit our [country profile](#).

- ***Let's join Naseem's mother in praises of thanksgiving to God for answering all the heartfelt petitions that were prayed on her son's behalf.***
- ***Pray that Pakistan's blasphemy laws – and all other related legal regulations – will be justly amended to prevent such false allegations from being used for vindictive purposes.***
- ***Continue to pray that Christians throughout this South Asian country, who are likewise facing similar difficulties – or at risk of other forms of persecution – will be able to stand firm in their faith as they await the Lord's righteous intervention and the resulting vindication.***

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## CHINA: Uyghur Pastor Faces Possible Church Closure

Source: International Christian Concern

A pastor serving in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is facing possible closure of his church after authorities imposed burdensome requirements on him. The pastor, identified only as "Pastor A," leads a small house church among the Uyghur people. This particular Turkic population group is predominantly Muslim and has been subjected to significant ethnic opposition over the years. Many organizations, including



A scene from the Xinjiang region.  
Photo: Wikimedia / Hiroki Ogawa (CC)

the United Nations, have accused the Chinese government of human rights violations and crimes against humanity because of their persistent abusive actions against the Uyghur people.

In recent months, governing officials have increased their pressure on the congregation, placing several church members under surveillance. Local authorities also ordered extensive documentation regarding the church's religious activities, along with a large "compliance deposit" – with threats to demolish the worship facility if the demanded money was not paid in due time.

Members of the pastor's family have also encountered forms of personal opposition. Not only has the church leader's adult son been detained and interrogated about his faith, but restrictions have since been applied to the young man's daily activities and movement. In addition, the pastor's wife was summoned and pressured to sign a pledge that she would no longer participate in any religious activities.

While Christians throughout China have generally encountered increasing restrictions under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, the challenges facing Uyghur Christians fall within the context of severe repression – a means through which the people of this ethnic group have suffered horrific acts of violence and other abusive actions. To access previously posted *Persecution & Prayer Alert* reports addressing the broader persecution of Christians residing in this East Asian nation, visit our [country profile](#).

- ***Pray for this faithful pastoral leader and the members of his ethnic congregation in the coming days, as they face the possibility of increased action by the authorities.***
- ***Ask the Lord to mightily intervene on their behalf, allowing the church in this remote region of China to continue ministering to the spiritual and humanitarian needs of the Uyghur people.***
- ***In the meantime, may they experience the blessed hope, peace and confidence of God's abiding presence, knowing that His higher Kingdom purposes will assuredly prevail (Matthew 16:18).***

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