

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed."

~ 1 Peter 4:12-13 ESV

CHINA: Displaced Church Leader Continues to Receive Threats

Source: ChinaAid

Zhang Mei served as a lay leader in house churches across Yueyang, Hunan Province, for over 30 years. Zhang and her daughter, Li Dixuan, have since left China and are now living in Texas, where Li has married an American citizen. The mother and daughter have both applied for asylum in the United States.

Recently, Chinese authorities have been repeatedly contacting Zhang, demanding that she and her daughter return to China. Her husband, who remains in China, has also received similar inquiries from state security officials. This ongoing harassment comes only days after coordinated police raids targeted several house churches in Yueyang. ([See more details](#) on these incidents.) Church members and acquaintances have urged Zhang and Li not to return, warning of the potential legal consequences and personal risks they would face, particularly in light of the latest raids on Christian communities in the region.



Zhang Mei is pictured in front centre, wearing a red scarf.
Photo: ChinaAid

Dr. Bob Fu, president of ChinaAid, has known Li since 2020, when she was studying at Dallas Baptist University. Highlighting the reality that persecution can continue beyond national borders, he stated: "No family seeking safety in the United States should have to fear harassment from a foreign government." Previously published reports addressing the various challenges facing Christians in China are available at our [country profile](#).

- ***Pray that Zhang, Li and other believers who have sought refuge outside of China will experience God's peace, protection and loving care as they attempt to rebuild their lives in a new country.***
- ***May the Lord make a way for Zhang and Li to receive asylum, sparing them from having to return to circumstances through which they would risk prosecution because of their faith in Christ.***
- ***Prayerfully uphold the many other believers in Yueyang and across China where churches have been disrupted by governmental interference. Pray that they too will be strengthened in their faith, encouraged by times of Christian fellowship, and given opportunities to worship and grow spiritually together despite the present challenges.***

PAKISTAN: Christian Labourer Killed After Drinking from "Muslim" Water Cooler

Sources: International Christian Concern, Morning Star News

During a hot summer day on June 22nd, a Christian man named Sadique Masih was working at a brick kiln when he paused for a drink of water. Reaching for the nearest cooler, he took a sip. Tragically, that simple action cost him his life.

One of Sadique's Muslim coworkers immediately confronted him, claiming that the water was reserved for Muslims. Because Sadique was a Christian, the man accused him of having "contaminated" the water. An argument broke out between Sadique and the coworker, who has been identified as Ahmed. Other workers intervened, urging Ahmed to walk away and calm down. Believing the conflict had ended, they returned to their work.



A brick kiln factory in Pakistan.
Photo: Wikimedia / Tamseel Ahmad (CC)

A short time later, Sadique again approached a water cooler intended for the workers. Ahmed confronted him once more, but this time the dispute turned deadly. Pulling out a knife, he slit Sadique's throat, killing him. Police have since arrested Ahmed, along with three other individuals.

Sadique was the sole provider for his wife and four children. The family had already been struggling to meet financial obligations and now faces an uncertain future. Ministry partners in Pakistan are exploring ways to help them during this difficult time. Thankfully, governing officials have acted quickly to ensure that local police do not manipulate the evidence and that the family receives legal protection.

Christians in Pakistan are commonly looked down upon and treated as "*Achhoot*," meaning "untouchables." To learn more about the many hardships encountered by believers in this South Asian country, go to our [country profile](#).

- ***Pray that God's comforting presence would surround Sadique's widow, children and other family members as they now mourn over their tragic loss.***
 - ***Ask the Lord to provide for the practical needs of this slain Christian worker's grieving family, all the while reassuring them of His faithful care in the days ahead.***
 - ***May justice be served, helping Ahmed to recognize the seriousness of his wrongful actions, come to a point of sincere repentance, and ultimately place his faith in Jesus Christ.***
 - ***Remember the many Christian labourers throughout Pakistan who are relegated to difficult and low-paying jobs, praying that they will be treated with dignity and respect, strengthened in their witness to others residing within their communities, and encouraged to faithfully serve the Lord amid difficult circumstances.***
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NIGERIA: At Least 25 Killed in Latest Militant Attacks

Sources: International Christian Concern, Daily Post, Vanguard

At least 25 Christians were killed during attacks on the villages of Kum and Wereng-Comp in Plateau State, Nigeria, on July 11th. Among the victims were nine members belonging to a single Christian family, including a two-month-old infant.

The family was related to Pastor Ezekiel Dachomo, a Christian leader who has publicly condemned the violence targeting followers of Jesus in Nigeria. Pastor Ezekiel, whose video posts were also shared on social media, had been specifically mentioned by the American State Department in discussions concerning the ongoing persecution of Nigerian Christians.

Reports indicate that the family may have been targeted because of their association with Pastor Ezekiel. One surviving relative, Jame Yohanna managed to escape by climbing through a window. Recounting the incident, James explained that the attackers broke into the family home and asked for Pastor Ezekiel by name before opening fire on those remaining inside. According to James, one of the militants declared, "Today you will learn a hard lesson." When the violence ended, James returned home to discover a scene of unimaginable devastation. Among those killed were his wife, daughters, son, daughter-in-law and infant granddaughter.

Since the July 11th attack, Pastor Ezekiel and members of his church have received written threats promising further violence and death. These threats have been reported to authorities, along with requests for increased security protection. To access additional reports regarding the violence perpetrated against Nigeria's Christians, visit our [country profile](#).



Militants in Nigeria.

Photo: Voice of America / Sani Malumfashi

- ***Please lift up the loved ones of those who were killed in these latest devastating attacks, asking God to minister His comfort within each of their lives, strengthen them as they process their grief, and fill them with the eternal hope and assurance provided by the atonement of His Son, Jesus Christ.***
- ***May the Lord's divine protection, wisdom and courage be granted to Pastor Ezekiel, his church family, and all those who continue to encounter threats because of their Christian faith.***
- ***Pray for the ongoing spread of the Gospel message throughout Nigeria, so that many hearts will be drawn to Christ, cycles of hatred and violence can be broken, and God's peace would take root in communities across the nation.***

The "Persecution & Prayer Alert" is a ministry of:
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