



*"The one concern of the devil is
to keep Christians from praying.
He fears nothing from prayerless studies,
prayerless work and prayerless religion.
He laughs at our toil, mocks at our
wisdom, but trembles when we pray."
~ Samuel Chadwick*

VIETNAM: Montagnard Church Leader Sentenced to Imprisonment

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, International Christian Concern, Dak Lak Newspaper, Church in Chains

On August 5th, a court in Vietnam's Dak Lak province sentenced Pastor Y Nuen Ayun to seven years and six months in prison for "undermining the policy of national unity." Communist officials claim that he has been organizing and leading unregistered religious activities since 2003. Pastor Ayun, whose ethnicity originates with the Montagnards, ministered to others belonging to this indigenous group through his pastoral leadership at the Central Highlands Evangelical Church of Christ.



Pastor Y Nuen Ayun
Photo: CSW

According to reports made by Vietnam's state media, Pastor Ayun had associated with A Ga, a Vietnamese pastor presently residing in the United States, who helped establish the Central Highlands church. Communist officials allege that Pastor Ga advocates for separatist movements within this particular geocultural subregion of Vietnam and have classified him as a terrorist.

Following Pastor Ayun's arrest in October 2025, prosecutors stated during his trial that he was "aiming to abet hostile forces against the people's government." The subsequently issued indictment specified that the Montagnard pastor "established and operated a church, propagated and developed followers; participated in and organized [their] fellowship on the Internet and in person at church group meetings." The defence argued that none of these actions equated to opposition against the government.

Most of Vietnam's Christians are ethnic minorities residing in the country's highlands. Communist officials frequently fabricate charges to oppress believers within this subregion, particularly those belonging to the minority groups. For more information concerning the persecution of believers in

this Southeast Asian nation, visit our [country profile](#).

- ***In addition to praying for Pastor Ayun's protection and strength during detainment, please intercede for God's divine intervention in this legal case – leading to the accused pastor's vindication and soon release from prison.***
- ***Also prayerfully uphold the many other Christians in Vietnam who are being subjected to ongoing oppression by Communist officials, asking the Lord to meet the spiritual and practical needs of His persecuted people.***
- ***Ultimately, may the ministry of God's Holy Spirit greatly impact the country as a whole and its people – including the officials who serve in various areas of governance – so that many new names will be added to the Lamb's "Book of Life" (Revelation 21:27).***

SYRIA: Visiting Lebanese Pastor Released from Detainment

Sources: International Christian Concern, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Mission Network News

Nihad Hassan is a Kurdish pastor living in Beirut, Lebanon. On various occasions, he has expressed concerns over the difficulties encountered by the Kurdish people in Syria, particularly those who have converted from Islam. Syrian authorities claim that the Lebanese pastor's social media comments were offensive. Consequently, he was arrested on July 20th while visiting family in Afrin, a city located in northern Syria that primarily consists of Kurdish people.

Thankfully, Pastor Nihad was released from custody on August 3rd. At the time of his release, the authorities advised him to

return to Lebanon, which he compliantly did. Presently, he is prioritizing the well-being of his children, who were traumatized by the recent arrest. Since the incident, every time he now leaves home, his fearful young daughter cries out, "Daddy, don't go to the police!"



Pastor Nihad Hassan

Photo: CSW

Observers have noted an apparent increase in hostility towards Christians – not only from Syria's governing officials but also others in the country who oppose Christianity. Since the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government, the previously provided protections of believers have been at risk. Further exacerbating this concern is the notable increase of militant Islamic influences throughout the country. To access additional reports addressing the various challenges facing followers of Jesus in Syria, go to our [country profile](#).

- ***Please pray that Pastor Nihad's children will receive needed ministry in the aftermath of this incident, so they can experience complete healing from the lingering effects of the emotional trauma.***
- ***May Christians throughout Syria find safety and solace in the everlasting arms of God.***
- ***Ask the Lord to also work mightily within the hearts and minds of Syria's political and judicial officials, sovereignly guiding them to establish an equitable government that would rightfully protect and serve all citizens.***

REPORT UPDATE

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Dedi Saputra
Photo: USCIRF

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