



Voice^{of the}
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

***"[God] will cover you with His
pinions, and under His wings you
will find refuge; His faithfulness
is a shield and buckler."***

~ Psalm 91:4 (ESV)

SYRIA: Community Tensions Heightened by Threats

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Syriac Press

Christians in the city of Al-Qusayr have expressed concerns over threats and other forms of intimidation, calling on the authorities to take necessary measures to protect residents and their properties. The situation follows the arrest of a male instigator identified as Abdo Idris, who had posted photographs of a Christian man online and encouraged other Muslims to attack the believer and boycott his business. Abdo accused the young Christian man of sympathizing with militia groups that are loyal to the former Assad regime.



A church in Syria
Photo: Flickr / Hovic ([CC](#))

Following Abdo's arrest, members of the Muslim community took to the streets, threatening Christians and forcing them to close their businesses until Abdo is released from custody. In response, followers of Jesus in the affected community issued a statement urging authorities not to treat such situations as "mere passing disputes or individual incidents," further emphasizing that "Christians are an integral part of Syria's history, present and future."

Reflecting on the incident, VOMC CEO Floyd Brobbel states: "The situation in Al-Qusayr reflects broader challenges facing Christians across the region. Ongoing insecurity and pressure continue to drive Christian families to leave, eroding the church's historic presence and witness. This underscores the importance of supporting local believers and strengthening the church for long-term ministry." To learn more about the persecution of Christians in this Middle Eastern nation, visit our [country profile](#).

- ***Prayerfully uphold the Christian residents of Al-Qusayr who have been subjected to threats and other forms of intimidation, asking the Lord to encourage their hearts, strengthen their faith, and reassure them of His abiding presence and providential care.***
 - ***In general, pray that peace, mutual respect and understanding will prevail among the members of Syria's various religious communities, and that governing authorities would act with wisdom and impartiality as they work to protect all citizens.***
 - ***Even though the ongoing pressure has prompted many believers to leave the region, pray that those who remain will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue serving as faithful witnesses of Christ – sharing the hope of the Gospel with courage, grace and love.***
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INDIA: Maharashtra's Conversion Law Now Challenged in Court

Sources: Mission Network News, International Christian Concern, Times of India, BBC

Maharashtra has become the latest state in India to enact legislation restricting religious conversions. The law, which came into effect on August 28th, imposes particularly stringent conditions. Any conversions suspected to have been achieved through either coercion, misrepresentation, allurement or undue influence can result in up to seven years' imprisonment. Even harsher penalties apply in cases involving the conversion of women, minors, persons with disabilities, or members of tribal communities.



The Bombay High Court building.
Photo: Wikipedia / A.Savin ([FAL](#))

In states with comparable legislation, allegations of coercion have frequently been used as a pretext to target Christian individuals and congregations. The law's broad definition of "allurement" could be used to describe even basic acts of hospitality, such as serving coffee before a church service. In response, many churches have begun asking worshippers to sign weekly declarations affirming that they are attending the services of their own free will.

Whether such declarations will have legal standing in the event of an accusation remains untested. Even so, Todd Neddleton of VOM USA has expressed concern that maintaining these records could potentially create additional risks for identified church worshippers should the lists fall into the hands of militants affiliated with the state's Hindu nationalist groups.

A legal challenge has been filed with the Bombay High Court, arguing that the legislation oversteps constitutional limits and infringes on citizens' fundamental rights to privacy, dignity and personal autonomy. The petition, which was submitted by a Muslim citizen named Maulana Halimullah Khan, calls on the court to either declare the act unconstitutional or at least ensure that it is applied strictly to cases involving genuine force, fraud or coercion.

In conjunction with the new legislation, the Maharashtra state government has also ordered an audit of all properties owned by Christian organizations. [See more details](#) regarding this decision. To review other previously published reports addressing the persecution of Christians in India, go to our [country profile](#).

- ***As church leaders representing congregations across the state of Maharashtra navigate the present legal challenges, may each one of them diligently seek God's wisdom and guidance that they may be fully equipped to respond with prudence and Christlike grace.***
- ***Intercede on behalf of the judges presiding over the Bombay High Court, praying that those considering the recently submitted petition will exercise discernment and impartiality, so that their ruling would uphold justice and protect India's fundamental freedoms.***
- ***Pray that as believers faithfully continue sharing the Gospel message throughout the nation and beyond, they will remain steadfast in their faith and confident in the Lord's ultimate sovereignty.***

REPORT UPDATE

CHINA: Concerns Over Isolation of Imprisoned Pastor

Source: ChinaAid

Recent reports indicate that Wang Yi, the imprisoned pastor of Early Rain Covenant Church, may be suffering from advanced liver cancer. Unfortunately, severe restrictions on family contact and communication have prevented anyone from verifying these claims or assessing Pastor Wang's current physical condition.

In response, the church has released an open letter expressing deep concern. According to the statement, his wife and family have only been permitted to visit him five times throughout the duration of Pastor Wang's eight-year incarceration. As a result, while they are unable to verify the accuracy of the reports, neither are they willing to dismiss them.

If the reports prove accurate, timely medical intervention is critical. Dr. Bob Fu, founder of ChinaAid, has expressed concern not only for Pastor Wang's health but also for the ongoing denial of family contact. He stated, "Whatever the Chinese government's position regarding Pastor Wang Yi's imprisonment, there can be no justification for denying a seriously ill prisoner access to his family and adequate medical care."



Pastor Wang Yi in prison.
Photo: ChinaAid

As Pastor Wang serves the remaining 15 months of his sentence, the church is calling believers around the world to uphold him in prayer: "We pray that the Lord will especially protect His servant, making [Pastor Wang's] body, mind and faith strong, blocking all attacks and schemes of evil; and, according to the Lord's will and timing, bringing him safely back to his family and the church." To review additional reports concerning Pastor Wang and other Chinese believers who are suffering for their faith in Jesus, visit our [country profile](#).

- ***If the reports concerning Pastor Wang's health are indeed accurate, pray that he will not only receive urgently needed medical care, but ultimately the Lord's divine healing touch, comfort and peace.***
- ***During the remainder of his imprisonment, may this faithful servant be further strengthened spiritually and emotionally through tangible reminders of God's never-ending presence, sustaining grace and supernatural protection.***
- ***Also pray for Pastor Wang's wife – along with other concerned members of his family and church community – asking the Lord to encourage their hearts, deepen their trust in Him, and provide them opportunities to meaningfully engage in fellowship with this beloved Christian leader while eagerly awaiting his release from imprisonment.***

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