Voice of the Martyrs CANADA
PERSECUTION & PRAYER ALERT

"Jesus' presence always brought astonishing peace to me no matter how bad the situations.... Whenever I was in a prison, He was always there for me. He transformed the jail into a heaven and the burdens became blessings."
~ Sadhu Sundar Singh
Indian missionary

Remembering Mihai Wurmbrand

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."
~ Revelation 21:4 NKJV

With heartfelt sorrow, we remember Mihai (Michael) Wurmbrand (the son of VOM's international founders Reverend Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand), who passed away at the age of 87 on October 17th, 2026, in Los Angeles, California. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and all who knew and loved him.

Please keep Mihai's wife, Mi; their son, Alex; and their daughters, Emily and Mimi, in your prayers. Ask the Lord to sustain them in the days ahead, when the absence of someone dearly loved is felt in both familiar routines and quiet moments. May they find comfort in cherished memories, strength in the care of those around them, and peace in Christ's faithful presence.

EGYPT: Citizen Arrested for Expressing Concerns

Sources: Coptic Solidarity, International Christian Concern, Morning Star News, Christian Solidarity Worldwide

On October 5th, National Security officers arrived at the home of Sherif Wagih Fahmi and his family whose residence is located in Alexandria, Egypt. Claiming to work for a gas company, the officers gained entry into the family's apartment and immediately arrested the unsuspecting 41-year-old Christian husband and father. News sources also report that he has since been charged with speaking against Islam through an online post.



Sherif Wagih Fahmi
Photo: Coptic Solidarity

According to sources, Sherif was arrested after expressing concerns online about the imposition of Islamic education on students across the country. While religious instruction is compulsory in schools, non-Muslim students are legally permitted to opt out of Islamic classes. In practice, however, this rule is frequently disregarded.

Sherif's case highlights the increasing crackdown on non-Muslim activists. Since mid-September, at least 14 people have been arrested on allegations such as "joining an illegal group" or showing "contempt of religion." Sherif's sister, Emy, emphasized the importance of speaking up about the

increasing erosion of the country's basic human rights. She stated, "If you give up your right(s) today, you won't find [them] tomorrow." For more information concerning the challenges facing followers of Christ in Egypt, visit our country profile.

- ***Pray that Sherif will experience God's peace, strength and reassuring presence while awaiting his hopeful soon release from custody, allowing him to be joyfully reunited with his family and justly granted constitutional freedom.***
- ***Throughout the legal process, may the Lord also minister to Sherif's wife, children and the members of their extended family – providing them needed comfort, courage and peace as they too hope for a favourable outcome regarding his situation.***
- ***In general, please uphold the many other believers throughout Egypt who have been arrested for peacefully expressing their convictions, praying that they will remain steadfast and that their rights would be duly upheld.***

INDIA: Christians Given Ultimatum to Convert or Leave

Sources: Morning Star News, Catholic Connect

Bhandardigi is a tribal village in the Kanker district of Chhattisgarh. As is common in many tribal areas of India, residents traditionally practise an indigenous religion blended with elements of Hinduism. In recent years, Christians residing in Bhandardigi have faced significant pressure from community members to renounce their faith and return to the village's traditional religious observances.



Villagers of Bhandardigi discussing the fate of Christian residents.
Photo: Morning Star News

The situation has now escalated to the point where believers have been commanded to forsake Christianity or leave the village altogether. On six separate occasions, the Christian residents were summoned before members of the village council, who uttered threats of physical violence and social ostracism. By this time, government-supplied rations were already being withheld from them. As a result, several believers reportedly yielded to the pressure, having felt compelled to return to their former religion.

On September 21st, a mob consisting of approximately 150 people attacked the remaining Christian families. Armed with wooden sticks, the assailants physically assaulted the believers, leaving five in need of urgent medical treatment – including an 11-year-old boy. Although police are reportedly monitoring the situation, one Christian family has decided to leave their ancestral home for the sake of safety. Speaking on behalf of the family, Vikas Salam explained, "We will not deny Christ because, since the day we started to believe, our lives have changed."

Christians in India are frequently pressured to renounce their faith, particularly in areas influenced by Hindu nationalist ideologies, which foster the belief that to be truly Indian is to be Hindu. Previously published reports addressing the various difficulties encountered by Christians in India are available at our country profile.

- ***As Vikas, his family, and the other ostracized believers navigate their way during this difficult season in their lives – seeking God's wisdom and guidance throughout the process – may they providentially receive His strengthening presence, protection and peace.***
- ***Also intercede on behalf of those who have reluctantly agreed to return to their former religious practices due to the intense pressure, asking the Lord to restore them spiritually, strengthen their faith in Him, and reassure them of His unfailing love.***
- ***May the message of the Gospel penetrate the hearts of opposing villagers, leading many to personally experience the hope, truth and transforming love of Jesus Christ.***

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