Voice of the Martyrs CANADA
PERSECUTION & PRAYER ALERT

***"Though my body is in a prison house, the Lord is in my heart."***
~ Pastor Ding Xing'an

## INDONESIA: Local Opposition to Church Building Permits

Sources: Morning Star News, International Christian Concern

Churches in Indonesia frequently encounter obstacles when seeking permits to build new or expanded facilities. The approval process can be onerous, sometimes taking many years. While three congregations in different provinces of the country are grateful to have received the permits needed to proceed with their construction plans, they continue to face strong opposition from local Muslim residents.



A church in Indonesia.
Photo: VOMC

In Mekar Wangi, a village located in the Bandung Regency of West Java, hundreds of opposing residents gathered on October 30th to protest the construction of a church building. Shouting, "Reject the church," those in the mob questioned whether the building project had received the necessary documentation to proceed. Protestors reportedly pounded on the walls of the temporary building where the congregation was meeting, frightening worshippers inside. Several police officers at the scene declined to intervene.

A church in Cikopo Village, Bungursari District, experienced a similar protest earlier in October. During that incident, hundreds of residents demonstrated at the offices of the local government and the Ministry of Religious Affairs to voice their disapproval of the construction project. These demonstrations followed yet another situation, this time in the Lolu Selatan village of Palu, Central Sulawesi Province, on September 26th. In addition to staging protests, a group of residents presented a letter to the mayor of Palu expressing their objections. After a public hearing on October 1st, the city council officially permitted the construction to continue.

A member of Indonesia's parliament condemned the recent protests, calling such demonstrations a serious threat to religious tolerance. He argued that opposing a house of worship that has already received the necessary permits could damage interfaith relations. The parliamentarian also called for disagreements to be resolved through official legal means rather than acts of intimidation or violence. To view previously published reports concerning the persecution of Christians in Indonesia – including ways you can pray for those in this predominantly Muslim nation – go to our country profile.

- ***Pray for the protection, encouragement and strengthening of these targeted church leaders and their congregations as they proceed to faithfully gather for worship, fellowship and ministry despite ongoing opposition.***
- ***May Indonesia's governing officials, community leaders and law enforcement authorities uphold religious freedom, act with integrity, and help foster peaceful relations between citizens belonging to***

***different faith groups.***

- ***Prayerfully ask the Lord to guide and bless these congregations as they proceed with their building plans, so these places of worship can become 'beacons of hope' to the many community members who need His love and eternal salvation.***

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## REPORT UPDATES

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### CHINA: Bail Restrictions Lifted for Selected Prisoners

Sources: ChinaAid, HPCC

The Beijing Zion Church has been subjected to intense pressure from Chinese authorities whose mandate involves controlling all aspects of religious teaching and shutting down churches that are unwilling to comply with the philosophies and directives of the Chinese Communist Party. (For further reports on Zion Church, along with other recently occurring cases in China involving persecuted followers of Jesus, see our country profile.)



Beijing Zion Church members with their attorneys and supporters.
Photo: Zion Church via ChinaAid

On November 10th, 2025, four Christians from the Zion Church were released on bail after serving a period of detention. Over the past year, however, they had continued to experience various restrictions. Nearly one year later, on November 9th, these believers were summoned to the case-handling centre in Beihai, where they received word that all former restrictions against them have been lifted.

While these four believers received encouraging news, eight other church leaders remain incarcerated on allegations of fraud or illegal business practices. In October, prosecutors requested further investigations into the cases of these accused Christians, citing that there is insufficient evidence against them. Despite this, governing officials are continuing to hold all eight believers in custody.

Although imprisoned followers of Christ often face difficult circumstances in China, testimonies of God's grace working mightily through their lives continue to emerge. On October 18th, Pastor Ding Xing'an had been arrested when police raided the house church gathering he was leading. (For details about the raid, see this report.) During a November 11th meeting at the detention centre, Pastor Ding revealed how he had the privilege of sharing the Gospel message with six fellow prisoners, and that all six of them decided to place their faith in Jesus Christ.

- ***Praise God that His Word cannot be chained and that the message of the Gospel continues to miraculously transform lives throughout China, even in places of detention.***
- ***While also thanking Him that the restrictions placed on the four mentioned believers have recently been lifted, pray that they will receive spiritual encouragement, guidance and strength – with hopes they will be able to freely resume their ministry activities without any further threat or interference.***
- ***Please continue to remember the eight detained Zion Church leaders, along with Pastor Ding and other Chinese Christians who are facing false allegations, praying that each one of them will experience God's reassuring presence, prevailing peace and sustaining grace.***

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## EGYPT: Christian Convert Faces Possible Death Sentence

Sources: Coptic Solidarity, The Jerusalem Post, The Times of Israel

A Christian convert, known as Said Mansour Rezk Abdelrazek (also spelled "Saeid Mansour Abdulraziq") is presently facing terrorism-related charges for reasons that remain unclear. (Further information on his case is available here.)



Said Mansour Rezk Abdelrazek
Photo: CSW

According to Said's fiancée, Sophia, the accused believer has endured severe mistreatment during his imprisonment. She explains that prison authorities attempted to pressure Said to return to Islam, subjecting him to both physical and psychological torture. This abuse included attempts to painfully remove his cross tattoo, as well as fastening him to a wall in a position that resembles Christ's crucifixion. Sophia further alleges that the Egyptian authorities have never identified the organization Said has been accused of joining, and his lawyer confirms that no such organization exists.

Said's case is currently being presented before the courts. During the most recent hearing on November 3rd, the prosecution presented its closing arguments and requested the maximum penalty. If convicted, Said could face either execution or a prison sentence of up to 25 years. The defence is scheduled to present its arguments on December 8th.

- ***As the defence arguments are being prepared on Said's behalf, please pray that his lawyer will receive God's wisdom, favour and guidance, so that the truths would be presented in a clear, concise manner and justice will ultimately prevail.***
- ***Throughout the legal process, may Said receive the Lord's divine protection, comfort and unwavering hope – along with other ongoing reminders that he is not alone.***
- ***Also remember to prayerfully uphold the many other Egyptian Christians who are likewise facing legal pressure, discrimination or other hardships because of their faith.***

This email was sent to

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