Voice of the Martyrs CANADA

PERSECUTION & PRAYER ALERT

"Seek the Lord and His strength;
seek His presence continually!"
~ 1 Chronicles 16:11 ESV

CHINA: Lawyers Taken into Custody at Pastor's Trial

Sources: ChinaAid, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, The Christian Post

Pastor Gao Quanfu is a church leader in China who had been arrested in May 2025. His wife, Pang Yu, was detained in September of the same year. Accused of fraud, the couple has remained in custody since their arrests. Fellow church leader Pastor Tang Bingyi is also facing trial. The charges reportedly stem from the organization's acceptance of voluntary financial gifts from its congregation members.



Pastor Gao Quanfu
Photo: ChinaAid

Pastor Gao's trial took place on November 12th, while Pang's followed on November 17th. Although the trial for Pastor Tang was delayed, no new date has yet been announced. During Pastor Gao's hearing, a heavy police presence was stationed outside the courthouse. Christians hoping to attend the proceedings were turned away, and human rights lawyers attempting to gain access were taken into custody. One of these lawyers, Wang Yu, was reportedly kicked by officers and forcibly dragged away prior to his detainment.

During the upheaval, Pastor Gao's trial concluded without a verdict, and no future court date has since been scheduled. At the time of publishing this report, the result of Pang's trial remains unknown. Not only has the Christian woman been denied a pretrial hearing, she was also recently forced to obtain new legal counsel after her previous lawyer, Ruth Wang, fled the country for Taiwan.

Of particular concern is Pang's health. The 69-year-old believer suffers from heart disease and experiences ongoing pain in her left leg. Reports indicate that she is required to perform manual labour, which involves standing while doing assigned tasks, for at least two hours each day.

Pastor Gao and his wife Pang are members of the Light of Zion Church in Xi'an City. The congregation's sister church, Beijing Zion Church, has also experienced intense governmental pressure over the past year, including the arrest of several Christian leaders. To review other reports addressing the challenges facing followers of Jesus in China, including informative podcast interviews, go to our country profile.

- ***Pray that Pastor Gao and his wife Pang, as well as Pastor Tang, would experience God's intervention, peace and strength throughout their legal proceedings, so that truth and justice will prevail in each of their cases.***
- ***May the Lord also strengthen and encourage the other congregation members belonging to the Light of Zion Church, along with those of the many other unregistered churches throughout China,***

providing for their needs and empowering their ministries as they faithfully share the message of Jesus within their communities.

- ***Also specifically pray for Pang as she endures ongoing health challenges during imprisonment, asking the Lord to sustain her with renewed strength, healing, comfort and hope each day.***

REPORT UPDATES

EGYPT: Appeal Rejected for Christian Apologist

Sources: Coptic Solidarity, Church in Chains

Augustin Sam'an (also spelled "Augustinos Samaan") is a Coptic Christian scholar specializing in comparative religions and Christian apologetics. Due to some content that he shared on his YouTube channel, the believer was arrested and charged with "contempt of Islam" during October 2025. In January, he was sentenced to five years of hard labour. (For more details regarding his case, see our previously published report.)



Augustin Sam'an
Photo: ADF International

The Christian man's conviction and sentence were subsequently appealed. However, on November 15th, Egypt's Court of Cassation dismissed the appeal, rejecting the defense's arguments. While Augustin's lawyers continue to explore any remaining legal avenues, this ruling has effectively exhausted the ordinary channels for challenging his case.

The court's decision highlights ongoing concerns about the unequal treatment of citizens under Egypt's blasphemy laws. Coptic Solidarity has called for these laws to be repealed, describing them as "an instrument for shielding Islamic beliefs from criticism while denying others the fundamental right to freely discuss, examine and defend their own religious convictions." Further *Persecution & Prayer Alerts* addressing the persecution of Christians in Egypt can be accessed at our country profile.

- ***Pray that Augustin will receive God's peace, protection and encouragement, especially considering reports that he has experienced mistreatment from fellow prisoners.***
- ***Ask the Lord to grant wisdom, favour and perseverance to those who are continuing to advocate judicially on his behalf, in their endeavours to make a way for this believer's soon release.***
- ***Intercede on behalf of Egypt's political leaders and other governing officials, praying that they will uphold justice with integrity – rightfully exercising their authority to ensure citizens of all faith affiliations are granted fair and equitable treatment under the law.***

JORDAN: Death Sentences for Convicted Gunmen

Sources: Mission Network News, Christian Daily, Al Jazeera



Footage of shooters moving towards the church.
Photo: Wikipedia

Three men have been convicted in connection with a church shooting that took place in Hamoud, Jordan, on October 23rd. The incident, which was captured on security cameras, left nine people dead and many others injured. (Additional information about this attack is available here.)

Jordan's State Security Court delivered its judgement on November 15th, convicting the men of "executing terrorist acts" and conspiracy. All three terrorists were subsequently sentenced to death by hanging. The court's decision has been widely welcomed by those who view it as a demonstration that such blatant acts of terrorism will not be tolerated and that all Jordanians are considered equal before the law. However, international organizations and nations opposed to the death penalty have raised concerns. Others have cautioned that executing the murderers could potentially embolden terrorists belonging to different militant Islamic groups, who regard the convicted men as martyrs for their cause.

For Fadi Sharaiha from the MENA Leadership Centre, this incident carries particular significance because Hamoud happens to be his family's hometown. While reflecting on the tragedy, he emphasizes that Christians within the community are seeking justice rather than vengeance. His explanation echoes the Biblical call to respond in a Christlike manner. "Please remember we love Muslims," Fadi stated, "and we need to share the Gospel out of love, not out of fear. This is very important."

- ***Please prayerfully uphold the numerous families and friends who are now left grappling with the sudden loss of innocent loved ones due to this recent tragedy, asking the Lord to greatly comfort their grieving hearts.***
- ***Also pray for the recovery of those who have otherwise been affected by the attack, such as the survivors who were physically injured and/or suffering from resulting emotional trauma.***
- ***Pray that the three men responsible for committing the violence, including any other potential co-conspirators, will encounter the transformative love and power of Jesus Christ, come to a point of true repentance, and readily receive His gift of salvation.***
- ***Ask God to guide those in national governance who now must make important decisions in the aftermath of this attack, helping them to pursue justice in ways that will promote peace, stability, unity, and bright hope for the future.***

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