



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
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"To learn strong faith is to endure great trials. I have learned my faith by standing firm amid severe testings."

~ George Mueller

NEPAL: Video Leads to Threats

Source: Morning Star News

A video leaked to social media has forced a pastor into hiding. Sukdev Giri, pastor of Trinity Fellowship church has received death threats from Hindu militants. Family and friends have also faced threatening phone calls.

In March, Pastor Sukdev spoke at the International Christian Media Workers Summit. In his presentation, he shared about his journey to Christ and discussed the various belief systems in Nepal. While the interview was recorded to video, access was restricted due to its sensitive nature. However, one unidentified woman reposted the video to YouTube on August 11th, leading to a flood of hostile comments. The video received over 750,000 views before it was removed.

As threats increased, his family felt it would be unsafe for him to return to his hometown. Consequently, Pastor Sukdev has been travelling in various areas of Nepal. After consulting with other church leaders, he felt it would not be advisable to file a police report at this time.

While Nepalese law forbids discrimination on the grounds of religion, it is "only on paper," according to lawyer Ganesh Sreshta. Laws that criminalize conversions and place restrictions on Christian activities have created increasing difficulties for Nepal's Christian community. For more information on persecution in this country, go to www.vomcanada.com/nepal.htm.

Remember Pastor Sukdev, as well as his threatened family and friends, during this challenging time. Pray that the anger and hostility expressed against them will dissipate, allowing these Christians to resume living in safety and peace within their home community.

May God's light penetrate the spiritual darkness of those opposing the Gospel message, so they will see the truth behind the words the pastor has shared in the video and come to a point of repentance and salvation.

CHINA: Six Uyghur Christians Arrested

Sources: ChinaAid, Amnesty International

Six Christians of Uyghur descent were recently imprisoned in China's northwestern province of Xinjiang. All were charged with illegal preaching, gathering, and spreading harmful books. They were each sentenced to at least five years in prison. Detained were Mehmet Abdulla, Huji Abdurehim, Maimaiti Yimingjiang, Adil Jan, a Christian doctor with the last name of Rakhman, and a man identified only as "Brother Adil." Some of these believers are new converts to Christ.

In recent years, China has conducted a campaign to suppress the Uyghur people, mainly for their religious beliefs. Amnesty International claims that there are more than one million Chinese citizens of Uyghur descent presently being detained; many of them are Muslim. While the government claims the detentions are to curb terrorism, accounts leaked from forced labour camps report of torture, starvation, rape and rampant abuse.

Uplift in prayer the many Uyghur people who are suffering in Chinese prison camps because of their ethnicity and faith. Pray for their protection and health, as well as the assurance of God's presence with them while anxiously hoping for release. May the Chinese government yield to international pressure and stop the arbitrary detention of these wrongly treated people.

IRAN: Imprisoned for Not Denying Christ

Sources: Middle East Concern, Release International

Fatemeh Bakhteri has begun a one-year prison sentence in the infamous Evin Prison because she refuses to renounce her faith in Christ. Fatemeh (also known as Ailar) was first informed of her sentence for "acting against national security" in September 2018.

In an appeal hearing this past January, Fatemeh and co-defendant Saheb Fadaie were pressured by presiding judges to renounce their faith, which they refused to do. The decision upholding the verdict was announced in May, and Fatemeh presented herself to the prison in Tehran on August 31st. Saheb was already serving a ten-year sentence for his work in establishing a house church. To learn more about the persecution of Christians in Iran, go to www.vomcanada.com/iran.htm.

Continue to remember the many in Iran who are being imprisoned for merely refusing to renounce their faith in Christ, including Fatemeh and Saheb. Praise God for the ongoing strengthening of the Holy Spirit, who is not only serving as their Advocate, but also enabling these Christians to stand firm and not deny their Lord. Also pray for their safety and well-being -- especially those who, like Fatemeh, are serving time in the notorious Evin prison.

If you would like to post a prayer of praise or petition on behalf of our persecuted family around the globe, visit VOMC's prayer wall at www.vomcanada.com/prayerwall.htm.

The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of:
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If you would like to encourage someone to read or receive this weekly prayer alert, please use our online form at www.vomcanada.com/pnpforward.htm and help spread the message of the persecuted church around the world.

For information on additional ways to support members of the persecuted church overseas, review the list of options at www.vomcanada.com/take-action.htm.