



## **Persecution & Prayer Alert**

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada  
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, October 3, 2019

*"For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

~ 2 Corinthians 12:10 ESV

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### **BURKINA FASO: Christians Told to Convert or Leave**

Sources: Aid to the Church in Need, International Christian Concern

Christians in northern Burkina Faso are being systematically exterminated or expelled from their villages by Islamic militants. In a recent incident that took place in the villages of Hitté and Rounga, the inhabitants were ordered to convert to Islam or abandon their homes and flee.

According to a local source, 16 men arrived at Hitté in early September. Christian villagers were forced into the church building where they were threatened. These believers were told they had three days to leave their homes. Militants then went to Rounga with similar demands. Almost 2,000 people were forced to flee their homes, finding temporary shelter at a school in the village of Ouindigui.

Thankfully, the extreme views of the attackers are not shared by the majority of inhabitants in the area. Many of them, including local Muslims, have joined in solidarity to help provide for the Christian refugees' basic needs. Similar attacks are also happening in neighbouring Mali, Niger and Nigeria, as militants seek control of large areas in West Africa.

*Lift up these displaced Christian villagers in your prayers. May their physical, emotional and spiritual needs be met. Pray that they will be able to return to their homes in safety. Praise God for those of the local community who have compassionately rallied together to provide needed support for the refugees. Also intercede for the leaders of these nations as they endeavour to restore peace and stop the years of ongoing violence.*

## **NIGERIA: Two Aid Workers Executed**

Source: Morning Star News

The militant Islamic group Boko Haram released a video on September 22nd showing the execution of Lawrence Duna Dacighir and Godfrey Ali Shikagham. These two Christian men had left their homes in Abuja and travelled to Maiduguri in order to help build shelters for those displaced by recent violence.

In the video, one of the three terrorists vowed to kill every Christian they captured, saying it would be done in revenge for Muslims who were killed in the country's past conflicts. It is unclear from the video exactly when the slain men were executed. For more reports on the violence facing Nigeria's Christians, go to [www.vomcanada.com/nigeria.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/nigeria.htm).

*Please remember these slain men's families and friends as they mourn their terrible loss. Ask the Lord to provide greatly needed ministry and protection to all the Nigerians suffering persecution; the same applies to those who are trying to assist them. Pray that Nigeria's authorities will receive needed wisdom, strength and help as they work tirelessly to restore peace and security.*

## **ALGERIA: More Church Closures**

Source: Middle East Concern

Algerian Christians request ongoing prayer as the government continues its campaign against churches. On September 25th, the leaders of a church in Tizirt were informed that their building was to be closed. Police officially sealed it the following day. Along with worship services, the building had also been used as a Bible school since 2013.

Just prior to the Tizirt closure, the police director representing the town of Boghni announced to community members on September 24th that their church building had been sealed, based on an order from September 18th. With these two recent closures, a total of nine churches affiliated with the l'Église Protestante d'Algérie have now been sealed since the campaign started in November 2017. Another four church groups were ordered to cease activities as well. For more details on the persecution of Christians in Algeria, go to [www.vomcanada.com/algeria.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/algeria.htm).

*Remember the pastoral leaders and members of these churches in your prayers as they seek the Lord's guidance in the days to come. Pray that Algeria's governing authorities will allow freedom of worship throughout the country. In the meantime, may these congregations find ways to continue meeting together for needed fellowship and encouragement in the faith (Hebrews 10:24), and that the message of the Gospel of Christ will continue to reach many more Algerians who are searching for spiritual truth.*

*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](http://www.vomcanada.com/prayerwall.htm).*

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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](http://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](http://www.vomcanada.com/take-action.htm).