



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"It is a persistent evil to persecute a man
who belongs to the grace of God. It is a calamity
without remedy to hate the happy."
~ Cyprian of Carthage*

NIGERIA: Kidnapping in a Christian High School

Sources: Morning Star News, Aljazeera, Africanews

Gunmen abducted six girls and two staff members from a Christian-run boarding school on October 3rd. They forced their way into The Engravers' College in the village of Kakau Daji, Kaduna State in the early morning. According to witnesses, the attackers were Fulani herdsmen, a group responsible for considerable violence in recent years.

The governor of Kaduna State spoke to the media the next day about an apparent coalition between elements within the Fulani and the Islamic militant group, Boko Haram. He spoke of their reported plans to target schools because of the news coverage it would receive.

The kidnapers have contacted the school and there have been negotiations over ransom demands. Incidents like this bring reminders of similar kidnappings, such as those that took place in Dapchi during 2018 and Chibok in 2014. For more information on these and other incidents, revealing the difficulties facing Christians in Nigeria, go to www.vomcanada.com/nigeria.htm.

Please uphold the victims of this latest kidnapping, interceding for God's protection and care in the victims' lives. Pray that the negotiations will bring about their safe release. Continue to remember 17-year-old Leah Sharibu who remains in Boko Haram captivity, as well as the other schoolgirls still missing from the Chibok incident. May Nigeria's governing officials be prepared to truly take on the difficult task of tackling this rampant violence.

SRI LANKA: Assaults on Christians Seeking to Worship

Source: NCEASL

On the morning of September 21st, six Christians were on their way to a worship service at the Berea Prayer House in Kalkudah when they were accosted by ten villagers. After they had been beaten with sticks, the believers were taken to area hospitals for treatment.

Two of the ten people responsible for the attack were arrested for assault and mandated to appear in court the following day. Prior to this attack, the pastor and members of the church have faced continuous harassment from a group of hostile individuals in the community.

Opposition against church meetings is relatively common in areas of Sri Lanka. On September 14th, a large mob gathered at the Zion Revival Church in the village of Iddagolla. Included among this opposing group were six Buddhist monks and several police officers. While uttering threats of arrest, the officer-in-charge demanded that the pastor stop all religious activities in Iddagolla and never enter the village again. To view a video on the persecution of Christians in Sri Lanka, go to www.vomcanada.com/video/srilanka1.

Prayerfully lift up all those who have suffered physical harm in these September attacks, asking the Lord to help them fully recover from the resulting injuries and emotional trauma. May His strength, wisdom and encouragement empower the members of these churches, and others facing opposition from community members, so they can continue spreading the message of the Gospel throughout the nation.

EGYPT: Christian Man Fatally Beaten

Source: International Christian Concern

On September 25th, Maged Fathi passed away after being beaten the previous day by at least six Muslim militants in a village of the Assiut Governorate. According to a neighbour who witnessed the incident, Maged's son was carrying dead chickens when he accidentally dropped one beside the house of Ebrahim Abo Zaid.

In a rage of anger, Ebrahim grabbed the chicken and hit the boy in the face with it. When Maged came to his son's defense, the perpetrator hit him in the head with a club and then stabbed him. As the beating continued, Ebrahim's son and other men joined in the attack. When Christians began gathering, the attackers then turned on them, injuring five others and damaging vehicles.

According to news sources, Ebrahim had recently returned from Libya where he had been indoctrinated in jihadist ideology. Local Christians had previously heard him urging other Muslims to kill the followers of Christ. Maged's bereaved family is calling on the police to ensure the attackers are held accountable for their crimes.

Maged leaves behind three sons and two daughters. At last report, the situation in the village remains tense. While attacks against Christians are commonplace in Egypt, one villager said this

is the first time he is aware of persecution affecting their village. For more information on the challenges facing believers in Egypt, go to www.vomcanada.com/egypt.htm.

Remember Maged's grieving family and friends in their time of mourning. As they process this tragic loss of life, may God's abiding comfort and peace be experienced in tangible and meaningful ways. While justice needs to be served judicially, pray that the attackers will come to understand the Gospel of Christ and the forgiveness that's available through His blood. Also pray for needed peace and stability in this village, asking the Lord to work within the hearts of all community members.

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.

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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.