



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.
From His temple He heard my voice,
and my cry to Him reached His ears."
~ Psalm 18:6 ESV*

INDIA: House Churches Under Surveillance to Prevent Worship

Source: Morning Star News

Police in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu have put several house churches under surveillance in an effort to prevent their use for Christian worship. House church congregations in several villages were warned to stop meeting altogether. Pastors of these small gatherings have been harassed and ordered to get permission from district officials in order to conduct prayer services.

India is officially a secular nation and courts have repeatedly stated that no permission is required for worship in homes. This has not stopped local officials from demanding such permits, often after complaints from others in the community who do not wish to have any Christian activities in their village. For more details on the opposition frequently faced by believers in India, go to www.vomcanada.com/india.htm.

Please lift up in prayer the harassed members of these small house churches and their spiritual leaders. Ask the Lord to grant them wisdom, discernment and favour as they come into contact with community members who are opposed to Christianity. Pray that the local governing officials will abide by the laws of their nation -- providing freedom and protection to all -- so that the growth of the church can move forward unhindered and more of India's citizens can receive needed ministry.

CHINA: New Regulations Bring Added Restrictions

Source: ChinaAid

Authorities in Zhejiang province have instituted a series of new restrictions on churches, including regulations forbidding the practice of baptismal services and the use of offering collection boxes. The monitoring of attendees, types of activities, service times and locations has been given to appointed government officials to ensure all the restrictions are followed.

Part of the reason for these added restrictions is to prevent any foreign control. Consequently, no foreign funds supporting religious activities are allowed. China's provincial leaders believe that foreign powers could try to use religion to overthrow the government. For more information on the persecution of Christians in China, as well as previously posted reports, go to www.persecution.net/china.htm.

Intercede for China's church leaders as they now face the province's newly imposed restrictions and attempt to wisely navigate ways to proceed with their corporate worship of God. May the Gospel message continue to spread throughout the nation, despite human efforts to subdue it. Also remember to prayerfully uphold the many believers currently in detention because of their faith in Christ, asking the Lord to give them increased physical, emotional and spiritual endurance.

PRAISE REPORT

NIGERIA: Release of Captured Students and Staff

Sources: Church in Chains, AllAfrica

The six students and two staff members of a Christian-run school in Kaduna state who were kidnapped on October 3rd have thankfully been released on October 26th. To review a previously posted report providing more information on the original incident, go to www.vomcanada.com/ng-2019-10-10.htm.

Police claimed responsibility for the rescue, stating that they had "intercepted" the students and staff, and rescued them unhurt. Parents of the students, however, insist that the police did not rescue their abducted children and the schoolteachers but that instead a ransom was paid resulting in their release. Police then picked up the victims after they had been set free.

Ohemu Fredrick, a spokesman for the parents, told reporters that the girls and teachers were tortured each time there was a phone call, so that their cries could be audibly heard. Throughout their captivity, they had been fed only rice mixed with palm oil.

Kidnapping for ransom has become a major source of income for terrorist groups that are seeking to advance their Islamic agenda and, in the process, often specifically targeting Christians. To learn more about the difficulties experienced by the followers of Christ in Nigeria, go to www.vomcanada.com/nigeria.htm.

Praise God for the safe release of these eight most recently kidnapped individuals. Pray for their continued emotional and physical recovery from the trauma they experienced in captivity, and that their concerned families will be able to recover as well. May those responsible for the abduction be brought to justice, so that the criminal activities of Nigeria's terrorist groups will be abated. Of even greater importance, pray that the perpetrators themselves be delivered from darkness -- rescued from the 'enemy of their souls' -- and brought into the light of God's love and 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.

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.