



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, March 4, 2021

*"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the
calling to which you have been called...."*

~ Ephesians 4:1 ESV

PAKISTAN: Two Christians Charged with Blasphemy

Sources: International Christian Concern, Pakistan Christian Post, Agenzia Fides

Two Christian men were reading the Bible aloud at a public park in Lahore, Pakistan, on February 13th when they were confronted by opposing Muslims. According to reports, Haroon Ayub Masih and his friend Salamat Mansha Masih were approached by Haroon Ahmad and his friends, who told the evangelical believers to stop what they were doing. Haroon Ayub and Salamat then offered them a Christian book titled, *Water of Life*.

Haroon Ahmad and his friends left after the initial confrontation, but returned shortly after, accusing the Christians of blaspheming Mohammad. Park security was then called and Haroon Ayub and Salamat were taken to the police station where a formal complaint was issued against them. According to the police report, Haroon Ahmad stated: "[Haroon Ayub and Salamat] said that the Torah and the Gospels are true books and that the Holy Quran does not tell the truth. They continued to dishonour Islam, hurting our religious emotions and feelings openly and publicly."

The police have arrested Salamat. However, Haroon Ayub and his family escaped and have gone into hiding. According to Nasir Saeed, Director of CLAAS-UK, Pakistani law has no restrictions on preaching or propagating religion. "Unfortunately, Pakistani society has been torn apart by intolerance and violence," he adds, "a far cry from the original ideal of a tolerant country." For more on the persecution facing Christians in Pakistan, go to www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm.

Remember Salamat and Haroon Ayub in your prayers as they deal with the false charges against them. Pray that God's wisdom will be granted to these Christian men, as well as to the

lawyers and courts involved. May the Scriptures they read aloud at the park, and the Christian book they distributed, speak to the hearts of those with whom they had the opportunity to share the Gospel -- including Haroon Ahmad and his friends -- drawing each of them to faith in Christ.

WEST BANK: Christian Doctor Brutally Attacked

Sources: Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin, Jihad Watch, Frontpage Mag

Dr. Salamah Qumsieh is an obstetric surgeon and head of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department at Bethlehem's Holy Family Hospital. On February 12th, he was attacked in broad daylight by Khader Odeh, a well-known Islamic militant. Khader attempted to sever the doctor's hands and violently crush his head. Following the assault, surgeons spent ten hours reconnecting his veins and tendons. While his hands were saved, Dr. Salamah is not expected to be able to practice medicine again due to the severity of his injuries.

Khader has been terrorizing Christians in the area for four years, burning vehicles, shooting at homes and throwing homemade explosives. He had even confronted Dr. Salamah previously in February 2020.

While the assailant has been arrested, it is reported that he is receiving preferential "five-star service" in jail. Khader is allegedly a member of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a coalition of Palestinian armed groups, which has provided him a measure of protection and the assurance that he will be well-treated. For further information on the challenges experienced by Christians in the Palestinian territories, go to www.vomcanada.com/palestine.htm.

Please pray for the miraculous recovery of Dr. Salamah, specifically requesting healing from the severe injuries inflicted upon his gifted hands and possible brain trauma caused by the vicious assault. Ask God to protect him from any further attacks and to provide safety to other Christians living in the West Bank area. May these believers be encouraged and strengthened in the Lord, trusting Him to be their Advocate and provide for their every need. Pray that Khader Odeh will be held accountable for his hate crimes, resulting in a sincere change of heart, and that those associated with him will cease to incite further incidents of violence.

REPORT UPDATES

CHINA: Publisher Faces Three-Year Sentence; Pastor Faces Ongoing Harassment

Sources: ChinaAid, ANI

Geng Xiaonan, a well-known Chinese businesswoman who was charged with "illegal business practices," has been sentenced to three years in prison. Geng and her husband Qin Zhen were founders of an independent publishing house and have also worked in television and film. As previously reported in October 2020 (see www.vomcanada.com/cn-2020-10-29.htm), Geng had

publicly expressed her concerns over the injustices and abuses committed by the Chinese Communist Party.

In an attempt to lessen the punishment of her husband and staff, Geng has assumed all responsibility and pled guilty. She requested of the court, "I would really appreciate it if the court would be lenient on them and target all of the sentencing burden on me alone." Supporters were prevented from attending the hearing.

Huang Yizi is a Wenzhou pastor who twice before has been imprisoned, including a five-month term in which he was subjected to torture in a "black jail" (see www.vomcanada.com/cn-2016-02-11.htm). Huang has recently requested prayer because of ongoing persecution, stating that he is continually being monitored and randomly summoned or forcibly taken in for interrogation. He is uncertain when he may be imprisoned again for the third time.

Despite the intensifying harassment and uncertainty, Pastor Huang has continued to preach online. However, government Internet monitors have recently shut down his livestream sermons.

Prayerfully lift up Geng and the many other Christians facing imprisonment for refusing to submit to the mounting pressures being forced on them by the dictates of the Chinese Communist Party. Pray for the protection of these believers, and all those affiliated with various ministries in China. As for Christians enduring surveillance and harassment, such as Pastor Huang, pray that they will draw even nearer to the Lord by seeking His strength, wisdom, peace and hopeful release from oppression. Also remember the concerned families of each Christian who is suffering for their faith in prison -- many of whom are unable to visit their loved ones -- asking God to continually encourage and sustain them.

The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of:
The Voice of the Martyrs Canada, P.O. Box 608, Streetsville, Ontario, L5M 2C1
Tel. (905) 670-9721 Website: www.vomcanada.com