



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, May 27, 2021

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."

~ 1 Peter 5:8-9 ESV

BURKINA FASO: Fifteen Killed at Baptismal Service

Sources: Mission Network News, North Africa Journal, Reuters, International Christian Concern

Unidentified assailants killed 15 Christians who were gathered for a baptismal service on the evening of May 18th. The attack took place in the village of Adjarara, which is located in northern Burkina Faso, near the border with Mali.

The attackers also torched the village and caused injury to a surviving man. While no group has claimed responsibility, the Sahel region has encountered increasing terrorist activities from groups affiliated with al-Qaeda and Islamic State West Africa, often based in neighbouring Mali. In response to the incident, Todd Nettleton from VOM USA states: "15 of our brothers and sisters [in Christ] were killed. Somebody needs to be paying attention to this."

Please lift up to the Lord in prayer the loved ones of the victims who were slaughtered during this recent attack. May God's people rally around those in mourning, extending the love and care of Christ to their grieving brothers and sisters. Remember the surviving injured victim and others in the village who have had their properties destroyed, as well as those who are now potentially facing the risk of future violence. Pray that the militants responsible will be held accountable for their crimes, but also that God would take hold of their hearts and reveal to them the error of their ways.

UGANDA: Widow's Family Narrowly Escapes Arson

Source: Morning Star News

In September 2015, Siriman Kintu was beheaded because he converted from Islam to Christianity. He left behind his wife Kanifa Namulondo, who had also converted, along with their five children.

Following her husband's death, Kanifa and her children fled their home in Kaliro, Uganda. However, she recently determined to return to the village and, with the help of friends, rebuilt the house. On April 25th, she moved back into the home with her children.

On May 2nd, Kanifa noticed that the regular Muslim call to prayer was at 3:30 a.m., which happened to be considerably earlier than usual. Thirty minutes later, she heard people talking outside the door of her house. One of the voices stated: "The husband betrayed our religion. We should do away with the entire family." Kanifa quickly woke the children, escaped out the back door and hid in a neighbour's house. Soon her newly rebuilt home was in flames. Cries from nearby residents caused the arsonists to flee the area.

As a result of the recent attack, the family is now living in temporary quarters outside of the village and will again be forced to relocate far from their home. For more information about the suffering inflicted on Christians by militants from the country's Islamic minority, go to www.vomcanada.com/uganda.htm.

May God give Kanifa and her children strength and courage as they once again contend with upheaval in their lives because of the repeated attacks perpetrated by militants who vehemently oppose their Christian faith. May this victimized widow and her family also experience God's comfort, peace and provision in the midst of grief, property loss and uncertainty. Pray that those opposing the message of the Gospel in Uganda will listen to the voice of God's Holy Spirit as He tries to speak to their hearts, in hopes they will respond with repentance and surrender in faith to our Lord Jesus Christ.

REPORT UPDATES

ALGERIA: Verdict for Bookstore Managers Expected on May 30th

Source: Middle East Concern

On February 27th, Pastor Rachid Seighir and Nouh Hamimi were sentenced to two years in an Algerian prison for allegedly "shaking the faith" of Muslims through the availability of Christian literature in their church-operated bookstore. Although the appeal of their sentence was heard on May 16th (see www.vomcanada.com/dz-2021-04-22.htm), it has been announced that the verdict will be handed down on May 30th.

Pray for the court officials as they give final consideration to the outcome of these charges. May truth and equity for all take precedence in their decisions. During this time of uncertainty, pray that God's peace and strength will sustain Pastor Rachid, Nouh and their families as they await the court ruling. Please also pray that the campaign of intimidation against our Algerian brothers and sisters in Christ will cease and that all churches previously sealed by the government will be allowed to reopen.

CHINA: Church Leader's Home Raided

Sources: ChinaAid, Colson Center

Zhao Weikai is a leader of the Xuncheng Reformed Church in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China. The church had been raided in November 2020 and again on December 30th, when security officers disrupted a Bible study in the home of Pastor An Yankui (see www.vomcanada.com/cn-2021-01-14.htm).

In the early morning of May 17th, Zhao's home was raided by approximately 20 police officers. Without providing a warrant, the officers seized computer equipment and books. Zhao and his wife Li Xin were taken for questioning under charges of "proselytism." Li was released that evening, but Zhao was ordered to serve a 15-day administrative detention. Several times in the past, Zhao had been "invited" to "talk" with police because of his refusal to abide by the religious mandates of the Chinese Communist Party.

For many years, ChinaAid, an organization founded by Dr. Bob Fu, has been a significant voice for Christians in China. As a partner of The Voice of the Martyrs, they have worked to expose the abuses of the Chinese government, encourage the persecuted, and equip leaders to defend the rights of citizens so they can experience the blessings of faith and freedom.

This week's story from China is only one of the many that have come to our attention through the tireless work of our friends at ChinaAid. It is for this reason that we extend our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Fu upon receiving the 2021 Wilberforce Award. The words of VOMC's Chief Executive Officer, Floyd Brobbel, aptly describe Dr. Fu's tenacity: "Bob is an example of one who uses his freedom to serve those who are bound. There is no 'quit' in Bob when raising a voice for his persecuted brothers and sisters in China."

The Wilberforce Award was established in 1988 to recognize distinguished Christian leaders who exemplify the principles and commitment of William Wilberforce, an English statesman who waged a 40-year campaign which led to the abolition of slavery in Britain. VOMC joins in acknowledging the significant impact Dr. Fu has made throughout the world. To learn more about the work of ChinaAid, go to www.chinaaid.org.

Praise God for the devoted endeavours of Dr. Bob Fu and others who likewise give of themselves to expose the violations of religious freedom in China and diligently work to provide help wherever possible. Pray for Zhao and his wife as they potentially face the above-mentioned charges for practising their Christian faith. Ask God to bless the continued ministry efforts of the Xuncheng Reformed Church, strengthening and encouraging these believers as they persist in sharing the truth of the Gospel, despite the pressures they encounter.

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