



## Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada  
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, December 2, 2021

*"Behold, I am sending you out as  
sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise  
as serpents and innocent as doves."*

~ Matthew 10:16 ESV

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### NEPAL: Pastor Sentenced to Prison for Evangelism

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Steadfast Global, Reformatorisch Dagblad

Pastor Keshav Raj Acharya of the Abundant Harvest Church in Pokhara, Nepal, was initially arrested and detained in March 2020 after a video was released in which he allegedly claimed that the COVID-19 virus could be healed through prayer. The pastor denies ever uploading the video. He was initially released on bail but then re-arrested and charged with "outraging religious feelings" and "attempting to convert." Pastor Keshav was detained in a remote area of the country with restricted access to transportation.

On November 22nd, 2021, Pastor Keshav was convicted of proselytising, a crime that could carry a sentence of up to five years in prison and/or a fine. Despite procedures indicating that he would remain free until the appeal process has been completed, he was immediately taken to prison upon conviction.

On November 30th, he received a sentence of two years' imprisonment, along with a fine of 20,000 NPR (\$212.00 CAD). Because of claims from Pastor Keshav's lawyer that the proper legal process was not followed, the Supreme Court will be convened to assess his treatment. For more information on the challenges facing Christians in Nepal, go to [www.vomcanada.com/nepal.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/nepal.htm).

*Pray that God will justly intervene in Pastor Keshav's case, especially regarding the decisions of the court officials, so that his sentencing will be overturned. May the outcome be favourable so he can freely continue offering others in Nepal the hope and salvation that's available through faith in Christ. Pray that the Holy Spirit will move mightily in the hearts of those involved in this case, as well as the many around the world who hear of his situation, ultimately revealing the truth of the Gospel and the reality of Christ as Saviour.*

## **ALGERIA: Pastor and Three Other Christians Facing Charges**

Sources: Middle East Concern, VOMC Sources

Pastor Salah Chalah is the senior pastor of the largest Protestant church in Algeria, as well as the president of the Protestant Church of Algeria (EPA). He and three other believers have been summoned to appear in court on December 5th. Pastor Salah faces multiple charges, including "practising non-Muslim rites without permission" and organizing an assembly. Penalties can range from heavy fines to up to five years' imprisonment. The other three Christians have received similar charges, with one of them also facing charges for allegedly taking photographs of people without their permission.

The accusations likely stem from a peaceful demonstration that was held in October 2019 to protest the forcible sealing of Pastor Salah's church building (see [www.vomcanada.com/dz-2019-10-17.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/dz-2019-10-17.htm) for more details). The EPA, which consists of 47 churches, is the only recognized Protestant organization in Algeria. The denomination was required to re-register with the government after a change in law during 2012, but their application has not yet been approved by the authorities. For the past four years, a systematic government campaign has resulted in 16 churches being sealed and several others ordered to close. Additional reports on the persecution of Christians in Algeria are available at [www.vomcanada.com/algeria.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/algeria.htm).

*Please prayerfully uphold Pastor Salah, the three other mentioned Christians who are also facing charges, and fellow persecuted believers throughout Algeria, as they endure injustice from the government. May God grant the accused Christians wisdom and the right words to say as they stand before the courts (Matthew 10:19). Pray that the Algerian authorities will cease their campaign against churches and approve the re-registration of the EPA. May the country's Christian leaders continue to provide the spiritual guidance and support that's so needed during this time of oppression.*

## **NIGERIA: Ten Villagers Killed; Dozens of Homes Destroyed**

Sources: International Christian Concern, AIT, Morning Star News, Mission Network News, Reuters

An overnight attack that took place in the Nigerian village of Ta'agbe on November 26th left ten Christians dead, including three children. According to witnesses, the attackers were dressed in black, carried sophisticated weapons, and shouted Islamic slogans while slaughtering the residents of the village and burning homes. It is estimated that over 100 houses were destroyed, displacing 690 people.

Six of those killed were from a single family. "I lost my grandchildren for the sake of Christ," Sibi Gara said tearfully while lying in a hospital bed due to physical injuries caused by the attack. The governor of Plateau State is reportedly outraged over the unnecessary loss of life, pain and destruction that was inflicted on innocent villagers, and is calling for the arrest of those responsible. A Christian leader in the area believes that the attack is part of a campaign to wipe

Christians from the region. In late October, a letter was sent by Fulani militants to Christian communities in the state warning of impending attacks if they did not evacuate their villages.

In the midst of the ongoing violence, organizations from around the world that are supporting persecuted Christians have expressed their dismay over a decision made by the United States Department of State to remove Nigeria from their list as a "Country of Particular Concern." Some commentators believe that the change may be related to the American government's attempts to strengthen its relations with Nigeria. The chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) responded to the recent news by stating: "We urge the State Department to reconsider its designations based on facts presented in its own reporting." To learn more about the difficulties experienced by Christians in Nigeria, and/or to view informative video documentaries, go to [www.vomcanada.com/nigeria.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/nigeria.htm).

*Please remember in prayer the grieving families of those who have lost their lives in this latest attack, as well as the hundreds of villagers who have been terrorized and displaced from their homes and community. May God's reassuring presence provide needed comfort, healing and strength to all who are suffering as a result of loss – whether it be the loss of loved ones, health, homes and/or personal belongings. Pray that Nigeria's governing authorities will take effective action against militant groups to prevent them from terrorizing more innocent lives.*

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