



Voice of the
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada
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"We never pray against our government or call down curses on them. Instead, we have learned that God is in control both of our own lives and the government. [He] has used China's government for...molding and shaping His children. Instead of focussing our prayers against any political system, we pray that regardless of what happens to us, we will be pleasing to God."

~ Brother Yun

INDIA: Christian Woman Killed by Relatives

Sources: AsiaNews, British Asian Christian Association, Christian Post

A Christian woman was beaten to death with a hammer and other weapons on June 24th because of her conversion to Christianity. The murder took place in Toylanka, a village in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Since her conversion to Christ four years ago, Bindu Sodhi had faced ongoing harassment and threats from opposing Hindu relatives. On the day of the attack, she was plowing a field with members of her immediate family when they were suddenly ambushed. Facing a mob armed with axes and other weapons, Bindu's mother, brother and sister fled the area. However, Bindu couldn't get away and, subsequently, was repeatedly stabbed and beaten.

Complaints have been filed with the police but, at last report, no action had been taken against the attackers. Additionally, it has been reported that Bindu's opposing relatives even resisted her burial. Christian leaders have since spoken out against the violence, as well as the arrest of other believers who have issued calls for justice, demanding that the burial be allowed.

This incident is one of several recent attacks against followers of Jesus in Chhattisgarh. On June 12th, seven Christian families were assaulted in a nearby village. In May, another believer was

beaten and stabbed to death, and then buried by his assailants. For more reports on the persecution of Christians in India, go to www.vomcanada.com/india.htm.

Please lift up Bindu's immediate family members before God's throne of grace as they mourn the loss of their loved one. In addition to enveloping each one of these surviving members with His unfailing peace, comfort and hope, may the Lord also provide them protection from their hostile extended relatives. Pray that those responsible for this attack will not only be held accountable for their wrongful actions, but also that the Holy Spirit would convict them of their need for God's forgiveness – ultimately stirring their hearts to a saving faith in Him through the provision of His Son Jesus. As God's Spirit works in the lives of the perpetrators of this recent attack, may the police take appropriate action to protect others of our Indian Christian family who are likewise facing threats of violence.

REPORT UPDATES

PAKISTAN: Wife of Nazir Masih Dies of a Heart Attack

Sources: International Christian Concern, Morning Star News

In May, shocking images of mob violence were revealed after 74-year-old Nazir Masih was falsely accused of burning pages from the Quran. The elderly Christian man was fatally wounded during the resulting mob violence, which also led to the destruction of his shoemaking business, along with several attacks against other Christians. Further details on the violent rampage are available at www.vomcanada.com/pk-2024-05-30.htm.

Following this tragic incident, Nazir's wife Naseem was left devastated, struggling to overcome the trauma of seeing her husband brutally beaten by his attackers. Her son Sultan says, "The tears in her eyes never dried." When bail was granted to the perpetrators responsible for the attack, the Christian widow's agony was further intensified.

On Friday, June 21st, Naseem began experiencing chest pains. An ambulance was called for the Christian woman, and the paramedics stated that her symptoms were likely due to stress. Since it was time for Friday's Islamic prayers, they told the family that no senior doctor would be available to look at her, so they gave her medication and left. When Naseem's condition did not stabilize, her family took her to the hospital where she died of cardiac arrest. The Christian woman has been buried next to her husband.

For the family members who are now mourning the loss of both Nazir and Naseem, tensions remain high. Many are fearful whenever they go into public spaces, concerned that they may be followed and potentially attacked. Speaking of the pain they are experiencing, Sultan states: "Our lives have been completely shattered. All family members – including children – are suffering from depression and stress. We have lost our business and are forced to live in our own house as refugees.... We've already lost hope for justice, and now my mother has left us."

Prayerfully remember this suffering family as they come to terms with the heartbreaking loss of Nazir and, more recently, now Naseem. As they determine what future steps to take, may God give these believers divine protection, greatly needed emotional healing, encouragement and strength, as well as provision for their financial and practical needs. Pray that justice will prevail in the case involving Nazir's passing, despite the tainted investigation, bringing this family a sense of peace and closure.

CHINA: Chen Wensheng Sentenced to 19 Months

Source: ChinaAid

Chen Wensheng is no stranger to arrests and police intimidation. A radically reformed former drug addict, the Christian evangelist has travelled throughout China to share his testimony, gaining the nickname of "Gospel Warrior." (See www.vomcanada.com/tagged-items/chen-wensheng.htm for other reports about this faithful believer.)

Following his most recent arrest in August 2023, Chen faced trial on April 18th for "organizing and financing illegal gatherings." For unspecified reasons, the court hearing was treated as a high security trial, with the entire street blocked off and approximately 40 black-clad "special police" officers stationed nearby. As a result, the Christian man's family and friends were unable to enter the court building to attend the trial. On June 20th, the verdict was announced, stating that Chen has been sentenced to one year and seven months in prison. The detained believer intends to appeal this decision.

Over recent years, opposition by the Chinese Communist Party against Christians has continued to increase throughout the country. In the former British colony of Hong Kong, the freedoms that the people had enjoyed previously are slowly eroding as the Communist Party increasingly takes control. In a recent video-recorded interview published by Release International, Bob Fu of ChinaAid addresses the escalating oppression that has caused thousands of Chinese Christians to flee to the United Kingdom. This brief but informative interview may be viewed by going to www.vomcanada.com/video/ri-fu.

Pray that Chen's appeal will be successful, and that this dear brother in Christ would be released from custody. In the meanwhile, may any term this believer spends in prison serve as an added opportunity to share the Good News of the salvation, hope and freedom that's available through faith in Jesus Christ. Continue to pray for wisdom, courage and spiritual fortitude on behalf of the millions of Christians in China who are facing opposition because of their allegiance to Christ.

The "Persecution & Prayer Alert" is a ministry of:
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