



Voice of the
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

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Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, February 27, 2025

*"The Bible clearly says that
faithfulness and persecution
often go hand in hand."*

~ Billy Graham

SRI LANKA: Church Pressured to Halt Christian Activities

Source: NCEASL

Members of the Way to the Comfort Ministry Church in Seethwaka, Sri Lanka, are receiving ongoing demands to cease all Christian activities in their village. On January 26th, Buddhist monks approached the church leadership and insisted that the pastor stop holding worship services, claiming that only Buddhist practices are permitted within the village. They further accused the pastor of forcibly converting people to Christianity and receiving foreign aid.

The next evening, an unidentified person threw large stones at the church building, damaging the roof and nearly striking the pastor's wife. In response to these threats, the Christians filed police reports, prompting the authorities to investigate the incident. As a result of the investigation, the police ordered three Buddhist monks to meet with the church's pastor, his wife, some congregants, and other local pastors. During the gathering, the authorities asked for a peaceful resolution, to which the monks agreed. Despite this agreement, one of the monks later told the pastor that they intend to pursue legal action.

Opposition against Christians in Sri Lanka is frequently instigated by local village leaders, Buddhist monks, and other hostile community members. To learn more about the difficulties Christians in this South Asian country have been experiencing, and/or to review other reports, go to www.vomcanada.com/srilanka.htm.

- *Pray for a peaceful and lasting resolution to the issues being encountered by the members of this church.*
- *May God work mightily within the hearts of the opposing Buddhist leaders and encourage them to live harmoniously with local Christians, despite their differences in beliefs.*
- *Pray for the ongoing ministry of this pastor and his church members, asking our Heavenly Father to reveal ways in which they can proactively love, bless and pray for their persecutors while continuing to share the Gospel.*

REPORT UPDATE

PAKISTAN: Court Calls for Inquiry into Blasphemy Cases

Sources: Mission Network News, Morning Star News, Voicepk.net

In late 2024, an investigation by the AFP news agency revealed that a startling number of Christians in Pakistan have been falsely accused of blasphemy by members of organized "vigilante groups" who intentionally deceived followers of Jesus into sharing content that was deemed blasphemous. (See www.vomcanada.com/pk-2024-11-14.htm for more details.)

In response to these allegations, the Islamabad High Court has called on the government to establish a commission that would investigate collusion between the Federal Investigation Agency and some militant Muslim clerics who seek to entrap innocent victims. The court recommended that the commission include experts in law, religion and technology.

Pakistan's blasphemy laws are overly broad, making them easy to exploit for wrongful personal or financial motives. According to Floyd Brobbel, CEO for Voice of the Martyrs Canada, "The way [the legislation is] written...anything can be turned into a blasphemy case." This is particularly true in cases against accused Christians who are uneducated and illiterate. If established, the newly proposed commission will hopefully investigate groups and individuals who fabricate evidence for their own vested interests.

- *Pray that the many issues related to Pakistan's widely abused blasphemy laws would be thoroughly investigated, leading to positive changes within the country's legal system and policies.*
- *May those responsible for falsified blasphemy charges be held accountable for their wrongful actions and reach a point of sincere repentance.*
- *Ask the Lord to provide needed wisdom, direction and protection to His people as they interact with those around them, and to ensure that opposing militant groups and individuals will be prevented from deceiving or taking advantage of our Pakistani brothers and sisters in Christ.*

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