



Voice^{of the}
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"Blessed are you when others
revile you and persecute you and
utter all kinds of evil against you
falsely on My account."
~ Matthew 5:11 ESV*

INDIA: Christians Hold Peaceful Protests for Equality

Sources: Open Doors, UCA News, Mission Network News

Amid escalating violence and discrimination against Christians in India, the need for greater awareness and advocacy has become increasingly urgent. On June 9th, a group called the National Christian Front organized peaceful demonstrations in the state of Odisha to protest against government policies that promote Hindu nationalism. Additionally, the protests drew attention to the many challenges facing religious minorities across the country.

Christians from numerous denominations joined together and presented a petition requesting the protection of all citizens within the country. Similar demonstrations were reported to have taken place in several other Indian states as well. One of the major concerns raised by the protestors was the harmful anti-conversion legislation that has already been passed in 12 states. While these laws were officially intended to prevent abusive and coercive religious conversions, in reality, they have often been used to oppose the evangelistic activities practised by adherents of Christianity. Within the first five months of 2025 alone, more than 950 incidents of persecution against Christians have been documented throughout India.

In light of the recent protests, Greg Musselman from VOM Canada reported that India's churches are banding together to place pressure on Hindu nationalist BJP leaders, urging them to do more to legally protect religious minorities. While emphasizing the importance of intercessory prayer, he encourages believers to pray that the Gospel message will continue to spread – even through peaceful demonstrations like these. "Let's pray that the church in India would be unified," he adds. For reports addressing more specific cases of Christian persecution in this South Asian nation, go to www.vomcanada.com/india.htm.

- *Pray that India's governing officials would recognize the need to protect the vulnerable members of their communities, including those belonging to religious minority groups.*
- *Prayerfully uphold our Christian brothers and sisters in India, asking our Heavenly Father to not only strengthen them spiritually so they can overcome the daily challenges, but also unite their hearts with a greater sense of camaraderie and ministry purpose.*
- *As a result, may the message of God's love and grace spread throughout the country, even in the face of systemic opposition.*

OCCUPIED UKRAINE: Churches Encounter Continued Oppression

Source: Forum18

Churches in occupied areas of eastern Ukraine continue to experience ongoing opposition from Russian-installed authorities. For Christians within the region, this has led to harsh restrictions on places of worship that are not affiliated with the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as those that do not comply with the imposed regulations.

On May 23rd, Pastor Vladimir Rudomyotkin was fined for alleged "missionary activity" because he did not receive permission from officials to hold regular worship services at his church. Along with requiring permits for Christians to meet, the authorities have also forced pastors to submit their sermons for review and report the names of attending church members.

On June 8th, a Council of Churches Baptist congregation in Krasnodon was celebrating Pentecost Sunday when their service was suddenly raided by police. The intruding officers alleged that the church was not registered with the Russian-controlled authorities. Congregations belonging to the Council of Churches Baptist oppose government registration for numerous reasons. According to Pastor Vladimir Rytikov, "One of the reasons is the [newly imposed] duty of the pastor to report to the authorities about the life of church members and about the service.... This is betrayal."

Other church leaders report that Russian officials have met with them to "discuss" the content of their sermons and the way in which the worship services are conducted. For example, one priest was confronted by the authorities because he failed to praise the Russian military and their campaign against Ukraine in his Easter message. To review previously published reports concerning the restrictions imposed on Christians in Ukraine's Russian-occupied areas, go to www.vomcanada.com/ukraine.htm.

- *Please continue to prayerfully remember our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ as they deal with the restrictions imposed on them by occupying forces, asking that they would remain encouraged and steadfast in their faith.*
- *Ask God to grant wisdom, courage and discernment to church leaders who are serving within Ukraine's occupied areas so they can honour and glorify Him through their appropriate responses to the harsh regulations and policies.*

- *In general, may the Lord guard the hearts and minds of Ukrainian believers with His perfect peace while bringing about a lasting and just resolution between the two warring Eastern European nations.*

REPORT UPDATE

MEXICO: New Beginnings for Exiled Christians

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Church in Chains

Members of the Great Commission Baptist Church in the Mexican villages of Coamila and Rancho Nuevo have frequently encountered opposition from hostile community leaders. About a year ago, more than a hundred church members were forced to flee their homes and villages. (For more details regarding the displacement of these believers, see www.vomcanada.com/mx-2024-05-16.htm.)

Despite efforts made by state officials to mediate in the situation, all their attempts to achieve a resolution have failed. Even though a settlement was reached in September 2024, allowing the Christian residents to return to their homes, the believers soon discovered that the opposing villagers had no intention of honouring the agreement. The unresolved matter forced the believers to flee once again.

After relocating to the neighbouring state of Veracruz, the Christian families have begun settling into their new homes. With the support of various Christian organizations, they were able to purchase building materials for the construction of 42 houses on a plot of agricultural land – naming their small community “La Paz” (meaning “Peace”). In addition to plans for establishing essential sanitation systems, a school for the children, and a church building, the new settlers are endeavouring to rebuild their livelihoods.

While these believers are working to establish their new community in a different Mexican state, similar forms of opposition continue to persist for other followers of Jesus throughout the country. In the municipality of Contepec, for instance, a group of Christian residents are being pressured to participate in local religious rituals that conflict with their values. If they don’t comply, they too risk expulsion from their community. For more reports on the challenges facing Christians in various regions of Mexico, go to www.vomcanada.com/mexico.htm.

- *Please pray on behalf of the exiled members of the Great Commission Baptist Church, asking the Lord to grant them the provisions, strength and hope they need to establish their new community and rebuild their lives.*
- *Pray that the residents of “La Paz” (“Peace”) will indeed be filled with the Lord’s peace, and that He would greatly bless their efforts to create a safe and welcoming environment for their families.*
- *Remember the many other Christians throughout Mexico – including those in Contepec – who continue to experience harassment because of their faith in Christ.*

- *May the resilience and perseverance of these persecuted believers in Mexico demonstrate the reality of the Living Christ to all those around them – including their opponents – enabling them to serve as powerful testimonies of His love, forgiveness and grace.*

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