



Voice^{of the}
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, October 23, 2025

*"For the Lord loves justice;
He will not forsake His saints...."*
~ Psalm 37:28 ESV

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church - November 2, 2025

Each year, churches around the world set aside a specific day to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who are encountering persecution for their faith. This year, the designated date is Sunday, November 2nd, and the selected theme is *United in Prayer*. We encourage you to join along with thousands of other believers that day by prayerfully raising your voice to God – either individually or corporately with the members of your church or prayer group.

For more information, and/or to download free resources that will help increase awareness of the prayer needs represented by our persecuted family in Christ, visit www.idop.ca.

CHINA: Coordinated Arrests Against Church Leaders

Sources: ChinaAid, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Christianity Today

Under the leadership of Pastor Jin Mingri, Beijing Zion Church has grown into one of the largest unregistered churches in China. In addition to having several satellite campuses, the church draws more than 1,000 attendees to its Sunday services each weekend.

Pastor Jin, a former participant in the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, came to faith in Christ shortly after the political demonstrations, and has since encountered persistent opposition from officials of the Chinese Communist Party. Although his wife eventually relocated to the United States for safety and to be with their children (who are American citizens), Pastor Jin chose to remain in China despite the risk of continued persecution.

Starting on October 9th, the Chinese authorities began a coordinated campaign against the church and its leaders. As many as 30 pastors and associates, including Pastor Jin, have been

taken into custody. According to Sean Long, one of the church's pastors who had been studying abroad at the time of the arrests, the detained Christians are being charged with "illegal dissemination of religious information via the Internet."

In response, the church has mobilized legal assistance for each of the arrested believers. As of October 16th, 32 attorneys had formally joined the high-profile case. The incident has also drawn international attention, prompting advocacy efforts aimed at pressuring authorities to drop the charges.

Despite the arrests, the church continues to meet in groups of five to 50 people, as has been its custom. Together they watch a sermon via Zoom, followed by in-person discussions. Pastor Sean emphasized the church's resilience, stating, "We are willing to pay the price to bear the cost of discipleship." For more information on the persecution of Christians in China, go to www.vomcanada.com/china.htm.

- *Please pray for Pastor Jin and the other detained church leaders, asking God to fill them with His perfect peace, shield them with His divine protection, and uphold them with His mighty strength, as they await justice and vindication.*
- *May the Lord also strengthen and comfort those who were otherwise affected by the recent crackdown – including the church leaders' concerned families and fellow congregation members.*
- *In addition, prayerfully remember the detained believers' representatives who are providing legal assistance and advocacy, asking that they be empowered to speak with wisdom, clarity and courage under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit (Luke 12:11-12).*

INDIA: Christian Couple Forced from Their Home

Source: International Christian Concern

Three years ago, "Sameer" (whose name has been changed for security reasons) came to faith in Jesus after witnessing his wife's miraculous healing from a life-threatening health condition. "That day, we knew the love and power of God," he recounts, "and we gave our lives to Christ." Following their decisions, however, the new believers began to experience opposition from unapproving members of their community.

On September 27th, Sameer's mother came to the couple trembling. She had overheard other villagers plotting to kill the converted believers in an effort to make the village "Christian-free." The concerned mother urged the endangered couple to leave the area immediately. A few minutes later, Sameer's brother warned him to do the same. That evening, the Christian man quietly left the village, while his wife remained at home.

The next morning, Sameer received a call from his brother with devastating news. A mob had gathered at the couple's home, demanding: "Will you deny Jesus or let your house be destroyed?" When Sameer's wife refused, the militants mocked her and ordered that she leave the village. With little choice, the Christian woman fled the area, and their house was subsequently destroyed along with everything they owned.

The couple is now living with fellow Christians in a town located nearly 80 kilometres from their home village. Despite the ordeal, Sameer remains firm in his faith. "I will continue to follow Jesus, no matter what," he proclaims. "It may be difficult to return to my village because the people there have vowed to make the entire village Christian-free, but I know God is with me. I need to start my life from scratch.... God will help me as I trust in Him for love and care."

This incident reflects the experience of many Christian converts in India, particularly those in rural villages. To read previously published reports addressing similar acts of persecution, visit www.vomcanada.com/india.htm.

- *Please intercede for Sameer and his wife as they consider their next steps, praying that they will receive peace of mind, divine guidance and the necessary provisions to rebuild their lives in a new village.*
- *Praise God for sustaining this couple's faith in the midst of persecution and the resulting consequences by providing them strength and courage – in keeping with His promises to all who call upon Him.*
- *Pray for the couple's family members, along with the opposing villagers who destroyed their home, asking that all those who have yet to surrender their lives to Jesus would be drawn to Him through the testimony of these two faithful believers.*

PAKISTAN: Christian Man Beaten to Death in Targeted Attack

Sources: CLAAS-UK, Pakistan Christian Post, Bitter Winter

On the evening of September 24th, Asif Raza was returning home from work in the Vehari district of Punjab when he was suddenly ambushed by a group of seven assailants. The men brutally assaulted Asif, deliberately targeting his head while striking him repeatedly with bricks.

Eyewitnesses attest that the police were called 15 times but failed to respond. Emergency services also did not arrive in a timely manner. By the time the 28-year-old Christian was finally rushed to hospital, he tragically succumbed to his injuries.

According to the police report, Asif was specifically targeted because of his faith in Christ. One of the suspects, identified as Wahab, has since been arrested. While it's believed that the arrested assailant was the main instigator of the violent attack, investigations are ongoing to identify and apprehend the other six individuals involved – all of whom are reportedly members of a militant Islamic faction.

Human rights groups and Christian organizations have condemned the attack as a "targeted act of hatred rooted in religious intolerance." Advocates are calling for justice on behalf of this slain young man and his grieving family. Although unmarried, Asif was engaged, and thus also leaves behind his grieving fiancée. Additional reports concerning the suffering of our Christian brothers and sisters in this South Asian nation are available at www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm.

- *Pray that justice will be served, and that all those responsible for this senseless attack would be located and held accountable.*
- *In the meantime, as Asif's fiancée, family and friends endeavour to recover from their heartbreaking loss, may they receive greatly needed comfort through the Lord's abiding presence and His many reassuring promises.*
- *Ask God to work powerfully in the hearts of the assailants, bringing each one of them to a place of true repentance and transformation through the redeeming power of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Risen Saviour and Lord.*

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