



Voice^{of the}
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"God, who foresaw your tribulation,
has specially armed you to go through it,
not without pain, but without stain."*

~ C.S. Lewis

LIBERIA: Pastor Presently Awaiting Trial

Source: VOMC Contact

A pastor in Liberia is facing ongoing legal challenges following a dispute with Muslim community members over his ministry activities. According to a local source, the situation began in 2023 when Pastor Sylvester led two individuals to faith in Christ. Following their conversions, he has been accused by opponents of preaching against Islam, praying loudly, and playing musical instruments early in the morning.

The church leader was arrested in late October. Although he was initially released by police, prosecutors convinced the court to once again detain him. Since then, Pastor Sylvester and his family have been experiencing health issues due to a lack of food and other basic necessities. At the time of publishing this report, the official charges against the believer remain unclear. On November 18th, the Christian lawyer hired to assist with the pastor's defence requested additional time to study the case. The next hearing is scheduled to take place on November 24th.

- *Please prayerfully uphold Pastor Sylvester and his concerned family during this difficult time. In addition to meeting their daily practical needs, ask God to provide them renewed spiritual strength, encouragement and peace.*
- *May the Lord also intervene in the legal process – giving greatly needed wisdom and guidance to the defending Christian lawyer – so the detained pastor will be set free.*
- *Pray on behalf of all followers of Jesus throughout Liberia as they seek to build congenial relationships with their Muslim neighbours and peacefully live out their faith.*

NORTH KOREA: Imprisoned Church Leader Released!

Sources: Voice of the Martyrs Korea, Release International, Church in Chains

In November 2014, Deacon Jang Moon Seok (also known by his Chinese name, Zhang Wen Shi) was kidnapped in China while ministering in the town of Changbai, which is located near the country's border with North Korea. Following his abduction, the church leader was transported to North Korea where he was subsequently sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

Deacon Jang, along with a pastor named Han Chung-Ryeol, had been regularly hosting North Korean visitors in Changbai, offering them warm clothing, food and other necessary provisions. Although it is illegal for North Koreans to cross into China without permission from governing officials, many do so in hopes of receiving needed medical care or purchasing practical goods that could be resold in their homeland. Sadly, in April 2016, only 15 months after Deacon Jang's kidnapping, Pastor Han was lured out of his home and tragically stabbed to death.

According to Dr. Hyun Sook Foley from Voice of the Martyrs Korea (VOMK), a number of the visiting North Koreans became Christians through the ministry of these dedicated Christian leaders. "Some returned to Deacon Jang's home repeatedly for more Bible training," she states. "Deacon Jang and Pastor Han also taught them how to share their faith with their loved ones. Their goal was always to see North Koreans return home."

Throughout the years, VOMK and its ministry partners organized letter-writing campaigns, urging the North Korean government to free Deacon Jang. Finally, after more than a decade of captivity, the believer was released from prison on November 5th and permitted to return home to China.

One of VOMK's primary ministry outreaches involves sharing the message of the Gospel with North Koreans. In a recent video interview, the Korean mission's CEO, Dr. Eric Foley, spoke of the organization's expanding radio broadcasts which are being used to reach the citizens of their extremely restricted neighbouring nation. To hear his discussion with VOM Canada's podcast host, Greg Musselman, go to www.vomcanada.com/video/kp-2025-09-24.htm.

- *Let us rejoice with our Christian brothers and sisters in East Asia and other areas of the world by giving thanks to God for His faithfulness in securing Deacon Jang's release after so many years of imprisonment.*
- *As this released believer begins the process of readjusting to life and ministry in his home community, may he experience emotional healing, relational restoration, spiritual and physical strength, as well as further guidance.*
- *Ask God to open more incredible doors of opportunity so the Gospel can effectively reach the people of North Korea, while providing protection and wisdom to all who are courageously sharing His Word.*

BANGLADESH: Christians Targeted in Bombing Attacks

Sources: AsiaNews, International Christian Concern, Catholic News Agency, Arab News

Just before midnight on November 7th, two improvised explosive devices were thrown at St. Mary's Cathedral in Dhaka. One exploded near the front gate, while the other landed inside the church facility. Thankfully, the second one failed to detonate within the building and no injuries were reported. Despite the attack having occurred only hours before an important event was scheduled to take place – involving the attendance of hundreds of people from across the country – the gathering went ahead as planned.

A few hours later, another homemade bomb exploded inside the compound of a Catholic school in a Dhaka neighbourhood. There were no injuries resulting from the November 8th school attack, and classes resumed the following Monday. A churchgoer who had attended a worship service at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, November 9th, which also proceeded as usual, described their concern over the recently occurring attacks as an "eerie feeling," noting that anxiety has gripped many fellow believers within the congregation.

To date, no group has claimed responsibility for either of the two recently occurring attacks nor provided any explanation as to why the Christian community was targeted. A police spokesperson states, "[Although] we are trying to determine whether the incidents are connected or isolated, they are certainly aimed at terrifying people."

Authorities have since detained a suspect for questioning. The individual has been identified as a member of a student organization linked to the banned Awami League – the political party of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted from her dictatorship role following mass protests in 2024. In the wake of these recent attacks, members of the police force have increased security at religious sites throughout the capital. For previously published reports addressing Christian persecution in Bangladesh, visit www.vomcanada.com/bangladesh.htm.

- *As members of the Christian community in Dhaka recover from the resulting fear and anxiety of these recent bombing attacks, may God's peace and comfort greatly calm their troubled hearts.*
- *In addition to praying that justice will prevail in this situation, ask the Lord to work mightily within the hearts of those responsible for carrying out the attacks, ultimately leading them to repentance and eternal salvation.*
- *Pray for God's continued protection over the churches and Christian schools of Bangladesh; and, in the event of any further threats, that the country's political and spiritual leaders will respond wisely and proactively.*