



Voice of the
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"The only way to learn strong
faith is to endure great trials."
~ George Müller*

YEMEN: Dozens Detained in Campaign Against Christians

Sources: Open Doors, Human Rights Watch, Mission Network News, Christian Aid Mission, Premier Christian News

In many parts of the world, opposition is expected for those who commit their lives to Christ. Unfortunately, obtaining reliable information from some of these regions is often difficult – and Yemen is no exception. Late last year, Houthi rebels, who control approximately one-third of the country, launched a campaign of arbitrary detentions specifically targeting Christians. In January 2026 alone, more than 50 followers of Jesus were arrested, while another 43 had been abducted.

One believer in Yemen realized that he could potentially be apprehended during the rebels' campaign. In preparation, he devoted himself to the memorization of Scripture, explaining, "I want to be a 'walking Bible,' so that wherever I'm taken, I can share about Jesus." These words proved to be part of the Christian man's final conversation before his sudden disappearance. Most of the recently detained individuals have been prevented from communicating with any of their family members or legal representatives, and officials refuse to mention whether the believers are being held in custody.

Despite growing opposition, Yemen's underground church continues to expand – and it urgently needs prayer. Commenting on the recent arrests of these Christians, VOMC's CEO, Floyd Brobbel, urges: "Pray that they would be 'wise as serpents' and 'innocent as doves.' Pray that they would be effective in reaching their enemies for Christ." He further adds, "With opposition comes opportunity." For more information on the persecution of Christians in Yemen, and the various ways you can pray for them, visit www.vomcanada.com/yemen.htm.

- *Prayerfully uphold our detained brothers and sisters in Christ, asking the Lord to ensure their safety and well-being, and provide needed comfort and strength to their concerned loved ones.*
- *In general, pray that all Christians living in Yemen, who are striving to shine Christ's light amid deep spiritual darkness, will receive guidance from the Holy Spirit and the empowerment to remain faithful witnesses of God's grace.*
- *Despite possible threats of danger, may the Lord bring about many open doors of opportunity for His followers to effectively reach others in their communities with the 'Good News of the Gospel' – including those who oppose them – using these challenging times to further advance His Kingdom.*

PAKISTAN: New Legislation Against Child Marriages in Punjab

Sources: Morning Star News, Pakistan Christian Post, HUM News, Voicepk.net

For Christian girls in Pakistan, the threat of kidnapping is a very real danger. Once abducted, these minors are often sexually assaulted, coerced into converting to Islam, and then forcibly married to their kidnappers. Thankfully, recent legislative action is offering new hope for justice and greater protections from such devastating abuse.

In the latest development, the governor for the state of Punjab officially signed the "Child Marriage Restraint Ordinance 2026" into effect on February 11th. This law raises the minimum legal age for marriage to 18 and classifies violations as a non-bailable offences that carry penalties of up to seven years' imprisonment. Those who officiate the marriage of a minor will also face one year in prison.

For advocates who have fought tirelessly to bring about reform, this marks a significant breakthrough in Pakistan's largest state, which is home to nearly half of the country's population. Speaking of the new legislation, Pastor Amanat from LEAD Ministries states, "This is not just a legal reform; it is a moral and social victory for Pakistan's children and a step forward for women's empowerment."

To review previously published reports concerning our Christian sisters in Pakistan, including the report of a young kidnapping victim who was recently reunited with her family, go to www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm.

- *Praise God for this positive legislative action taken by Punjab's political leaders, and for the tireless efforts of those advocating on behalf of our young persecuted sisters in Christ.*
- *Pray that this legal reform will lead to greater transformation throughout the country, helping to shift societal attitudes towards the protection and rightful treatment of vulnerable girls.*
- *Amid the remaining challenges, lift up Pakistan's Christians as they seek to demonstrate Christ's love while meaningfully impacting their communities.*

SRI LANKA: Police Assault Catholic Priest

Source: NCEASL

On January 24th, a Catholic priest travelling by motorcycle near Negombo was suddenly stopped by police officers while wearing his clerical attire. After asking for the church leader's identification, one officer reportedly remarked that people who dressed in such robes were "harming the country." The officers then allegedly assaulted the priest and left him injured at the roadside.

While investigating the incident, the officers claimed that the cleric had initially failed to comply with their order to stop. In response to this accusation, the priest explained that he had not seen the officers at first but complied immediately once he became aware of them.

An official inquiry has been launched, and the six officers involved have been suspended from duty. The Archdiocese of Colombo has announced its intention to file a human rights claim against the offending officers. In addition, a silent protest condemning the assault was held by priests and nuns on January 27th outside the Negombo Municipal Council.

While the government of Sri Lanka has generally been mindful of its citizens' religious rights, Christians still encounter opposition – most often from individuals or local community groups. Additional reports addressing the various challenges encountered by Sri Lankan believers are available at www.vomcanada.com/srilanka.htm.

- *On behalf of the mentioned priest, please pray that he will receive complete physical, emotional and spiritual healing in the aftermath of the attack.*
- *Also pray for a just resolution to this violent incident; that necessary action will be taken by governing officials to foster greater understanding among the country's varied religious groups, the need for accountability of those who inflict harm, and the encouragement of peaceful relations among all citizens.*
- *May Christians throughout Sri Lanka reflect Christ's love with wisdom and courage, drawing many more people to faith in Him through their faithful witness.*

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