



Voice of the
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear
though the earth give way,
though the mountains be moved
into the heart of the sea...."*

~ Psalm 46:1-2 ESV

CUBA: Pastor Detained After Posting Video

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Cuba Headlines, Evangélico Digital

Each week, Pastor Rolando Pérez Lora visits a park in Matanzas, Cuba, where public Wi-Fi is available, to film a series of Bible teachings for his YouTube channel. As he records, people often gather around to listen, sometimes asking him for prayer.

On March 15th, as Pastor Rolando was returning home after completing his latest video recording, two police officers approached the church leader and forced him into a patrol car. The pastor was then taken to the Playa Police Station and detained for three hours before being released. No official explanation was given for his arrest. This is not an isolated incident, for Pastor Rolando stated that he has been targeted by the authorities since becoming a pastor in 2011.

The Cuban Christians Alliance documented that Communist officials have committed 996 repressive actions against the country's religious leaders in 2024 alone, demonstrating a consistent pattern of harassment. This recent arrest comes during a time of significant civil unrest in Cuba, as demonstrations are being held throughout the country in the face of major shortages of food, medicine and fuel. To access additional reports addressing the oppression of Christianity in this island nation, visit www.vomcanada.com/cuba.htm.

- *Prayerfully remember Pastor Rolando and other church leaders in Cuba who are faithfully sharing the Gospel message despite the increased opposition and unrest.*

- *Ask the Lord to provide national political leaders wisdom and guidance as they navigate how to effectively resolve the ongoing economic crisis.*
- *Pray for lasting peace to take place in this troubled country. In the process, may there be an end to the government's harassment of Christians who are diligently working to serve and support the Cuban people.*

CHINA: New Policy Restricts Travel for Clergy Members

Source: ChinaAid

Religious rights advocates are raising serious concerns regarding the increased level of control that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is presently exerting over the Roman Catholic church in China. As a result of a 2018 agreement between the Vatican and the Chinese government, state officials have already been given the authority to appoint bishops – ensuring that the church's leadership remains amenable towards the policies of the CCP.

However, since December of 2025, the Chinese Catholic church has now adopted a new policy that restricts the travel of all clergy. Under this directive, priests and bishops must surrender their passports and travel documents to a CCP-controlled religious bureau. Any clergy member who wishes to travel must submit a detailed itinerary and statement of purpose for the trip well in advance, followed by a mandatory "post-travel accountability report" upon return. These added procedures mirror those used for monitoring governing officials in politically sensitive positions. Reports indicate that a similar system is also under consideration for the state-controlled Protestant church.

According to ChinaAid, these measures go beyond the ongoing "Sinicization" of the Chinese church. The religious rights organization warns that the implementation of the new policy will result in a "systematic severing of China's churches from the global religious community." More details concerning the persecution of Chinese Christians, including recorded video reports, are available at www.vomcanada.com/china.htm.

- *Please prayerfully uphold Chinese believers who are encountering ever-growing restrictions and pressures on their faith practices, asking the Lord to spiritually strengthen and encourage them.*
- *Pray that there will be meaningful and lasting changes made to governing policies that are currently suppressing and tightly regulating religious activities throughout China.*
- *In the meantime, despite the government-imposed barriers presently facing church congregations, may God provide committed believers creative and innovative ways to proclaim the Good News of His salvation so many others will likewise experience His sacrificial love and eternal hope.*

INDONESIA: Local Residents Oppose Church Renovations

Sources: International Christian Concern, Morning Star News, RiauOnline, Suara.com

The Batak Protestant Christian Church has been meeting at its current location in the village of Kulim Jaya since 1995. In addition to receiving official registration with the government, this congregation holds a documented proof of property ownership. Unfortunately, their church building has deteriorated significantly over the years and is now considered unsuitable for regular gatherings. These Christians have been planning renovations – including the construction of a new foundation – since 2010. However, residents of the community have consistently opposed these efforts.

On February 25th, a group of around 70 local residents had gathered outside the church building, demanding a stop to all renovation work. Questioning the legality of the construction, 20 of the demonstrators entered the building and insisted on viewing the church's permits. This protest was supported by police presence.

Indonesia's official permit process requires community approval for religious building projects – a condition that frequently prevents any progress for Christian places of worship. Despite repeated delays and ongoing opposition, the church's leader, Pastor Faber Manurung, intends to continue pursuing cooperation with governing authorities so the building can once again be safely used. To review further reports outlining the challenges encountered by Christians in Indonesia, go to www.vomcanada.com/indonesia.htm.

- *Pray for wisdom and perseverance on behalf of Pastor Faber and the other members of this Indonesian congregation as they seek to obtain the necessary approvals for these long-overdue renovations.*
- *May God touch the hearts and minds of the opposing local villagers – fostering within each of them a greater understanding, respect and tolerance for the Batak Protestant Christian Church – so the Lord's peace and ministry will prevail throughout the community.*
- *Intercede for officials who are administering at every level of governance, asking that they would work fairly and compassionately to safeguard the rights and needs of all people within Indonesia.*

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