



Voice of the  
Martyrs

PERSECUTION  
& PRAYER  
ALERT

## Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada  
www.vomcanada.com

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*"The steadfast love of the  
Lord never ceases; His mercies  
never come to an end; they  
are new every morning;  
great is Your faithfulness."  
~ Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV*

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### **IRAN: Heightened Concerns for Christian Prisoners**

Sources: Article18, BBC Persian

As political conflict continues in Iran, serious concerns have been raised about the safety of the country's prisoners of conscience, including at least 48 Christian captives. In June 2025, Evin Prison was struck by an Israeli missile, resulting in major damages to the facility which houses many religious and political prisoners. Those in custody were transferred to other locations of the country where they were imprisoned amid unsanitary and overcrowded conditions until the repairs were completed. Human rights advocates warn that the renewed instability raises the risk of similar incidents occurring.

According to reports by Amnesty International, detainees are frequently held in or near security facilities that have become targets of U.S. and Israeli attacks. In one recent example, the Greater Tehran Prison sustained damages when a nearby military garrison was struck. It remains unknown how many prisoners had been killed by guards who attempted to prevent the captives from escaping.

Some prisoners were transferred to undisclosed locations or areas near potential military targets, placing their lives in further danger. There have also been reports of "enforced disappearances," and situations in which many detainees are being denied access to adequate supplies of food and water. Despite the completion of repairs at Evin Prison, its administration is allegedly in "serious disarray," with lockdowns in certain wings that are preventing prisoners from accessing basic necessities.

While Iran's theocratic government has imposed severe restrictions on Christians for many years, the country's underground church has been referred to as 'the fastest growing in the world.' To view a recent video interview regarding the situation in this Middle Eastern country, and/or to access previously published reports, visit [www.vomcanada.com/iran.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/iran.htm).

- *Pray for a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict; and, in the interim, for the protection of innocent civilians caught in its path.*
- *Ask our Heavenly Father to strengthen, comfort and secure the release of Christian prisoners of conscience who are being detained because of their faith in Jesus.*
- *May God's Spirit continue to move powerfully throughout Iran, leading many more to true deliverance and eternal hope in Him.*

## REPORT UPDATES

### **CHINA: Church Elder Released After Five Years' Imprisonment**

Source: ChinaAid

Zhang Chunlei is an elder with the Ren'ai Reformed Church in Guiyang, China. Following his arrest in March 2021, he was sentenced to five years in prison for allegedly "inciting subversion of state power." The Christian leader also received accusations of fraud relating to the receipt of church offerings – a charge commonly used to suppress unregistered congregations. Fellow believers describe the elder as a "gentle, yet firm spiritual leader."

Over the years of his imprisonment, Elder Zhang had been hospitalized due to very painful gallbladder inflammation and was later diagnosed with liver cirrhosis and hypertension. His release from custody finally took place on March 16th upon the completion of his full sentence.

Despite the church leader's release, it is anticipated that government harassment will continue. As a high-profile religious leader, Elder Zhang may face ongoing surveillance, travel restrictions and social isolation. A listing of previously published reports on this believer's case can be accessed at [www.vomcanada.com/tagged-items/zhang-chunlei.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/tagged-items/zhang-chunlei.htm).

- *Praise God for bringing Elder Zhang safely through these past five years of imprisonment and, as a result, making it possible for him to now be joyfully reunited with his loved ones.*
- *Pray for this spiritual leader's complete physical healing and renewed inner strength, as well as long-awaited restoration through the loving support of his family and church community.*
- *Ask God to guide Elder Zhang during this next season of his life, fortify the ministry of the Ren'ai Reformed Church, and uphold the faithful witness of unregistered congregations throughout China.*

## **RUSSIA: New Charges Filed Against Retired Missionary**

Sources: Mission Network News, Voice of the Martyrs Korea

In January, Ms. Park Tae-yeon – a long-serving missionary who lovingly cared for children in Russia – was planning to retire after 33 years of ministry. However, before she could return to South Korea, Russian authorities prevented the Christian woman from leaving the country. In the process, they also arrested her for alleged immigration violations. (For more details, see [www.vomcanada.com/ru-2026-02-12a.htm](http://www.vomcanada.com/ru-2026-02-12a.htm).)

Investigators recently filed two additional charges against Ms. Park, whose case has been extended by another month. A hearing is now expected to take place in late April. With the new allegations, the arrested missionary could face up to 17 years in prison. In response to these developments, Pastor Eric Foley from VOM Korea stated: "Her activity hasn't changed for more than 30 years. The only thing that has changed is that now Russian authorities call people like her 'extremists,' 'brainwashers,' and 'conspirators against Russia,' despite all common-sense evidence to the contrary."

The Voice of the Martyrs Korea is collecting signatures on a petition calling for her immediate release. The petition will be presented to the Russian embassy in Seoul. Those wishing to add their names may do so at [www.vomkorea.com/en/petition-2026/](http://www.vomkorea.com/en/petition-2026/).

- *Praise God for Ms. Park's decades of steadfast and loving ministry to children and families in Russia.*
- *Please pray that Russian authorities will respond with justice and compassion, allowing this faithful follower of Jesus to return safely home to her family in South Korea.*
- *While awaiting vindication during this time of detention, may God empower Ms. Park so she can bring His comfort, hope and light to all those around her – including the facility's prisoners, members of its staff, as well as the officials overseeing the prison.*

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