



Voice^{of the}
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"The cross is the blazing fire at
which the flame of our love is kindled,
but we have to get near enough
for its sparks to fall on us."
~ John Stott*

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP)

November 1st, 2026

On Sunday, November 1st, Christians around the world will unite in prayer on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are facing persecution. This year's theme, *Do You Know Our Suffering?* (2 Timothy 3:10-11), reminds us of the call to stand with those who suffer for their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer partners, consider encouraging your pastor and church leaders to participate in this important annual event, or gather with others to pray together. For informative promotional materials, prayer resources, and helpful ways in which you can participate, see www.idop.ca.

PAKISTAN: Two Christians Recently Arrested for Blasphemy

Sources: CLAAS, AsiaNews, UCA News, Voicepk.net, International Christian Concern

In two separate cases, Christian men in Punjab, Pakistan, have recently been charged with blasphemy. In both instances, family members and supporters are calling for transparent investigations and the implementation of proper judicial processes.

On August 11th, Christian labourer Amir Masih was arrested in the community of Dhala Sharif. This believer has been accused of sharing a video on social media that was perceived to compare Islam with Christianity. Questions have since been raised about whether the social media account used to publish the video genuinely belonged to Amir. Consequently, human rights advocates are calling for an independent review to verify the video's authenticity and origin. Due to security concerns, Amir's family was initially placed in protective custody before subsequently going into hiding. Several other Christian families residing within the community have also fled their homes to avoid mob violence.

In an unrelated case, Samuel Arif was accused of making derogatory remarks about the Islamic prophet Muhammad and the religious leader's third wife, Aisha. A Muslim man alleged that Samuel confronted his young daughters on the evening of August 28th, claiming that the prophet had instructed him to marry them, while also making critical comments about Muhammad and the young age of the Muslim founder's third wife at the time of marriage. When news of the alleged incident spread, a mob pursued and physically assaulted Samuel before police were able to intervene.

Samuel and his family deny the accusations, stating that the entire incident was fabricated. They believe that the allegations stem from a longstanding personal dispute between him and his accuser, Muhammad Umair Alam Khan. Human rights advocates report that blasphemy allegations are frequently weaponized in cases involving personal conflicts and grievances.

While cases such as these continue to occur in Pakistan, statistics indicate a significant decline in registered blasphemy accusations, with reported cases decreasing by approximately two-thirds thus far during 2026. Reports suggest that this trend may be linked to a government crackdown on hardline Islamic militant groups. However, observers note that these measures appear to be motivated primarily by international relations rather than an overall commitment to protecting personal and religious freedoms. To access previously published reports concerning Christian persecution in this South Asian nation, visit www.vomcanada.com/pakistan.htm.

- *Pray that the truth will come to light in both of these cases, and that God's wisdom and justice will guide all those involved in the legal proceedings.*
- *May Amir, Samuel, and their families – along with others who are encountering similarly challenging times of uncertainty and fear due to persecution – experience the Lord's divine protection, comfort and peace.*
- *In keeping with the recent decrease in blasphemy cases, ask God to continue ministering in and through the lives of Pakistan's governing authorities, stirring them to diligently work for the benefit of all the nation's various people groups.*

NIGERIA: Crackdown on Unauthorized Sharia Police

Sources: International Christian Concern, The Guardian, This Day

The governor of Nigeria's Plateau State, Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has raised concerns about a group attempting to enforce Sharia law in the state without official authorization. In response, authorities have initiated measures to stop the group's activities.

In northern Nigeria, 12 states have enacted Sharia law and established religious police, known as Hisbah, to enforce Islamic law among Muslim citizens. A recent *Persecution & Prayer Alert* report highlighted a specific case that had recently taken place in Kano State as a result of the enforced law, where members of the Hisbah Corps brought charges against a Christian woman despite lacking the authority to do so. (See www.vomcanada.com/ng-2026-09-03.htm for details.)

Unlike many northern states, Sharia law has not been instituted in Plateau State, where Christians make up the majority of the population. Despite this, a group began operating as self-appointed Hisbah police, reportedly harassing residents, demanding money from them, and imposing rules and restrictions without any legal authority. Upon learning about these abusive activities, Governor Mutfwang warned those involved to cease their actions or face arrest and prosecution. Security agencies have been instructed to identify those responsible and ensure that residents are protected from harassment, intimidation and coercion.

This development comes amid ongoing religious tensions and insecurity in Nigeria, where Christian communities frequently encounter brutal attacks from militant Islamic groups. Over the years, thousands of innocent Nigerians have lost their lives due to such violence. For more information, including informative video interviews, go to www.vomcanada.com/nigeria.htm.

- *Please pray for the many followers of Christ in Nigeria who are presently experiencing intimidation, discrimination and threats of violence from Islamic militants and vigilante groups, asking God to daily strengthen, protect and encourage them.*
- *Ask the Lord to minister His peace, healing and comfort to those who are mourning the loss of loved ones who had been slain during previously occurring attacks, praying that His presence will continue to sustain them in the midst of their sorrow.*
- *Intercede on behalf of Nigeria's governing leaders, in hopes they would consistently promote justice, protect the rights of all citizens, and administer diplomatically to ensure peace and security are being rightly upheld within their communities.*

ALGERIA: Christians Receive Differing Court Outcomes

Sources: Morning Star News, VOM USA

The House of Refuge, a ministry located in the community of L'Ayaida (or “El Ayaida”), Oran province, serves as a haven and restoration centre for vulnerable women and their families. The facility formerly included a worship hall, which was shut down by authorities in 2019. Since that time, Christians have continued to meet for worship in apartments located on the premises.

On September 4th, special police forces raided the site with a warrant. During the operation, 12 believers were arrested. In addition, their Christian literature, mobile phones and identity cards were seized. During detainment, these dedicated followers of Jesus were interrogated, some until late the following night. Although all of them were eventually released from custody, and have not yet appeared before a prosecutor, they may still face charges under laws governing non-

Muslim worship. If convicted, the Christians could receive fines and prison sentences of up to five years.

In a separate development, a court recently dismissed the cases involving 10 other Algerian Christians, each of whom had faced the possibility of significant jail time. Instead, they were individually required to pay fines of approximately \$1,000 CAD. In response to the dismissal, a Christian ministry worker stated, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lord, our God, for answering our prayers and being favourable to the prayers of all His saints."

Over recent years, Christians in Algeria have been subjected to consistent restrictions and pressure from governing authorities. Nearly all places of worship affiliated with the Protestant Church of Algeria have been ordered to close. To review previously published reports addressing the various challenges encountered by believers in this restricted North African nation, go to www.vomcanada.com/algeria.htm.

- *Praise God for the encouraging outcome in the cases of the 10 believers whose charges were dismissed, thanking Him for His faithfulness in answering the prayerful petitions of His people.*
- *May the recently arrested Christians likewise be acquitted from any formal charges and, while awaiting further developments, may they be filled with God's peace, wisdom and assurance of the Holy Spirit's advocacy on their behalf.*
- *Continue to remember other believers throughout Algeria who are presently facing legal challenges, restrictions or imprisonment because of their faith in Christ, asking the Lord to continually strengthen, encourage and sustain each one of them.*

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