Persecution & Prayer Alert

Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, October 29, 2026

"Persecution is simply the clash between two irreconcilable value systems."
~ John Stott

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP)

November 1st, 2026

This coming 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.

Emphaszing importance of prayer for the persecuted church, Floyd Brobbel, CEO for Voice of the Martyrs Canada, stated: "IDOP should be an important date on every church calendar. On this day, Christians across Canada set aside time to pray intentionally for their persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. Through intercession, we ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen and sustain them for the sake of Christ, providing for their every spiritual and physical need. We also pray in solidarity with them, seeking the grace to remain obedient to God's will when we face suffering for His name, so that He may be glorified through our lives."

For informative promotional materials, prayer resources, and helpful ways in which you can participate, see www.idop.ca.

JORDAN: Mass Shooting Attack at Funeral Service
Sources: International Christian Concern, Al Jazeera, CBS News, The Associated Press, Deutsche Welle, France 24

On October 23rd, nine people were killed and dozens more injured when gunmen opened fire during a Christian funeral service in Hamoud, a village located within the Karak governorate of Jordan. Video footage verifies that at least three assailants began shooting as they approached the church building. At the time of publishing this report, no group has claimed responsibility for the widely condemned attack. Jordan's national political leader, King Abdullah II, promised that those responsible for committing these crimes will face the "harshest penalties."

During a subsequent raid by the Jordanian military on October 26th, three suspected perpetrators of the funeral service shooting were consequently arrested. All three suspects were wounded during the operation; one of them sustaining critical injuries. The assailants, identified as two brothers and a relative by marriage, were referred to by governing officials as "Islamic extremists."

That same night, Jordanian forces carried out retaliatory strikes in southern Syria, specifically targeting locations they claimed were linked to Islamic State terrorists. While the military reports that more than 20 militants were killed in the strikes, it acknowledges the loss of civilian lives as well. Tragically, three children were among the list of casualties.

The Karak region is home to a significant community of professing followers of Christ. Although Islam is the official religion of Jordan, the country has generally been considered a safe place for its Christian minority. To learn more about this Southwest Asian nation, visit our country profile at www.vomcanada.com/jordan.htm.

- ***Please uphold all those who have tragically lost loved ones in both recent attacks, praying that they will experience God's comfort, strength, peace and hope in the days ahead through the reassuring presence of the Holy Spirit.***
- ***Ask the Lord to also provide needed healing to the innocent civilians who were wounded during the attacks, restoring them both physically and emotionally as they recover from the traumatic incidents.***
- ***May the Lord also minister to the terrorists who were responsible for instigating the attacks by softening their hearts, drawing them to repentance, and eternally changing the trajectory of their lives.***
- ***Pray that the tensions resulting from these violent incidents will not escalate further and that God will ultimately bring about lasting peace and stability throughout the region.***

CHINA: School Children and Educators Interrogated
Source: ChinaAid

The ongoing crackdown on unregistered churches in Hunan Province has led China's Communist authorities to target schools by questioning and disciplining both students and their educators.

Local Christians report that these expanded interrogations have taken place in primary and secondary schools, as well as universities.

At the Hunan Institute of Technology, one instructor has been suspended from her duties and placed on standby status. Another teacher, concerned over the political group's intense opposition to Christianity, was suspended after requesting that his membership with the Communist Party be withdrawn.

In several primary and secondary schools in Yueyang, children from Christian families were questioned by Communist Party officials. Some of the interrogations lasted for three to four hours, during which time the students were pressured to sign documents accusing the churches of religious "brainwashing." Even first-grade students were among the young children interrogated.

As a result, many Christian parents have become increasingly concerned about sending their children to school. However, homeschooling presents its own challenges, as it remains subject to significant government restrictions and scrutiny. These increased pressures follow a series of coordinated raids carried out in Yueyang on July 11th. For more details about these incidents, see www.vomcanada.com/cn-2026-08-13.htm.

- ***Pray that these believers and their children will be protected from fear, and that their faith in Christ will continue to grow despite pressure from those in governing authority.***
- ***As Christian parents throughout China consider the best course of action for their children's education, may they not only receive God's wisdom, guidance and discernment, but also His divine protection over their families.***
- ***Prayerfully ask the Lord to encourage and provide for educators who have suffered the loss of employment because of their faithfulness to Christ, opening new doors of opportunity and strengthening them in their witness.***

CUBA: Pastor Detained Following Cancelled Prayer Event
Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Pastor Maikel Pupo Velázquez leads an unregistered church in Camagüey City. The Cuban church leader had also been instrumental in organizing a large prayer event that was scheduled to take place at the Cándido Gonzalez Morales Stadium on September 26th. However, police warned him to call off the Christian meeting, stating that he could face imprisonment if anyone gathered at the site.

In response to the warning, and out of concern for those planning to attend, the event was cancelled. However, Pastor Maikel wanted to ensure that any young people possibly arriving at the stadium, due to their unawareness of the cancellation, were duly informed. As he approached the venue to encourage possible attendees to disperse, state security officers arrested him and charged him with "disobedience."

Although he was previously detained in 2025 for delivering aid to the families of two political prisoners, Pastor Maikel has remained actively involved in ministry outreach by leading Cuban youth to faith in Christ. Additional reports addressing the challenges encountered by Christians in Cuba are available at www.vomcanada.com/cuba.htm.

- ***Pray that Pastor Maikel will soon be released from detention and reunited with the concerned members of his family and church community.***
- ***While upholding this faithful pastor's family, please specifically pray for the healing of his daughter who is experiencing various health challenges.***
- ***In the meantime, may the Lord wonderfully sustain these Cuban believers, providing for their spiritual/practical needs and drawing them even closer to Himself relationally.***
- ***As a result, may these believers be further strengthened and encouraged, seizing every opportunity to reflect Christ's love through their words and actions.***

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