

Prayer for the Persecuted Church February 9, 2018

From International Christian Concern (ICC)

<http://info.persecution.org/newsbites-February-9>

Church Leaders in Sudan Fined for Defending Church

2/7/18 Sudan (Morning Star News)

Seven church leaders in Sudan have been fined for defending a church's school property from Muslim businesses that are illegally trying to take over the land. The leaders say that the land belongs to the church and has for many years. A government-appointed committee that has no legal authority over the church has said that they have sold the land. These leaders, along with more than a dozen others, were forced to go to court for their attempts to block the business. This shows continued human rights abuses by the Sudanese regime.

Pray for these church leaders to maintain rightful ownership over their property.

Pray for the courts to carry out justice on behalf of these Christian leaders.

Pray for the Muslim businesses to see the light of Christ through these church leaders.

Priests Protecting Hospital in India Illegally Charged

2/4/18 India (UCAN)

Four priests of Ujjain Diocese were charged with rioting and criminal intimidation for resisting an attempt by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the pro-Hindu party that runs the state government, from taking over land in front of a Catholic Church-run hospital. The controversy revolves around a plot of land neighboring Pushpa Mission Hospital, given for use as a parking area. As priests and hospital staff created a human shield to block a bulldozer and called police, the crowd began to throw stones at the hospital until police arrived.

Pray for justice as the Madhya Pradesh High Court reviews charges and declares property boundaries.

Pray for unfair charges to be overturned and order restored.

Pray for peace and protection for hospital staff and the priests as they serve at the hospital.

Egypt Church Guard Killed by Snipers

2/3/18 Egypt (Wataninet)

While guarding the church of Abu-Seifein, a recruit soldier named Adham Saber lost his life to sniper fire on Wednesday, January 31. Worship at most churches in Arish has been terminated by violence as most of the town's Coptic congregation has left the area. Jihadist terrorists have continued to use Arish as a battleground ever since the Muslim Brotherhood came to power. Copts are the favorite targets for terrorists and fundamentalists who are well-stocked with weapons due to the proximity of Arish to the Egypt-Gaza border, where arms smuggling is rampant.

Pray for terrorists to experience continual difficulties with illegal arms smuggling.

Pray for protection for Coptic Christians seeking refuge after being forced to flee from their homes.

Pray for wisdom and discernment as these Christians live out their faith in difficult circumstances.

Rebels in CAR Execute Hospital Patients

2/3/18 CAR (AllAfrica)

Doctors Without Borders shared the grim details of rebel groups shooting inside medical facilities and dragging patients from their hospital beds. Frederic Lai Manatsoa, Doctors Without Borders' Head of Mission in CAR, recounted treating patients who had been shot, stabbed, beaten, and burned. He reported witnessing the civilian population subjected to incredible levels of violence. Doctors have been forced to flee the area, which has left wounded civilians with meager access to means of medical care.

Pray for hospitals to be given protection to continue working without violent intrusion.

Pray for government officials to have strategies to protect civilians and establish safe areas.

Pray for healing for the wounded, and that they will be assured of God's presence despite difficult circumstances.

Attack on Medical Facilities in Syria Damage Hospital

2/2/18 Syria (BBC)

A Thursday airstrike in a rebel-held part of central Syria resulted in damage to an underground hospital in Hama province which serves a population of 50,000 people. The Al Maghara cave hospital in the town of Kafr Zita was regarded as the most secure hospital in Syria, built under 60 feet of rock, and provided last-chance medical care for many Syrians in need. Workers say it is the worst in a wave of attacks against hospitals in Syria. The UN says that aid is no longer getting through to besieged areas.

Pray for God's protection for medical staff as they continue to administer God's love, healing, and care.

Pray for evacuations to continue to be successful and for safe places to be established.

Pray for repairs to facilities; for aid and supplies to reach those in need.

Christians Killed During Gov't Air Raids

2/2/18 Nigeria (WWM)

The Director of Amnesty International Nigeria recently detailed the government's reckless use of deadly force by the Nigerian military involving five villages in the country's Adamawa State. Fighter jets sent by the Nigerian Air Force fired rockets at villages where Fulani herdsman were attacking Christian residents. Amnesty published photos of scorched homes and locals provided the agency with the names of people who were reportedly killed that day. A month after the barrage, the area still resembles a combat zone.

Pray for wisdom for security agencies responding to these attacks.

Pray for the government to be proactive in protecting villagers from attacks.

Pray for God's peace for Christians affected by this tragedy and provision for their needs.

From the Voice of the Martyrs website:

<http://www.icommittoprayer.com>

Pray for Christians Sentenced to Prison on False Charges

Feb. 08, 2018 | China

On Jan. 16, a court in Lincang, located in China's southern Yunnan province, sentenced Ju Dianhong and Liang Qin to 13 years and 10 years in prison, respectively. The two believers, along with others who received shorter sentences, were convicted of participating in cult activity. These brothers and sisters are just the latest to be falsely linked to Three Grades of Servants, an organization that is viewed as a dangerous cult. In a recent government crackdown, about 200 Christians have been falsely accused of following the cult. Pray that Ju, Liang and the other believers will rest in the peace of Christ as they begin serving their sentences. Pray that their families will be cared for and will remember that their hope is in Jesus. Pray that the gospel will continue changing lives, even as the government seeks to intimidate believers.

Pray for Christians Suffering from Recent Attacks

Feb. 08, 2018 | Nigeria

On Jan. 16, Fulani herdsmen attacked the village of Kitibu, Taraba state, in northern Nigeria, killing more than 100 people. They burned more than 1,000 homes, some with people still inside, and many people are still missing. Most of the village's 7,000 residents are now scattered throughout Taraba state in camps for internally displaced people. This is the latest attack in a wave of similar raids carried out recently by Fulani herdsmen and members of Boko Haram. Pray for the comfort of those who lost family members and friends. Pray that those who lost homes and businesses will find permanent shelter and sources of income. Pray that those who carried out these attacks will repent of their sin and follow Jesus.

Pray for the Family of a Murdered Burmese Christian

Feb. 08, 2018 | Myanmar

"Than," a 37-year-old Christian father of five, was brutally murdered by unknown attackers recently. His wife, Aung, discovered his body on the side of the road, covered in blood, as she returned from collecting firewood for cooking. Than's killers had slit his wrists, stabbed him in the chest and beat him severely. In early 2017, a villager known to hate Christians told Than's family that it wasn't wise for them to live in the animist village. And about a month before his murder, several members of the Palaung Army had visited the village several times and questioned villagers. The soldiers tried to get Than to buy drugs for them, but he refused. The family has been shunned ever since Than and Aung accepted Christ and were baptized in 2008. Pray that God will meet the needs of Than's family and that they will remain firm in their faith. Also pray that members of the community will witness their faith as Christ sustains them during this time.

From Open Doors Prayer Calendars:

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/take-action/pray/monthly-prayer-calendar/>

February 9 | LEBANON

One of every 113 people on the earth is a refugee. One of every 5 people in Lebanon is a refugee, which is 1.4 million people. Please continue to pray for refugees in Lebanon to find safety and security and for the gospel to spread inside refugee camps.

February 10 | SRI LANKA

Praise the Lord for Pastor Rajamay!* He has committed to disciple and mentor young people from his village. Pray that he continues in faithfulness, and may the young people he'll be discipling be a blessing to their community.

February 11 | INDONESIA

Pray for the ongoing discipleship classes held by our partners all across the country. Project evaluation reports revealed a good impact on churches. There was an increased number of lay leaders and members as well as increased capacity of the leaders to disciple others.

February 12 | ETHIOPIA

Six young men recently converted from animism—praise God! They greatly upset their families, as it was seen as them turning their backs on their tribe. They were ostracized, so please pray for them as they endure this and pray for the salvation of their families.

February 13 | EAST AFRICAN ISLANDS

Indigenous Christians are very isolated and find it hard to fellowship or grow in their faith. Their families often greatly pressure them to abandon their faith. Pray they will be disciples and grow in their knowledge of Christ.

February 14 | LEBANON

Radio programs, TV and efforts through the internet are invaluable in our partners' efforts to disciple new believers. While it may be dangerous to meet in person, these believers can still learn and grow in their faith. Pray for these efforts to continue throughout the Arab world.

February 15 | MALI

In the center of the country, a few churches and chapels have suffered recent attacks. Christians were chased from their place of worship by gunmen shouting, "We will kill you if we see you still praying in the church." Please pray for the brothers and sisters here as they struggle to remain strong.