



Prayer for the Persecuted Church for September 23, 2022

Pray for imprisoned or kidnapped Christians

CHRISTIANS IN PRISON: *This list is only a sample: ALGERIA: Hamid Soudad; CHINA: Pastors John Cao, Yan Hwa, Hu Shigen, Goa Zhisheng, Wang Yi and Qin Derfu, Hao Zhiwei, Zhang Shaojie, Li Juncai, Alimujiang Yimiti (Uyghur); IRAN: Naser Navard Goltapeh, Yousef Nadarkhani, Sabeh Fadaee, Homayoun & Sara, Milad Goudarzi, Alireza Nourmohammadi; KAZAKHSTAN: Pastor Maximov; PAKISTAN: Zafar Bhatti; VIETNAM: Nguyen Nang Tinh, Nguyen Trung Ton*

KIDNAPPED VICTIMS: *Raymond Koh, Gilbert Biswas, Ken Elliot, Jeff Woodke, Leah Sharibu, (and hundreds of children), Sarah Atef, Joshua Hilmya & wife Ruth Sitepu, Hormoz Diril (in Turkey)*

From ICC:
<https://bit.ly/3xJHiUe>

India Calls on Pakistan to Stop Persecuting Religious Minorities

09/20/2022 India (ICC)

India called on Pakistan to stop its discriminatory practices against religious minorities during a session of the United Nations. While it's a good sign to bring justice to religious minorities in Pakistan, India is not without fault for their poor treatment of religious minorities.

- *HOW TO PRAY: Please pray for the better treatment of religious minorities in Pakistan.*
- *Please also pray for India to see the plank in its eye as they hypocritically treat religious minorities poorly.*
- *Pray for the abolishment of anti-conversion laws, and pray for Indian Christians who continue to be attacked for their faith in Christ.*

Catholic Church in Shan State Desecrated by the Junta

09/17/2022 Myanmar (ICC)

The Burmese Army continues to target churches as it fights local resistance forces in Christian-

majority states in Myanmar. According to local Catholics, the army occupied a predominately Catholic town. "Damage to the church, which is a holy place of God, is a result of being attacked by the devil," an exiled Myanmar priest said.

- *HOW TO PRAY: Pray for Christians in Myanmar who are displaced and living in areas of war yet gathering to worship despite not having a building.*
- *Pray for peace throughout the region.*

Imprisoned Yunnan Christian Faces Formal Arrest

09/18/2022 China (ICC)

Wang Shunping was detained last month now faces a formal arrest. Wang was taken away for "organizing an illegal gathering." That gathering, however, was a church group. Wang questions if he broke the law when he was doing Biblical teaching to children.

- *HOW TO PRAY: Pray for Wang Shunping as he awaits his formal arrest, and possible prolonged prison sentence.*
- *Pray for endurance and strength in his faith.*
- *Pray for all Christians, underground and out in the open, who endure in their faith despite the pressure from the communist regime.*

Al-Shabaab Terror Group Winning Hearts and Minds in Somalia

09/16/2022 Soma (ICC)

The Somalia-based terror group is providing basic services to citizens in a campaign that is beginning to gain them popular sympathy in the east-Africa country. Al-Shabaab is linked to the transnational al-Qaeda terror network and has grown in destructive power in recent years. The terrorist group is setting up its own legal system to address private citizens legal complaints. n required to work in dangerous conditions.

- *HOW TO PRAY: Pray for the Christians in Somalia who have lost their lives, lost loved ones, and lost their homes and belongings at the hands of al-Shabaab.*
- *Pray for the demise of the terrorist group.*

From Voice of the Martyrs

<https://www.icommittoprayer.com>

Sep. 22, 2022 | Nepal

Solitary Christian Alone No More

Amar Mandal had been the only Christian in his village in Nepal. Even though his family opposes him and he faces rejection by the community, he is faithful and bold in his witness. “If I don’t share the gospel with my villagers, I will be always alone,” he said. “I am continuously sharing the gospel to other villagers so that when people come to know Lord Jesus, I will have Christian company.” His prayers have been answered: Four people in his village have come to faith this year through his witness.

- *Amar asks for prayer that these new believers will be strengthened and will mature in their faith through listening to the audio Bibles they receive so that they will be bold witnesses in the community.*
- *He also requests prayer for his wife, who is struggling under spiritual oppression and attack.*

Sep. 22, 2022 | Arabian Peninsula

Christian Father Requests Prayer for Muslim Children

Ghadi became a follower of Christ and married a woman who also claimed to be a recent convert to Christianity. But several years into their marriage, she returned to her Islamic faith and her family, known to be radical Muslims. She then divorced Ghadi on the grounds that he was an apostate — a person who has illegally left the Muslim faith into which he was born. She took custody of their children and accused him of hurting them to limit his contact with them. Ghadi fled the country, broken-hearted because of her accusations. He recently had the opportunity to visit his children, who are now following Islam.

- *Ghadi worries that they are on the path to becoming radical Muslims, and he asks for prayers for them, especially his teenage son.*

Sep. 22, 2022 | Burkina Faso

Christian in Coma After Beating

Simon became a Christian after receiving an audio Bible and listening to God’s Word. He was raised in a family that practices a form of fetish worship common in Burkina Faso. As the eldest son in his family, Simon was expected to lead the burial ceremony following the recent death of his father. As a Christian, Simon did not want to lead or participate in the animal sacrifices typically required in these traditional services. Still, he wanted to help bury his father. When he arrived at the funeral, his family and village would not allow him to participate and started beating Simon’s wife. She escaped into the bush with their child, but Simon was beaten unconscious.

- *He is still in a coma at a local hospital, and the whereabouts of his wife and child remain unknown.*

From Voice of the Martyrs Global Prayer Guide
<https://bit.ly/3fe674c>

Global Prayer Guide

COUNTRY FOCUS: TAJIKISTAN

OVERVIEW:

Since 2008, the government has revoked the registration of most churches in Tajikistan, and unregistered churches must meet covertly. Economic hardship in the nation has forced many pastors and church leaders to seek work in Russia to support their families. Tajikistan lacks basic infrastructure, while corruption and the opium trade compound its difficulties.

MAJOR RELIGION:

Nearly all Tajiks are Sunni Muslims. Fewer than one-half of 1 percent are Christians.

PERSECUTOR:

Christian converts from Islam are persecuted by family members, and unregistered churches are increasingly harassed by the government.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN TAJIKISTAN:

New Christian converts receive the harshest treatment. Believers are sometimes beaten and abused, and they are frequently summoned for questioning by the secret police. Many churches meet openly, but government informants are often in attendance. It is illegal to teach children about Christ. The government restricts evangelism and the distribution of Christian literature, which it considers “extremist literature.”

ACCESS TO BIBLES:

Bibles are available only in select cities, making them scarce and difficult for some believers to access.

VOM WORK:

VOM provides Bibles, Christian literature and other resources and ministry tools to equip believers for outreach.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Pray for President Emomali Rahmon and the government.

Pray for the training of future Tajik church leaders.

Pray for the courage and protection of those translating the Bible into local languages.

Pray for the health of Tamara, a widow whose husband was killed for being a pastor.

Pray for Pastor Kholmatov, released from prison in December 2019, and his family.

Pray for those who might be imprisoned for teaching Bible stories to children.

Pray for outreach efforts to unreached people in the Pamir Mountains.

From Barnabas Aid

<https://bit.ly/3BwDtm>

Daily Prayer Guide

Friday 23 September 2022

Intercede for three Pakistani Christian men convicted of “blasphemy” who are facing the death penalty. Ashfaq Masih, who was arrested for alleged “blasphemy” in 2017, was convicted and sentenced to death in July 2022 for “defiling the name” of Muhammad, the prophet of Islam. In a separate case the previous month, brothers Qasir and Amoon Ayub, who were sentenced to death for alleged “blasphemy” against Muhammad in 2018, had their convictions and death sentences upheld by an appeal court.

- *Pray that these decisions will be overturned, and that Ashfaq, Qasir and Amoon will find comfort in knowing that they share in the suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Saturday 24 September 2022

Praise God for steps taken in Pakistan to protect the rights of Christians and other religious minorities. The government of this Muslim-majority country has appointed a Hindu, Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, to oversee

a task force dedicated to implementing the rights of Pakistan's minority communities.

- *“I am pleased the government has taken this initiative,” a Pakistani pastor told Barnabas Aid. “Let us pray it will bring positive results for Christians and other religious minorities in Pakistan.”*

Sunday 25 September 2022

Father God, we give You thanks for the provision through Barnabas Aid of Christian schools in Pakistan. Many parents there are unable to afford schooling for their children. Those young Christians who attend free schools provided by the government face often face harassment and blatant discrimination for their faith in Your Son. Thank You that more than 11,000 children are able to attend affordable schools with a commitment to the Christian faith.

- *We pray that these schools will be used mightily to sustain the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ in Pakistan, for we ask it in His precious Name.*

Monday 26 September 2022

“What do you hope to achieve with this?” asked Deborah Samuel as an angry mob of Muslim extremists dragged her to her death. Deborah, a Christian student in Sokoto State, Nigeria, had been accused of making “derogatory comments” about Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, by her fellow students. The mob of Muslim students and local men stoned and clubbed her to death, then set her body on fire. The arrest of two suspects led to riots in Sokoto, in which Muslims looted shops and attacked church buildings.

- *Pray that God will restrain the hand of those who seek the death of His people in Nigeria, and give thanks that they can never achieve their aim of defeating Christ and His Church.*

Tuesday 27 September 2022

Give thanks for the release of three church leaders in Nigeria who were abducted by gunmen in Abia State. Dr Samuel Kanu Uche, head of the Methodist Church of Nigeria, was travelling after leading Sunday worship when he was kidnapped. His chaplain, Abidemi Jeremiah Shittu, and the Bishop of Owerri, Dennis Mark, were also taken. All three men were released the following day.

- *Praise the Lord, our strength and shield, for hearing the voice of our supplications (Psalm 28:6-7). Ask for wisdom and guidance for the authorities that they will find a way to thwart the kidnap gangs who frequently target our brothers and sisters.*

Wednesday 28 September 2022

The terrorist group Islamic State (IS – also known as ISIS, ISIL, Daesh) have released a video showing the murder of 20 Nigerian Christians in an unknown location. The victims were shown kneeling with their hands tied before each one was killed.

- *Pray that the Lord will thwart the deadly plans of IS and other Islamists in Nigeria, across Africa and throughout the world. Ask that the relatives and friends of the victims will be comforted, and that persecution and distress endured for the sake of Christ will serve only to strengthen His servants (2 Corinthians 12:10).*

Thursday 29 September 2022

Praise the Lord that two women, Hauwa Joseph and Mary Dauda, who were among hundreds of schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram terrorists from the Nigerian town of Chibok eight years ago, have been found within days of each other. Each woman was carrying a baby in her arms. Mary, who was 18 when she was abducted, managed to escape from her husband, a Boko Haram fighter whom she was forced to marry. Hauwa, who was only nine when taken captive,

had recently been forced to marry, but had nobody to look after her after her husband was killed in a military raid. Ask the Lord to heal both women from the physical, spiritual and emotional trauma of their ordeal.

- *Pray that they will be reunited with their loved ones and that their needs, and the needs of their children, will be met. Intercede for more than 100 Chibok girls still unaccounted for, their whereabouts unknown.*

Friday 30 September 2022

“I thank the Lord who brought me out of darkness and Barnabas who brought me out of ignorance and rehabilitated me,” said Abdoulaye, a Senegalese Christian convert, who became disabled after contracting polio as a child. “Now I see myself as a man and not as a sub-human.” In Muslim-majority Senegal, having a disabled child is seen as shameful, a “curse” caused by “evil spirits”. Disabled children have no opportunity to go to school or find work. Barnabas enabled six disabled converts to escape from begging by helping them to become self-sufficient. They received training in shoemaking and equipment to start up in business.

- *Give thanks that this work has been such an encouragement to Abdoulaye and others*

*From Catholic New agency:
<https://bit.ly/3xJLTp4>*

This Muslim NBA vet is marching for persecuted Christians

Former Celtics player Enes Kanter Freedom will be the keynote speaker at the March for the Martyrs,

By Joe Bukuras

Boston, Mass., Sep 3, 2022 / 08:00 am

NBA veteran Enes Kanter Freedom has been using his platform as a professional basketball player to take direct aim at the Chinese Communist Party for its egregious human

rights abuses.

“People need to understand this ... the Chinese Communist Party does not represent the Olympic values of excellence, of respect, of friendship. The whole world knows that they’re a brutal dictatorship and they engage in censorship, they tread on freedoms, they do not respect human rights, and they hide the truth,” Freedom told Fox News’ Laura Ingraham in February.

But with no team signing a contract with the 6-foot-10, 250-pound center since February, he, and others, say that he’s paying the price for his activism — activism that includes explicitly calling out the NBA, his former team the Boston Celtics, and other players in the league for hypocrisy, citing their relationship with, and failure to condemn, China.

The 30-year-old seems more determined than ever to work in defense of human rights.

Freedom, a practicing Muslim from Turkey, will be speaking on September 24 at the March for the Martyrs in Washington D.C., an event dedicated to raising awareness of the plight of persecuted Christians around the world.

“His voice in this generation is so important,” said Gia Chacon, founder and president of For the Martyrs, the organization running the march. Chacon told CNA Aug. 25 that Freedom “had the world at his fingertips,” but added that he “sacrificed everything to advocate on behalf of the voiceless.”

Chacon said that the March for the Martyrs exists to “combat the silence” around the issue of Christian persecution. In addition, its goal is to bring the attention and prayers of Western Christians to the persecuted church across the globe.

But why did Chacon choose a Muslim to speak at an event advocating for persecuted Christians?

She says it’s because a bridge needs to be built between Muslims and Christians.

“For him to speak about persecuted Christians; to talk about the importance of freedom of religion makes this issue that much more powerful,” she said.

“And,” she added, “it’s a message to Muslims — not just in the United States, but around

the world — that we need to build a bridge between Christians and Muslims,” especially given that Islamist terrorists are among the top persecutors of Christians around the world.

This won't be Freedom's first speaking engagement for religious freedom. He spoke at the International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington, D.C. in June.

Freedom also recently launched his foundation — the Enes Kanter Freedom Foundation — in June, which according to the Washington Times, advocates for civil rights in authoritarian countries like China and Turkey. The Times reported that Freedom will be taking on the foundation's work full-time.

In a June 22 Facebook post, Freedom said “I'm so excited to announce my new foundation that aims to promote #Freedom, Universal Values, Social Harmony, Poverty Alleviation #HumanRights & #Democracy around the GLOBE.” On Freedom's website, there is a page to donate to the foundation.

Freedom was born in Switzerland and raised in Turkey, before coming to the U.S. to play basketball. He was drafted by the Utah Jazz as the third overall pick in the 2011 NBA draft and made his debut that same year.

The Bleacher Report recently called him one of the most underrated players of the last ten years citing his top ten performance in career rebounding and offensive rebounding, plus his general awareness on the court.

Freedom is a long-time critic of Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, often calling him a dictator. Although his family still lives in Turkey, Freedom has said in past interviews that he hasn't spoken to them in years, which hurts him. But he says that communication must be cut off because of the political climate there and his criticism of the regime.

While he was with the New York Knicks, Freedom said in 2019 that he skipped a team trip to London because he feared being killed, while calling the Turkish president a “freaking lunatic” and a “dictator.”

Other speakers at the March for the Martyrs event include Chacon; David Curry, president and CEO of Open Doors USA; Esther Zang, a

survivor of Christian persecution in China and North Korea; Jacob Coyne, founder of Stay Here, an organization dedicated to ending the mental health crisis and suicide; Fr. Simon Esshaki, a Chaldean Catholic priest; Jason Jones, a filmmaker, humanitarian, and founder of the Vulnerable People Project; Shane Winnings, CEO and President of Overcomers Inc., an evangelical organization that helps Christians preach and teach the Gospel; Russel Johnson, pastor of The Pursuit church; and Ryan Helfenbein, executive director of the Standing for Freedom Center.

Delivering another keynote address will be evangelical pastor Andrew Brunson, who worked to spread Christianity in the Middle East for years before he was imprisoned in Turkey for two years.

His experience as a pastor in the Middle East, in addition to his imprisonment, will be the topic of his speech, Chacon said.

As many as 1,000 people are expected at this year's march, which begins at 3 p.m. with an opening rally before moving from the National Mall to the nearby Museum of the Bible. A new addition to this year's event includes free bussing for any group of 50 people located three or four hours from the march.

The buses will pick the groups up and drop them off at the end of the night, Chacon said. Groups interested can email contact@forthemartyrs.com.

From Religious News Service
<https://bit.ly/3S7Yyuh>

American Christians gather in solidarity to MARCH FOR THE MARTYRS as global persecution intensifies

Open Doors USA
September 19, 2022

By RNS Press Release Distribution Service
WASHINGTON — Christians from across America will unite on September 24, 2022, at the National Mall in Washington D.C., for the

third annual MARCH FOR THE MARTYRS. The movement, which was founded by the organization For the Martyrs, aims to raise awareness of Christian persecution while giving believers an opportunity to stand in solidarity with those suffering for their faith.

According to persecution watchdog Open Doors' World Watch List, one in seven Christians around the world—360 million—face high levels of persecution for their faith. That number has grown by 20 million believers in the last year as the situation for Christians in countries like Afghanistan, North Korea and Nigeria continues to deteriorate.

Attendees will gather on the National Mall on September 24th, at 3:00 p.m. EST for the opening rally, immediately followed by the march at 4:00 p.m. A Night of Prayer for the Persecuted will take place at 5 p.m. at the Museum of the Bible.

“We are on a mission to combat silence in the media and within the Church that has turned a blind eye to persecuted Christians who are suffering for the faith,” said Gia Chacón, founder of For the Martyrs. “As members of the body of Christ, persecuted Christians deserve our prayers and need our voice. There is an unabashed increase in the violence toward Christians and as long as they are in danger or suffering for their faith, we will be present raising awareness and advocating for them.”

Human rights activist and former NBA-player Enes Kanter Freedom will headline the list of speakers at the event along with David Curry, CEO of Open Doors USA, Esther Zang, a survivor of persecution in China, and Andrew Brunson, a pastor who spent two years as a political prisoner in Turkey.

“Millions of our brothers and sisters around the world face harassment, physical harm and even death for their faith in Jesus,” said David Curry, Open Doors USA CEO. “We’re excited to partner with Gia and MARCH FOR THE MARTYRS, to pray for, and speak out on behalf of those who are suffering for

Christ.”

MARCH FOR THE MARTYRS is the first movement of its kind in solidarity with the persecuted Church that draws together powerful voices who give testimony, education, prayer and witness for persecuted Christians around the world. The march is organized by For the Martyrs, a non-profit organization that seeks to raise awareness about the crisis of Christian Persecution, advocate for Religious Freedom, and provide aid to suffering Christians around the world.

Visit www.forthemartyrs.com for more information and to register for the event.