



Prayer for the Persecuted Church for April 26, 2024

Prayer for the Persecuted Church: Our Best Practices

Our focus in this hour is on prayer for the global church, not ourselves or our local issues. We can talk and even pray for those other things after prayer meeting is over at 1:00 p.m.

We strive to start our prayers by 12:10.

We are blessed to have a growing number of praying people join us. Let's all offer short prayers throughout our prayer time, allowing time for everyone to pray out loud if they wish. We are blessed by prayers when we can hear them, but silent prayers from our people are as valued as spoken ones.

Thank you for praying for the persecuted church. Encourage friends to pray, too!

Pray for imprisoned or kidnapped Christians

CHRISTIANS IN PRISON: This list is only a sample: CAMBODIA: Theary Seng; CHINA: Li Jie, Hang Xiaodong, Wang Qiang; John Cao, Yan Hwa, Goa Zhisheng, Wang Yi; Hao Zhiwei, Zhang Shaojie, Li Juncai, Lian Xu Liang; ERITREA: Meron Gebreselasie, Mussia Ezas, Dr. Kifly Gebremeskel, Kidane Weldou, Haile Nayzgi; INDIA: Pastor Sawan; KAZAKHSTAN: Pastor Maximov; NORTH KOREA: Zhang Wen Shi PAKISTAN: Zafar Bhatti; VIETNAM: Nguyen Nang Tinh, Nguyen Trung Ton

KIDNAPPED VICTIMS: Raymond Koh, Gilbert Biswas, Leah Sharibu, Sarah Atef, Joshua Hilmya & wife Ruth Sitepu, Hormoz Diril.

From International Christian Concern

12 Dead, Scores Injured After ADF Strikes Again

04/19/2024 DRC (ICC)

The Islamist militant group Allied Democratic Forces conducted another attack last week in Beni, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), killing 12 and injuring several others. During the attack, the rebels decapitated farmers and burned others along with their possessions. Christophe Munyaderu, coordinator of a local human rights organization, said the Islamists also took seven people as hostages.

- *HOW TO PRAY: Pray for the immediate return of those who remain missing.*
- *Pray for healing for those who were injured.*
- *Pray for peace and comfort for those who lost loved ones.*

Priest Shot During Sermon in Northern Myanmar

04/17/2024 Myanmar (ICC)

On April 12, two masked gunmen shot Catholic priest Paul Hkwi Shane Aung three times as he preached a sermon at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Myanmar's Kachin state. Aung was shot in the jaw, hand, and thigh, but survived the attempted murder. He remains in serious condition at a local hospital. The gunmen fled the scene and have not been identified.

- *HOW TO PRAY: Pray for healing for Paul Hkwi Shane Aung.*
- *Pray for his attackers to be identified and held responsible.*
- *Pray for his attackers to come to know the love of Christ.*

Hindu Nationalism Becomes a Growing Threat in Nepal

04/19/2024 Nepal (ICC)

Unlike Christians in neighboring India, believers in Nepal have, until recently, been more protected from state-sanctioned discrimination. However, the tide is turning as the persecution familiar to Indian Christians slowly bleeds across the border. Some evidence suggests that funds have been sent directly from the pro-Hindu nationalists who control India into Nepal, resulting in increased violence against religious minorities.

- *HOW TO PRAY: Pray for Christians in Nepal to remain firm in their faith.*
- *Pray for the gospel to spread despite the increasing harassment.*
- *Pray for protection for Christian leaders in Nepal.*

Knife Attack Livestreamed During Service in Australia

04/17/2024 Australia (ICC)

Australian police have determined an attack on April 15 in Sydney was an act of terrorism. Since the incident occurred during a live-streamed worship service, footage of the stabbing that injured Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel, Father Isaac Royel, and two worshippers quickly went viral online. Police arrested a 16-year-old boy who indicated that he had a religious motive for the attack.

- *HOW TO PRAY: Pray for healing for those who were injured.*
- *Pray for the young attacker to come to know Christ.*
- *Pray for protection for this church from further violence.*

From Voice of the Martyrs

Global Prayer Guide

Bahrain

OVERVIEW:

This small island nation is located in one of the world's chief oil-producing regions, but it has relatively small petroleum resources. Therefore, its economy has long relied on processing crude oil from neighboring countries. Bahrain has experienced significant religious, political and economic tension, resulting mainly from the Sunni-Shiite division among its Muslim populace and its involvement in the global economy. This unrest, coupled with the faithful witness of indigenous Arab and immigrant Christian workers, has led to a season of openness and some response to the gospel among those indigenous to Bahrain.

MAJOR RELIGION:

Less than 1 percent of native Bahrainis are Christians; nearly all are Muslims. However, Christians among Bahrain's expatriate workers make up 8 percent of the population.

PERSECUTOR:

Families and local communities are the main persecutors, but the government occasionally imprisons or harasses a new Christian.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN BAHRAIN:

Christian converts from Islam often lose their jobs and social status, and many are rejected by their families. However, some still gather to worship in secret.

ACCESS TO BIBLES:

Bahrainis have limited access to the Bible through the internet and churches.

VOM WORK:

VOM supports evangelists who work throughout the Arabian Peninsula. We distribute Bibles and other Christian literature, and we support and encourage new believers who suffer for their faith.