VOICE OF THE CHRISTIANS
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An Initiative of Persecution Relief

JULY 22, 2018
2ND INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARTYRDOM DAY

For Private Circulation within the Church only
“And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”

Revelation 14:13

BIBLE

www.persecutionrelief.org
Dear Friends,

Persecution Relief commemorated the 2nd Indian Christian Martyrdom Day (ICMD) on 22nd of July 2018, to pray for the families of Martyrs & the Persecuted Church in India. As this day fell on a Sunday, we requested all Church’s, Bible Colleges & Christian Institutions to spare few minutes to Pray and educate the Church members about the event.

We take this opportunity to thank all of you, from several 100’s of Church’s, for your overwhelming response, joining hands with us in commemorating this unique annual event. This event created great awareness across the Church’s, Bible Colleges, Mission Organisations and Christian institutions in India.

To suffer death for the sake of Christ and His Gospel is a gift and an honour that glorifies Christ. The sacrifice of these families who have lost the dear ones, is great in the sight of the Lord; the remembrance of them will be pleasant, and the reward far above all their services and sufferings.

In the present times, the Church in India has a greater role and responsibility to play, in standing alongside the Persecuted brethren. For families, the pain of losing a loved one – for a mother who has lost her son, for a wife who has lost her husband and for a child who has lost a parent – the Church must continue to support and express solidarity to them, the body of Christ, irrespective of the denominations we belong.

The memory of these brothers and Sisters of Christ, must remain alive. Indeed, may it grow. May it be passed down from generation to generation that it may germinate a profound Christian revival’.

Thank you for being part of Persecution Relief family, coming alongside as the hands of Christ, to impact the lives and hearts of Martyr’s families and make ICMD – Indian Christian Martyrdom Day, a day to remember in the nation of India.
We acknowledge and honor your commitment and support.

God bless you

Shibu Thomas
Founder-PERSECUTION RELIEF
founder@persecutionrelief.org
22 July 2018

2nd INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARTYRDOM DAY

Persecution Relief Family are commemorating the 2nd Indian Christian Martyrdom Day (ICMD)

on Sunday, 22nd July, 2018, which is an Annual Event.

We appeal to all individuals, families, Church’s and Christian Communities to spare time, to remember and acknowledge the sacrifice of the Martyrs and to pray for their families.

“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it” - 1 Cor. 12: 26

Seek to live for Christ and to glorify His Name

PERSECUTION RELIEF FAMILY SALUTES THE MARTYRS FOR JESUS CHRIST

Persecution Relief has the honor & privilege of ‘adopting’ the families of Martyrs and providing livelihood support on a monthly basis

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JULY 22, 2018
2nd INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARTYRDOM DAY

PRAYER POINTS

For the Families of the Martyrs:

- Pray that our Heavenly Father and the sweet Holy Spirit, will comfort the Martyrs families and provide for them spiritually, physically & materially
- Pray for the parent, spouse and children as they grieve the Martyr’s loss; that God would provide grace for them to forgive and be free of bitterness or hate; strengthen, & encourage them as only He can, father to the fatherless
- Pray that God would surround the families with His angels and give them supernatural joy that comes from knowing that they will see the loved ones again in Your kingdom.
- Pray that the Martyr’s life would serve as a testimony and bring others to Jesus
- Pray that the people whose life he touched, while alive and through his courageous death, will continue to do the Lord’s work
- Pray that God will call the ‘murderers’ to Himself, to be His powerful witnesses. Open their eyes to see the salvation through Jesus Christ

For the Persecuted Church:

- Pray that the persecuted believers would know the love of God and the hope God gives
- Pray that God would raise up bold men and women to continue the ministry and fight the good fight
- Pray that God will continue to protect His precious servants, shield them with Peace and surround them with favour.
- Pray for persecuted Christians who have been imprisoned - for their early release; that the Holy Spirit would strengthen them
- Please pray for the persecuted believers to fearlessly tell others about Jesus
- Pray for Christians who have been rejected by family and friends. Pray that God would surround them with a new Christian “family” who loves them and supports them emotionally and physically.
RECAP - ICMD 2017
On 15TH July 2018, 1000’s of people gathered to remember the sacrifice of Pastor Sultan Masih’s death. Pastor Masih was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne assailants outside his residence. He was Pastor in-charge of the ‘The Temple of God Church’ in Slem Tabri locality in Ludhiana, in Punjab State.

The Christian Community Church Leaders, CNI Arch Bishop Most Rev. Tawara Singh, Pastor Kunju Koshy, IPC Secretary for the Punjab Region, Members of Parliament, Permanent member of the Supreme Court Ram Jethmalani, Cabinet Ministers and Punjab Church fraternity, were in attendance.

In the key note address by Founder, Bro. Shibu Thomas, the congregation were asked to forgive the murderers, to remember and pray specifically for the killers of Pastor Sultan Masih – that they would repent and come to the knowledge of the love of Jesus Christ. He also spoke on the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the suffering He faced for the sins of mankind.
First-Ever Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, Washington DC

July 24-25, 2018

The first-ever Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, three-day summit, by the U. S. Department of State, commenced on 24th July, 2018, bringing together leaders from more than 80 foreign governments, representatives from non-profit organizations, religious leaders, grassroots activists, and hundreds of civil society partners.

The singular focus: to promote and protect religious freedom around the world.

The Ministerial that convened in Washington, D.C. is testimony to the growing number of people awakening to the cherished importance of religious freedom. U.S. leadership in this effort is critical, and State Department officials are hopeful the Ministerial will set the tone for positive engagement with those who stand in support of international religious freedom and against oppressive state and non-state actors.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo affirmed this view in a recent interview: “Religious freedom is important for every citizen around the world and we want to bring everyone together to discuss how all faiths have the right — people, individuals — have the right to worship in the way that they choose, or if they choose not to. And every country ought to honor that.”

Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback has made it clear that the Ministerial will not be just a “talk shop.” Participating governments will be challenged to make new commitments that advance international religious freedom. Civil society groups and religious leaders will share expertise and best practices to link efforts and integrate with existing government policies and programs.
Securing religious freedom is a long game, and this week’s Ministerial is poised to provide some strategic gains. “We’ll have just three days here,” noted Secretary Pompeo. “But this will be a mission of the State Department every day.” Still, more committed players are needed — the church and private citizens — to ensure that this week’s activities are the starting line, not a finish line.

Founder, Persecution Relief was invited to this meeting. Church, please pray that this Ministerial would be a launching point for the transformation in religious freedom in India.

**REMARKS AT THE CLOSE OF THE MINISTERIAL ADVANCING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State, Dean Acheson Auditorium, Washington, DC

July 26, 2018

**SECRETARY POMPEO:**

Since the earliest days of his presidency, President Trump has directed his administration to advance and defend the rights of religious freedom at home and abroad, because religious freedom is a universal God-given right to which all people are entitled. It is also an essential building block for all free societies.

Ensuring religious freedom around the world is a key priority of the Trump administration’s foreign policy. To that end, today we concluded the first ever Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. The success of this event was truly unbelievable. The level of enthusiasm from partner groups and other governments was so high that I’ve already committed to doing this again, to holding the second ministerial a year from now.

This week, we were joined by more than 80 foreign delegations and religious leaders from all across the world who work closely with civil society groups, who are often on the frontlines of reporting and responding to cases of religious intolerance and persecution. I want to thank the dozens of ministerial-level foreign dignitaries that attended. I interact professionally with them every day in the course of diplomacy, but as a man of faith their presence this week was significant to me personally as well.

Two, we had survivors of religious persecution with us sharing their stories and driving home why this work is so important. The Vice President and I had a chance to sit with a number of them and hear their stories, to talk about why they were working in this field, why religious freedom meant so much to them.

And also, today, Vice President Pence gave a speech to bring attention to the plight of religious minorities of all faiths who are persecuted for what they believe, often by their own governments.

The Vice President also announced that in the coming months the United States Government will launch a Genocide Recovery and Persecution Response initiative. This is a diplomatic and assistance effort specifically focused on ensuring communities of faith and local organizations are part of the solution in recovering from atrocities.
While focused first on our ongoing response to the genocide committed by ISIS in Iraq, our hope is that this program will assist victims in many different places.

The department was also proud to host several other U.S. senior government officials to speak this week, including Senior Advisor to the President Jared Kushner, OMB Director Mick Mulvaney, and USAID Administrator Mark Green. And tonight, UN Ambassador Nikki Haley will be giving remarks.

We at the State Department are also undertaking several new initiatives to further the cause of religious freedom around the world. First, as the Vice President announced this morning, we’ve created an International Religious Freedom Fund. This is a joint fund with other nations that will support the work of religious freedom defenders and assist victims of religious persecution.

Second, we have created a new International Visitor Leadership Program to bring those working on the frontlines of religious freedom issues together, all different faiths from all around the world, to come to the United States. It’s a ten-day project and will focus on promoting religious pluralism and protecting the rights of religious minorities. If you are a champion of religious freedom, be on the lookout for announcements coming soon.

Third, in just a couple months, the State Department will host a three-day accelerated workshop called Boldline to support and scale innovative public-private partnerships that promote and defend religious freedom around the world. The open calls for proposals is now live on challenge.gov.

Fourth, we all know that persecution and violence aren’t constrained by borders. We look forward to announcements by several partner countries who have offered to host follow-up regional conferences to explore specific measures that whole regions can take to promote religious freedom.

And finally, in just a few moments, we’ll release the Potomac Declaration and the Potomac Plan of Action. The Potomac Declaration is a formal affirmation that says right up front that the United States takes religious freedom seriously, that we will work with others around the world to help those under attack for their beliefs, and that we expect leaders around the world to make it their priority as well. The plan of action provides concrete ways the international community and governments can do more to protect religious freedom and to protect vulnerable religious communities in their own countries.

In closing, I’d like to thank Ambassador Brownback and his staff for their work on this event. What you all have done to put this on is remarkable and an incredibly important moment in America’s support for religious freedom. I want to – I want also to commend the entire State Department for executing an event whose goal is ensuring the sacred right of every man, woman, and child to worship as they please. There is truly eternal significance in the work that we have done.

Source: www.state.gov/secretary/remarks
Adopt a persecuted family

Prayerline24.com
- Daily 6 to 6.45 pm (New York time)
- Dial +1-712-432-8273, access code 218618#

Oklahoma Prayer Line
Sunday 9 to 11 pm – Oklahoma time
Dial +1-605-562-3140, access code 217 648

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We were sleeping when the police came in at around 11 pm and forced open the door. They made him (Sanatan) stand in the veranda and kept an axe there. When I saw the axe, I asked the police: “Who kept the axe here?” recounted Badusi - wife of Sanatan Badamajhi, a labourer living in a one-room house in Parigado village.

“But they did not respond. They took him away along with the axe saying, he will return tomorrow,” she added.

Meanwhile, Nimantho Badamajhi, Sanatan’s elder brother, came out of his house hearing the commotion. But, police sent him back saying: “You go and sleep. Nothing will happen.”

Badusi later came to know that police had brought the axe from the house of Mukantho Mallick, a Hindu neighbour who had accompanied the police to identify Sanatan’s house.

“Later, Mukantho had been repeatedly complaining that the police took away his axe. I had only one axe and it is still in my house,” Badusi reiterated.

Days before his arrest, Badusi said, some of the Hindu village leaders had cautioned Sanatan that he would be arrested and asked him to go away.
On the day Swami was murdered (August 23), Sanatan had gone for community pasturing - to tend the 100 cattle and sheep of the entire village with 22 families - 16 Christian and 6 Hindu. Each adult had to go for this pasturing duty by turn as they lived together as a community.

“He came back in the evening and had not gone anywhere (on the day Swami was murdered),” asserted Longisha Badamajhi, Sanatan’s Hindu neighbor. Nakula Mallick, another Hindu who had accompanied Sanatan on pasturing on the day, too vouched for his innocence.

“Police never came to investigate or ask anything about him. If we had been called, we would have testified for him in the court,” Nakula pointed out.

The judge who convicted all the seven accused had sprung a surprise even to the prosecution. While the prosecution had claimed to have ‘seized’ two guns from the houses of the accused, the judge had made it three, The third gun, according to the judge, had been seized from Sanatan’s house!

“His (investigation officer S K Patnaik’s) evidence with regard to seizure of the muzzle-loading guns from the house of Duryodhan Sanamajhi, Munda Badamajhi and a gun from the house of Sanatan Badamajhi clearly implicate the above accused persons,” claimed the judgement8.

Despite the judge professing that “I have carefully gone through the entire evidence adduced by the investigating officer”9, he has committed a blunder when he declared that a third gun had been recovered from the house of Sanatan Badamajhi...
A mob of religious fundamentalists, dragged out Pastor Mukunda Sagar, who was visiting a Christian family and brutally beat him.

On 10th June, Pastor Mukunda he had gone to visit Bro. Bihari Khondu and his family at Kumelsinga Village, Odisha, which is about 5 kms away his residence. After meeting the family, as Pastor was about to leave, he began praying for the family.

2 unknown persons called out to Pastor and asked him to step out as they wanted to ask him something. Trusting and in all simplicity, he obliged and stepped out, to a waiting mob of religious fundamentalists. They got hold of him, dragged him out of the house and brutally beat him with sticks, rods, pipes etc. The frenzied mob tore his clothes and stripped him down to his underwear, abusing him for following Jesus Christ.

Seeing that he had visited on a motor bike, they asked him for the keys. He told them that the keys were left behind at Bro. Bihari Khondu’s house. They sent him back, in his underwear, to get the keys from his friend’s house. Once he got inside the house, he ran

"WE PRAISE GOD FOR PASTOR SHRAVAN WHO, WHILE IS NO WAY ASSOCIATED WITH PASTOR, TRAV-ELLED AROUND 30 KMS ON HEAR-ING THAT A FELLOW BELIEVER WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN - TO ENCOUR-AGE, STIR HIM UP IN LOVE AND STRENGTHEN HIM IN THE LORD.

WE PRAY THAT ALL OF US WILL LEARN FROM THIS LIFE LESSON AND APPLY TO OUR OWN LIVES."
out from the back exit, scaled the wall and ran into the nearby fields and took cover by lying on the ground. In the cover of darkness, he could observe the militant mob hunting for him, with their torches. Sensing danger, he removed his white vest and lay under cover for around 2 hours.

Finally, since he had the mobile phone in his possession, he called his friends who rescued him from this brutal ordeal. Pastor was taken to a Government Hospital for immediate attention. Since he in pain, he wants to take an x-ray to rule out any broken bones and visit a private hospital.

Pastor Shravan Kumar called Persecution Relief to update about this incident. We praise God for Pastor Shravan who, while is no way associated with Pastor, travelled around 30 kms on hearing that a fellow believer was brutally beaten - to encourage, stir him up in love and strengthen him in the Lord. We pray that all of us will learn from this life lesson and apply to our own lives.

Pastor Mukund expressed gratitude to God for rescuing him, keeping him alive and bringing him back home to his family.

“I love Jesus and Jesus Christ loves me. This I know for sure”.

Pastor has lodged a complaint with SP Bargarh, Odisha, India.

Church, please pray for Pastor to remain steadfast and press on with the Gospel, forgiving his persecutors.

Pray for the persecutors, that their lives would be touched and changed by the true and living God.
Blatant, brutal attack on Church, Uttar Pradesh

Jeep’s filled with religious fanatics, barged into the Church, firing shots into the air and shouting anti-Christian slogans. They were armed with armed with sticks and guns etc. intimidating and spreading fear, forcing people to run for cover. Before people could realize and absorb what was happening, the mob surrounded the terrified congregation and began to indiscriminately and brutally beat everyone.

After a life-changing and miraculous encounter with Jesus Christ seven years ago, Pastor Ram Kumar Gautam, a Dalit, has been ministering at Yeshu Darbar Church at Raikashipur village, at Pratapgarh District, Uttar Pradesh, for the past 3 years. Over 400 Christians gather every Monday, for worship service, from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, Pastor Devesh Kumar who assists Pastor Ram, recounted the incident that took place around 2.00 pm, as worship service was just concluding.

“Suddenly, 3 Jeep’s filled with armed religious
fanatics, pulled up. They were armed with sticks and guns, and bull-dozed their way into the Church, disrupting the service, and shouting anti-Christian slogans. Before people could realize and absorb what was happening, the mob surrounded the terrified congregation and began to indiscriminately and brutally beat everyone”

“Even women and children and the elderly were not spared. They also misbehaved with the sisters”.

“Akash was hit with a rod and had to have 7 sutures on his head. Bro. Jealal Gautam was brutally beaten and his arm broken. His 18-year old son is also admitted in hospital with critical injuries. 9 believers were admitted in hospital with different degrees of injuries”.

Holy Bibles were torn and desecrated; personal belongings stolen, all Church equipment and electronic items including mic systems, chair, speakers etc. totally destroyed by the mob.

Vehicles parked outside the Church – motor bikes and scooters, were vandalized and destroyed.

Pastor Ram told Persecution Relief that as soon as the incident happened, the Lord told him to escape from the scene as their intent was to kill him. Trusting the Holy Spirit’s prompting, he ran into the nearby field. The fanatics chased after him but he managed to escape. Pastor’s wife and 4 children are safe.

Pastor also mentioned that he and the congregation were honored and privileged to suffer for Christ, and that under no circumstance would he stop preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“My Church members were earlier tense with fear but now they are strong in the Lord. The only thing that saddens me is the way they have beaten the children, women and elderly people”.

For the last two years, every Monday, hundreds of devotees from all faith come to Yeshu Darbar Church, for prayer and healing.

Although Police in Sangramgarh, Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, have assured that they will investigate the matter, there continues to be a lack of accountability for crimes and serious abuses committed against Christians.

This attack has been covered by the local News Paper Amar Ujjala.

Church, please pray for peace and security of the Christians and the entire village.
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH SHOULD NOT BE A SECRET SOCIETY OF SPECIALISTS, BUT A PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF BELIEVERS IN JESUS.

Oswald Chambers
Sis. Prathiba Stephen was conducting the worship in the absence of her husband who was ministering at another location. 2 elderly men and a few sisters were also present.

4 religious fanatics belonging to the Hindu Munnani Group, headed by Ajith, trespassed into a Pastor’s house, physically assaulted his wife, slapped and dragged her into the bedroom, molested and outraged her modesty. They also beat the elderly men and sisters, who had gathered to pray, twisting their arms behind their back and causing injuries.

The incident took place on Sunday, 08th July, around 10.00 am, at Paguthampalayam Village, Erode District, Tamil Nadu.

When Pastor Stephen returned at 1.00 pm, learning of the turn of events from his wife, informed his family members who accompanied Pastor Stephen and Sis. Prathiba to take a bus to the nearest Police Station. However, they were ambushed by the same group of men, who had gathered a mob of 20 others and mercilessly beat them up again.

Badly shaken and injured, Pastor returned to his house at 4.00 pm, and dialed #101 for an ambulance. When the Ambulance arrives, the same mob, watching the activities of Pastor Stephen’s family, dragged out all the persons from inside the ambulance. Already weak from the previous attacks, they were brutally beaten again. The Perpetrators then jumped into the ambulance and took off.

In the meantime, the Police were making every effort to arrest Pastor and his family, based on false allegations made by the perpetrators.

Desperately needing medical attention, at around 6.00 pm, Pastor and his wife escaped to another village in a motor bike and reached a local Government Hospital. Once again, the perpetrators learned about this and pursued them to the hospital. Gurusamy, district president of the Hindu Munnani,
picked up a fight with the hospital authorities asking them not to admit the Pastor but to admit his men who he claimed were injured. The Hospital authorities were disinclined and reluctant after this, to admit them for fear of retaliation from the religious fundamentalists.

Having been subjected to severe beatings, cruel inhuman abuses, emotionally and physically exhausted, at 8.00 pm, Pastor and his wife travelled 75 kms, from Erode to Coimbatore, and finally managed to get themselves admitted in the Government Hospital at 10.30 pm, after using a lot of influence and

Narrating the incident from the Hospital to Persecution Relief, Local Church Leader, Pastor David Gunasekaran, Synod Secretary, Sathyamangalam Taluk, Tamil Nadu, said that a complaint has been lodged with the Police.

A counter complaint was lodged against Pastor Stephen and his family members by the Hindu Munnani Group.

Pastor Stephen Paul, ministers at ‘Jesus Power Ministries’ located adjacent to their home, build on their own personal land. Every Sunday, around 30 – 40 persons gather for worship service.
Missionaries rescued by Police from violent bigoted mob, Bihar

TWO INCIDENTS IN 2 DAYS RELATING TO MEMBERS OF INDIA MISSION, WHO WERE APPREHENDED BY RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISTS AND TAKEN TO THE POLICE STATION ON FALSE CHARGES OF RELIGIOUS CONVERSION.

INCIDENT 1:

A team of 6 missionaries affiliated to India Mission, led by Pastor Thompson, were rescued by the Police, from a mob of around 20 fanatics, who had surrounded them, assaulting and accusing them of indulging in conversion activities.

Pastor Thompson, a cancer survivor (oral), Bro. Justin from Kerala, Pastor Yakub and 2 brothers from Bihar and 1 brother from Orissa – comprising the team, were on an outreach mission, travelling to a village 2 kms away from Bachhewara town, in Begusarai district of Bihar to show a Christian-themed film. Just as the team were packing up to leave the village, they were confronted by local religious fanatics, who abused and accused them of indulging in conversion activities. By the grace of God, they left the location without further incident.

Later that night, just as they reached their rented accommodation, a group of around 20 religious fanatics on motorcycles, surrounded them, shouting abuses and threats, falsely accusing them of converting people. The violent mob, pushed and shoved these missionaries and caused a huge commotion. As the accommodation was located near the Bachhewara Police Station, hearing the uproar, the Policemen were alerted and came to the scene of the crime, just in time and rescued the missionaries. They protected them from being beaten up by the rabid mob and escorted them to the Police Station where they were detained for their safety and then released them. They were asked to come back the following morning.

After the SDM heard the case, all 6 brothers were granted bail and released at around 12 noon.
INCIDENT 2:

Pastor Reji Abraham, Bro. Shine (Winbered Jenner Job) and Bro. Viswajeet Gauda, affiliated with the India Mission, were on an outreach Mission, in Gaya district of Bihar, showing a Christian-themed film. The film was well received by the receptive audience and just as the team were packing up to leave the village, they were confronted by a mob of 25 local religious fanatics, who brutally beat them for over 2 hours, accusing them of indulging in conversion activities. A good Samaritan informed the Police who rescued these missionaries and took them to the Police Station.

After being detained by the Police for over 19 hours, they were finally released.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, Bro. Aby Mathew, Head, India Mission was extremely grateful to God firstly and to all prayer partners from IPC, IM workers and OM Team for their prayer support.

He was also grateful to Persecution Relief Founder, to spoke to the SHO, to ensure fair trial and release of the detained Brothers.

Although he anticipates problems, his desire is that more districts in Bihar, would have the privilege to view the Jesus move.

Police team in Gaya District were instructed to view the Jesus Film by the SP, who did not find anything objectionable or derogatory.

Church, pray that those who have seen the film Jesus, will come to the saving grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Please pray India Mission brothers who had received severe beatings – that they will not be discouraged but continue to be steadfast and work with utmost commitment.

RELIEF PROVIDED

Persecution Relief Founder, spoke to the Police official’s and secured release of the detained Brothers.
16 FMPB (Friends Missionary Prayer Band) - Santal believers from Pakudia field (Santal Dumka Region), had gone to Phulpahadi village, District of Dumka, Jharkhand, for outreach ministry.

However, an angry mob of Phulpahadi villagers held them hostage under house arrest. They were arrested by the Police based on the complaint lodged by the Village Chief.

Jharkhand State had passed the Anti-conversion law since September 2017, banning conversions extracted with the use of force or material enticements.

Listed below are the names of the believers who are in jail:

1) SAMAI SOREN (35 YEARS) 
2) STEPHEN MARANDI (22 YEARS) 
3) GOPAL TUDU (25 YEARS) 
4) LUBIN SOREN (35 YEARS) 
5) BIREN德拉 HEMBROM (20 YEARS) 
6) LUKHIRAM TUDU (22 YEARS) 
7) PRODIP KISKU (22 YEARS) 
8) SHIBA MURMU (27 YEARS) 
9) BUDHAN MARANDI (23 YEARS) 
10) MIRU SOREN (35 YEARS) 
11) KAHAKTUDU (35 YEARS) 
12) MONIKA HEMBROM (18 YEARS) 
13) PANSURI SOREN (18 YEARS) 
14) RANI SOREN (38 YEARS) 
15) RASMUNIHANSDAK (18 YEARS) 
16) SUPHALA MARANDI (19 YEARS)
The Bail-hearing for 7 women is scheduled for 11th July 2018. The hearing for 9 brothers is due to be scheduled for a later date.

Church, please pray that the Lord will intervene in this matter and will do great and mighty things.

Pray that the Lord will encourage all our believers to be firm in the Christian faith.

Pray that the Lord will give divine wisdom and abundant grace to all our missionaries and leaders to handle this situation wisely.

"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him."

NAHUM 1:7
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INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IGNORES GENOCIDE OF CHRISTIANS IN NIGERIA

the most effective way to achieve the change that we’re looking for, and sometimes publicly if we think that will accomplish our goal,” Pompeo told EWTN

VOP Note: For the past 5 years, Nigerian Christian leaders and rights activists have been trying warn the world that a genocide was taking place against the Christians in the North. The barbaric acts of jihadist groups, Boko Haram and Fulani Herdsmen, still continue unabated as more than 6000 Christians have been killed since the start of 2018. Where is the international concern and outcry? (Raymond Ibrahim) —In what the Christian Association of Nigeria is calling a “pure genocide,” 238 more Christians were killed and churches desecrated by Muslims last week in the west African nation. According to a joint statement by the Christian Association, an umbrella group of various Christian denominations, “There is no doubt that the sole purpose of these attacks is aimed at ethnic cleansing, land grabbing and forceful
WORLD WATCHES IN AWE AS 12 BOYS ARE BEING RESCUED FROM IMMINENT DEATH BY FLOODS IN THAILAND WHILE NIGERIA WATCHES AS HUNDREDS DIE AVOIDABLY FOR COWS.”

— NIGERIAN HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER, EMMANUEL OGEBE

NIGERIA’S BISHOPS CALL AGAIN ON PRESIDENT TO SAVE COUNTRY FROM ‘AVOIDABLE CHAOS’

The statement condemned the recent attacks, “where over 200 persons were brutally killed and our churches destroyed without any intervention from security agencies in spite of several distress calls made to them.”

The statement adds that the majority of those 6,000 Christians massacred this year were “mostly children, women and the aged... What is happening in ... Nigeria is pure genocide and must be stopped immediately.”

The details of the murder of these thousands, though seldom reported, are often grisly: many were either hacked to death or beheaded with machetes; others were burned alive (including inside locked churches or homes); and women are often sexually assaulted or even raped before being slaughtered.

For long, both the Nigerian government and the U.S. government have sought to present this protracted jihad as territorial clashes between the haves (apparently always Christians) and haves-not (apparently always Muslims).

“World watches in awe as 12 boys are being rescued from imminent death by floods in Thailand while Nigeria watches as hundreds die avoidably for cows.” — Nigerian human rights lawyer, Emmanuel Ogebe

Nigeria’s bishops call again on president to save country from ‘avoidable chaos’
Chinese authorities bulldozed a registered church building July 17 without warning to make way for construction of a new neighborhood and train station.

International Christian Concern (ICC) reported that more than 70 police officers and workers showed up to take down the Liangwang Catholic Church building in China’s Shandong province. They lacked the proper documentation, but it didn’t matter.

Church officials Gao Rongli, Zhang Siling and Li Xiangmei – who were inside the building -- had their phones confiscated and destroyed. It took only 15 minutes to demolish the building using bulldozers and pickaxes, according to ICC. Officials spared nothing, destroying the altars, benches and furnishings.

North Carolina pastor Andrew Brunson is still imprisoned in Turkey today, awaiting release after nearly two years. Brunson was sentenced to prison in October 2016, for the allegation that he was connected to a terror group that attempted to overthrow the Erdogan government that July. Brunson was thought to be released this week, however, his court hearing has been pushed back even further, to October 12.

The Christian Post reports, “Brunson faces up to 35 years in prison and has denied the charges, which also includes having connections to militants with the Kurdistan Workers Party. Human rights activists and U.S. lawmakers have long blasted the allegations as baseless.”

According to a witness, the accusers in Brunson’s case were three people who did not have any firsthand knowledge of Brunson’s promotion of said terrorist group. “It is all second and thirdhand,” he said.

The Turkish government’s claim that Brunson and American churches are working with intelligence agencies, such as the CIA, in order to “undermine Turkish sovereignty,” was also denied by the pastor.

In light of this ruling, many are calling on the Trump Administration to intervene for Brunson’s release.
Pastor Deepak Kumarr ministers at AG Church Mahoba, since 2014, affiliated with Assemblies of God (AG) in Mahoba, a district in Uttar Pradesh. Married to Sapna Masih, they have two daughters aged 9 & 5 years.

More than 60 Christians attend the worship services every Sunday. Varsha along with her family – her mother, 5 sisters and 3 brothers, have been members of the Church for past 4 years. Varsha was married last year to a Phoolchand at Punjab – the marriage lasted just 8 months. In spite of her husband refusing to let her go, they had an acrimonious separation and returned home. Due to misunderstanding, Varsha was disappointed and embittered and unwilling for a reconciliation, Varsha accused the Pastor of conniving with her husband and her miserable life.

On the basis of a complaint filed by Varsha, based on false allegations, a team of Police Officers, arrested Pastor Deepak, alleging that he offered a bribe who allegedly offered the family Rs. 2 Lakhs to convert to Christianity.

Pastor Deepak has been detained in jail since 05th of June, for his own safety from the mob of religious fundamentalists, who were camped outside the Police Station and the Court, demanding that Pastor be charged with a more stringent and unbailable offense.

**IPC 420:**
CHEATING AND DIS-HONESTLY INDUCING ELIVERY OF PROPERTY

**IPC 506:**
PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMINAL INTIMIDATION

With this background, Sapna, his wife, is this strong, vulnerable woman, who hopes that she will wake up from this horrific dream. After all the denial, hysteria, she is now calm and composed. Picking up the threads of the ministry that sorely misses her husband, through the financial lack, misery and despair, she still clings on to the hem of His garment, while she pours out her life for her husband, her 2 children and her parents.

Several bail hearings have since been held and in all the sessions, bail has been denied.
LISTEN TO HER BRAVE WORDS:

“God works in all our lives - those whose ministries are public and those who are known only to the Lord. I know that I am not alone and that others have walked the path before me.”

“Just like Paul said in 1 Corinthians: 1:27, "God has chosen the foolish, the weak and the base and despised and the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are."

“I believe with all of my heart that this trial will bring all the glory and honour to Him, because He uses simple, obscure women like me, to influence lives.”

“I am the daughter of the KING of KINGS and He will empower me and restore to me my lost dignity.”

Sis. Sapna is a dynamic communicator of the Spirit and the Word of God. She has confidence and assurance in God’s call in her life but without the fleshly pride of self-assurance.

While her husband’s release date is uncertain, Sapna is focused on her life’s purpose and on the promises of God.

And God is fulfilling His promise of Isaiah 42:16 - "I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them!"

To God be the glory!!
ADOPT A MARTYRED FAMILY

Call +91 9993200020

Email: persecutionrelief@gmail.com
PRAY FOR PEACE AND UNITY IN
ANDHRA PRADESH

SUMMARY:

- Andhra Pradesh, as per 2011 census, is the tenth most populous state in India.
- It ranked fifth among the states that were most hostile towards Christians recording 13 cases over the last 4 months.
- There has been a surge in anti-Christian attacks in Andhra Pradesh - the primary charge being alleged “forced conversions”.
- House Churches and prayer meetings held in the privacy of homes are arbitrarily attacked, violating the privacy and sanctity of an individual or a family, and is shut down with impunity.
- Law enforcement agencies are increasingly being used by the state to stop and disrupt worship in Churches.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray for the safety and protection of all Christians in the State of Andhra Pradesh who are facing intense harassment, in Jesus’ name.
- Pray for Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu Naidu, his cabinet, the bureaucrats and all the persecutors.

PERSECUTION INCIDENTS RECORDED IN ANDHAR PRADESH MARCH TO JUNE 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Apr</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>Jun</td>
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ANDHRA PRADESH

- 13 Districts
- 664 Sub-Districts
- 195 Towns
- 17039 Villages
- 655 CD Blocks
Tamil Nadu:

4 religious fanatics belonging to the Hindu Munnani Group, headed by Ajith, trespassed into a Pastor Stephen Paul’s house when he was away, physically assaulting his wife Prathiba, slapping and dragging her into the bedroom, molesting and outraging her modesty. They also beat the elderly men and sisters, who had gathered to pray, twisting their arms behind their back and causing injuries.

The 2nd incident—later in the afternoon, Pastor, his wife and family members were ambushed by the same group of men, who had gathered a mob of 20 others and mercilessly beat them up again.

3rd instance - as they tried to alight the ambulance, they were dragged out and beaten.

4th instance - finding their way on a scooter to a neighbouring village, the Hospital were threatened with violence if they treated Pastor & his family.

Pastor and his family travelled 75 kms, from Erode to Coimbatore, and finally were admitted in the Government Hospital.
Summary:

- Persecution Relief recorded 34 incidents of persecution against Christians in July across India.
- 35 media stories covering Christian persecution, discrimination against minorities, were recorded.
- The violence against Christians continues to be at consistently high as in past three years.
- Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar and Tamil Nadu continue to remain consistently high.
- Over 90% of among these incidents are threats and intimidation nature in the form of mob attacks disturbing the peaceful gathering of people for prayer service.
- Women and children are the worst affected by these mobs’ attacks as they are over 60% of the gathering.
- Disrupting Worship Service, Physical violence like beating up of Pastors and Christians, including women and children, assembled for prayer service, threats and intimidation of Christians are the most common forms of persecution.
- 6 persons who were victims of mob attacks were made the accused and arrested by the Police.
- While Media stories continue the bias against reporting crimes against Christian minorities, it is slowly becoming sensitized to the real situation on the ground.
GET PERSECUTION UPDATES
JOIN THE MOVEMENT

www.twitter.com/PersecutionR
"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
TOLL FREE HELPLINE NUMBER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN INDIA

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