

Prayer for the Persecuted Church May 11, 2018

From International Christian Concern
https://pages.e2ma.net/pages/1806612/7925?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=newsbites&utm_campaign=Persecution%20Digest%20Weekly%20Email

Pastor Brunson Continues Defense in Trial *5/8/18 Turkey (MEC)*

After listening to the testimonies of witnesses and authorities, Pastor Brunson was disheartened by many false, shameful, and disgusting claims brought against him by the Turkish government. Those observing stated that the hearing and allegations only confirm that Andrew's continued detention is singularly political. The next hearing is scheduled for July 18.

- **How to Pray:** Pray for the presence of Christ to be clearly seen with Pastor Brunson, so that all authorities will come to know the power of God. Pray for the international community to condemn the unjust and false actions. Pray for the Lord to deliver Pastor Brunson from the hand of all enemies.

Over 1,000 Hostages Rescued from Boko Haram

5/8/18 Nigeria (CNN)

Over 1,000 hostages of Boko Haram, the majority being women and children, were rescued in Borno State during an ongoing military operation conducted in conjunction with Cameroonian and Nigerian troops. Hostages were rescued from Malamkari, Amchaka, Walasa, and Gora villages. Boko Haram has sparked global outrage by seizing girls from schools throughout Nigeria.

- **How to Pray:** Pray for healing and peace for those who were rescued from captivity. Pray for wisdom for the Nigerian and Cameroonian military as they continue to push back against Boko Haram. Pray for Boko Haram militants to repent of their violence and come to know Christ.

Muslims Mutilate Body of Christian Convert

5/8/18 Uganda (Christian Post)

Ostracized by Muslim relatives, Kuzaiifa, and his family left their village, but eventually returned home. On April 1, Kuzaiifa was found with head injuries which resulted in his death. After the Muslim relatives took his body from the mortuary, Christians discovered the mutilated body in a small grave. The Christians then retook the body, washed it, and provided an appropriate burial.

- **How to Pray:** Pray for the family of Kuzaiifa – for protection, comfort and financial assistance. Pray that peace will reign in the midst of tensions between Muslims and Christians in the area. Pray for Jesus to reveal Himself to those who gave their lives to Christ through this ordeal.

Celebration of Resurrection Turns Tragic

5/7/18 Pakistan (ICC)

ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on a Christian family during a gathering to celebrate Easter. Masked men with guns arrived on a motorbike and began shooting. The attackers then failed in an attempt to enter the house, but family members found the bodies of their loved ones on the ground shortly after. ISIS claimed that a "covert unit" had succeeded in targeting the Christians.

- **How to Pray:** Pray for comfort and peace for those who have suffered loss, especially Shama who is now widowed with seven children. Pray for safety, restoration, and provision for the children. Pray for authorities to bring justice to those responsible for attacks and wisdom to protect those targeted by ISIS.

From Voice of the Martyrs

<http://www.icommittoprayer.com>

May. 10, 2018 | India

Pastor Beheaded by Maoists

A pastor serving one of India's minority tribal groups was murdered last week by suspected Maoists. On the evening of May 2, about 25 masked men abducted Pastor Abraham Topno from a taxi he was riding in, and the pastor's beheaded body was found hours later along with a note signed by a communist rebel group operating in nearby Odisha state. According to a longtime friend of the pastor, he specifically chose to serve among the minority tribal group, despite the dangerous and challenging environment. His church had recently grown in number to about 60 believers.

- **Pray for the pastor's family and for Christians in the area.**

May. 10, 2018 | Central African Republic

Christian Towns Destroyed by Local Muslims

About 60,000 Christians in southeastern Central African Republic (CAR) have been forced to flee their towns after a series of attacks by local Muslims. Several months after

joint U.S. and Ugandan forces pulled out of the region last year, area Muslims launched a campaign to drive Christians out by razing Christian-majority towns and villages. On Nov. 20, villagers in Dembia were awakened by gunfire at 4 a.m. as local Muslims attacked without warning. The Christians ran from their village in a heavy downpour, wearing only the clothes in which they were sleeping, and took cover in the bush. Their village was completely destroyed over the next three days. During the attack, village elderly were reportedly gathered in a building and burned alive. Although the total number of killed is unknown, since villagers dispersed and have been unable to return, one believer who survived the attack knew of at least 46 people who were killed. The Christian towns that were attacked have either been destroyed completely or remain under the control of local Muslims and jihadist allies.

- Pray that these Christians will be able to return to their villages.

May 10, 2018 | Tanzania

Pray for Pastor David, Under Threat in Zanzibar

Less than 18 months ago, a group of local Muslims tried to burn down Pastor David's house in broad daylight, while only his wife and children were at home. The attackers doused the back of the house with gasoline before tossing a match through the window. Thankfully, David's family escaped unharmed, but the home and everything inside were destroyed. Local Muslims later told David that the men intended to kill his child and force his family to leave the island. The arsonists were never charged. Attacks and threats like this are not uncommon in Zanzibar, where 99 percent of the population is Muslim. The government of Zanzibar appears to pursue a strategy of removing all Christians and churches from the island. Thank God for pastors serving in Zanzibar who take a bold stand for Christ in the face of intense persecution and direct government opposition.

- Pray for the protection of their families and congregations.

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org>

May 11 | SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Paulus* is leading more than 20 lay leaders to teach the Bible to MBBs through a weekly discipleship class

May 12 | ERITREA

- In Eritrea, the authoritarian leadership is quick to arrest and imprison Christians. This is where Eyal* serves as a church leader. Pray with him, asking God to protect him and to multiply his ministry.

May 13 | CENTRAL ASIA

- "Pray with us that our passion would not be extinguished." Through tears, Arman presents his request. He is one of many young believers gathered for a secret worship gathering. Pray with youth as they trust Jesus.

May 14 | NORTH KOREA

- Seven years ago, a North Korean woman came to Christ when she visited relatives and began to study the Bible. She's determined to share the gospel with her North Korean husband. Pray with her for wisdom and safety.

May 15 | WORLDWIDE

- Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, begins today. Historically, persecution against Christians increases during this time. Pray for the safety of churches and Christians and that God would use churches to be salt and light to their Muslim friends during this difficult time.

May 16 | CENTRAL ASIA

- Our local partner shared about the birth of a new secret church in a small town. The church is made up mostly of new believers converted from Islam. Leaders are concerned about how to teach the youth. Pray for them as they raise up this next generation of believers.

May 17 | ALGERIA

- Churches in northern Algeria continue to clash with authorities over permission to hold services in nonreligious buildings. Pray with a church of 200 that's facing closure.

May 18 | CHILE

- In the last two years, 27 churches have been burned, and church leaders have been threatened by the radical indigenous group Weichan Auka Mapu. Pray that God would strengthen churches.