

Prayer July 2011

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, “*He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.*” [Psalm 91:1-2](#)

INDIA—Mob Attacks Mission Training School—*VOM Sources*

[Psalm 34:10](#)

Depart from evil and do good
Seek peace and pursue it.

A mission training school in Jonggol, West Java, Indonesia, was attacked by a Muslim mob after Friday prayers recently. The 84 attackers, who arrived on motorbikes, rushed into the school and searched each classroom and dorm room. They removed every picture of Jesus and told the school’s staff that the school must close. Thankfully, classes were not in session that day, and no students were on the premises. The mob was accompanied by several policemen and soldiers from a nearby military base. Neighbors also noticed that the attackers were not from the local community. The school was established in 1999 with the purpose of training evangelists to bless Indonesia, and it has always maintained a good relationship with its neighbors. Fearing a domino effect of future attacks, mission leaders said they will follow up on the case. They urged Indonesian Christians not to retaliate, but to remain calm and to pray. Pray that God will touch the hearts of the attackers, and pray for peace in Indonesia.

IRAN—Christian Held in Solitary Confinement—*Release International, Mohabat News*

[2 Corinthians 12:9](#)

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Friends and family of a Christian father of two are calling for clarification of his case more than five months after he was sent to Tehran’s notorious Evin prison. Farshid Fathi, 32, has endured months of solitary confinement even though no court orders or instructions have been issued in his case. Farshid was detained by government security officials on Dec. 26, 2011, during a series of raids on Christians’ homes in Tehran. He was later transferred to solitary confinement in the 209th wing of Evin prison. According to Mohabat News reports, interrogators have used psychological torture in attempts to force Farshid to reveal details of Christian contacts. His wife and two young children — Rosana and Barbod — have been allowed to speak to him only once a week. Farshid’s family was forced to sell his father-in-law’s home in order to survive financially, and they have not been able to pay the bail to secure his release. Pray that God will enable Farshid to withstand this ordeal and endure the torture. Pray for comfort and financial help for his family.

LAOS—Missionary Charged with Human Trafficking—*VOM Sources*

[2 Timothy 3:12](#)

If we endure,
We shall also reign with Him.
If we deny Him,
He also will deny us.

A missionary to youth in Laos was recently charged with human trafficking. After 24 young people

were detained while traveling to a Christian training conference in May, Brother K, a conference leader, went to the police station to seek their release. He was then arrested and charged with human trafficking, an offense that carries a fine of up to \$6,000 and from 5 to 50 years in prison. Brother K denied involvement in human trafficking and invited the officers to visit the conference center to see what the students were being taught. Taken aback by his boldness and concerned that the offense would become known as a persecution case, police released the 24 students but detained Brother K. After bail was set, Brother K bargained to reduce the amount, and they agreed on an amount equal to three months' wages. The youth held their training session at a hastily convened new location. Thank God for his protection of the students and for the boldness of their leader. Pray that Christian youth in Laos will passionately share the gospel with their neighbors.

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" [Hebrews 13:5-6](#)

INDIA—Christians in India Face Daily Threats—*Compass Direct News, Asia News*

[Psalm 25:2](#)

O my God, I trust in You;
Let me not be ashamed;
Let not my enemies triumph over me.

Hindu extremists continue to target Christians in India with false accusations, beatings and even murder. In Madhya Pradesh, Hindu militants stopped Pastor Shivraj Maravi's renovation of his small house, where he sometimes holds Sunday services. The extremists filed a police report against Pastor Maravi on May 4, and police then arrested him and charged him with forcible conversion under the state's anti-conversion act. In Uttar Pradesh, Hindu radicals stopped Pastor B. Vijaya Kumar and his family as they walked home from a prayer meeting on May 8. The extremists detained the family for three hours before police arrived and questioned Pastor Kumar. Police then ordered the family to leave the area. On May 12 in Odisha, 17-year-old Nirupama Pradhan was raped and murdered after school. Police waited two weeks before arresting the suspect. Continue to pray for Christians in India. Pray especially that God will turn the hearts of Hindu radicals to him.

FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS—Christians Grateful for Books and Materials—*VOM Sources*

[1 Peter 3:12](#)

For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
And His ears are open to their prayers;
But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."

Christians from Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Russia wrote notes of thankfulness to VOM recently for the Christian literature they had received. The materials included VOM newsletters, copies of FOXE: Voices of the Martyrs and prayer calendars. They especially enjoyed the prayer calendars. A woman in Ukraine said that her women's group is using the calendar. "What we learn from your materials makes other Christians' problems a reality for us and urges us to pray for them and also to be grateful for freedom in our country," she wrote. Another sister wrote, "The Lord calls me to pray especially for the radical Muslims, because they also have the right to be saved." And a worker in the region wrote, "So many people and churches want to pray! People get in groups just to pray for the persecuted. I am always short on materials. People literally are 'in line' for materials." Praise God for the response of these brothers and sister in the former Soviet Republics. Pray together with them for the

persecuted church.

SUDAN—Christian Woman Arrested for Evangelism—*VOM Canada, Compass Direct News*

[James 1:12](#)

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Hawa Abdalla Muhammad Saleh was arrested on May 9 in the Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced persons in Al-Fashir. Authorities have accused her of possessing and distributing Bibles to others in the camp. Sources said she could also be tried for apostasy, which is punishable by death in Sudan. Abdalla has reportedly been transferred to an unknown location in Khartoum, and some fear that she may again be tortured, as she was when she was detained for six days in 2009. Please pray for Abdalla's release. Ask the Lord to give her the strength and grace she needs to withstand this current trial.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)

ALGERIA—Seven Churches Face Closure—*Compass Direct News*

[Isaiah 37:14-17](#)

And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. Then Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying: "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.

Seven churches in Algeria's Bejaia province received notices on May 22 that they face closure because they have not registered with the government. The churches were warned that if they do not comply, authorities could use force. The governor of Bejaia, one of 48 Algerian provinces, also sent a statement to the president of the Protestant Church of Algeria informing him that all churches in Bejaia are illegal because they have not registered. Although the Bejaia churches have submitted the required registration documents, the government has not responded to their applications. Despite this intimidation, Christians plan to continue their services. "We expect that we may encounter the police," said a church leader. Leaders say that some Christians have expressed fear, while others have questions. The Bejaia churches have mobilized their congregations to pray. Pray with them for all the churches and Christians in Algeria. Ask God to intervene especially in the Bejaia situation.

PAKISTAN—Millions Attend Religious Festivals—*VOM Sources*

[Isaiah 35:5](#)

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Many Pakistanis attend Muslim, Hindu and Sikh festivals throughout the year. Several of these religious festivals attract up to a million visitors, and some who attend the Muslim festivals consider their attendance the equivalent of a hajj pilgrimage, one of the basic requirements of Islam. VOM-supported evangelists all over Pakistan aggressively share the gospel with people like those attending the festivals. Although their work is perilous, they continue on "with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the prayers of all the VOM friends," one evangelist writes. "Our main target is to give the gospel and the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ to win souls for him, and we have done it very

faithfully.” Please pray that God will open the eyes of those attending the religious festivals and they will come to know the good news of Jesus. Pray also for the VOM-supported evangelists.

UZBEKISTAN—No Progress for Uzbek Prisoner of Faith—*VOM Canada*

[Isaiah 44:21](#)

“Remember these, O Jacob,
And Israel, for you are My servant;
I have formed you, you are My servant;
O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me!

Persecution against Christians in Uzbekistan increased last month — from raids to fines to literature confiscation — underscoring the need to remember the nation’s believers in prayer. Tohar Haydarov, 27, has been imprisoned since his arrest in March 2010 and is currently serving a 10-year prison sentence for the “illegal sale of narcotic or psychotropic substances in large quantities.” It is widely believed that the charges were fabricated as a means of punishing Tohar for his religious activity. At last report, he had appealed the prison sentence but there had been no indication of progress. Pray that comfort and peace will reign in Tohar as he suffers for his faith. Pray that he will be assured that he is not forgotten, but that he is loved and remembered by God and His people. Pray that the charges against Tohar will be dropped and that he will be released.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. [Matthew 5:16](#)

NEPAL—Criminal Code May Prohibit Evangelism—*Compass Direct News, VOM Canada*

[1 Timothy 2:1-2](#)

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

Five years after it abolished Hinduism as the state religion, Nepal is considering a new criminal code that would make it illegal to “convert a person or abet him to change his religion.” Article 160 of the proposed code would prohibit any action or behavior that could cause someone from a caste, community or creed to lose faith in his or her traditional religion or convert to a different religion. Offenders could be imprisoned for up to five years and fined as much as \$685. Protracted political battles have caused delays in the first complete draft of the new constitution, and the Nepali Congress was recently forced to extend the tenure of the Constituent Assembly responsible for the draft. Pray for the church in Nepal as well as for those in power. Pray that Nepal’s new criminal code will allow Christians to share their faith.

NIGERIA—Pastor Killed in Borno State—*Release International, Compass Direct*

[Philippians 4:7](#)

and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

A Nigerian pastor and his secretary were murdered by Islamic militants recently in the northeastern town of Maiduguri. Pastor David Usman, 45, and his church secretary, Hamman Andrew, were shot to death on June 7 by members of the Islamist group Boko Haram. Boko Haram has been blamed for several recent attacks, including a series of bombings on June 7 that killed three people and the

bombing of an army barracks in Maiduguri on May 29 that killed 15 people. Pastor David, described as a gentle and jovial man, and Hamman Andrew were killed in an area of Maiduguri called the Railway Quarters. Boko Haram had previously targeted Pastor David's church, which belongs to the Church of Christ in Nigeria. In July 2009, militants killed several church members and set fire to the church building. Another pastor in Maiduguri, Rev. Titus Dama Pona, told Compass Direct News that the recent violence has increased fear among Christians. "We no longer feel free moving around the city," Rev. Titus said, "and most churches no longer carry out worship services for fear of becoming targets of these unprovoked attacks." Pray that Christians in Borno state will experience the peace of God, and pray that Boko Haram members will come to know the peace of God in their hearts.

UZBEKISTAN—Christian Fined and Threatened by Police—*Forum 18 News Service*

[Isaiah 40:31](#)

But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

A Protestant Christian, Anvar Rajapov, was threatened by police after challenging a large fine that he received for his religious activities in Tashkent. Police raided Anvar's home on April 14 and confiscated 250 Christian books, including Bibles. The state's Religious Affairs Committee then ordered the books destroyed, and Anvar was fined 80 times the minimum monthly wage. Anvar appealed the fine in court, but a judge upheld the fine. Court officials warned Anvar that he would be further penalized if he did not pay the fine by June 15. On May 25, police summoned Anvar to the police station. Three police majors and an inspector spoke with Anvar and threatened him. One of the police majors, Zufar Rashidov, reportedly said, "I have prepared an axe for you, which will be flying after you, observing you, and if need be get you." Pray that God will protect Anvar and give him strength and wisdom.