

June Prayer Items

John 10:14-15: "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."

Morocco—Systemic torture, especially of those who are speaking out about human rights and corruption, has become commonplace in the Moroccan justice system, and when victims report the abuse they are often criminally prosecuted themselves. Pray for the protection and release of Wafae Charaf, a 27-year-old woman who was tortured after attending a peaceful protest, and then was arrested and sentenced to two years in prison for “falsely reporting torture.” Similarly, Oussama Housne, a 22-year-old man, also was imprisoned after being sentenced to three years for reporting the torture he was the victim of. Pray also for the 173 other cases of torture reported since 2011, as the government has relied on these practices to deal with popular dissent. Pray for the government of Morocco that it will choose to rule with integrity and justice rather than with fear and violence. Pray that the light and salvation of Christ might reach many in Morocco, those who are perpetrating this violence and those who are victims. (Source: Amnesty International)

Southeast Asia—The Rohingya ethnic minority in Burma have been fleeing their country as refugees due to the severe persecution they experience in their own country. In the process, they have become victims of human smugglers, who often rape and torture them and have held them for ransom in concentration camps in Thailand to extract money from distraught families. Now those who made it on smugglers' boats have been abandoned, as smugglers feared crackdowns from local governments. The Andaman Sea has been described as a “floating mass grave,” as thousands of refugees are adrift without food or water and no rescue operation was initiated by any government for weeks. Give thanks that eventually a rescue of about 600 was initiated by the International Organization for Migration. Pray for these people who have fled from one atrocity only to be abandoned to another. Pray for the country of Burma, which continues to persecute political dissidents and ethnic minorities, despite recent progress with human rights there. Pray for justice and peace within this country so people don't have to flee their homes. Pray for the protection and sustenance of those trapped by smugglers in camps and now on boats. Pray for local countries and for the international community to do what is morally right and rescue those who are lost at sea. Pray the presence of Christ might be felt and understood by many in all these dark situations. (Sources: The New York Times; United to End Genocide)

Sudan—In December 2014 and January 2015, two Sudanese pastors were detained by Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Service in Khartoum. Pastors Michael Yat and Peter Yen Reith were charged with multiple criminal offenses, some punishable by death or life in prison—though it is firmly believed they were detained and charged solely because of their Christian faith. A hearing was held in May 2015, however, the prosecution has not finished presenting its case and the defense has not yet begun. More hearings are forthcoming. We join with Christians in Sudan and Middle East Concern by praying that Pastors Yat and Reith and their families will know the Lord's peace and protection; that the next hearing will be held as scheduled and that all charges will be dropped; that church leaders across Sudan will know the Lord's guiding wisdom in the face of the continuing pressures against them; and that all officials involved will love mercy, act justly, learn about Jesus and choose to follow Him. (Source: Middle East Concern)

Cameroon- Boko Haram militants attacked the village of Balgaram and killed several people including Pastor Jean Marcel Kesvere. His martyrdom left his wife and eight children without a husband and father. Pray for their comfort and provision. Many believers came to his funeral in support and respect- pray that they will continue to encourage and hold up this family. Others in the community, both Christians and Muslims, reacted to the murder by encouraging other Christians to

not give in to fear but to remain firm in their faith. Pray that God would give them such strength and that He would use the Christians in Cameroon to bear much fruit for the kingdom. (Sources: Open Doors; World Watch Monitor)

Syria- Please pray for the many ordinary citizens like Mahmoud Shubat who do not want to be forced to wield a weapon and fight for ISIS. Mahmoud made his way into Italy, and now he hopes to make enough money to pay for his wife and four children to leave Syria. Please pray for the brutality and terror of ISIS to be curbed and for God to bring justice to the oppressed. Pray for miraculous protection for the Christians and Jews that are being targeted and persecuted, and pray that they would experience God's strength, comfort, and help during their time of suffering. Pray that Western countries would know how to aid in stopping the atrocities perpetrated by ISIS. (Source: CNN news)

Uganda- In the small Muslim village of Bwite, an adoptive father beat and then renounced his daughter, Saidha Naigaga, after she became a Christian. The father left her at a local church, and she is now living with a Christian couple, who have 17 similarly abandoned children living with them. Praise God that Saidha has a safe place to live and please pray for her comfort, emotional healing, protection, and support as she grows up. Please pray that her father will repent of his actions and find salvation and forgiveness in Christ. (Source: Voice of the Martyrs)

Central African Republic- Two warring parties are devastating towns and villages and killing people that are left behind. Sadly, people with disabilities like 27-year-old Ambroise Andet can be even more affected by this horror. Ambroise is paralyzed from the waist down and was abandoned when everyone in the town fled. Thankfully, he found a young teenager who carried him to a shelter where he still struggles to survive. Please pray for Ambrose to encounter Jesus Christ if he doesn't already know him. Pray for his protection and healing from the trauma. Pray for the unrest and violence in the Central African Republic to cease. (Source: Human Rights Watch)

Pakistan- Last November, a young Christian couple was brutally murdered at a brick kiln, leaving their three young children orphans. After the tragedy, the six other Christians that worked at the brick kiln fled for another town for safety. Praise God that the three children are being cared for and the six Christians who left their previous employer now have received motorcycle rickshaws to earn a living. In addition, the perpetrators of this hate crime are being tried in court. Praise God that because of the brutality of the murders, many Pakistani neighbors and officials are calling for an end to the blasphemy laws. Please pray that this will be effective and that the law can be overturned and protect Christians in the future. (Source: Voice of the Martyrs)

Iraq- Please pray for a widow and mother from a Christian village near Mosul who was held captive for months by ISIS and has recently been released. She is so traumatized by her months of torture and rape that her mental state is considerably confused and disturbed. Please pray for profound healing for this wounded mother and pray that her children do not experience similar torture. Pray for their safety and that they can be reunited with their mother. Please pray for God's comfort, protection, and provision. Please also pray for justice and peace in this calamity, and for release for those that are still held captive. Pray that the persecutors would find Jesus Christ and be saved and transformed. (Source: Open Doors)

China- Mrs. Li, the wife of Pastor Wang Zhongliang, was beaten by two police officers in her home in Shenyang while her husband was away. The police officers tried unsuccessfully to get her to confess to a false crime and then threatened that they would have her evicted from her home and not allow her son to enroll at school. Please pray for Mrs. Li's healing and protection. Thank the Lord for her strength, faith and courage and pray that her tenacious faith would be a compelling witness for Christ. (Source: China Aid)