



Nigeria – Islamists Kill 24 Christians in Middle Belt and North-East

Continue to lift up Christians in Middle Belt and north-eastern Nigeria after recent attacks by Islamist groups claimed 24 lives.

Seventeen people were killed as suspected Islamists struck Christian-majority communities in Nigeria's Middle Belt on October 31.

Gunmen believed to be extremists from the Muslim-majority Fulani ethnic group attacked the village of Kwi in Riyom Local Government Area, Plateau State, and the village of Damakasuwa in neighboring southern Kaduna State.

The affected communities are part of the predominantly Christian Irigwe people.

In Kwi, a mother and two children were among the dead. Bala Rudeh, a community leader who had denounced the Fulani militias' repeated attacks, was murdered in Damakasuwa.

On November 18, three Christians were killed by Fulani Islamists in an attack on a mid-week church service in Eruku, Kwara State, and at least ten worshippers were abducted.

On November 11, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) on a social media post claimed the killing of four Christians in an attack near the town of Dille, Borno State, in the north-east.

"Can I consider what has been happening as genocide against Christians?" asked John Joseph Hayab, Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria, in reference to accusations of genocide leveled at repeated attacks by Islamist groups. "My straightforward answer is – yes."

"We have buried too many for anyone to pretend otherwise," he added.

Cry out to the Lord to shield the Christian communities of northern and Middle Belt Nigeria from attack. Pray

that those bereaved in recent attacks will be comforted and receive practical aid, and that those abducted will be released without harm. As they have been tested with fire, pray that believers will come through as gold and increase in their trust in their Savior (Job 23:10). Continue praying for an end to the campaign of violence directed against Christian communities.

Malaysia – Government Ruled Responsible for Disappearance of Pastor Koh in 2017

After more than eight years, we can give thanks to God for a positive development in the case of a Malaysian Christian pastor who disappeared in suspicious circumstances.

The Malaysian High Court has ruled that the government and police are responsible for the enforced disappearance of Pastor Raymond Koh in February 2017.

The court awarded more than RM37 million (\$7.5 million) in compensation to Koh's family. The sum is to be held in a trust until it Pastor Koh's whereabouts are ascertained.

The judge criticized the authorities for suppressing evidence and misdirecting investigations and instructed that the case be reopened under new oversight, with regular reporting to the Attorney General.

Pastor Koh was abducted in broad daylight on February 13, 2017, in Petaling Jaya, Selangor. CCTV footage showed multiple vehicles and men in tactical gear surrounding his car. His wife, Susanna Liew, has led a sustained effort for truth and accountability.

In August 2024, the High Court ordered the release of a previously classified investigative report relevant to her civil suit. Susanna Liew subsequently renewed calls for an independent investigation and a Royal Commission of

Inquiry, expressing concern at the case's continued lack of resolution.

The Attorney General's Chambers has now announced plans to appeal the High Court's rulings in the cases of both Pastor Koh and activist Amri Che Mat, despite the court's direction that investigations be reopened.

Pastor Koh founded Harapan Komuniti, a Christian NGO supporting marginalized communities, including people living with HIV, former drug users and the homeless, work that often crossed ethnic and religious boundaries.

Pray that the Malaysian authorities act transparently in establishing the truth of what happened to Pastor Koh, uphold the rule of law, and ensure accountability. Ask also for justice for his family and a peace beyond understanding with whatever outcome is revealed. Intercede for the protection and freedom of the Christian community in Malaysia, especially its leaders. Pray that those involved in outreach will be especially assured that those who pursue righteousness and loyalty will find life, righteousness and honor (Proverbs 21:21).



Susanna Liew, wife of Pastor Raymond Koh, speaks to reporters after the court ruled on her husband's case. [Image credit: Sayuti Zainudin]

China – Thirty Christians Arrested in Crackdown on Unofficial Church

Please intercede for 30 Christians arrested in a crackdown on unofficial churches in China, including the pastor of a prominent underground church. Pastor Jin Mingri was arrested at his home in the southern region of Guangxi

on October 10 on “suspicion of the illegal use of information networks.”

Several other pastors working for Zion Church – a network of unofficial congregations – were also arrested in other cities on the same night.

At the time of writing 18 church leaders, including Pastor Jin, remain in detention and have been charged with “illegal dissemination of religious information via the internet.” If convicted, they face a possible three-year prison sentence.

Jin founded Zion Church, a popular unregistered church with members in many cities, in Beijing in 2007, where it grew to around 1,500 members. When the authorities shut down the church in 2018, its membership grew rapidly online, with services held on Zoom alongside smaller offline gatherings in 40 cities throughout China.

Although China’s constitution guarantees its citizens religious freedom, only official churches, including the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), are permitted to operate.

Christians unwilling to participate in closely monitored TSPM church services must attend unofficial “house churches” such as Zion, where they run the risk of being arrested.

In September 2025, new restrictions on online religious activity included a ban on preaching “via livestreams, short videos, online meetings, WeChat groups or WeChat Moments.” WeChat is China’s most popular social media platform.

Lift up to the Lord the detained members of Zion Church and their families. Ask God to enable them to stand firm in one Spirit during this challenging time, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel, unafraid of their opponents (Philippians 1:27-28). Pray that China’s Christians will be able to worship freely in their churches of choice, and that the current repression will serve to convict many of the power of the Gospel and turn to our risen Lord in repentance.

Myanmar – Food Crisis Worsens as Military Targets Civilians in Kayah State

The deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Myanmar’s Kayah State cries out for

our fervent prayers. Aid groups have warned of worsening food shortages as the Tatmadaw (Myanmar military) continues its campaign against civilians.

Kayah (also known as Karen State) is home to a large Christian community.

Among the worst-affected areas is Demoso Township, where many of those displaced by the violence now face severe hunger.

In September a church building in Demoso was severely damaged in a Tatmadaw strike. No casualties were reported in what a local leader described as “a deliberate attack on a civilian location.”

Food prices in Kayah have increased by between 300 and 400% in recent months.

Since the military coup that brought the Tatmadaw to power in February 2021, at least 250,000 people in Kayah have been displaced from their homes.

The Karen Human Rights Group has accused the Tatmadaw of deliberately engineering food shortages as a method of warfare.

Ask the Lord to provide for the displaced and traumatized in Kayah State, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray that their faith will be strengthened even as they experience hardship, that they will know that as they cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles (Psalm 34:17). Ask God, for whom nothing is impossible, to enable safe passage for supplies of food and establish peace in Kayah State and throughout Myanmar (Luke 1:37).

Iran – Christian Freed after Nearly Two Years in Prison; Another Convert Denied Medical Treatment after Spinal Fracture in Evin Prison

Please pray for two female Iranian Christian converts from Islam who have suffered serious health issues while imprisoned.

Mina Khajavi, 61, has been released after serving nearly two years in prison.

Mina, who has arthritis and walks with a limp, was serving a two-year sentence for “acting against national security by promoting ‘Zionist’ Christianity” in her role in a “house church” (see *Prayer Focus Update*, February 2024).

Her summons to start her sentence at Evin Prison, Tehran was delayed until January 2024 after she was run over by a car in 2022. Mina’s ankle was broken in the accident, and she had to have metal plates fitted.

While in prison Mina experienced considerable pain but only occasional painkillers were provided.

Aida Najafloo, 43, another convert detained in Evin Prison, suffered a spinal fracture after falling from her bunk bed on October 31. Aida’s pleas for a transfer to a lower bed were unheeded.

Aida, who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, was transferred to hospital. Doctors called for urgent surgery, followed by a long recuperation under specialist supervision.

Mother-of- two Aida was arrested in February 2025 along with Joseph Shahbazian and Naser Navard Goltapeh (both re-arrested after earlier being “pardoned” and released) on “propaganda” and “collusion” charges concerning her religious activities.

Their cases remain under judicial review. The verdict of a hearing in September of Tehran’s Revolutionary Court has yet to be made known at the time of writing.

Give thanks for Mina’s release. Pray that she will receive proper medical care and God’s guidance as she adjusts to life outside prison. Pray that Aida receives the necessary treatment to make a full recovery. Pray that spurious charges against her and other Christian prisoners held in Iran will be dismissed, and for their release. Ask that all Christians imprisoned for their faith in Jesus will abound in hope whatever trials they face (Romans 15:13). Pray that the cases of our two sisters will compel the authorities to provide essential medical care to all prisoners.



Caption: Aida Najafloo. [Image credit: Article 18]

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.” – Titus 2:11