

# RELEASE INTERNATIONAL PRAYER ALERT

**Tuesday, August 3, 2010**

*Prayer support is crucial to those who suffer for their faith in Jesus. Please use these alerts to prompt your own prayers, and to facilitate prayer in your church and other Christian meetings. Please also send it on to other Christians. This information can also be reproduced in church magazines and news bulletins, provided the source is acknowledged.*

## **July 15 2010 - INDIA – Christian woman 'critical' after being attacked for her faith**

A Christian woman is said to be in a critical condition in hospital after being attacked by a knife-wielding mob who accused her of forcible conversion.

The 40-year-old woman, named only as Amodini, was at her home in Karnataka state, south-west India, on July 6 when 15 men burst in and started accusing her of forcing people to become Christians. They then launched a brutal attack on her. 'Amodini's clothes were removed in public and she was attacked with knives,' a witness said, describing the scene as 'horrific'.

ASSIST News Service reports that police responded quickly and have already arrested 14 of the suspected assailants. Local Christians are said to be shocked by the attack and have called on their church family worldwide to pray for Amodini's healing – and for her attackers.

(Sources: ASSIST News Service, Gospel for Asia, VOM Australia)

- *Ask God to bless, comfort and heal Amodini and remind her that she is His precious child. Pray that she will remain firm in her faith.*
- *Pray that God will bring good out of this terrible incident, and that Amodini's attackers will repent and turn to Christ.*

## **July 20 2010 - PAKISTAN - Christian pastors shot dead outside court during blasphemy trial**

Two Christian brothers were shot dead yesterday outside the courthouse where they were standing trial for blasphemy, Release partners report.

Pastors Rashid and Sajid Emmanuel had reportedly just left the courtroom in Faisalabad District and Sessions Court, Punjab, when five masked gunmen opened fire on them, according to Compass Direct news agency.

Zafar Hussein, a police officer escorting the brothers, was also shot as he tried to protect them and is reported to be in a critical condition in hospital.

Rashid and Sajid were arrested earlier this month and charged with blasphemy after they were accused of distributing a pamphlet which Muslims considered blasphemous against their prophet, Mohammed. Handwriting experts have since told police that the brothers' writing did not match that on the offending leaflet.

Hundreds of Islamist extremists had been staging protests in Christian neighbourhoods against the alleged blasphemy and calling publicly for the Emmanuel brothers to be executed. Mosque loudspeakers had been broadcasting inflammatory messages urging more protests. Release sources say the brothers were not given adequate protection.

The situation in Faisalabad is said to be extremely tense. A curfew is now in force after individuals from Muslim and Christian communities reportedly began 'firing indiscriminately' at each other.

The Emmanuel brothers ran an organisation called United Ministries Pakistan, an umbrella ministry for several churches and Christian ministries in Faisalabad.

(Sources: Apostolic News, Associated Press, CLAAS, Compass Direct, SLMP)

- *Ask God to comfort Rashid and Sajid's close relatives and keep them safe. Ask God to heal the injured police officer, Zafar Hussein.*
- *Pray that the Pakistan authorities will take note of this huge injustice against the Christian community and repeal the notorious blasphemy laws, which are so often misused against religious minorities.*

### **July 27 2010 - PAKISTAN – Christian nurse narrowly survives being thrown from fourth floor**

A Christian student nurse is still in a critical condition after she was allegedly gang-raped and then thrown from a fourth-floor window in Karachi.

The third-year nurse was unconscious for 56 hours after a Muslim doctor and his accomplices allegedly beat, tortured and raped her at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre over several hours on July 13 – then tried to silence her. The doctor is reported to have a history of abusing Christian nurses with impunity at the teaching hospital – another example of Christian women being treated as an under-class in Pakistan. Police have charged the doctor and his alleged accomplices with attempted murder. Local Christian organisations are urging police to file rape charges too. The nurse's family say they have received threats from the doctor.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's President, Asif Ali Zardari, has demanded that the Punjab authorities launch an investigation into the murder of two Christian brothers shot dead outside a courthouse in Faisalabad last week (Prayer Alert, July 20, 2010).

Pastors Rashid and Sajid Emmanuel were on trial for blasphemy for allegedly distributing leaflets defaming Islam's prophet Mohammed – charges their family deny. The President has asked the provincial government to take immediate action to arrest the culprits and to pay compensation to the murdered brothers' family.

(Sources: Compass Direct, Dawn Media, International Christian Concern)

- *Ask God to heal and comfort the student nurse. Thank God that He crowns her with love and compassion (Psalm 103:4).*
- *Pray that President Asif Ali Zardari will remain true to his word and ensure that the Punjab authorities seek justice for the Emmanuel brothers' family.*

### **July 29 2010 - VIETNAM – Evangelist's home wrecked by mob 'spurred on by officials'**

A Vietnamese evangelist has received death threats after a gang of youths, allegedly spurred on by officials, attacked his home and house church twice in six weeks.

Mang Vuong, an ethnic minority Hroi Christian, had nearly finished building his home, which doubled as a church, in Xi Thoai village, Phu Yen province, when the mob first attacked. The youths, angered by Vuong's decision to hold worship meetings in his home, smashed walls and wrecked the interior on July 18. Previously, on June 10, they had broken into the house, stolen nearly £2,000 and destroyed much of its contents.

Sources for Compass Direct news agency claim that the violence had been encouraged by local officials who allegedly called the youth to a meeting and 'plied them with alcohol' the night before the first attack. The same gang has continued to threaten and harass Vuong ever since.

Vuong is part of the Evangelical Church of Vietnam (South), a government-registered church. He had decided to build a home that would also serve as a church – common practice for Vietnamese evangelists – because the closest Hroi church four miles away was full. Provincial leaders in Vuong's church say they tried in vain to persuade local and regional officials to take action to protect Vuong and now intend to raise the issue with the national Government.

(Source: Compass Direct)

- *Ask God to protect evangelist Mang Vuong and bless his ministry.*
- *Thank God for church growth among the Hroi people. Pray that God will continue to multiply His church in the region.*

### **News update:**

We are pleased to report that Ali Golchin, a Christian from Varamin, Iran, who was detained in April (Prayer Alert, July 13, 2010), has been released on bail. Ask God to heal Ali, who has reportedly suffered harsh interrogation and solitary confinement. No formal charges have been brought against Ali; pray this remains the case. (Sources: FCNN, MEC)