

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL PRAYER ALERT

Tuesday, October 26, 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.

October 14, 2010 - CHINA - Prisoner of faith denied urgent medical care

A Chinese prisoner of faith is said to be seriously ill and officials are refusing to treat her until medical fees are paid by her husband, who cannot afford them.

House church Christian Zheng Yumei was sentenced in March to one year's 're-education through labour' at a camp in Zhengzhou, Henan province, for 'belonging to a cult'.

In detention, her health has deteriorated rapidly and she now needs urgent treatment, according to her son, Liu Sen. He says that her health is now 'very poor' and she suffers frequent dizziness and nose bleeds. However, officials at the women's centre where Zheng is being held are refusing to provide suitable care for her, insisting that her husband should pay for it.

But her husband, Liu Yunhua, was detained at the same time as Zheng, along with two other members of the Tianmiao Town Church in Yuchen County. They too were sentenced to one year's 're-education through labour'.

The other two detainees, Liu Yunhua and Gao Jianli, filed a suit against Shangqiu Municipality Committee in May on the basis that the four were arrested and detained without legal documentation. Release partner China Aid claims that the authorities acted contrary to the due process of Chinese law.

(Source: China Aid)

- Ask God to heal and restore Zheng Yumei. Thank Him that her life is in His hands and His everlasting arms sustain her (Deuteronomy 33:27).
- Thank God for the bravery of these house church Christians prepared to speak out against persecution. Pray that justice will be done in their case.

October 19, 2010 – INDIA - Unborn child killed in Hindu nationalist attack on Karnataka Christians.

Hindu nationalists attacked four church leaders and a pregnant woman in Karnataka, killing her unborn child.

The woman, who is married to one of the pastors, was kicked in the stomach when about 40 extremists raided a Christian gathering at a school in Chintamani, Kolar district.

According to Compass Direct news agency, the attack continued even after police arrived at the scene. And when the violence ended, officers took the injured Christians to the police station, not their assailants.

The church leaders and the pastor's wife were held for about seven hours and were released only when the woman, who was four months pregnant, began bleeding profusely. She and her husband were taken for treatment at hospital where she lost her baby.

Police have arrested two suspects in connection with the attack. The Hindu nationalists have now filed a police complaint against the Christians relating to charges which included 'deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings or any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs'. They allege that Hindu gods were insulted during the Christian gathering at the school. A court has granted the Christians 'anticipatory bail', so they were not detained again.

The Christians present at the school were celebrating the birth of Mahatma Gandhi – who is considered the 'father of the nation' by Indians of all faiths. Gandhi himself was a Hindu and led the Indian nationalist movement, until he was killed by a Hindu extremist in 1948.

(Sources: BBC, Compass Direct)

- Ask God to comfort the pastor and his wife who lost their unborn child. Ask Him to bless them with more children.
- Pray for justice for the Christians attacked in this raid, so that all charges against them will be dropped and their assailants brought to book.