

"Persecution is a price worth paying for the Lord. We would rather live through it than to hide our faith. We hope more Chinese churches will speak up and stand with us."

~ Li Yingqiang

Elder of Early Rain Covenant Church

VIETNAM: Three Christians Detained

Sources: Radio Free Asia, International Christian Concern, Asia News, UCA News

Vietnamese police detained three members of an independent house church on March 6th. After being held for three days, the detained Christian men were eventually released. Although the three believers are from Dak Lak province, they had been arrested while working for a furniture manufacturer in Dong Xoai, which is located several hours away from their hometown.

Pastor Y Khen Bdap, who previously served a four-year prison term following his arrest in 2004, has identified the detained Christians as members of his family: his brother, Y Qui Bdap; his son, Y Nam Bkrong; and his nephew, Y Kic Bkrong. Y Qui Bdap is a 40-year-old pastor who serves as the leader of a house church. Police searched the home that the Christian men were renting and then went to their place of employment where the believers were subsequently detained.

Pastor Y Khen Bdap is convinced that the raid took place due to the Christians' affiliation with an unregistered church. In Vietnam, religious groups that are not approved by the government are subjected to frequent harassment and arrests. For more details on the persecution facing Christians in this Southeast Asian country, go to our [country report](#).

While we praise God that the three house church members were thankfully released after only a few days of detainment, please join us in praying for His continued provision, peace and protection as they resume their daily lives and ministry activities. May these believers be further strengthened in their commitment to serve Christ, remaining mindful that according to God's Word it is an honour to be persecuted for the sake of righteousness (Matthew 5:10). Pray also for the ongoing ministry efforts of other believers in Vietnam, asking that our persecuted Vietnamese brothers and sisters in Christ would be encouraged to continue reaching out in their communities with the hope of the Gospel despite the opposition they encounter.



A prison in Vietnam.
Photo: Wikipedia / Tycho (cc)

PAKISTAN: College Student Accused of Blasphemy

Sources: Morning Star News, Christian Today, Christian Daily, Church in Chains

Ashbeel Ghauri was recently arrested following accusations from a former classmate that he had allegedly disrespected Islam during a WhatsApp conversation. According to Ashbeel's father, Babar, the young Christian man had engaged in conversation several times with Sheraz Gulistan and other Muslims who attempted to convert him to Islam. Babar believes that Sheraz implicated Ashbeel after the young man refused to renounce his faith in Christ.

Police arrested the 18-year-old college student at his home in Attock, Punjab, on March 6th. The believer was placed with other blasphemy suspects in a detention centre where he was locked in a small room. There he spent his time in prayer, reading the Bible and fasting. During his detainment, Ashbeel was reassured as he remembered the words of Joshua 1:5, in which God says, *"Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you"* (ESV). His family also leaned on God for strength during that difficult time. "It's a crucial time for my family, especially for Ashbeel," his father Babar was able to testify. "But we know God will walk us through this test, and [Ashbeel] will emerge victorious in faith."



Ashbeel Ghauri
Photo: Morning Star News

Thankfully, during the bail hearing, the magistrate listened to the evidence that was presented and consequently released Ashbeel from custody on March 14th. Surety bonds were paid by a close friend of Babar. The friend, who is a Muslim, has since been threatened for assisting the Christian family. Babar has also expressed concerns about the security of his own family, but says he remains hopeful that Ashbeel will soon be acquitted and granted the freedom to resume his studies.

In Pakistan, threats of violence against those accused of blasphemy are rampant. According to the Centre for Social Justice, which is based in Lahore, seven people were killed through vigilante violence in 2023 because of blasphemy accusations. For more reports concerning our persecuted Christian family in Pakistan, go to our [country report](#).

Praise God that Ashbeel has been released on bail. Pray that all charges against this young man will be dropped. May God's protection rest upon Ashbeel and his family, as well as the friend who provided them financial assistance. Also prayerfully remember the many other Christians in Pakistan who are presently facing imprisonment, violence and even the threat of death because of blasphemy allegations, praying that the Lord would sustain them daily with His strength, wisdom and courage.

REPORT UPDATE

CHINA: Detained Preacher Subjected to Abuse and Delays

Source: ChinaAid

The family of Chang Hao is calling for prayer after learning that conditions in prison have significantly worsened for the disabled Christian man. During a previous visit with his lawyer, Chang described the harsh treatment he was receiving from prison officials. Those concerns were brought to the attention of the prison authorities but, according to Chang, this disclosure resulted in even harsher conditions.

In addition to the mistreatment this believer has endured at the hands of prison guards, Chang's lawyer contends that the Christian's case has exceeded the maximum time legally mandated to pass judgement. According to the lawyer, judgement is to be pronounced no later than three months after charges are laid. However, formal charges for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" were laid against Chang on November 28th ([read more](#)). Efforts by the believer's attorney to obtain copies of the case files have also been denied on two separate occasions.



Chang Hao's wife accompanied by his lawyer.
Photo: ChinaAid

As you bring Chang's case before the throne of God – the Righteous Judge – please pray that this disabled believer's spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs will be met. Throughout his imprisonment, may he receive the Lord's divine protection, healing, strength and favour. Also prayerfully remember Chang's concerned family and church members as they continue to await his hopeful release, asking that they will likewise receive needed ministry from the Lord – namely His comfort, encouragement and peace. Ultimately, may Chang's unwavering commitment to Christ, and that of other Chinese believers who are presently being detained for their faith, serve as vibrant testimonies of God's love and saving grace to all those around them – including their prison guards.

The "Persecution & Prayer Alert" is a ministry of:
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