

The Persecution & Prayer Alert  
The Voice of the Martyrs, Canada  
[www.persecution.net](http://www.persecution.net)  
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A weekly news and prayer digest on the Persecuted Church.

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In this week's edition: reports from Pakistan, Ethiopia and Vietnam, with an update from China.

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### 1. Christian nursing student brutally assaulted in Pakistan

Magdalene Ashraf, a 22-year-old Christian nurse trainee, was brutally attacked on July 13 by several Muslim men who raped her and threw her from the fourth-floor window of the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center in Karachi, Pakistan. A fellow nurse tricked Magdalene into visiting the office of a Muslim doctor by telling her that he wanted to talk to her about a class assignment. The doctor, Abdul Jabbar Memon, reportedly has a history of sexually abusing Christian nurses in the hospital. Once she was inside the room with the nurse, Dr. Jabbar and at least two other men then attacked her. Describing the assault, Magdalene said: "When I resisted and tried to escape, nurse Fatima slapped both my cheeks and pushed me into Dr. Jabbar. I cried out but no one arrived there to rescue me. They not only gang-raped me, they also tortured me physically and ruthlessly beat me." After several torturous hours, Magdalene was thrown out the window by the men. At last report, she was hospitalized in an intensive care unit. Her family members have reportedly continued to receive threats from Dr. Jabbar, though he has been arrested. (Source: Compass Direct, Sharing Life Ministries Pakistan).

Ask God to give Magdalene healing from the emotional and physical scars of her assault. Pray that her attackers will be brought to justice. Pray that she and her family will trust in the Lord as their protector and guide. Pray for justice for Christian nurses facing similar abuse in Pakistan, where such rape cases frequently go unreported or are ignored by officials. You can post a prayer of solidarity with Magdalene by visiting our Persecuted Church Prayer Wall at [www.persecution.net/prayerwall](http://www.persecution.net/prayerwall).

For more on the persecution of Pakistani Christians, visit [www.persecution.net/pakistan.htm](http://www.persecution.net/pakistan.htm).

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### 2. Somali Muslims assault Christian in Ethiopia

On July 16, five Somali Muslim men assaulted and seriously injured a Christian man in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for reading a book critical of the Prophet Muhammad. Mike Abdul Falahow, a Christian convert from Islam, was reading "The Great Deception: How

Muhammad Tried to Win Christians for Islam" when two Somali Muslims demanded that he hand over the book, saying that it was offensive and attacked the honour of the Prophet Muhammad. Mike refused to surrender the book and argued that they were living in Ethiopia and not in Somalia, and therefore had religious freedom. One of the Muslim men then attempted to seize the book from Mike's grasp. When he failed to grab it, he proceeded to punch and kick him. Four other Muslim men joined in the violence, beating Mike mercilessly. He suffered injuries that included a broken leg and cuts to his face. At last report, he was recovering in a safe house provided by the Somali Christian community in Addis Ababa. A Somali church leader described the attack as "a brutal attempt to subdue the growing Somali Christian community in Addis Ababa." (Source: International Christian Concern)

Ask God to equip Mike by His Holy Spirit to remain strong in his faith and maintain a bold witness. Pray that he and other Christians in this community will continue to give themselves fully to the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:50-58). Pray for an end to violence against Christians in Ethiopia.

To learn more about the ongoing opposition of believers in Ethiopia, go to [www.persecution.net/ethiopia.htm](http://www.persecution.net/ethiopia.htm).

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### 3. House church attacked in Vietnam

A house church building in Xi Thoai village, Phu Yen Province, Vietnam was attacked and damaged by a gang of youths on July 18. The building, which was also intended to be the home of Christian evangelist Mang Vuong, was in the process of being constructed in order to serve the ethnic Hroi community as the nearby church had reached full capacity. Vuong belongs to the Evangelical Church of Vietnam (South), the country's largest government-registered denomination.

The same youths, spurred on by local authorities, earlier broke into Vuong's home on June 10 and stole 60 million dong (approximately \$3,250 CAD) -- money borrowed to pay the contractor of his new house. Household items including furnishings and books were also destroyed.

Since the attack in June, police from local and provincial levels came to the area several times to "investigate." However, local Christians believe authorities were only attempting to identify the Christians in the village. In the following weeks, authorities did nothing to address the crime and failed to stop the daytime raid in July. "There was no other reason for this -- it is religious persecution, pure and simple, incited and allowed by local government officials," a prominent church leader said. "The inaction of higher officials casts into doubt our country's claim to uphold religious freedom." (Source: Compass Direct)

Pray that believers in Xi Thoai village will not lose heart but will trust the Lord in all things. Pray for wisdom for area church leaders during this time. Pray that authorities in Vietnam will respect religious freedom.

Go to [www.persecution.net/vietnam.htm](http://www.persecution.net/vietnam.htm) to learn more about the plight of Vietnamese Christians. For testimonies of others who have endured persecution in Vietnam, sign up to receive the August edition of The Voice of the Martyrs newsletter. Visit [www.persecution.net/newsletter](http://www.persecution.net/newsletter) to receive your free copy today.

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#### 4. Update: Imprisoned Christian refused further visits in China

Imprisoned Uyghur house church pastor Alimujiang Yimiti, who was finally allowed to visit with his family in recent months (see [www.persecution.net/cn-2010-05-13.htm](http://www.persecution.net/cn-2010-05-13.htm) for more information), has been prevented further visits. Alimujiang's mother, wife and children were able to meet with him for the first time in two years in April. In May, they were permitted a second meeting for 20 minutes. However, authorities have since demanded that a letter stamped by the local police verifying Alimujiang's relationship with his wife and mother be brought to each meeting. The local police, meanwhile, claim the letter is unnecessary and refuse to cooperate. Alimujiang's lawyers have not been permitted to meet with him since he was moved into prison.

Although Alimujiang's wife, Gulinuer, mails a letter to him every week, she only knows of two letters that have reached her husband. She has yet to receive a reply. One letter mailed to Alimujiang from the United States was returned to the sender with the word "deceased" written across the envelope. Sources have been unable to confirm the validity of the message. (Source: ChinaAid)

Pray for health and strength for Alimujiang and his family. Pray that authorities will allow him to resume visits with his loved ones. Pray that the charges against him will be dropped and he will be free to return home. Pray that his love for Christ will draw others closer to the Lord.

To learn more about persecution in China, go to [www.persecution.net/china.htm](http://www.persecution.net/china.htm). We encourage you to visit [www.FreeAlim.com](http://www.FreeAlim.com) to sign a petition demanding the release of Alimujiang. Please consider sharing this petition with your friends and family so they too can raise a voice for this suffering family.

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The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of The Voice of the Martyrs, Canada.

(Mailing address: P.O. Box 608, Streetsville, Ontario, L5M 2C1)

Tel. (905) 670.9721. Website: [www.persecution.net](http://www.persecution.net)

Contacts: Adele Konyndyk & Erin Vandenberg

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