

CHRISTIANS UNDER PRESSURE IN ALGERIA

Local authorities in Algeria's north-western city of Oran have closed two more churches amidst growing pressure on Christians in the country. And two churches (among the 25 which received notifications) in the eastern province of Kabylie, were asked "to cease all religious activities immediately".

Over the last two decades, significant numbers of Kabylie Berbers returned to Christianity. Centuries ago the Berbers were Christians, but in the seventh century, Islam conquered North Africa and the Berbers, and other groups were forced into Islam.

In the early 1990s after much prayer and fasting, a group of young people became Christians, and a movement started where Kabylies became Christians. It can be described as a real revival. The government even protected places of worship.

However, during the last few months, missionaries were thrown out of the country and churches closed. By March 2018 more than 100 churches were already closed.

The government is disturbed by the fact that so many people are leaving the traditional religion and converting to Christianity. The government is trying to find "legal" reasons to close these churches. This also means no one has been allowed to plant new churches. So they gather in house churches to stay under the radar. There are many stories of people having dreams or visions, or coming to Christ because of a message they heard.

The Protestant Church of Algeria called for a week of prayer and fasting for the nation.

PRAY:

- For Christians to stand firm and to find legal ways to continue practising their faith and for permission to open their churches.
- For Christians to continue to come together for fellowship.
- The church in Algeria is a very missional church - not only reaching out to the unsaved but also sending Algerian missionaries to other nations. Pray that they will continue to do that.

Source: Jericho Walls: www.jwipn.com

Prayer + News



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Kabylie man and his wife praying

MAKING
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FOUR IRANIAN CHRISTIANS SET TO BEGIN TEN-YEAR PRISON SENTENCES

An appeal court in Iran has upheld the ten-year prison sentences handed down to four Christians for "promoting Zionist Christianity" and running house churches.

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani, Yasser Mossayebzadeh, Saheb Fadaie and Mohammad Reza Omid received notification from the court through their lawyer (2 May 2018), said [Middle East Concern](http://www.meconcern.org).

Miles Windsor of Middle East Concern says prison terms are getting longer for Iranian Christians.

"Whilst Christians have consistently been put in prison for their faith in Iran in considerable numbers, the length of the sentence has seemed to have increased in the recent year or so," Windsor told Christian website [Mission Network News](http://www.missionnetworknews.com).

Source: <http://www.meconcern.org/2018/05/03/iran-appeal-unsuccessful-for-rasht-christian-converts/>

PRAY:

- For perseverance for the church in Iran.
- For pastors, who often end-up in prison and are ill-treated. (Their families also suffer because of this).
- For the church to be a bold witness.
- For a new translation of the Iranian New Testament in a more modern Farsi language. (This will be very helpful, as there is a great hunger for Bibles in Iran).

Consider Acts 4:29-31 when you pray for the church in this nation: "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus". And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Prayer source: Jericho Walls: www.jwipn.com



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

Prayer requests from viewers in Iran:

“I live in a village with no other believers. My family mocks my faith. Pray that some time I can build a house and some believers can come worship God together here.”

“Since I came to Christ, my marriage has been improving, and I have more peace. Please pray for an end to the insomnia I have suffered for years.”

“A friend and I gave a Bible to another friend who came to faith. Her parents have taken us to court. Pray they won’t find her Bible or harm us. Pray they understand who Christ is.”

“I am a new believer and I love having fellowship and worshipping, so I travel eight hours to go to church.” (Give thanks for this man’s devotion.)

From a viewer in Tunisia – “I met Christ five years ago. I watch your programs on my phone app. My family won't let me watch them on TV. Pray my family will meet Jesus too.”

From a viewer in Palestine – “I worry that as my sons get a little older, they will be attracted to extremism. Pray for my wife and I to have wisdom to guide our boys.”

Turkey returns confiscated Syriac church property deeds

Syriac Orthodox Christians have welcomed the Turkish government’s return of 55 title deeds, representing nearly half of their ancient church properties in south-east Turkey, which had been confiscated by the state in recent years.

“This is the first time our property deeds have been returned,” Ergün told Cumhuriyet newspaper on 27 May, noting that the new judicial amendments had considerably reduced property ownership problems of southeast Turkey’s Syriac community.

“These returned deeds have created great joy here among the Syriac Christians in Mardin and those who live abroad. At the same time, this also means the return of our minority rights, as birthed in the Lausanne Treaty,” Ergün stressed.

But although he declared the legal change was “of great significance to us”, he also clarified to Doğan news agency: “We still have a legal dispute over ownership of lands belonging to the community.” The recovery of various Syriac monasteries, village churches, and cemeteries, along with some 70 vineyards, gardens and lands attached to them, is still pending in the local courts.

The Tur Abdin (literally ‘Mountains of the Worshipers’) region in Mardin is the ancient homeland of Syriac Christians, who still speak an Aramaic dialect close to that of Jesus and date their monasteries and churches back through the past 17 centuries.

Less than 3,000 Syriac Christian citizens of Turkey still live in the region, although an estimated 20,000 now reside in Istanbul. Tens of thousands have immigrated to Europe during the last few decades of armed fighting between Kurdish separatists and Turkish military forces in the southeast.

Source:
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/turkey-returns-confiscated-syriac-church-property-deeds/?platform=hootsuite>



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

From a viewer in Algeria – “I want to testify that Jesus saved me from the bondage of drugs, a habit I struggle with for many years. I have been clean for five years and 25 days. Give glory to God.”

From a viewer in Turkey – “I can't tell my husband that I'm Christian, but learning about God's faithfulness on your program relieved my heart.”

From a viewer in Afghanistan – “Praise God for SAT-7 PARS' recent increased access via the Yahsat satellite platform to Afghan viewers. Pray that discrimination and marginalisation of Afghan Christians would cease, and that local churches would be permitted by officials.”

From a viewer in Syria – “I hear that Jesus changes people when they see Him. I want to see Him too, or have a dream of Him. Pray for me.”

From a viewer in Lebanon – “There are so many refugees here who have almost nothing. My church has helped a lot, but the need just increases. We are so tired. Pray for a solution.”

From a viewer in Turkey – “Give thanks for the SAT-7 ACADEMY staff. You help abolish illiteracy and make it easier for teachers like me who are trying to help refugees.”