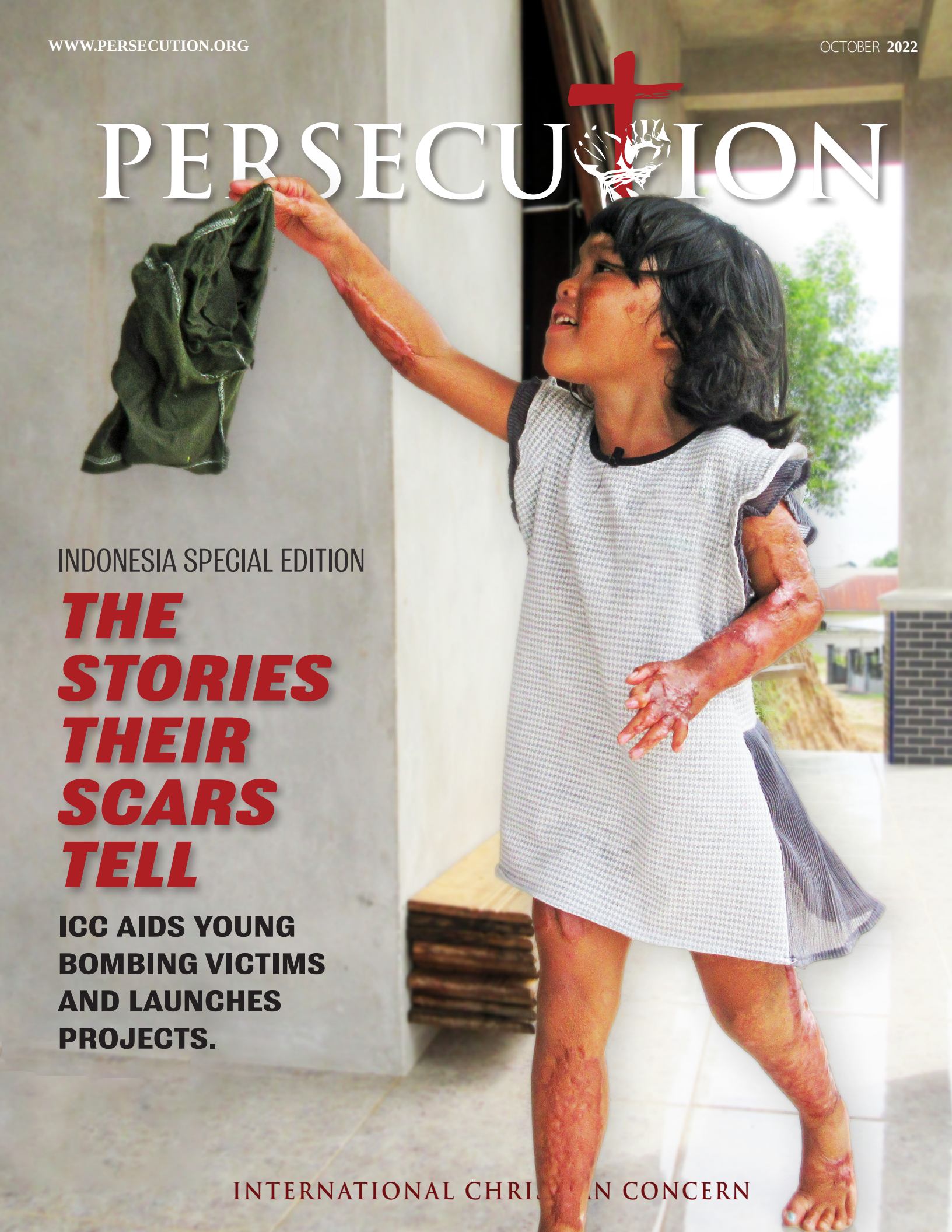


PERSECUTION



INDONESIA SPECIAL EDITION

THE STORIES THEIR SCARS TELL

**ICC AIDS YOUNG
BOMBING VICTIMS
AND LAUNCHES
PROJECTS.**

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN

THE STORIES THEIR SCARS TELL



IN THIS ISSUE

UPDATES

- 4 | Your Dollars at Work**
Learn how your gifts are providing comfort, relief, Bibles, education, and vocational training for the persecuted.
- 8 | West Watch**
A glimpse at issues involving Christianity in the West.

FEATURES

- 10 | “Unity in Diversity”**
Indonesia’s national motto cloaks the dark reality Christians face.
- 12 | Terrorism on the Rise**
Radicalism is growing in Indonesia. Churches are attacked and Christians are targeted at an alarming rate.
- 14 | Anything Goes**
Twisted to target and criminalize religious minorities in Indonesia, blasphemy laws are the secret weapon for those trying to wipe out Christianity.
- 16 | ICC’s 2022 One-Time Projects in Indonesia**
Read about the individuals ICC has helped this year!
- 18 | Healing Wounds of the Heart and a Nation**
Bombing survivors persevere and show amazing resilience and faith.

MINISTRY

- 24 | Staff Column**
A letter of encouragement from a longtime ICC staffer in Nigeria.
- 26 | Front Lines of Ministry**
Take a deep dive into the lives of pastors and preachers on the front lines of persecution.
- 28 | Hope House Child Sponsor**
Eman wants to grow up to be a teacher. Her dreams are possible because of Hope House.
- 30 | You Can Help Today**
Learn about practical ways you can get involved to advocate for the persecuted.



THAT IS WHY,
FOR CHRIST’S
SAKE, I DELIGHT
IN WEAKNESSES,
IN INSULTS, IN
HARDSHIPS, IN
PERSECUTIONS, IN
DIFFICULTIES. FOR
WHEN I AM WEAK,
THEN I AM STRONG.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:10

COUNTERING PERSECUTION IN INDONESIA

Despite great online communication tools such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams, the Internet, and many apps, nothing beats putting boots on the ground. It is the only way to get an exact view of the land. To kick the tires.

That is why I recently sent two staffers to Indonesia. We have been getting horrific reports of Christian persecution over the years from that region. So, our staffers talked to survivors, pastors, government officials, and community leaders to better assess the situation. We now have a greater understanding of the problem and are crafting solutions.

Indonesia is Muslim, with a growing animosity and hatred toward followers of Christ.

The reasons are many. But much of the persecution stems from weak and inept federal laws. Radical Islamic groups have gained a foothold and are trying to stop the church.

In this special issue, Gina Goh, our Southeast Asia regional manager, lays out some of the problems such as blasphemy laws and church permits—which are impossible to get. Meanwhile, mosques sprout up easily.

Thankfully, because of your help, we are pushing back against persecution. We launched several new projects—please see page 16—and we continue to set church planters up with ‘cover’ small businesses so they can continue their evangelism and avoid government scrutiny.

We have also helped victims and families of heart-wrenching church bombings. A church attack in 2016 injured four toddlers, and our staffers learned more about their recovery. We also came alongside victims of a devastating bombing outside a church in 2021.

As horrific as these attacks were, I am impressed by the resilience and joy in the Lord of the young survivors. The smiles on their courageous faces tug at the heart.

Please know that we could not do any of our work in Indonesia and beyond without your support.

Forever grateful,



JEFF KING
President: International Christian Concern
Author: *The Last Words of the Martyrs* and *Islam Uncensored*



YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

A MIRACULOUS ESCAPE FROM THE ADF

ICC SUPPORTS TEEN MOM WITH MEDICAL EXPENSES

Kavira, who was five months pregnant, and her husband were kidnapped by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The captors killed her husband and sexually assaulted her.

She managed to escape when one of the guards fell asleep.

“The Lord threw the guards into a deep sleep to help my escape,” she told ICC.

Kavira walked through the night, and the following day reached a popular refugee town. Kavira was taken in by a Christian woman, but struggled with food, clothing, medical expenses, and needed emotional support. The burden became heavier after the birth of her son.

ICC helped pay for Kavira’s hospital maternity bill and bought her food and clothes for the baby. ICC also provided her with a small grocery store business to support herself long-term.



GROUND COFFEE FOR A MISSION

Evangelism in Indonesia requires an extra layer of creativity to share the gospel with nonbelievers. The gospel is often shared through underground “field workers” who spread the message of Jesus through their everyday relationships and businesses.

ICC equipped a field worker with money to buy coffee from local farmers to start a coffee shop. When he buys the beans from the farmers, he establishes friendships that lead to gospel-sharing opportunities. Then he roasts the coffee to sell, where he can support himself and make connections with the community.



A CHICKEN FARM FOR A CHURCH PLANTER

Pastor G serves a small town in Uttar Pradesh, India, a particularly sensitive place for Christians involved in church planting. Pastor G leads a small congregation focused on mission efforts in the area. He also equips and trains other evangelists in crisis.

Pastor G faced hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic and struggled to meet his family’s needs. ICC helped him start a small farm to earn additional income and better connect with the community.



ICC COMES ALONGSIDE WIDOW IN NIGERIA

Sarafatu’s husband, who was also the village’s reverend, was murdered by Fulani militants in July 2021.

“Before his death, we suffered severe terror from the activities of the Fulani militants,” she said. “Our house was attacked, and my husband was shot with gunfire and was kidnapped by the same men with a ransom.”

He tragically died after seven days in the hospital, leaving Sarafatu to provide for her five children ages 4 to 28. The children had to drop out of school because she could not afford to send them.

ICC helped Sarafatu establish a grinding machine small business so she could support her family and send her children to school.

To learn more about how you can support these initiatives, visit www.persecution.org or give us a call at 800-422-5441.



YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

ONGOING INITIATIVES

BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST PLACES

One of the most important things we can do is push the gospel out in the most dangerous places on Earth. As we speak, we are training 200 church planters to go out in India this year. We are also preparing to train an additional 100-200! If you would like to join our efforts to spread the gospel, please visit www.persecution.org/gospel.

WRITING LETTERS TO PRISONERS

ICC launched our second round of Letters to Prisoners campaign, with seven new prisoners of faith. Professor Solomon Tarfa was sentenced to two years of prison in Nigeria after being falsely accused. He is believed to be targeted for running a Christian orphanage in the Muslim-dominated north. To download your digital packet with more profiles like Solomon's, please visit www.persecution.org/letters.

RESCUING AFGHAN CHRISTIANS

Last year when the Taliban took over Afghanistan, ICC swung into action to get as many Christians out of the country as possible. ICC recently released a report documenting the religious freedom impacts within the country. Afghan Christians cannot seek out humanitarian aid the same way as other Afghans. Read the report here: www.persecution.org/reports, or by scanning the QR code with your mobile device.



EXTREMIST ATTACKS WON'T STOP THIS BELIEVER

Arman, a follower of Jesus, was an experienced tailor of more than ten years in Egypt. But a group of Muslim extremists burned his shop down after they could not convert him to Islam.

It started when a man walked into Arman's shop to discuss the Bible. This 'customer,' however, was secretly trying to convert Arman to Islam.

Islamic leaders soon followed and came to Arman's shop to pressure him to convert. But he refused.

The extremists eventually gave up and kicked him out of his shop, forcing Arman to sell clothes for several years in the open market. In early 2022, Arman rented out a new shop from a Christian owner, but extremists burned down the shop and he lost his supplies.

ICC helped Arman resupply his shop so he could return to business.

To learn more about how you can support these initiatives, visit www.persecution.org or give us a call at 800-422-5441.

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN



WEST WATCH

ISSUES INVOLVING
CHRISTIANITY IN THE WEST

ICC PARTNERS WITH THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION ON CHINA EVENT

International Christian Concern (ICC) was privileged to co-host an event with The Heritage Foundation this year that highlighted the atrocities of President Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) against Chinese Christians and other religious minorities.

The Heritage Foundation, based in Washington, D.C., is the most influential conservative think tank in America. The event was held this summer on the heels of ICC's release of its comprehensive 2022 Persecutor of the Year Awards report that includes Christian persecution in China.

About 75 people attended a panel discussion that featured ICC's Tim Carothers, advocacy manager for Southeast Asia. Carothers was joined by Bob Fu, president of China Aid, and June Lin, Asia senior program officer with Freedom House. Nury Turkel, chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, supplied opening remarks. The panel was moderated by Olivia Enos, senior policy analyst in the Asian Studies Center at Heritage.

"We were grateful to partner with The Heritage Foundation and illuminate the work of International Christian Concern in this region of the world," said ICC President Jeff King. "We are deeply concerned with the tactics of President Xi and the CCP that force Christians to put the party first, with no room for Christ. We are making the world aware of these atrocities and supporting our brothers and sisters who are in great peril."

During the panel discussion, Carothers described how the communist regime persecutes Christians; including oppressive church regulation, surveillance, and manipulation of youth away from Christianity. President Xi and the CCP arrest and persecute anything that threatens the regime and party.

In ICC's 150-page 2022 Persecutor of the Year report, which named the worst persecuting countries, entities, and individuals, China was cited throughout. ICC's ongoing reporting on the world's worst offenders of religious freedom and top persecutors continues to make waves in Washington and beyond.

"ICC was honored to link arms with The Heritage Foundation to illuminate the atrocities of the Chinese Communist Party," said Matias Perttula, ICC's Director of Advocacy. "We're proud of the work that ICC continues to do around the world through our fantastic staff, and we're grateful for our partnership with the Heritage Foundation." ✝

Photo: ICC Advocacy Manager for Southeast Asia Tim Carothers (second from left) speaks at the Heritage Foundation.





“UNITY IN DIVERSITY”

By Hannah Campbell

Indonesia’s national motto cloaks the dark reality Christians face.

Look up any photo of Indonesia and you’ll see a beautiful destination with picturesque shorelines and soaring mountains. The farms contour the landscape in what resembles art more than agriculture. You’ll see photos of fisherman with the warmest smiles.

But behind the veil of this beautiful country lies deep division.

Inside the country, and even within the governmental systems, are people who want so much power they oppress Christians and religious minorities. Blasphemy laws are currently being modified with grave consequences (look to India to know this has no positive outcome). These laws are weaponized against Christians who are served drastically harsher sentences than their Islamic counterparts.

The country’s motto, *Unity in Diversity*, is far from the truth as groups actively try to divide and persecute.

With Indonesia having the largest Islamic population—220 million followers—radical terrorist groups have set their eyes upon their next target after causing mass destruction in the Middle East. The Islamic State has already claimed dozens of lives through suicide bombings at church services.

International Christian Concern (ICC) has come alongside victims of the egregious acts to lend a caring hand in their darkest moments. We are assisting children who are healing the mental and physical scars of surviving a terrorist attack. So many of them have big and bright dreams for their futures, despite their dark past. Our hope and prayer is to see them heal and thrive in their lives and their walk with Christ.

But the work doesn’t just stop at bandaging the church. We know how important it is for the gospel to reach the hearts of nonbelievers. On page 16, you’ll see a list of the one-time projects we implemented in 2022.

So many field workers (evangelists) use cover businesses to effectively reach Muslims and other nonbelievers. Our role is to assist them with getting their business ideas off the ground and equip them with the administrative skills to run a successful business.

They do the rest with their God-given gifts of evangelism. ✝

TERRORISM ON THE RISE

Radicalism is growing in Indonesia. Churches are attacked and Christians are targeted at an alarming rate.

By Gina Goh

In some areas of Indonesia, going to church can mean having to pass through a security checkpoint to get to the sanctuary. In other areas, it can mean stepping through those doors for the last time.

Radical, religiously driven terrorism has flourished throughout the country since 2014—since the rise of the Islamic State (IS) in the Middle East. After the group conquered large swaths of territory in Syria and Iraq, it set its eyes upon the country with 220 million Muslims, the largest Islamic population in the world.

During the 2010s Iraq war, more than 600 Indonesian citizens were radicalized traveled to join the movement as fighters in Syria and Iraq. And even more concerning, tens of thousands of Muslims still in the country were inspired by the jihadist approach, resulting in radicalism in all aspects of life.

Indonesia's state motto *Pancasila*, meaning “Unity in Diversity,” has

been overshadowed by the rising ideology. Suicide bombings and attacks on multiple churches all had one thing in common: the perpetrators were determined to kill “the infidels who deserve nothing but death.”

Dozens of lives were lost and even more live with handicaps and brutal scars. Despite any national effort to counter the violence, terrorism continues to develop as extremists educate and recruit new faces.

The breeding ground for extremism has crossed virtual and political boundaries.

Historically, extremism was restricted to where terrorist-linked groups were based. However, nearly 20 percent of government employees have been influenced by radical ideology. That's at least 800,000 civil servants, according to recent data from the Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform Ministry.

In response to this shocking statistic, the Indonesia government tests a candidate's commitment to the country's values, their ability to respect other religions, and willingness to filter out potential extremists.

Brainwashing also occurs in schools. Recent reports point out that extreme Islamic groups have ties with roughly 200 boarding schools in Indonesia. To eliminate the religious ambitions of racial Islamic groups, Indonesia's Vice President, Ma'ruf Amin, suggested that public universities adopt and embrace religious diversity.

The daunting task for Jakarta to counter terrorism lies not only with the police and government agencies, but also down to the grassroots level. If they fail, the spread of racial Islam in Indonesia will only continue to break down the peace and safety of Christians and religious minorities. ✝

Photo: *The Islamic State caused mass destruction in the Middle East, foreshadowing what could take place in Indonesia.*

ANYTHING GOES

By Gina Goh



Twisted to target and criminalize religious minorities in Indonesia, blasphemy laws are the secret weapon for those trying to wipe out Christianity.

Complaining about a mosque's speaker for its volume, offering free drinks in a bar for people named Mohammed or Maria, or sharing the gospel with a taxi driver could all lead to arrest in the Muslim-majority country of Indonesia.

Your crime? Violation of blasphemy laws.

Watch Your Mouth

This set of toxic regulations criminalizes anyone who insults the six officially recognized religions: Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism.

But Christians and other religious minorities are disproportionately punished under these laws. According to Human Rights Watch, more than 150 people were convicted under the blasphemy law since it was passed in 1965. It is most often used against religious minorities.

Christian victims are imprisoned for years for allegedly “insulting Islam.” Some notable prisoners include Muhammad Kace, Apollinaris Darmawan, Pastor Abraham Ben Moses, and former Jakarta Governor Ahok.

Arrested for a Viral Video

Muhammad Kace began posting videos to YouTube after his conversion to Christianity in 2014. He criticized his former faith and shared the good news of the gospel on his channel. His video stumbled into the wrong hands and he was arrested for insulting Islam.

In April 2022, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison for a viral video that allegedly offended Muslims across Indonesia.

“In other such cases, sentences have been lighter,” Kace’s lawyer said.

A few months prior, Muslim cleric Muhammad Yahya Waloni was arrested for insulting Christianity. He was sentenced to five months in prison for the same crime Kace was sentenced to for 10 years. The double standard is self-evident.

ICC Criticism Reaches President’s Desk

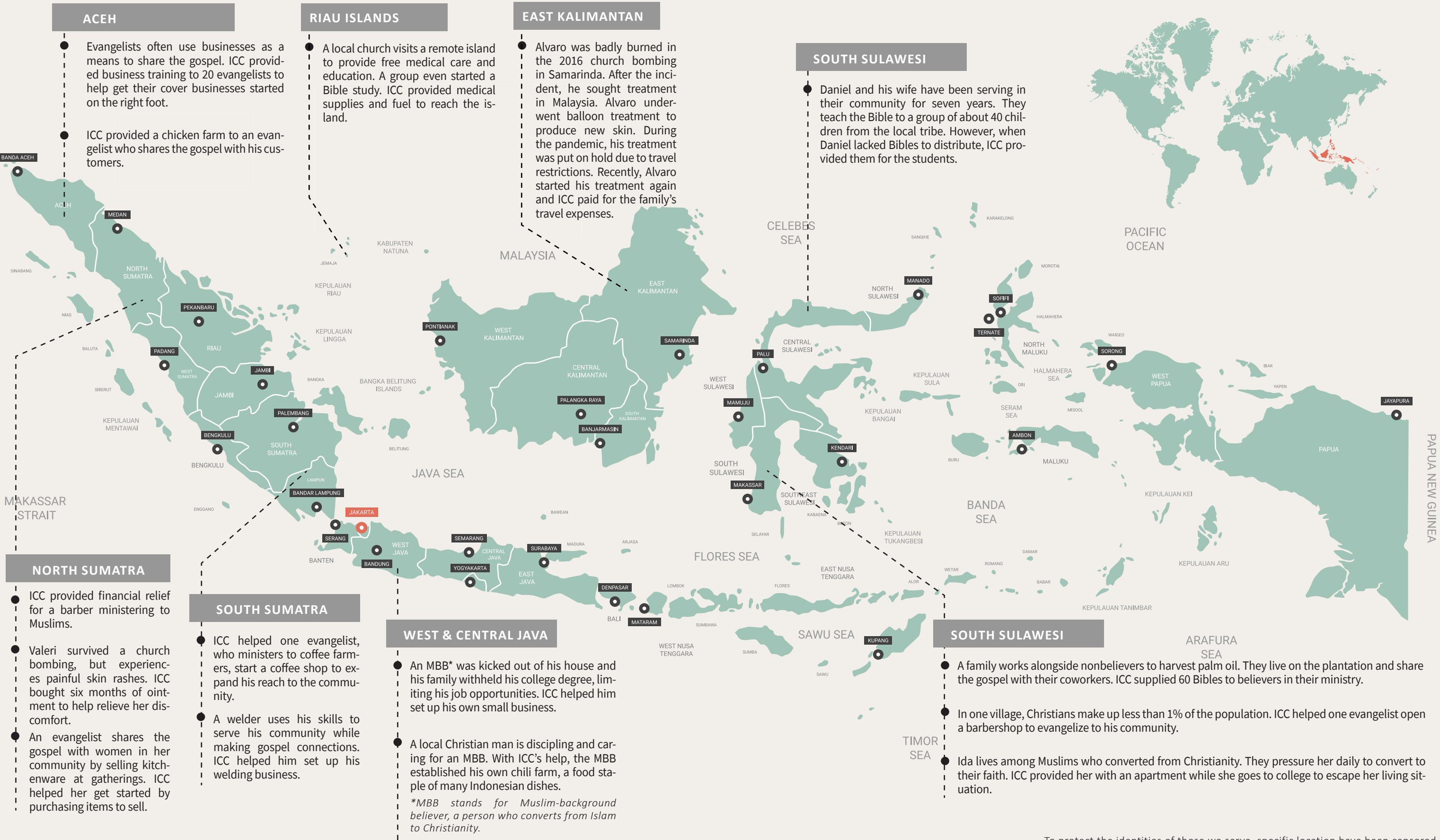
ICC published a press release about a revision to Indonesia’s Criminal Code, which would strengthen the blasphemy laws, making it easier for courts to target Christians. The release allegedly made its way into the President’s Daily Briefing, a classified daily report of all major stories and developments for President Joko Widodo.

The president who ordered more deliberations, delaying the overhaul indefinitely. ✝



PHOTOS | Top: Muhammad Kace, sentenced to 10 years after a viral YouTube video criticizing Islam. He was beaten by his Muslim cell mate while imprisoned. Bottom: Pastor Abraham Ben Moses was released after more than a year in prison for blasphemy charges. His daughter was born while he was incarcerated.

ICC’s 2022 ONE-TIME PROJECTS IN INDONESIA



To protect the identities of those we serve, specific location have been censored.

HEALING WOUNDS OF THE HEART AND A NATION

Bombing survivors persevere and show amazing resilience and faith.

By Mike Anderson

Satan searches for amenable mortals to do his evil bidding. When deceived men and women carry out his wicked schemes, Christians suffer. But only temporarily, as justice is served in the heavens. For now, the love of Christ triumphs in the hearts of suffering souls.

This scenario was on display after a string of church attacks in Indonesia. Young survivors endured intense pain but came through with a profound joy in the Lord. Jesus conquered death. And so will his followers, now and for eternity.

A mid-morning prayer service in November 2016 had just ended as congregants happily streamed from Okumene Church in Samarinda, Indonesia. Four toddlers frolicked outside as their parents gathered nearby. No one saw the pending storm. Darkness was about to descend on the body of Christ.

Juhanda, a radical Muslim villain recently released from prison, carried an explosive device on his motorbike wanting to kill as many Christians as possible. To do immense damage to Jesus' followers would, in his mind, bring great rewards from Allah.

Instead, the device detonated too soon as he fell from his motorbike. Toddlers Alvaro (4), Anita (2), Intan (2), and Trinity (3) took the brunt of the blast. Intan died from her injuries the following day. The others suffered excruciating burns. The premature explosion saved many lives, but Intan's tragic death and the harm to the little ones tore at the heart of the nation.

International Christian Concern (ICC), like other organizations, helped the families of Alvaro, Anita, and Trinity and chronicled their recoveries. Satan temporarily crushed their tiny frames but could not hold their mighty

Photo: Trinity during a visit with an ICC staffer.





“He heals the
brokenhearted
and binds up
their wounds.”

- *Psalm 147:3*

Spirits. Six years later, after treatments and painful surgeries, their survival and recovery are symbolic of the global church. What the adversary steps on rises from the ashes of fear.

“What I see through these young victims is resilience,” said Gina Goh, ICC’s regional manager for Southeast Asia who has visited the young survivors and stays in touch with their families. “They are doing well and recovering.”

Anita suffered injuries to her head and arm but recovered without needing surgery—ICC helped cover incidentals for her family. Alvaro and Trinity were severely injured and needed extensive treatment and skin grafts. ICC helped their families with travel and hotel costs to Malaysia and China for advanced surgeries.

The two youngsters are savoring their childhoods and active in their private Catholic school.

Visible scars on Trinity and Alvaro are reminders of that dreadful day. Yet they sing songs of praise, and their faces convey an inner strength and

Photo: Anita with her father.

redemption. No barbs from the gates of Hades can touch God’s house or child.

“You can tell that their singing comes from the heart,” noted Goh. “You still see the scars on their hands and hair, but a lot of the songs are worshipful. It just shows the strength they have. They continue to press forward and praise God. It is something we adult Christians can learn from.”

To hear Trinity and Alvaro sing praises, scan the QR codes below with your mobile device’s camera.

A Miracle at Makassar

Had the two suicide bombers entered the Sacred Heart Cathedral of Makassar in Indonesia during the Palm Sunday service in March 2021, the carnage would have been catastrophic.

Miraculously, the newly married couple, with jihad and venom in their veins, were stopped by security outside the cathedral’s southeastern gate. Like the Samarinda terrorist attack, they also detonated their bomb prematurely as they stepped off their motorbike, killing only themselves. But 20 bystanders felt the shock wave of horror. They were left with lifelong scars of the heart, mind, and body.

Friends Edeline, Karina, and Valeri were among them. The out-of-towners had just left the morning service and waited on the sidewalk for a ride. The deafening, sudden flash of angry flames and heat singed their skin and hair. They stared at each other incredulously.

ICC came alongside the survivors from the get-go, supporting their basic needs. ICC paid for their family members’ travel costs during treatments and took care of trivial things like replacing their broken cellphones. While the government and Catholic church covered the victims’ first surgeries, ICC was one of the few nongovernmental organizations that stepped in. It was vital to meet their necessities, and more important to love and pray with them.

“We walked with them through this process from the attack until today; we reached out to them at





Watch Trinity’s story!





Listen to Alvaro sing a song of praise!



the beginning,” said Goh. “Edeline said it meant so much when we visited them at the hospital and offered to pray for her, knowing she was being cared for by someone she didn’t know.”

Goh added, “That is why we do what we do at ICC. We serve the voiceless, the ‘least of these.’”

ICC staffers recently visited Valeri and Karina (Edeline already returned to her hometown). Valeri recently started an internship as a hospital nurse. When patients ask about the scars on her arms and hands, she tells them she survived the terrorist attack. She still suffers from headaches and vision problems. Karina is a nursing student and Edeline works for a government outsourcing firm.

Each finds strength in the Lord for spiritual healing and renewal.

Karina, still haunted by the incident, visits a small chapel near her school.

Valeri still worships and returns to the Sacred Heart Cathedral, the scene of the crime, for solace and peace.

It’s a long road to recovery. But God always wins. ✝️

Photos (clockwise from left): Security guard Kosmos who heroically saved many lives but suffered injuries; Edeline; (lower left) Karina; (lower right) Valeri



“That’s what we do at ICC. We serve the voiceless, the ‘least of these.’”
- Gina Goh, ICC’s Regional Manager



STAFF COLUMN

Making a Difference in Nigeria

A letter of encouragement from a longtime ICC staffer in Nigeria

"I do not know of any international organization that is in close touch with the current sad realities in Nigeria as International Christian Concern (ICC)."

I do not know of any other organization that is identifying with the hundreds of thousands of victims of religiously motivated, politically abated persecution in Nigeria; by courageously speaking up against the atrocities, stretching forth a hand of compassion, and bringing hope to the hopeless as ICC is doing.

From the Northwest to the Southwest, across the Middle Belt to the Northeast, ICC is encouraging Christians in Nigeria to persevere in the faith and keep trusting that God, the judge of all, will come through for them.

Last Christmas (December 2021), ICC provided Christmas food packets to 150 families (about 600 people) made up of widows, retired pastors who no longer have any source of income, and families whose communities have been attacked by Muslim militants in the Muslim-dominated north.

Shortly after the Catholic Church attack in Owo, Southwest Nigeria, ICC showed up to commiserate with the survivors of the gruesome murder of about 50 during a Sunday morning worship service.

Approximately 375 families (1,500 individuals) are on the 2022 communal farms program in the Middle Belt. And about 500 vulnerable children whose families have been displaced, some orphaned by the violent attacks, are receiving education support.

Most recently, ICC brought psycho-social care (trauma counseling) through workshops for 300 victims across several communities and church denominations, with more to be done in the coming days.

On an individual scale, ICC is providing medical assistance to injured victims, and helping widows start small businesses so they can support themselves and their children. ICC is also giving legal aid for a Christian journalist who was unlawfully imprisoned by the government of a northwestern State.

I am so grateful to be part of all that ICC is doing in Nigeria and beyond."✝





UNDER ATTACK

After a pastor in India was attacked, he found himself behind bars.

One Sunday morning, a group of radical Hindu nationalists entered Pastor Nathan's church while he was preaching to his congregation. The pastor is known for his love of sharing the gospel and making Christ known throughout the community.

The radicals were convinced, however, that Pastor Nathan was holding a metaphorical gun to everyone's heads, forcing them to be a Christian. The group then assaulted the pastor and his wife after disrupting the service.

The radicals claimed the pastor and his wife were doing "conversion activities." The couple, according to India's criminal law, can be charged under anti-conversion laws for forcibly converting people. But everyone in the congregation loved Pastor Nathan and his wife, and attended church by their own free will.

Police were called after the radicals' assault. Upon the police's arrival, however, they arrested the pastor and his wife! The couple was falsely accused under the state's anti-conversion law and were sent to jail.

Due to the charges against the pastor, his church and Bible studies were shut down. Some church members of the congregation feared similar repercussions and stopped attending.

Pastor Nathan's income relied on the faithful tithes of the church, but now he no longer had the means to support his family. To add to that, money had already been tight due to the COVID-19 pandemic that strongly impacted India in late 2020.

ICC set Pastor Nathan up with a T-shirt printing business so he could have a steady stream of income. The pastor prays that while he is running his small business, he can still disciple the remaining congregation outside the church walls.

He hopes that through his business and ministry, he can continue to reach more nonbelievers on the front lines and share the gospel.

Please join us in praying for Pastor Nathan, his family, the success of his business, and the spread of the gospel in his community. 🙏



Photo of Pastor Nathan's congregation.



HOPE HOUSE CHILD SPONSOR

WHEN DREAMS BECOME REALITY

EMAN WANTS TO GROW UP TO BE A TEACHER. HER DREAMS ARE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF HOPE HOUSE.

Twelve-year-old Eman looks forward to her time spent with her friends and teachers at ICC's education center in Egypt, Hope House, every day. When the center reopened after intermittent government closures, Eman joyfully returned to school.

"I used to spend all my time in the Center and the Sunday schools... [During the pandemic] there was nothing. I was upset."

As the oldest of five children, all girls, Eman is responsible for assisting her mother and family with running the home. When her mother gave birth to Eman's youngest sister nearly two years ago during the pandemic, she tasked Eman to carry on the household responsibilities, carrying for the younger children and cooking.

Like many Christian men in the village, Eman's father sought work elsewhere to send money home. At the height of the pandemic Eman's mother shared with ICC, "My husband is a shoes seller but now he sells a little. He travels to get some work opportunities so he can provide us with a living. We believe that God will not leave us alone and He cares about us so much."

Eman's parents dream big for their daughter's future, praying for a better life than the one they currently have.

Her mother is unable to read or write, while her father also had little education. Eman dreams of growing up and becoming a teacher so she can teach kids how to read and write and make a difference in her community. Eman's mother noted a clear

distinction between the center and the public schools her children attended prior. "The center is good and useful for my kids and they do their homework [now]. They didn't get any learning in the [public] school."

As a participant in ICC's Child Sponsorship Program, Eman received educational, spiritual, nutritional, medical, and social support at Hope House. The center's holistic approach to a child's wellness seeks to break the cyclical bonds of persecution for Egypt's Christian population. By equipping the children with educational knowledge and spiritual discipleship, Hope House desires to see the transformation of the next generation of Christians. ✝



Partner with ICC

Only 40% of the eligible children in Hope House are sponsored. ICC extends an invite to faithful donors who are looking to make a difference in the lives of these Egyptian children. If you'd like to make a difference, go to: www.persecution.org/initiatives/hope-house/ or email ICC@persecution.org.



YOU CAN HELP TODAY!



Scan with your mobile device to give today!

PARTNER WITH US!

As we write this, we are hard at work planning our end of the year reports, catalogs, and other content you'll see in the coming months. Did you know that it's our most important time of year for giving? We rely on faithful supporters, like you, who share our passion for aiding the persecuted.

And because you share our passion, you're aware that the Western Church is largely silent and unaware of the plight of the persecuted. We rely on your strong voices to spread our mission to those in your community.

Invite Jeff King

ICC President Jeff King would love to speak about persecuted Christians at your church.

Jeff is a versatile communicator and a dynamic presenter. A renowned expert on religious freedom and persecution, Jeff can speak on a wide range of topics.

To invite Jeff, send your request to icc@persecution.org.

SUPPORT US WHILE YOU SHOP

Like to shop? Please sign up for Amazon Smile—it's free. If you choose "International Christian Concern" as your charity, Amazon will donate to ICC with each purchase. Make sure the URL when you're shopping reads, "smile.amazon.com."



OCTOBER WEEKLY PRAYERS

Take one week this month to pray for the persecuted.

SUNDAY

Pray for the success of evangelists in Indonesia who are starting businesses to reach nonbelievers in their community.

MONDAY

Pray for the strength of the Church in Indonesia that is facing increasing persecution from terrorist organizations.

TUESDAY

Pray for the government to take action and protect vulnerable Christians from blasphemy laws.

WEDNESDAY

Pray for the hearts of nonbelievers in Indonesia to be open to hearing the gospel.

THURSDAY

Pray for the bombing survivors as they live with the physical and mental affects of the attacks.

FRIDAY

Pray for pastors who are on the front lines in the most dangerous places on Earth as they work to expand the kingdom.

SATURDAY

Pray for persecuted children around the world who are defying the odds and breaking generations of persecution.

To download ICC's monthly prayer calendar, visit: www.persecution.org/take-action/prayer-calendar.

MORE TO EXPLORE



@persecuted



@persecutionnews



@internationalchristianconcern



International Christian Concern

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

ICC
PO BOX 8056
SILVER SPRING, MD 20907

OR ONLINE AT
WWW.PERSECUTION.ORG

OR BY PHONE
800-ICC-5441

GIVING VIA WILL

Provide now for a future gift to ICC by including a bequest provision in your will or revocable trust. If you would like more information on giving to ICC in this way, please give us a call at 1-800-ICC-5441.

PERSECUTION.ORG

OCTOBER 2022

STAFF

President Jeff King
Editor Mike Anderson
Designer Hannah Campbell



OUR MISSION: Since 1995, ICC has served the global persecuted church through a three-pronged approach of advocacy, awareness, and assistance. ICC exists to bandage the wounds of persecuted Christians and to build the church in the toughest parts of the world.

DONATIONS: International Christian Concern (ICC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) (all donations tax-deductible). ICC makes every effort to honor donor wishes in regards to their gifts. Occasionally, a situation will arise where a project is no longer viable. ICC will redirect those donated funds to one of our other funds that is most similar to the donor's original wishes.

© Copyright 2022 ICC, Washington, D.C., USA. All rights reserved. Permission to reproduce all or part of this publication is granted provided attribution is given to ICC as the source.

PERSECUTION.ORG
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN

