

Christian Pastor Condemned to 7 Brutal Years in Vietnam's Notorious Prisons

A Christian pastor has been sentenced to more than seven years in prison in Vietnam as the communist government continues its crackdown on Montagnard believers in the country's Central Highlands.

Pastor Y Nuen Ayun, a member of the Montagnard and Ede people, received a 7½-year prison sentence followed by four years of probation, according to International Christian Concern. Authorities arrested him in October 2025 for leading and pastoring the unregistered Central Highlands Evangelical Church of Christ in Dak Lak Province.

Vietnamese authorities claim the church threatens national security through its religious activities and connections with Christians overseas. Officials have also targeted Y Nuen's connection to Pastor A Ga, an overseas leader whom the government has classified as a terrorist and enemy of the state.



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The case reflects the intense pressure facing Montagnard Christians, indigenous ethnic minority believers who have built strong Christian communities throughout Vietnam's Central Highlands. Pastors and believers belonging to independent or unregistered churches have faced surveillance, interrogation, disrupted worship, detention and imprisonment.

ICC says the Communist Party of Vietnam "often uses fabricated or vague criminal charges to silence Christians, particularly Montagnard Christians, who share Christ's love under a

government threatened by the gospel.”

Yet persecution has not stopped the church.

“Despite these realities, the church in Vietnam continues to faithfully and boldly advance God’s kingdom under oppression,” ICC reported.

Now these believers need our prayers.

“Please pray for Pastor Y Nuen and his family, for Pastor Ga living overseas, and Montagnard Christian leaders and church members under heavy pressure and persecution in the Central Highlands of Vietnam,” an ICC staffer said.

Let us pray for their protection, strength and courage – and that no prison sentence or communist crackdown will silence the gospel in Vietnam.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a journalism background from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and at the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of *The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man’s Commentary* and a contributor to Charisma magazine. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.