

Outspoken Christian Pastor Found Dead After Death Threats

Something is deeply troubling about the death of Pastor Praveen Pagadala—and the Christian community in India knows it.

The 46-year-old evangelist and apologist, well-known for his defense of the Christian faith in a religiously tense climate, was found dead along a roadside in Andhra Pradesh last week. Authorities initially called it a road accident, but his supporters aren't buying it. Pastor Pagadala had reportedly been receiving death threats, and many believe his death may not have been accidental at all.

As reported by The Christian Post, Pastor Pagadala was traveling from Hyderabad to Rajahmundry when he was discovered lifeless in the early morning hours. Just the day before, he had attended a prayer meeting. His death has sparked a wave of protests and calls for justice. "We want the truth," said Pastor V. David Naveen, who joined demonstrators outside the Government General Hospital in Hyderabad. "This incident is a blow to communal harmony in the region."

Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!

In response to public outcry, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu ordered a detailed investigation, including a probe by an executive magistrate and the formation of a special investigative team. Autopsy results have not yet been released, but the growing pressure has already led to a post-mortem being performed.

Catholic priest Anthoniraj Thumma pointed out several

oddities, noting that Pastor Pagadala usually drove a car, not a motorbike. “Why was he traveling by motorbike at night?” he asked, urging authorities to check CCTV footage and speak with witnesses. Meanwhile, Pastor Karunanidhi Indupalli confirmed that the late pastor had “confided in his followers about receiving death threats.”

/**/

Pagadala wasn't just a local preacher—he was a nationally recognized voice in televised debates, books, and public forums, a man known for standing firm in his faith. “He was a powerful voice,” said evangelist K.A. Paul. That voice is now silenced, and many want to know why.

Former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy also weighed in, calling for an impartial probe. “Shocked” by the news, he joined others in demanding the truth.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Pastor Pagadala is survived by his wife and two young children. His tragic death comes amid a rising wave of persecution. Last year alone, the United Christian Forum documented more than 800 incidents of threats or attacks against Christians in India. Christians make up just 2.3% of the country's population, while Hindus represent about 80%.

As we await the truth behind Pastor Pagadala's death, let us lift his grieving family and community in prayer. May God grant them comfort, strength and justice in the days ahead.

Scripture reminds us in Matthew 5:10, “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Though the world may strike against those who stand for Christ, His Word assures us that their reward is eternal.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.