

Persecution Strikes Pakistani Christians as Faith Remains Unshaken

During a harrowing wave of suffering, Pakistani Christians are standing strong in their faith despite the relentless persecution they endure for their devotion to Jesus Christ.

Instigated by mosque leaders, Muslim mobs recently ignited an onslaught of violence against the Christian community in Jaranwala, Pakistan. The tragic incident underscores the depths of pain these believers are willing to endure for the sake of their faith.

The violence erupted following the false accusation of blasphemy against two Christians, Umar Saleem (Rocky) and his brother Umair, alias Raja. Muslim residents accused Rocky of desecrating pages of the Quran and writing derogatory comments. The falsified allegations sparked a torrent of hatred, leading to the burning of 20 church buildings, the ransacking of Christian homes and businesses and the displacement of families.

In the face of this suffering, the Bible offers guidance and encouragement. Matthew 5:11-12 says, "Blessed are you when men revile you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be very glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in this manner they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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Despite the dire circumstances, Pakistani Christians remain steadfast. They have shown resilience in the midst of their

trials. The international community, including the U.S. State Department, has expressed deep concern over the violence. The attacks shed light on the enduring challenges faced by religious minorities in Pakistan. These believers exemplify the strength of their convictions, even in the face of life-threatening adversity.

While the attacks are a stark reminder of the persecution faced by Christians in Pakistan, their faith remains unshaken. Romans 8:35-37 assures us, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

As the world witnesses the suffering of Pakistani Christians, it's essential to remember Hebrews 13:3: "Remember those who are in chains, as if imprisoned with them, and those who are ill treated, since you are also in the body."

The resilience of these believers serves as a testament to the strength of their faith and the unbreakable bonds they share with Jesus Christ. May their enduring commitment inspire all believers to stand firm in our convictions and support those who face persecution for the name of Christ. {eo}

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