



## One Day. One Church. One Prayer.

### **Detained. Disappeared. Displaced.**

We're joining as one global Church this IDOP to pray for freedom for the countless Christians around the world who have been detained, displaced or disappeared because of their faith. As we come out of the pandemic and 'normal service' begins to resume for so many churches, the daily reality for Christians in Cuba, China, Malaysia, Iran and Nigeria is the threat of detention, displacement or disappearance.

As one Church, we're earnestly praying to God for every Christian who has been detained, disappeared or displaced because of their religious beliefs.

### **Suggested plans (whether you're gathering online or in person)**

#### **Got 10 minutes?**

- **Watch:** Show one of the testimony videos at [csw.org.uk/idop](https://csw.org.uk/idop)
- **Pray:** Read one of the country profile sheets, then share the prayer points and lead your church in a prayer time.

#### **Got 20 minutes?**

- **Watch:** Show one of the testimony videos at [csw.org.uk/idop](https://csw.org.uk/idop)
- **Pray:** Read one of the country profile sheets, then share the prayer points and lead your church in a prayer time.
- **Put your prayers into action:** share one simple action from the prayer sheets for your church to do during November.

**All resources available at [csw.org.uk/idop](https://csw.org.uk/idop)**

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## Disappeared: Abduction of school children, Nigeria

### Read

**'I was sleeping, I don't even know what happened, I just woke up and saw a gun on my chest. The man told me that I should just stand up and follow him.'**

In the early hours of 5 July 2021, 13-year-old Seth was taken from his bed at Bethel Baptist High School and marched into the bush. In the confusion Seth managed to slip away from his abductors – but 135 other children were not so fortunate.

They were forced to march for 17 hours to the armed gang's camp, according to 13-year-old Emmanuel, one of 28 children released two weeks later after their parents had paid a significant ransom. They had been promised that all the children would be freed, but the abductors demanded more money. Seven children escaped, and 15 more were released after a further payment. At the time of writing 85 children remain in captivity.

Since 2020, there has been a dramatic rise across Nigeria in abductions for ransom, largely carried out by armed men of Fulani ethnicity, with mass kidnappings from schools occurring frequently in Kaduna, Katsina, Niger and Zamfara states in particular.

And the situation is getting worse.

In some of the most infamous kidnapping cases, like that of the 279 Chibok girls in 2014, and Leah Sharibu in 2018, girls were taken by terrorist groups (Boko Haram and ISWAP) who are ideologically opposed to Western education. However, the motivation for the current attacks is to extract huge ransoms – often to purchase sophisticated weaponry – and this represents a new danger on a different scale.

Nigerian students are becoming commodities to be taken en masse and bartered. Christian-owned schools have been particularly targeted, with churches and families being driven further and further into poverty by the enormous ransom demands. However, the lack of effective government action has meant this crime - which is low risk and high return for the perpetrators - is now affecting every school, including Islamic ones.

### Watch

Watch an interview with Rebecca Sharibu, Leah's mother at [csw.org.uk/idop](https://www.csw.org.uk/idop)

### Pray

- For the immediate and safe release of all who have been abducted for ransom, especially students, that they would be able to return to their families and resume their education.
- Lift up Leah Sharibu, Alice Ngaddah, Grace Taku, the remaining Chibok girls and all who have been abducted by terrorist factions to God in prayer, petitioning for their release.
- That the government of Nigeria would take swift and decisive action to bring an end to every source of violence and terror.

### Campaign

#### Safe schools in Nigeria

Join us in encouraging the UK to urge the Nigerian Government to fully implement the Safe Schools initiative. **Sign the petition at [csw.org.uk/campaigns](https://www.csw.org.uk/campaigns)**

#### #FreeLeah

Join the campaign to #FreeLeah at [csw.org.uk/freeleah](https://www.csw.org.uk/freeleah)

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Pastor Lorenzo and his family

## **Detained:** **Pastor Pastor Lorenzo** **Rosales Fajardo, Cuba**

### **Read**

Maridilegnis Rosales Fajardo told CSW she is running out of strength.

Her husband, Pastor Lorenzo Rosales Fajardo, was detained after taking part in the peaceful march in Palma Soriano, Cuba on 11 July. He faces criminal charges – for protesting peacefully - which carry a prison sentence of between three and 20 years.

Pastor Lorenzo, his son David Lorenzo Rosales Carballo and a group of church members joined the peaceful march in Palma Soriano after it started around midday. He and his son were detained after police and military attempted to block the way of the protestors. The two were then separated. David was allowed to return home after six days and is reportedly traumatized by the ordeal.

Pastor Lorenzo is being held in Boniato Maximum Security Prison – which is notorious for its terrible conditions – alongside prisoners who have been convicted of violent crimes. We're concerned that the Cuban government may actively encourage other prisoners to mistreat Pastor Lorenzo.

**After nearly a month with no contact and no proof of life, his wife Maridilegnis was finally allowed a few three-minute phone calls with her husband.**

**Although today it's been 42 days without being able to see him, this will be over soon. Tomorrow I will take some food to leave at the prison. I will be there and I won't be able to see him. What a challenge, God help me.**

**But of the storm, nothing remains, all of the dark clouds have passed by and soon the Light will come out. I hope to see him walk in the door of our home any minute.**

**- Maridilegnis, Pastor Lorenzo's wife**

### **Pray**

- That all charges against Pastor Lorenzo would be dropped and he would be unconditionally released.
- That Pastor Lorenzo will not feel abandoned, or crushed, or in despair, but will know that God is with him – even in a maximum security prison.
- For Pastor Lorenzo's wife, Maridilegnis, and their children to be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit as their struggle for justice continues.

### **Encourage**

You can bring another ray of light to the darkness of Pastor Lorenzo's prison cell. Write to Pastor Lorenzo and his family through Connect & Encourage and show them that they are not forgotten, not abandoned and not alone.

Send a letter of encouragement at [csw.org.uk/connectencourage](https://csw.org.uk/connectencourage)

### **Campaign**

Join the campaign to free Pastor Lorenzo at [csw.org.uk/campaigns](https://csw.org.uk/campaigns)

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## **Detained: Pastor, Cuba**

### **Read**

**CCTV footage shows the moment that five black SUVs, two motorcycles and 15 men wearing black balaclavas took just 42 seconds to abduct Pastor Raymond Koh on a street in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia in broad daylight. An eyewitness described the February 2017 incident as ‘something out of a movie’.**

Pastor Raymond hasn't been seen or heard from since that day four years ago. His family is still seeking answers, fighting for justice and continuing to trust that God will help them find the truth.

Pastor Raymond's activities had drawn the attention of the authorities for some time before his abduction. In 2004 he founded Harapan Komuniti (Hope Community), a NGO that provides social and charitable assistance to marginalised and underprivileged communities. In 2011, a dinner organised by the NGO was raided by 30 officers from the Selangor Islamic Religious Department after the organisers were accused of 'proselytising Muslims'.

Pastor Koh's family received death threats in the aftermath - once he received a box of bullets in the post. Despite this, Pastor Raymond continued to carry out his ministry work bravely until his abduction. Pastor Raymond's family believe that he was abducted in an attempt to silence him.

**‘We don't want people to forget. We want them to remember and to continue to pray.’**

**- Susanna Koh**

### **Watch**

Watch Susanna Koh, Pastor Raymond's wife, share the story of her husband's disappearance at [csw.org.uk/pastorkoh](http://csw.org.uk/pastorkoh)

### **Pray**

- For the safe return of Pastor Raymond Koh to his family, his church and his work for the community.
- Ask God to comfort and strengthen his wife Susannah and their children, as they wait for news.
- That the police would investigate Pastor Koh's disappearance, and that the perpetrators would be brought to justice.

### **Encourage**

Susanna and her family have been so encouraged by the messages they've received from Christians all over the world.

#### **Write to Susanna at:**

Susanna Koh  
#107, Lot LG109B, One Utama Shopping Centre,  
No 1, Lebuhraya Bandar Utama  
47800 Petaling Jaya  
Selangor  
West Malaysia

[liewsusanna@yahoo.com](mailto:liewsusanna@yahoo.com)

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Members of Early Rain Church praying together

## Detained: Pastor Wang Yi, China

### Read

Pastor Wang Yi was arrested in early December 2019, along with his wife and over 100 members of his church, as part of a crackdown by the Chinese government on Early Rain Church, where he is the lead pastor. He's been in detention for almost three years.

Following a secret trial on 26 December 2019, Pastor Wang Yi was sentenced to nine years in prison, charged with 'inciting subversion' and 'illegal business operations'. In reality, all he did was peacefully stand up for churches and Christians who were targeted by the Chinese government.

Pastor Wang Yi knew that the day of his arrest was coming, he had prepared his church members for the possibility and was ready to make a stand for his faith. In a statement to be released if he were to be imprisoned for more than 48 hours, he made a bold declaration of faith:

Last year a letter was widely shared on Chinese social media describing the church members' experience. The letter is by Brother Zhou (name changed for security reasons), a member of Early Rain. Brother Zhou described the experiences of some church members who are being kept under guard in their own homes:

*Our three families have now been under [house arrest] for more than 480 days...They saw the guards bitten by mosquitoes in summer, and almost frozen in winter... The couple felt compassion. Sometimes they give food, sometimes they give the Bible... This is the way Christians express their love. Yes, we treat them as human beings. However, their leaders use them as chess pieces and dogs. Even when the virus raged, they stood pitifully at their posts...*

President Xi Jinping has made it his mission to repress every religion in China with a severity and determination not seen since Mao. Not only churches, but mosques and Buddhist temples have been torn down, leaders imprisoned and congregations forced to recite atheist slogans and propaganda as they worship.

### Pray

- For the immediate and unconditional release of Pastor Wang Yi.
- That God will miraculously change the hearts of China's prison guards so that they choose kindness over cruelty.
- For the protection and comfort of his family and the members of Early Rain Church.
- Pray protection over Christians gathering in unregistered 'house' churches, like Early Rain. May God make their meetings invisible to the Chinese authorities so that they can worship in freedom and peace.
- That the wider pressure on churches in China would ease, and Christians would be able to gather without fear of harassment and abuse.

### Share

Gather with your small group to enjoy a Chinese meal together. Tell Pastor Wang Yi's story and pray together for his release.

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