



## PRAYING FOR CHRISTIANS UNDER PRESSURE

**meco**international

**“They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.”** *John 15:21 NIV*

Many Christians are fearful and many are leaving because they can't see a future in their countries or in the region. Others are determined to stay, to engage with what is happening. Christian leaders in the Middle East are asking that they and their communities will stand firm and be faithful witnesses to Christ whatever happens.

### Let's pray

- Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as Christians make decisions about staying or leaving. Those who remain in their homeland need the Lord's courage.
- Those who leave will also need courage, as they go to countries where the spiritual temperature is much lower than the Middle East. Pray they will not keep their faith quiet or lose it, but be a great encouragement to Christians in the countries they go to.
- Ask for displaced and persecuted believers to be led deeper into Scripture and to find and rely on God's promises.
- Uphold believers who have been rejected by family and friends because of their faith, for God to surround them with a new Christian family who love them and support them emotionally and physically.
- The Lord is an advocate for people under pressure, especially women who are socially vulnerable or have lost the custody of their children because of their faith. Pray for internet initiatives supporting women at risk.
- Uphold those in the region who put themselves at risk to help displaced and oppressed people find places of safety. UNHCR and other NGOs are negotiating with countries to receive them.
- Pray for those unjustly imprisoned, for grace and courage in their ordeal, for justice to be done, and the families of those affected to be sustained by the Lord and His people.
- Christian advocacy agencies are playing a key role in raising prayer and bringing cases of persecution to Government, media and world-wide attention.

Pray through Ephesians . . .

- for believers under pressure to know the hope God gives (1:18).
- for God's riches to strengthen them (3:16).
- for them to know the Lord's close presence (3:17).
- for them to know how to share the gospel (6:19).
- for them to be fearless as they tell others about Jesus (6:20).

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For further information contact your nearest regional MECO office, or email [info@aboutmeco.org](mailto:info@aboutmeco.org)  
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