

FOLLOWING CHRIST IN THE BATTLE ZONE



Yemen remains among the largest humanitarian crises worldwide despite a six-month truce that marked the longest pause in fighting in the country since its war began in 2015. As of September, Yemen was considered the world's fourth largest humanitarian crisis by number of people in need (behind the Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC], Ethiopia, and Afghanistan) and the world's largest crisis when measured by percent of population in need. Furthermore, the ceasefire that began on April 2nd, and was renewed twice, expired on October 2nd without a third extension.¹

As Yemenis around the country are now bracing for a renewal of airstrikes, ground shelling, and missile attacks, Yemeni disciples of Christ also continue to experience faith-based persecution. Yet living in the midst of this hostility, they have not lost heart. Rather, they fix their eyes on Jesus and take heart in His declaration, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

While we cannot share details about the most intense situations of persecution that are ongoing, we can tell you that Jesus is gathering His disciples around Yemen to provide one another with emotional, social, and spiritual support. This is strengthening them to reach out with greater boldness as they proclaim the Gospel in their family networks and everywhere they go. With the International Day of Prayer (IDOP) for the Persecuted Church² approaching on November 6th and 13th, our brothers and sisters on the frontlines in Yemen invite you to join them in asking God to comfort the disciples who are currently suffering for His name. While you share in their sorrow, the body of Christ in Yemen also welcomes you to share in their joy over the abundant harvest our Father has allowed them to participate in throughout 2022. This has included connecting with Yemenis - like Hani - who have made the decision to follow Christ in Yemen after returning from countries where they could have sought legal protections as converts to Christianity.

"Hani was exposed to Christianity in Europe," explained a Yemeni disciple who follows up with him. "In Europe, he had a lot of freedom to hear the Gospel and believe. Ironically, it wasn't until he returned to Yemen, a country where preaching the Gospel is forbidden, that he put his faith in Christ! It's really moving how the Lord touched Hani's heart in his homeland!"

With Yemen's ceasefire no longer in effect, new believers like Hani are living today in spiritual and physical battle zones where they are being disciplined to form an intimate relationship with Christ. As you hold up our Yemeni family in prayer during the IDOP for the Persecuted Church next month, consider who else you might invite to stand in the gap on their behalf in the coming year. Let us know of anyone who would be interested in receiving the Frontline Insights in 2023 to inform their prayers for the Yemeni people.

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CHRISTIANRESPONSE.ORG/GIVE

1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjLjPr7HN3M>

2 <https://idop.org/web/>