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Attacks by minority Muslims in Uganda worries Christians

Global Christian News (27.12.2018) - <https://bit.ly/2LVSkwm> - Violence against Christians in eastern Uganda is beginning to take an alarming trend with audacious attacks against christians becoming more frequent, a Washington Times news report says. Christians in the region "are among those in their faith who face the most serious dangers in the world."

There have been incidences of Muslims killing Christians who would not convert to Islam and at least two churches have been vandalized, Washington Post says.

Emmanuel was walking home from his grandmother's house when four men ambushed him and spirited him to a cassava plantation, where they tortured him and attempted to strangle him. One was named Ali and another was Abdul, he said. They wound up leaving him for dead.

Emmanuel Nyaiti, 12, said he was attacked and left for dead by muslims who wanted to force him to convert to Islam. "'Islam is a good religion,' his assailants told him, 'Please convert. We'll not kill you, and you will go to paradise'," Emmanuel said and when he refused to convert, they attacked and started wrangling him. "Ali (one of the attackers) convinced me to convert and become a Muslim, but I declined. They started pushing me on the ground threatening to kill me if I don't accept Islam," he recalled. "One of the attackers hit me with a sharp object on my neck, and I became unconscious. I remember them saying they have killed me."

Muslims form a 14% minority of the Ugandan predominantly population. However, influence from radical Muslims and the Islamic state is influencing the radical Muslims ideologies and aggressive conversions in the region. This is fueled by the belief that Islam is fast growing and will soon overtake the Christian population in Uganda. "Muslims are 25 percent of the total population and not 13.7 percent," Hajj Mutumba, a spokesman of the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, told local media. "We have two to four wives, and we are producing about six children in a space of two to three years," he said.

The Alliance of Democratic Forces, a radical Islamic set from Congo is reported to be the major group pushing for the Islamization of the country, "stoking anti-Christian feelings in the region while calling for Islam-based Shariah law to be practiced in Uganda."

"Ugandan Muslims were not intolerant in the past," the World Watch Monitor survey said. "But those who sympathize with ADF are preaching the idea of having an Islamic state in Uganda (and in a part of the DRC), and this is taking away the culture of tolerance."

Christian preachers have been attacked by Muslims in eastern Uganda for professing the faith in Public. They are attacked for simply saying Jesus is the son of God. "They became very angry and began throwing rocks at Christians, chanting 'Allah akbar,'" Pastor Moses Saku said, "many Christians were injured during the incident."

"I witnessed an incident here where a Christian woman was brutally attacked with a machete by her Muslim husband for refusing to convert to Islam," Saku said, "we continue to condemn the incident and urge our Muslim brothers to respect other religions and uphold freedom of worship."

Muslims have however denied and dismissed the allegations saying Christians have often made provocative statements that offend them. "We have now declared a jihad against them," said Abubakar Yusuf, 55, a Muslim teacher. "We are not going to allow anybody to despise Islamic teachings at their church or crusade. We will seek revenge," he declared.

Christians in Uganda have called on the government for protection. "We cannot continue to live in fear of preaching the Gospel and telling people the truth that Jesus is the son of God," he said. "As Christians, we need protection from the government because our Muslim brothers are very angry when they hear the truth. But we have never abused Muslims or Allah during our preaching."

While the Police said they are carrying out investigations on the allegations, Christians insists they "cannot live like refugees in our own country where we cannot worship and preach the Gospel freely," Saku said.

Muslims in Eastern Uganda desecrate body of slain Christian, sources say

Morning Star News (04.05.2018) - <https://bit.ly/2HYYZY3> - Muslim villagers in eastern Uganda mutilated the corpse of a convert from Islam likely killed for his faith last month, his widow said.

Fatuma Muluuta told Morning Star News that Muslims in Kachomo village, Budaka District cut and stuck pins into her husband's body before burying it and have since threatened to kill her.

When her husband, Muluuta Kuzaiifa, put his faith in Christ two years ago, his family immediately ostracized him, she said. The couple and their two children found refuge with a church pastor whose name is withheld for security reasons.

After two years, Kuzaiifa decided to return home with his wife and children, but relatives chased them away, and they left for Kampala, the Ugandan capital 126 miles (204 kilometers) away. He found menial work on the outskirts of the city.

Within a few weeks, Kuzaiifa began receiving threatening messages, Fatuma Muluuta told Morning Star News by phone.

"You think you are safe in Kampala," one text message read. "We shall soon come for your neck."

On April 1, while returning from work in Kampala, unknown assailants attacked him near their home, she said.

"I heard him shouting for help, and immediately some neighbors rushed to the scene, and we found him bleeding with head injuries," she said.

Kuzaifa was taken to a nearby clinic for treatment, but he died the next day.

After his wife and others transported his body to a Kachomo funeral home, they went to his family to inform them of his death.

She said her father-in-law, Mukongo Jamada Muluuta Mubaraka, gave them a cold reception, and those who accompanied her gave him 400,000 Uganda shillings (US\$107) for funeral preparations.

Kuzaifa's father, she added, had called Muzaifa in Kampala several times.

"I think that is why the attackers managed to get hold of him," Fatuma Muluuta said. Before the indecent burial of Muzaifa, she added, his father had said, "My son thought that he can run away from Allah, but he could not."

On April 4, family members and other Muslims took the body from the mortuary and buried it in an indecent manner, she said.

"Word went around that Kuzaifa's body was mutilated and not properly buried," Fatuma Muuluta said. "His body was not washed, several pins were inserted into his body, they dug a very small grave for the body, and several cuts were made on his corpse."

Enraged Christians in Kachomo Sub-County mobilized in large numbers and stormed the burial site to exhume Kuzaifa's body. They washed it and provided a decent burial service, his widow said.

Kuzaifa's pastor said many Muslims put their faith in Christ at his funeral.

"But tension has been mounting up between the Christians and the Muslims after the burial of Kuzaifa," the pastor said. "The family of Kuzaifa needs prayers for God to comfort the young family left behind and for financial assistance."

Muluuta Mubaraka said she is now being threatened.

"If you continue with Christianity," read one text message, "you will go the same way of your husband," she said.

The crime was the latest in a series of attacks on Christians in Eastern Uganda. On March 10, a week after a young Muslim in eastern Uganda put his faith in Christ, relatives attacked him with hot cooking oil, sources said. Gobera Bashir, 27, suffered burns on 40 percent of his body after the attack.

Bashir, from Kakoli village, Naboa Sub-County in Budaka District, had received Christ as Lord and Savior the previous Sunday (March 4) when he accompanied a friend to a church in another village (undisclosed for security reasons), he said.

In January another Christian in eastern Uganda, Munabi Abudallah, lost his wife and seven children less than a day after putting his faith in Christ. In another village in eastern Uganda, a widowed mother of five was poisoned on Christmas Day for converting to Christianity.

Uganda's constitution and other laws provide for religious freedom, including the right to propagate one's faith and convert from one faith to another.

Muslims make up no more than 12 percent of Uganda's population, with many concentrated in the eastern part of the country.

Refusal to convert to Islam ends in family tragedy

World Watch Monitor (30.01.2018) - <http://bit.ly/2Gw2qAO> - A Christian woman has been brutally attacked with a machete by her Muslim husband for refusing to convert to his religion, sources told World Watch Monitor. The attack led to the death of the woman's one-week-old twins.

Regina Navatovu, 35, lived with her husband, Asuman Sekidde, in Bumogolo village in the south of Uganda. When Navatovu conceived in 2017, Sekidde claimed the children were not his and accused his wife of having an affair. Sekidde had started to threaten to hurt his wife before moving to Kalangala, more than 100km away, in Lake Victoria.

The twins were born on 18 December and Navatovu made contact with her husband to let him know. Sekidde returned on 22 December and that night attacked his wife and the newly-born children with a machete.

Neighbours helped take the mother and children to a local hospital. One of the twins died from a loss of blood, the other was unable to be kept warm by the unconscious mother and died from hypothermia, reported the Ugandan Daily Monitor. Navatovu lost her right hand and some fingers from her left hand in the attack.

Dr. Mark Juuko, a spokesman for Masaka Hospital, told local media that Navatovu was "still very weak and deeply traumatised". He added that she was able to explain what happened but needs "much emotional support".

"The local media reported that this was a case of proven adultery, but the real issue was not the paternity of the babies, it was about faith," World Watch Monitor's source said.

"Soon after they married, Sekidde started trying to get [his wife] to convert to Islam, but she kept resisting. This caused many disagreements between them. He only used the pregnancy as an excuse to try to get rid of her. In the recent past we have noticed an increase in domestic violence cases in households where Christian women are married to Muslims," the source added.

Sekidde has been arrested and charged. He allegedly confessed to local reporters that he "hatched the attack [on his wife] hours before executing it", and that he "wanted to cut off all [her] hands to teach her a lesson".

Uganda is just outside the top 50 countries where persecution of Christians is most severe, according to the charity Open Doors' 2018 World Watch List. The rise in radical Islamic activities in Uganda has created an environment of intolerance in the country, leaving Christians fearful of persecution, Open Doors said in its latest report.
