



# Christian Freedom<sup>®</sup> International



## AN INTERVIEW WITH A MUSLIM CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY

*These are children who are part of our child sponsorship program in Bangladesh.*



*Our co-workers in Bangladesh giving necessities to Sunday school students who come from impoverished families*

# A MUSLIM CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY SPEAKS OUT.

# “WE CHRISTIANS FACE PERSECUTION BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.”

*The following is an interview with Bakar, our CFI co-worker in Bangladesh. Years ago, Bakar (for security reasons, we cannot disclose his full name) accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Bakar left Islam and became a born again Christian. In doing so, he was disowned by his family. He has faced many, ongoing attempts on his life because of his conversion.*

## Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION LIKE FOR CHRISTIANS IN BANGLADESH?

We Christians in Bangladesh live without any freedom of speech or religion. We live without dignity and honor. We live having our lives threatened each day from Muslim extremists. This is very stressful.

Bangladesh is fertile land for Islamic militants. The most vulnerable situation is for converted Christians, those who have converted from Islam to Christianity. There are a large number of us who have converted to Christianity from a Muslim background. We are in a most dangerous position.

Many converts try to keep their religious identity hidden from the society. If they reveal their identity in public, it will be almost impossible to live here because Muslims will kill them. The Muslims' religious book, the Quran, orders them to kill him or her who leaves Islam and it is honor for Muslims to kill them.

Christian girls are often kidnapped and forced to convert to Islam and to marry the kidnapper. This is honorable act for Muslims.

Christians cannot build a Church in wherever, whenever they wish because the Muslim neighbors claim that their religious activities will be hampering by other religious activities.

If the Muslims see any Church, they build a mosque next to it and they make claims that they are being hampered by the Church's activities. The Muslims can preach their faith to others very openly and loudly, but Christians cannot. All the Christian religious festivals are celebrated only with special permission and guides from government administrative authorities. Without police guards,



*Bakar (right) sharing God's Word with blind and disabled Christians as part of our ministry to Christians in Bangladesh who live with severe handicaps.*

it is almost impossible for Christians to celebrate their religious festivals like Christmas, Easter Sunday etc. But on the other hand, the Muslims don't need any permission from the government administrative authority. They can speak loudly in public about their religion. They can use a sound system and can play the whole day and night loudly; but, if Christians want use a sound system and to play for long time, the Muslims make complaints that they are being disturbed by the Christian activities and have to stop. Otherwise, the Christians will be attacked by fanatical Muslims -- and this [attack] is honorable act for Muslims.

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Christians cannot distribute any gospel tracks openly in public places, but Muslims can. If anyone from other than Islam wants to be converted to Islam, they welcome him or her in public and there is no problem. But if anyone from Islam becomes a Christian, the Muslims persecute them and it is quite impossible to confess his or her new faith in Christ in public. In a word, I can say that Christians in Bangladesh have no freedom of religion.

I face many problems. Recently, while I was coming to my home from Tongi, where our converted blind people live, some Muslims attacked me. One of the attackers was Kamal Ahamed who is trying to convert our blind Christians back to Islam. Some of the good people of that community helped me then I returned home safely.



Disabled Christians in Bangladesh



### Q: WHY ARE CHRISTIANS PERSECUTED IN YOUR COUNTRY? IS THERE ANY OTHER FAITH UNDER PERSECUTION?

We Christians are being persecuted for our faith in Christ and yet we stand strong on the Bible. Muslims are being taught from their religious leaders, imams, and from their Quran to hate and persecute the Christians. Muslims are influenced by their religious book to hate Christians and Jews. There are lot of references in their book to kill Christians and Jews.

We Christians are being persecuted for our way of worshiping Christ-- like singing hymnals --where Muslims hate to sing a hymns in their mosques. They consider it is a sin to sing songs in the mosque.

Actually their mindset is to hate Christians and Jews. They believe that no Christians will go to heaven; instead, they will be thrown into the burning hell.

Converted Christians from Islam are called "Murtad" and their books tell them to kill the Murtad and it is an honor for them to kill those who leave Islam. They hate Christians and Jews and treat them as the inhabitants of burning hell.

We Christians face persecution because of our faith in Jesus Christ.



## Q: HOW ARE CHRISTIANS BEING PERSECUTED IN BANGLADESH?



*CFI's Sunday School program in Bangladesh*

We Christians are being persecuted by murder, beatings, physical assaults, verbal abuses, and societal noncooperation. We are treated as lower class in society. Our property is confiscated, women are kidnapped and forced to marry a Muslim. I cannot rent houses where I live without hiding my religious identity from my landlord. Living in a rented house, if a landlord comes to know that I am a converted Christian, they will kick me out. This has happened to me many times.

One of my landlords in the past came to collect his rent money. Somehow he saw a Bible on my reading table and also came to know from my neighbor that I am a Christian pastor. Instantly he looked at me with fierce eyes and told me to leave the apartment.

## Q: HOW MUCH RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DO YOU HAVE?

I have zero freedom in my religious activities. I cannot worship the Lord Jesus Christ in public places, cannot sing hymns loudly, cannot celebrate Christmas party or other Christian religion festival with much joy, and in the public places. We can only do our worship activities inside our homes, in the secret places. We cannot share our faith in the Gospel with Muslims without risking our lives. We cannot move without fear and a life threat.

## Q: CAN YOU SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH MUSLIM PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY WITHOUT A THREAT?

It is quite impossible to share Gospel without threats. We always risk our lives to share the Gospel.

## Q: IS THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS INCREASING OR DECREASING IN BANGLADESH?

Persecution is increasing, rapidly.





*Blind Christians in Bangladesh receive Braille Bibles.*

**Q: U.S. PRESIDENT OBAMA SAYS THAT CHRISTIANS, LIKE ISIS, ALSO COMMITTED ATROCITIES IN THE PAST SUCH THE CRUSADES. DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE?**

With due respect, I strongly disagree with President Obama. It might be some people faced problems by Christians in the past, although I am not sure and the Crusades had a cause. But, the basic difference is that Muslims today are being influenced and taught by their religious books to persecute the people of other beliefs. There is not a single word in the New Testament that influences Christians to persecute others.

The New Testament teaches loving others. A lot of people became famous just following Jesus Christ and His teachings that are written in New Testament, like Mother Teresa. They are the real examples of Jesus' teachings. But there is not a single example in the Muslim World of a Mother

Teresa. The Muslims have examples like Osama Bin Laden.

Finally I would like to say, that the Honorable U.S. President Barak Obama just copied these sayings from Dr. Zakir Nayak, an Indian Muslim scholar who is the owner of Peace TV. Dr. Nayak defends al Qaida activities by saying, 'Christians and Jews did terrible things in the past.' I believe the US President memorized those words from Dr. Zakir Nayak while visiting India and just repeated those in the US recently. I have confusion whether President Obama ever read the New Testament. I challenge him to find a single Word in the New Testament that influences people to persecute others, where there are thousands in the Muslim book, Quran.

**Q: HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR AMERICAN FRIENDS TO PRAY FOR YOU?**

Pray for our safety. Pray for our spiritual life. Pray for us to be standing strong as faithful Christians through any persecutions.

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA

INDIA

## BANGLADESH

## POPULATION:

166,280,712

RELIGIOUS  
COMPOSITION:

Muslim 89.5%,

Hindu 9.6%,

other 0.9%

INDIA

*“...the basic difference is that Muslims today are being influenced and taught by their religious books to persecute the people of other beliefs. There is not a single word in the New Testament that influences Christians to persecute others.”*

BAY OF BENGAL

BURMA

### Q: WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR CHRISTIANS IN YOUR COUNTRY?

I am very hopeful a bright future of Christians in my country. Although the Muslims militants persecute Christians, a lot of Muslims are coming to Christ. Many Muslims are very frustrated about the terror activities of fundamental Muslims all over the world. These terrorist activities are making moderate Muslims confused about their religion. Whenever I share the Gospel with those Muslims they become

interested to learn more about the teaching of Jesus Christ and most of them accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. Now is the time to reach to Muslims with the message of Love, Peace, Hope and Salvation of the New Testament. If we can work and lead our coworkers, we believe that a large number of Christians will be increased in this Muslim populated country.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR CHRISTIANS IN BANGLADESH:

Our CFI co-worker, Bakar, does amazing work for Jesus Christ on the front lines of persecution in Bangladesh. He and his small team of other converts to Christianity risk their lives each day to share the Good News to Muslims. Bakar and his team distribute Bibles, and Gospel tracts. They help blind and disabled people with aid

and Braille Bibles. They support scores of extremely poor, house church pastors throughout Bangladesh. They run a child sponsorship program that provides assistance to the most needy Christian families. Your gift of any amount for Bakar and his team would be a huge blessing and encouragement to them.



**HELP KEEP OTHERS  
INFORMED ABOUT  
THE PERSECUTED.**

PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ALONG  
WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED READING.



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International

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