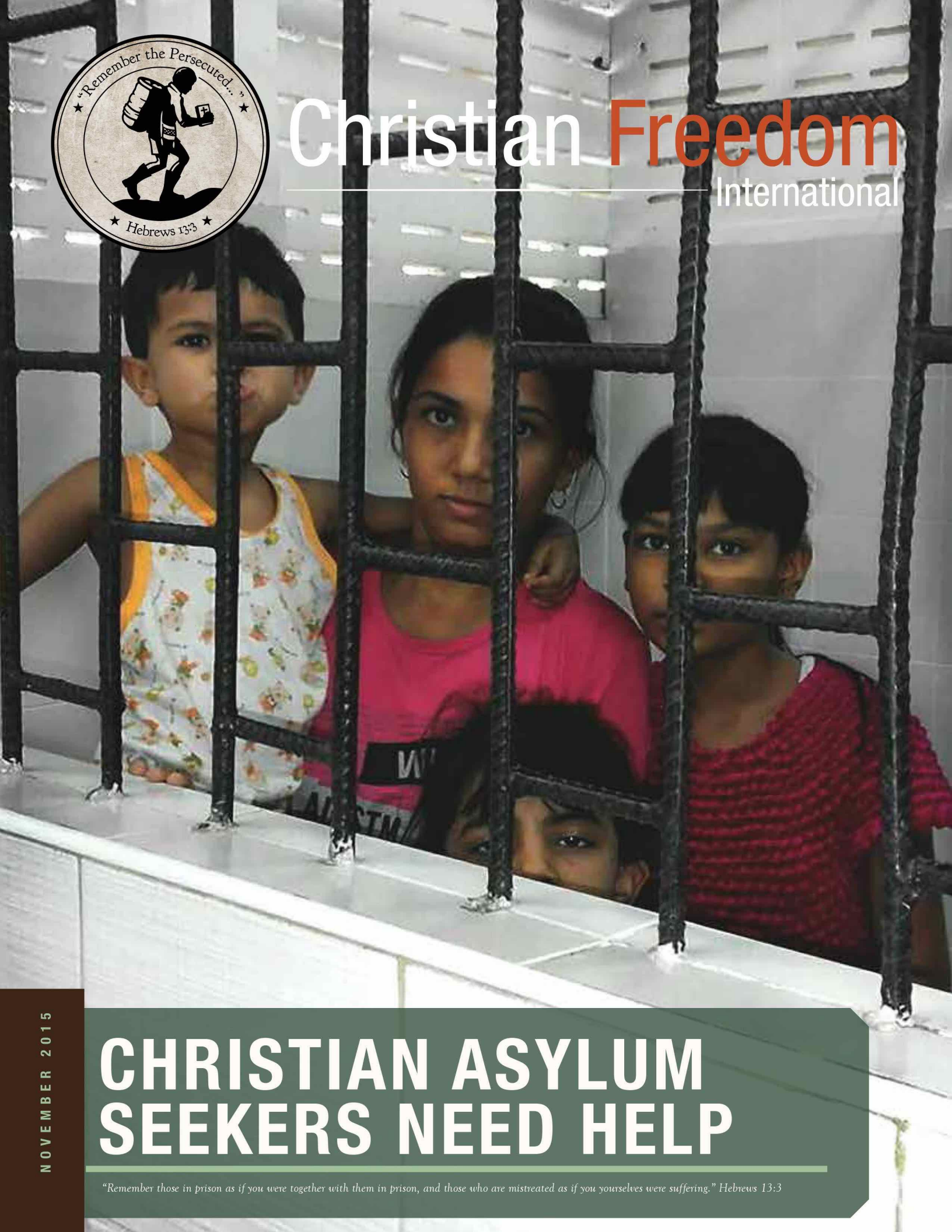




# Christian Freedom International



NOVEMBER 2015

## CHRISTIAN ASYLUM SEEKERS NEED HELP

*"Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews 13:3*





# LIFE IN THE SHADOWS:

Victimized by “Blasphemy Laws”, “Forced Conversions”, and accusations of preaching, Pakistani Christians have been forced into exodus from Pakistan. Christian homes and churches have been bombed in Pakistan.

## Persecuted Christians Stuck between a Rock and Hard Place

Police in Thailand recently arrested 400 Pakistani Christians, including children, for being illegal immigrants.

According to CBN News, the refugees are converts from Islam who sought to escape persecution and threats to their lives in Pakistan. They travelled to Thailand in the hope of receiving asylum, and securing resettlement to other countries through the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, or UNCHR.

Several of the Pakistani Christian asylum seekers were arrested even though they already have interviews scheduled with the UNCHR.

However, the Thai government views them as illegal immigrants and could deport them back to Pakistan.

Thailand is a popular choice among Pakistani Christians fleeing from religious persecution.

Asylum seekers frequently choose to travel to Bangkok because of the relative ease with which they can secure a tourist visa. Once they arrive in Bangkok, these Christian immigrants either go to refugee camps or seek out churches that will host them and provide them their basic necessities while they seek refugee status.



PICTURED //  
Aswar, Sarafeen,  
and their children  
who spend  
most of their  
days in a small  
one bedroom  
apartment that  
they share with  
several other  
families



## “SOME RISK FINDING EMPLOYMENT TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR NEEDS, EVEN IF IT MEANS BEING ARRESTED...”

In recent years, delays at the UNCHR have compelled asylum seekers to wait two years, or more, for their interviews to take place.

Some risk finding employment to provide for their needs, even if it means being arrested for being illegal immigrants holding expired visas, while they wait to be granted an interview.

Refugee advocates in Thailand claim that being registered as an asylum-seeker with the UNCHR does not make Pakistani Christian immigrants safe. They report that Thai police

generally ignore UN letters carried by refugees signifying their status as asylum-seekers.

Thailand, together with Malaysia and Indonesia, is not a signatory of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention for refugee rights.

Thai Committee for Refugees Foundation's Executive Director Veerawit Tianchainan claimed that Thailand's hostile stance towards refugees is due to fears that recognizing their status will encourage the flow of more people into the country.



Pakistan Christian Congress (PCC) President Dr. Nazir S. Bhatti has expressed serious concerns over the arrests of Christian Pakistanis seeking asylum in Bangkok. Based on recent reports, hundreds of homes of Pakistani refugees who are awaiting hearings for the recognition of their right to asylum were searched by police in the Thai capital.



# WHAT YOU CAN DO:

**HELP**



**KEEP  
OTHERS  
INFORMED  
ABOUT  
the  
PERSECUTED  
CHURCH**

**PLEASE**

PASS THIS NEWSLETTER  
ALONG WHEN YOU ARE  
FINISHED READING IT.



Partner with a persecuted Christian family from Pakistan while they await their asylum hearing.



Help Sarafeen with much needed heart surgery.

Churches and other organizations are focusing efforts to protect and help the Pakistani community in Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia, however they face many challenges from the immigration departments of these countries, where there has been a recent crackdown on 'illegals'.



Continue to be in prayer for Aswar and Sarafeen and the countless other refugees seeking asylum.

PICTURED // CFI  
Board Chairman  
Jeffrey Plummer  
on a recent visit  
to bring aid and  
support to the  
Pakistani refugees  
living in the  
Bangkok slums

**CONTACT US!**

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