



On the same day we celebrated the freedoms won by our veterans, billions of people around the world lived under tyranny and oppression. Basic freedoms such as the right to religious expression and assembly are unheard-of concepts for

many on our planet. Makes you a little more thankful to live in America, doesn't it?

When we address topics such as religious freedom, we sometimes don't realize just how difficult life is for people without it. Let me give you some examples for context. These stories can all be found at icommittoprayer.com:

US Pastor John Cao was fined \$3,000 and sentenced to prison for seven years on false charges after crossing the China-Myanmar border to serve 2,000 poverty-stricken children in Wa, Myanmar. Pastor Cao has been detained by the Chinese government since March 2017. The court announced his seven-year sentence last month.

On Sunday, May 13, three churches in Surabaya, Indonesia, were attacked by a family of Muslim suicide bombers, resulting in the deaths of 13 people.

Anaram Bokar and his family shared a home with his brother in India. Anaram became a Christian convert from Buddhism in 2004, and planted a thriving house church in 2007. As he continued to share the gospel, first the local villagers, then his brother, became hostile towards him. What began as intentional disruptions of worship services escalated to the point when, this year, Anaram's brother ordered him and his family out of the house — and made it permanent by destroying their living quarters. Village leaders have refused to help because Anaram is a Christian. Today the family is living under a tarp on their farmland.

Mauritania's National Assembly recently passed

laws increasing the penalty for leaving Islam. The death penalty is now mandatory for "blasphemous remarks" and "sacrilegious acts." A two-year prison sentence and fine of up to \$17,100 may now be dished out for "outrage to public decency and the values of Islam" or "the breach of prohibitions prescribed by Allah or the facilitation of their non-compliance" — aka distributing religious literature or making statements which convince a Muslim to become a Christian.

On May 18, two Pakistani Christians shared Christian literature with a Muslim shop owner after he had requested the materials. The shop owner then called the police . . . >>> [Read On](#)



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

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