

Week 6: Pray for Nay Y Bang (Vietnam)



Religious freedom activist Nay Y Blang (49) was arrested in May 2023 and imprisoned for his religious belief and activity. The authorities accused him of “abusing democratic freedoms” for his affiliation with the unregistered Central Highlands Evangelical Church of Christ (CHECC) and for holding prayer meetings in his home. In January 2024 he was convicted and sentenced to four and a half years in prison, with an expected release date in November 2027. His family and defence lawyer were not present at the trial.

Nay Y Blang is a Montagnard from Vietnam's Central Highlands and lives in the southeastern coastal province of Phu Yen. While many churches in Vietnam have relative freedom to meet, especially in cities, Montagnard Christians are persecuted for their faith (Christianity is seen as a western religion) and for their ethnicity (fear of tribal separatism), and local officials often use tactics such as discrimination, detention, beatings and forced renunciations of faith to try to stop Christianity spreading.

Nay Y Blang hosted prayer meetings at his home for several years and when he was arrested his supporters said he was being punished for his association with the CHECC. Many of its members have suffered harassment in recent years. The founder of the CHECC, Pastor A Ga, who lives in North Carolina, said the charges against Nay Y Blang were fabricated and the trial was a farce.

In April 2005 Nay Y Blang was sentenced to five years and six months in prison for “undermining the unity policy” and when he was released in 2010 he was sent to an “educational facility” for two years for “abusing the rights to democratic freedom and freedom of belief to entice and incite others to violate the law, interests of the State, legitimate rights and interests of organisations and individuals”.

In August 2022 local authorities harassed him after meeting a diplomat from the US Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, and a month later security agents prevented him from meeting a religious delegation from the US State Department by detaining him at a bus station. In September 2022 he was fined four million Vietnamese Dong (approximately €152) for “abusing democratic freedoms and belief freedoms”.

Family

No information is available about Nay Y Blang's family.

Latest News

The last news made public about Nay Y Blang was his conviction and sentencing in January 2024.

Prayer Diary

Sunday Pray for good health and protection for Nay Y Blang.

Monday Ask for hope and spiritual refreshment in prison.

Tuesday Pray for early release for Nay Y Blang.

Wednesday Pray for his witness to guards and prisoners.

Thursday Ask God to bless and comfort his family.

Friday Ask God to protect and sustain Nay Y Blang's church.

Saturday Pray for religious freedom for Montagnard Christians.

