

## Week 6: Pray for Y Pum Bya (Vietnam)



Y Pum Bya (58) is a house church leader from Dak Lak province in Vietnam's Central Highlands who is serving a 14-year prison sentence for peacefully promoting religious freedom and human rights for his fellow Montagnard people. He previously served an eight-year prison sentence on the same charge of "undermining national unity policy".

Y Pum Bya and his family became Christians in the 1990s and since then he has ministered in an unregistered house church. Its members have been subjected to police raids, pressure to renounce their faith, detention and interrogation about their religious activity, which officials claim is a front for political organising.

In April 2018 six armed police officers raided a house church gathering and arrested Y Pum Bya, accusing him of spreading false information about Vietnam's violations of minority rights and religious freedom to recruit people to join efforts to create an independent Montagnard state. He was brought to the police station where he was interrogated, beaten and shocked with electric batons to force him to sign a pledge to stop worshipping with the unregistered Gospel Missionary Church. In January 2019 he was sentenced to 14 years in prison and 4 years' probation under Article 87 of Vietnam's Criminal Code for "undermining national unity policy".

Y Pum Bya was previously arrested in 2002 after requesting permission to register religious activities and was sentenced to eight years in prison and four years' probation. He was subjected to hard labour in prison and was prohibited from worshipping. He was released in May 2009 and during his probation was monitored and interrogated by police who threatened to arrest him again if he resumed serving his congregation.

In March 2017 Y Pum Bya again requested permission to register religious activities, but the authorities rejected the request and police threatened to imprison him if he continued to engage in his religious activities.

### Family

Y Pum Bya and his wife H'Bleng Nie have seven children. Since his arrest in 2018, authorities have monitored his family and have interrogated his wife several times, warning her that their religion is prohibited.

### Latest News

In December 2020, H'Bleng Nie fled to Thailand to seek political asylum. She was arrested at the Thai border and held in the Immigration Detention Centre in Bangkok until she was released on bail in March 2022 to remain in Thailand while awaiting a decision from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on her application for asylum.

## Prayer Diary

<b>Sunday</b>	Ask God to keep Y Pum Bya safe and well in prison.
<b>Monday</b>	Pray for hope and spiritual encouragement.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Ask that Y Pum Bya would be released early.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pray for safety and support for H'Bleng Nie in Thailand.
<b>Thursday</b>	Pray for hope, provision and protection for their children.
<b>Friday</b>	Ask God to reunite and bless Y Pum Bya's family.
<b>Saturday</b>	Pray for freedom for house churches in Vietnam.

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