

# TESTIMONIALS ON THE VALUE OF SAVE THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS (STPC)

Faith J H McDonnell, Director of Advocacy, Katartismos Global [KGIglobal.org]; Founding Member, STPC Coalition Partner

When Save The Persecuted Christians began, in 2018, I rejoiced! Those of us blessed to be called to be advocates for persecuted Christians around the world are in solidarity with those suffering brothers and sisters. But how wonderful it is to also be in solidarity with other advocates. One of the great strengths of STPC is in how it brings us all together, to share both our joys and our sorrows.

First as International Religious Liberty Director at the Institute on Religion and Democracy, and now as Director of Advocacy for Katartismos Global, I have been privileged to be part of the STPC founding coalition. *President Frank Gaffney and Executive Director Dede Laugesen work tirelessly and with creativity, passion, and wisdom for our persecuted brothers and sisters.* 

# Alheri Bawa Magaji, co-Founder, Resilient Aid & Dialogue Initiative (RADi) [RADiFoundation.org]; STPC Coalition Partner, witness to persecution, and recipient of STPC action

My name is Alheri Magaji and I am pleased to be writing down how much of an impact STPC (Save The Persecuted Christians) has had on my life. I am the co-founder of RADi (Resilient Aid & Dialogue Initiative), a Non-Governmental Organization based in Kaduna State, Nigeria. RADi works directly with vulnerable people, especially youth and women, to assist them grow into positive and contributing members of their communities. Social initiatives such as cooperatives, trainings, sporting competitions and business seminars are pursued to promote dialogue, build trust and foster peace within the community.

Within the past two years, RADi has empowered over 200 widows, organized business management trainings, and during the COVID-19 lock down of 2020, provided palliatives to over 1,000 poor families. Recently, RADi keyed into a rural farmer's practice where two bags of fertilizer are delivered to a beneficiary, and after harvest, the farmer gives back a predetermined number of bags of whatever is harvested as a result of the fertilizer. RADi then donates these bags of grains to those who were not privileged to farm. Over 150 farmers have benefitted from the scheme since 2020.

I believe that my involvement and experience in these activities has placed me in a position where I am in touch with and have access to being aware of the perspectives of the vulnerable in my community, and the country at large. I have also attended a few trainings on peace building, and I am now an advocate for social equality, human rights, and justice. These activities caught the attention of the United States Embassy in Nigeria, and the embassy nominated me to participate in the International Visitor Leadership

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Program (IVLP), a professional exchange program of the U.S. Government on 'Human Rights and Civic Engagement for Youth' in Washington DC, July to August 2021.

Everything I have mentioned above, was only possible because I was part of the delegation hosted by STPC (Save The Persecuted Christians) that presented testimonies on Capitol Hill to Congress members and Staff, Senators, and Staff at The White House in Washington D.C., in June 2019. This event changed my perspectives of life and made me aware of the power of advocacy. It was when I got back home from being a part of this delegation, that I co-founded RADi.

It was because of the lessons learnt and the opportunities that opened after this event that I really got into being an advocate of Human Rights. STPC also hosted me as a speaker on 'vulnerable populations and Civil Society engagement for their sustenance and care, no matter their faith', at a side event during the 2021 International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington D.C. Again, this event opened many more opportunities for the vulnerable and marginalized people in my community to get help. Kindly note that I am from the Adara tribe, the largest Christian Community in Kaduna State, which has been marginalized for years, so this has given us hope.

My people and I DO NOT take for granted the positive impact STCP has had and continues to have on our lives. STPC opened my opportunities and access to get help and this had led to so many lives changed, not just mine. Thousands of lives have been touched, and hundreds of lives empowered, because STCP invested emotions, time and money on me. For this I am grateful, and I will never stop. Thank you on behalf of all of US to everyone at STPC!

#### Douglas Burton, Nigeria specialist with The Epoch Times; STPC Coalition Partner

By providence or by serendipitous accident, Save the Persecuted Christians has been my portal for encountering the Genocide in Nigeria, which, having seen it, I haven't been able to unsee every day for the last four years. Our little platoon of on-the-ground reporters, with me riding shotgun from my home office in Maryland, was christened Rural Watch three years ago by Mr Lawrence Zongo, a citizen journalist in Plateau State. Dede Laugesen, Frank Gaffney, the International Committee on Nigeria and many other advisers of STPC have enabled me and the Rural Watch team to publish scores of articles in secular media, including The Epoch Times and the Washington Times as well as respected Roman Catholic platforms such as The National Catholic Register by the Catholic News Agency (CNA). Without the crucial work of STPC many, many more lives would be needlessly lost in Nigeria and other countries, simply because the Western World can't act if it doesn't "know"; can't "see" unless it acquires "the will to see,"—as Bernard-Henri Levy likes to say. STPC is Setting the standard on both scores.

- S. K., persecuted independent journalist, Nigeria, witness to persecution and recipient of STPC action
  I sincerely want to appreciate STPC for its amazing work of advocacy in Nigeria with regards to the persecuted Christians. *I am a direct beneficiary of STPC*. A few months ago I was terribly ill and the STPC and some of her partners came to my rescue by donating funds for my treatment and helping me connect to medical experts and information I was not able to safely access. Today I am fine even though I am living in exile as I had to flee Nigeria following incessant threats to my life.
- John Arash Sedigh, Iranian Christian Refugee, witness to persecution, and recipient of STPC advocacy
  I am thankful to God to know you and learn about the great efforts which is taking place by STPC. After a harrowing escape from Iran, my wife, young son, and I were living in a dangerous situation at a refugee center in Indonesia. STPC advocated on my behalf to help end the daily threats against us, which had become violent and frightening. STPC helped me connect with an international office devoted to persecuted Christians. Because of this, my family received tuition assistance, food aid, and help with transportation. And, the entire Iranian Christian community in my city was fed at the height of the

*global pandemic.* We are all grateful. You in STPC are God's chosen warriors who fight against the global Anti- Christian persecution.

#### Lauren Homer, President and Founder, Law & Liberty International [LawandLibertyTrust.org]; STPC Coalition Partner

Dede Laugesen is a force of nature in the international religious freedom world. She is tirelessly organizing meetings of IRF advocates, programs on key subjects, and coalitions of the willing to work on various important topics. Since its formation, STPC has made an outsized impact in advocacy for persecuted Christians worldwide.

### Reggie Littlejohn, Founder and President, Women's Rights Without Frontiers [WomensRightsWithoutFrontiers.org]; STPC Coalition Partner and contributor

Over the two years I have known Dede Laugesen, we have worked closely together on a variety of projects. Dede combines a unique array of talents. She is a strong leader and organizer, possessing impressive technical knowledge regarding the latest digital tools to advance advocacy. At the same time, Dede possesses the gift of imparting joy and peace in the heat of battle – the result of her profound personal spirituality and luminous faith.

**Dede is a dearly beloved and highly respected leader in the religious freedom movement.** She is dearly beloved because of her love for others, which expresses itself in concrete help and lifting others up in their ministries. She is highly respected because of her vision and competence.

Dede and I collaborated closely on a rally on the Capitol Mall in Washington, DC, exposing human rights atrocities in China. This event, largely sponsored by Save the Persecuted Christians, offered powerful testimonies from some of the world's top Chinese human rights leaders. These people of many religious backgrounds shared one thing in common: their faith was trampled by the Chinese Communist Party. This event would not have happened without Dede's outstanding organizational skills and the sponsorship of Save the Persecuted Christians. Because of the trusted relationships she has developed over the years, she was able to secure a speech at the event by Ambassador Sam Brownback.

My organization, Women's Rights Without Frontiers, and I personally, have donated to Save the Persecuted Christians. It is our honor to support this outstanding ministry. Dede and STPC have my highest recommendation.

## Jorge Parrott, President, Christ's Mandate for Missions [CMM.world]; STPC Coalition Partner, and recipient of STPC advocacy

**STPC** is a powerful, unifying voice for the persecuted in many places. The STPC is one of the very best sources for actionable, reliable, firsthand news from the Christian perspective found anywhere. We all love the Truth and need sharp discernment amidst the deluge of anti-Christian rhetoric and mass media deception.

STPC has many of the most influential and passionate warriors standing for truth and righteousness, glowing in the dark and shining brightly. With many friends/members who are part of our CMM Global Family serving on the front lines facing heart-wrenching attacks and expanding persecution in the world we see clearly the Biblical end time battles and prophecies front and center globally in the STPC coalition network. When the STPC meets the spiritual impact is felt globally during this crucial time.

The diverse coalition members represented in the STPC is clear evidence the Lord is at work fulfilling His Word and His promises to those who believe. The STPC shines brightly, confirming the truth and the urgency found in the Bible to 'blow the trumpet in Zion' putting our faith into action in obedience to our Lord at all costs.

Thank-you Frank and Dede and all the STPC members for being the voice of millions facing unprecedented persecution today.

Dr. Gloria Puldu, President, The Leah Foundation, and recipient of STPC advocacy [Leah-Foundation.org] STPC is an important organization that continues to elevate the voices of the persecuted Christians around the world. We are especially grateful for STPC joining with us many times on our speaking engagements to lift up the plight of Leah Sharibu who is the face of the persecuted Church in Nigeria and giving us a platform to speak and engage with U.S. policy makers and leaders. Keep up the good work, Dede! Thank you.

Dr. Oluwasayo Ajiboye, President and Founder, Mission Africa International [MissionAfricaInternational.org]; STPC Coalition Partner, witness to persecution and recipient of STPC advocacy

Save the Persecuted Christians is the voice of the hopeless. Mission Africa International serves people - especially women and children who are in very desperate situation in the middle of Africa. We do not have a budget for lobbying or the fund for ritzy Washington circuits. We however have Save the Persecuted Christians... our voice, the platform for amplifying our concerns; our key and access route to the heart of the Americas. Please support Save the Persecuted Christians, the voice for the hopeless.

Hulda Fahmi, The Jubilee Campaign [JubileeCampaign.org], and Set My People Free [Freedom2Worship.org]; STPC Coalition Partner

STPC has been an invigorating and important platform/coalition to engage in actions to advance religious freedom and support persecuted Christians around the world.

STPC acts quickly and ensures that the persecution of Christians and others does not go unnoticed. Examples include during the situation in Afghanistan they were able to mobilize a coalition on this and created means of communication etc. to get people out.

I have really appreciated the STPC calls where partners can share and engage on different actions - STPC always lifts the voices of those close to the issues and gives them a platform to share while also helping get the message out clearly (Really believe this is due to your journalism experience Dede!!) For me personally, it has been encouraging, especially the inclusion of prayer in the calls.

STPC has ensured that the situation of Christians is not forgotten. Most recently STPC worked with partners to advocate for Leah Sharibu during the IRF Summit and hosted an important and well-attended event on short notice. STPC is also generous with their gifts and ability to get the message out, such as with the IRF Summit March and creating graphics for the Global Campaign to Release Religious Prisoners of Conscience.

I especially appreciate STPC's understanding of apostasy and blasphemy laws and the efforts to repeal them and problems with Islamic supremacy thinking, also that they allow different views to be shared. I appreciate STPC's willingness to collaborate with different organizations while still not lessening the important message of helping the persecuted. And I really appreciate you Dede! Really impressed with how you understand people and are able to convey what they are trying to say.

## George Parker, Executive Director, Revealing Light Ministries [reveallight.org]; STPC Coalition Partner, and recipient of STPC aid and action

My name is George Parker, founding director of Revealing Light Ministries. In 2019 I was invited by a colleague to attend a discussion on Christian persecution presented by Dede Laugesen on behalf of Save the Persecuted Christians. To be honest I knew virtually nothing concerning the persecution happening around the world. What I heard that day shocked me to my core. To learn that tens of millions and now hundreds of millions of Christians are being extremely persecuted. The most disturbing part is that a very small percentage of believers know anything about it. Its 3 years later and our ministry focus is to educate the Western Church concerning the violence and helping families experiencing that violence by providing safe housing, food and medical assistance. It is very difficult for people to understand persecution if they have never experienced it. Save the Persecuted Christians has grown from a dozen ministry partners to well over two hundred and has become a reliable and steady source of information concerning persecution that is happening globally. They have made great inroads to raising awareness both here in the Western Church and to many nations.

STPC has been an invaluable resource to our ministry, as they have frequently connected us to other organizations that have helped us to minister to those we help.

We at RLM are very honored to call STPC a partner and a friend.

Se Hoon Kim, director, Captive Nations Coalition of the Committee on the Present Danger: China [CaptiveNations.org] [PresentDangerChina.org]; STPC Coalition Partner

I have had the honor of being part of the advisory board of the Save The Persecuted Christians (STPC) for two years and I can say with full confidence that it has given huge hope for humanity. When I initially joined the organization, the first thing that I noticed was how everyone was in full support of each other in prayer and in work. Often times I would hear on our weekly calls about all sorts of issues in the global community. One instance I remember was when the issue of the suffering Christians of Nigeria was being discussed and everyone on the call, particularly those also from persecuted nations, joined in sincere family-like prayer and discussed practical ways to help those in need. Other times, I remember how Executive Director Dede Laugesen, introduced the suffering of Chinese Christians along with that of Uyghur Muslims, citing our colleague Kalbinur Gheni, and urged all of us to help come up with solutions to help raise more awareness. This became a source of inspiration for people of multiple faiths to be reminded of the importance of caring for one another. For the first time in my life, I've personally witnessed those from Non-Christian communities recognizing the works of the Believers in solidarity and genuine care for one another.

I have heard over the years that those in nations run by dictatorships often gain a miraculous amount of hope just by hearing about the care of those abroad, especially those of the Church. *I can say confidently that STPC regularly provides those hope and brings actions that help change the lives of the oppressed for the better.* In fact, the families of some of the Uyghur communities have expressed gratitude for STPC in helping them to remember that they are not alone. This was perhaps one of my favorite aspects of STPC. Unconditional and genuine love for those persecuted around the world.

Unsurprisingly, every time I've had the privilege of being part of STPC's initiatives, it was seeing Christ's work being released in our world. Selfless dedication, especially from those like Dede Laugesen and her colleagues, truly humbled folks like me and encouraged all of us to open our hearts up a lot bigger than before for those persecuted. As the Director of the Captive Nations Coalition of the Committee on Present Danger: China, I am proud and honored to be part of such an amazing organization, which I consider to be one of God's great instruments in our world. I can say without hesitation that the work of the STPC has touched the lives of so many, especially those suffering from intense persecution. I can also say that my colleagues and I have become better people over the years after working with STPC after witnessing its endless dedication for the most vulnerable.

The very existence of STPC is a sign that hope is very much alive in our world and that the Lord is with us in all trials. Thank you, STPC for everything.

# Fr. Andre Y Sebastian Mahanna Chair of the Board and President Apostolate of Our Lady of Hope, Also known as St. Rafka Mission of Hope and Mercy [MissionOfHopeAndMercy.org]; Founding Member, STPC Coalition Partner

To our dear friends, members of the Coalition Save the Persecuted Christians, benefactors, Donors, Volunteers and People of Good Will,

In 2017-2018, I had the honor and privilege to pray and meet for several days which were followed by many conference calls with Mr. Frank Gaffney. At that time, I was accompanied by my Liaison and Assistant at the Mission of Hope and Mercy, with the relations to public officials Mrs. Denise "Dede" Laugesen. In our meetings, I had clearly asked Mr. Gaffney to form a trifold entity made of Advocacy-Solidarity-and Shield, to be a US based movement which will protect the Christians in Lebanon and all those who are being persecuted in all the world. A Coalition that unites major Judeo-Christian institutions, groups, ministries, research institutes, people of influence, churches, places of worship and volunteers. *This Coalition is to remind America both government and people that "on our conscience sits the future of Peace, Faith, Freedom, Family and Life in the world"*. And that this can only be by creating a coalition that commits all its prayers, efforts, time, talents and treasures to Save, Aid and Protect the Persecuted Christians in the World.

Consequently, Save the Persecuted Christians was formed. I am both humbled and blessed to be recognized as a small tool God used, to inspire the heart of a big American man of honor, valor and influence such as Mr. Gaffney to form such a Coalition now called: Save the Persecuted Christians, also known as the SaveUs Movement. I am also most happy that the Apostolate of Our Lady of Hope also known as St. Rafka Mission of Hope and Mercy is and shall always remain a founding member by the grace of God of this honorable Coalition. More so, it was one of the best startup points which insured the success and good leadership when my liaison at the time to public officials at the Mission, Mrs. Denise Laugesen, became the perfect choice to lead the Coalition Save the Persecuted Christians in her capacity as its executive director.

All these inspiring events could not have become a reality without the support of donors and people of faith and action, who commit their prayers of intercession, their time, talent, and treasure for the sake of growing our network to be an effective instrument on earth reflecting God's Initiative of Peace for all of humanity. As a little founding inspiration, and a founding member of the Coalition Save the Persecuted Christians, the Mission of Hope and Mercy thanks, and urges donors to continue offering their honorable commitment and generous resources in order to make even more effective the work of this timely needed Coalition.

With your support, this movement of major solidarity of American Judeo-Christian faith-based groups will be known in the future to be a divine instrument which will save many lives from famine, wars and persecution, but also an instrument which will protect America to remain One Nation Under God. The efforts of the work of the Mission and the Coalition with all its members is the RIGHT CAUSE for Peace to Be in America and the world. With us, America must reach and is now called to live up to its spiritual destiny. Here are some deliverable points about. How America's Spiritual Destiny will look like: 1- lead the world in purity and charity; 2- help stop all forms of persecution against Christians and innocent people; 3- do the Will of God for the sake of life, reconciliation, peace, love, coexistence, pluralism and mutual respect first for all the children of Abraham; 4- and then share the blessings of God with all the earth.

I am most thankful to Frank to have heard and responded to the Message of Heaven for Peace on Earth. I have repeatedly shared with Mr. Gaffney and members of our Coalition, what I heard from God. Please allow me to shared it with you now: "God from Heaven, wanted to establish a Divine Initiative of Peace for all the Earth. Therefore, in 1917 at Fatima Portugal, God sent "the Lady" as the Queen of Peace and Emissary for Heaven's 'Urgent Initiative' to tell the little shepherds of Fatima about God's Plan. It was in honor of Her the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Word Incarnate Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior, that God the Father established this Heavenly Urgent Initiative of Peace for all the nations of the world. *America must lead this initiative to the entire world if we were to avoid darkness, crisis of faith, annihilation, sadness, pandemic, nuclear holocaust, and death.* 

The Apostolate of Our Lady of Hope, also known as St. Rafka Mission of Hope and Mercy, hopes and trusts that our Coalition will grow exponentially in numbers, influence, holiness and in wisdom and resources. With your help we can achieve the first goal that is to become a major instrument for the Spiritual Diplomacy Urgent Call to Peace from Heaven for all the earth.

With us, America becomes the voice of the persecuted Christians. With us, America will feed and defend "the little brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus Christ" and it will protect billions of lives from genocide, persecutions, violence, discriminations and acts of intolerance. Remember that Religious Liberty, in the Bible and the American Constitution, is America's greatest gift to the world tormented by hate and by religious persecution.

Finally, the Mission of Hope and Mercy and the Coalition, we are not just a charity and advocacy mission. We aim to protect and promote the Body of Christ in its fulness. *We are the faithful in action defending religious liberty, protecting human rights, and serving persecuted Christians and other innocent sufferers by means of awareness and charity.* We stand as a united front of Christians of all Church Traditions. We collaborate with all the monotheistic religions whose father of the faith is Abraham, namely Judaism, Christianity and Islam, to safeguard the natural law, etched by God in our hearts, for the sake of peace, love and coexistence and life as sacred for all.

Thank you and May God bless you!