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Open Doors Arise Africa Petition With 1,046,377 Signatures Delivered to 10 Downing Street for Persecuted Christians

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"God has seen our case and He will intervene for us."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

On Wednesday 12 November 2026, a five-person delegation from Open Doors UK & Ireland delivered the Arise Africa petition to 10 Downing Street in London. The petition carries 1,046,377 signatures from around the world and calls for protection, justice and restoration for Christians facing violent persecution in sub-Saharan Africa. A box holding around 200,000 names signed in the UK was handed in at the famous black door.

Among the five people who knocked on that door was a Nigerian Christian woman called Afordia. That is not her real name. It was changed to keep her safe, because the people who killed her husband are still out there.

In 2014, Afordia lost her husband Isaac, a pastor, in an attack by Boko Haram militants. He declared before them that he was a Christian, knelt down and prayed, and was shot dead. Twelve years later, his widow stood on the steps of the British prime minister's home, carrying his story in a box full of names.

"God has seen our case and He will intervene for us."

"To count me among those handing in the petition and say, 'God, you can use me in such a way that I will be a voice to the whole nation?' It's very great privilege," she said. "We are so happy, because today God has seen our case and He will intervene for us."

Arise Africa Petition: 1 Million Signatures Delivered To Downing Street

The delegation that carried the box inside was small on purpose. It included Open Doors UK chief executive Tiffany Barrans, Afordia and Kewente from Nigeria, Rev. Osoba Otaigbe, speaking for the Nigerian diaspora church in the UK, and Tom Collins, the MP for Worcester. Before the handover, photos were taken outside the gates with the petition box and a large card showing the number of signatures.

Each of the five wore a small flower made from fabric hand-dyed by widows at a trauma centre in northern Nigeria, run by Open Doors' local partners. Every flower has 12 petals, one for each believer killed on average every day in sub-Saharan Africa for their faith. The petitioners also held a collage of tie-dyed fabrics embroidered with the names of loved ones who had been killed.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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