

# What the Media Isn't Reporting on ISIS' Beheading of 21 Christian Men

By Jim Daly  
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The tragic images are almost impossible to see and process.

There on the shore of Libya stand 21 young Christian Egyptian men, each clad in an orange jumpsuit. Behind each man is a hooded radical Islamist, holding a knife.

We know what's coming next.

If American Christians were ever tempted to believe martyrs are only people we read about in the Bible and history books, the 21 men who were brutally beheaded because they called Jesus Christ their Savior remind us nothing could be further from the truth.



Each of these men is a hero of the faith. And I believe each one is now seeing the Lord face to face.

Sami Yacoub is a dear friend and the regional director for Focus on the Family's Middle East outreach. He's based in Egypt. As you can imagine, this latest despicable act of barbarism has hit Sami and the team in Cairo hard. I would like to share with you some of Sami's perspectives and insights.

Not all of these facts are being reported by news and media outlets. In fact, I read yesterday that NBC News devoted ten times more coverage to its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Saturday Night Live" than to this tragedy.

Here is what Sami shared with our team:

- These young Christians were in their early to mid-20s. They went to Libya in search of work to help feed their families living under the poverty line in Egypt.
- In the days and weeks leading up to their deaths, their ISIS captors tortured them and attempted to persuade them to deny Jesus in return for living.
- They all refused to deny Christ.
- They all died on that beach singing songs to Jesus.

Yet, from Sami's perspective, these men were not mere victims. They are "more than conquerors" ([Romans 8:37](#)) whose ultimate sacrifice is a powerful testimony to their faith in Jesus.

That's why I echo the sentiments Sami shared with us at Focus on the Family headquarters here in Colorado Springs.

"The Gospel message of salvation rises out of this suffering and persecution. As the Middle East was the birthplace of Christianity, the torch of revival that once burned bright for Christ can once again be lit by the sparks created by ISIS."

We've seen God use persecution to bring people to Him before, and we pray it happens again. In the meanwhile, though, through all the tears and heartache, what do we do now?...

*To read this article in its entirety, go to:*

[http://jimdaly.focusonthefamily.com/what-the-media-isnt-reporting-on-isis-beheading-of-21-christian-men/?utm\\_source=fb\\_focus&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=21men\\_blog](http://jimdaly.focusonthefamily.com/what-the-media-isnt-reporting-on-isis-beheading-of-21-christian-men/?utm_source=fb_focus&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=21men_blog)