

Persecution

80%

of all **religious** persecution worldwide is against **Christians**

360+ million

Christians are **strongly** persecuted throughout the world



1 out of every 7 Christians is persecuted

For the first time in 29 years of tracking, all 50 World Watch List nations are considered to have "very high" persecution levels

Of the top 50 nations:

as a main religion...

-  34 have **Islam**
-  4 have **Buddhism**
-  2 have **Hinduism**
-  1 has **Atheism**
-  1 has **Agnosticism**
-  10 have **Christianity**

11 have **extreme** levels of persecution

39 have **very high** levels of persecution

5 **outside** the top 50 also have **very high** levels of persecution (Kenya, Sri Lanka, Comoros, UAE and Tanzania)



Latin America

3 nations are in the top 50
1 in 15 believers are persecuted

Africa

18 nations are in the top 50 (6 in North Africa)
1 in 5 believers are persecuted

Asia

29 nations are in the top 50 (10 in the Middle East) (4 in Central Asia)
2 in 5 believers are persecuted

TOP 50

HOTSPOT COUNTRIES

- | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 Afghanistan | 11 Saudi Arabia | 21 Uzbekistan | 31 CAR | 41 Mozambique |
| 2 North Korea | 12 Myanmar | 22 Algeria | 32 Burkina Faso | 42 Turkey |
| 3 Somalia | 13 Sudan | 23 Mauritania | 33 Niger | 43 Mexico |
| 4 Libya | 14 Iraq | 24 Mali | 34 Bhutan | 44 Cameroon |
| 5 Yemen | 15 Syria | 25 Turkmenistan | 35 Tunisia | 45 Tajikistan |
| 6 Eritrea | 16 Maldives | 26 Laos | 36 Oman | 46 Brunei |
| 7 Nigeria | 17 China | 27 Morocco | 37 Cuba | 47 Kazakhstan |
| 8 Pakistan | 18 Qatar | 28 Indonesia | 38 Ethiopia | 48 Nepal |
| 9 Iran | 19 Vietnam | 29 Bangladesh | 39 Jordan | 49 Kuwait |
| 10 India | 20 Egypt | 30 Colombia | 40 DRC | 50 Malaysia |

“The epicenter of international jihadism is now [in] the Sahel area [Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger]. This terrorism is moving south ... and predominantly **Christian** countries like Benin, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast are now affected.”

Illia Djadi, *Open Doors* senior analyst for freedom of religion and belief for sub-Saharan Africa

In 2021:

- 5,898 **Christians killed for their faith** (up 23,8 % from 2020)
- 5,110 **Churches and other Christian buildings attacked** (up 13,8%)
- 6,175 **Christians detained without trial** (up 44,3%)
- 3,829 **Christians were kidnapped** (up 123,9%)

Why does persecution of Christians happen?

- **Suspicion** of anything outside the **majority cultural faith**
- **Extremist** groups who want to **destroy** Christians
- Official and cultural **domination** of a **single religion**
- **Religious freedom** is a **disrespected** human right

What can you do?

Speak



shatter the silence that renders persecuted Christians invisible

Pray



because intercessory prayer is advocacy to the highest authority

Give



sacrificially, generously, as unto Christ; for faith without works is dead



IDOP

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

6 & 13 November 2022

A serious and passionate response from the Church will:

- enable the saving of many lives and ensure **Christian communities** are preserved and restored to **bless the nations** as intended (Genesis 12:3b)
- facilitate the **sanctification** of the Church, as the Church becomes (in practice) what the Church is (in reality): that is, the **Body of Christ** (Ephesians 4:4-6)
- present the watching world with a vision of **sacrificial Christian love**; a love that reflects the image and sacrificial love of Christ, **that the world might believe** (John 17:20-23)



Sources

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