

The Persecuted Church



The Persecuted Church

WHAT IS PERSECUTION?

The Persecuted Church

NORMAL [SOCIAL]

- Ridicule/Reviled
- Disapproval
- Harassment
- Mockery/Jeers
- Slander/Maligned
- Pressure to conform
- Shunning
- Bullying
- Mistreatment
- Labeling
- Loss of friends
- Ignored
- Hatred/Hostility
- Prejudice

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MODERATE [FINANCIAL]

- Threats
- Legal prohibitions
- Economic sanctions
- Loss of educational opportunities
- Loss of employment
- Loss of property
- Vandalism
- Physical abuse
- False accusation
- Harassment by officials
- Disowned
- Dislocated

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SEVERE [PHYSICAL]

- Kidnapping
- Forced labour/Slavery
- Imprisonment
- Re-education camps
- Physical torture, beatings, flogging, burning, rape, dismemberment
- Hiding/Isolation/Wanderings
- Murder
- Execution
- Holocaust/Genocide

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PERSECUTION FACTS:

Today, over **200 MILLION** Christians around the world face persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ.

Every 5 minutes, a Christian is martyred for their faith.

Christians face persecution in 105 countries out of 190 + around the world today.

No religious group around the world is persecuted more than Christians.

CHRISTIANFREEDOM.ORG

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WORLD WATCH LIST

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The World Watch List (WWL) is a ranking of 50 countries where persecution of Christians for religious reasons is most severe.

COUNTRY	RANK		2014
North Korea	1	■	1
Somalia	2	■	2
Iraq	3	▲	4
Syria	4	▼	3
Afghanistan	5	■	5
Sudan	6	▲	11
Iran	7	▲	9
Pakistan	8	■	8
Eritrea	9	▲	12
Nigeria	10	▲	14



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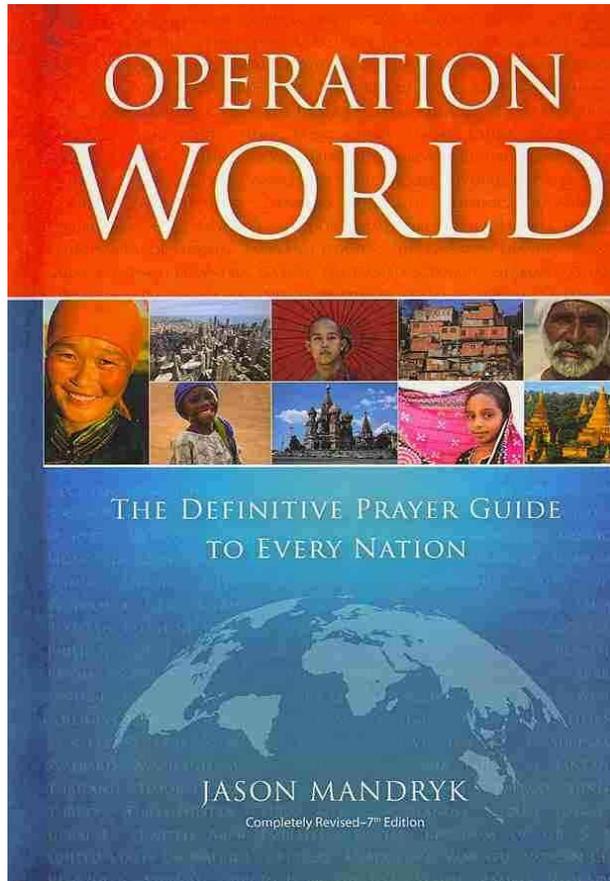
2015 World Watch List Trends

- The most rapidly growing area of persecution in the WWL is in the countries of Africa, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Worldwide levels of persecution have risen, but this has not been primarily due to increased violence, but increased cultural marginalization.
- Asia is facing more persecution again- several Asian countries have seen rising levels of persecution.
- Latin America is back on the radar- Mexico is on the World Watch List this year, along with Colombia.
- Islamic extremism is by far the most significant persecution engine- 40 of the 50 countries on the World Watch List are affected by this kind of persecution.
- Under the influence of ISIS, radical sentiments have increased in the Middle East. Many historically Christian communities have been forced to flee.

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PUBLICATIONS

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Operation World (OW)

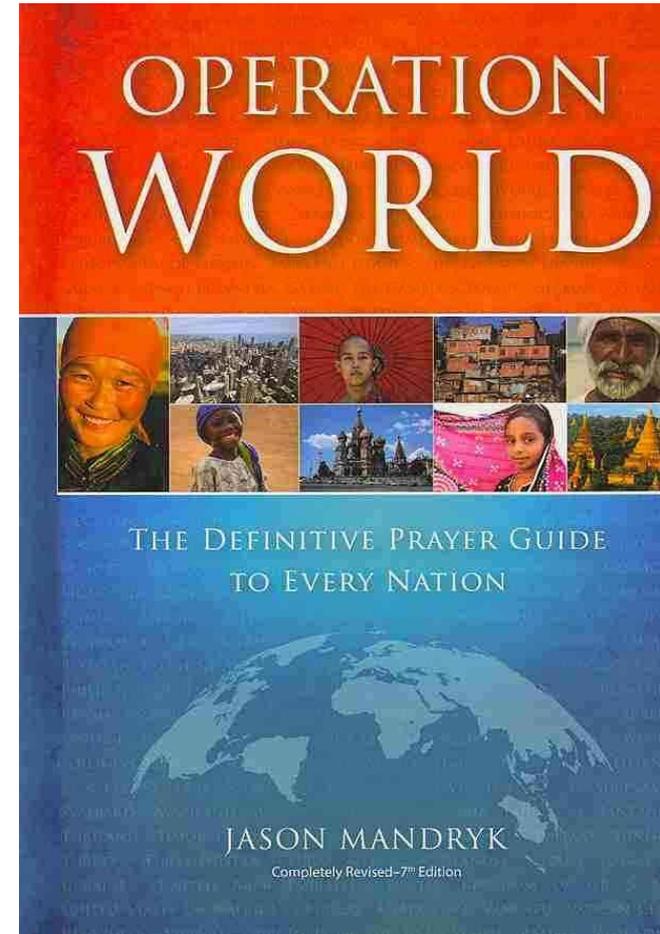
- Widely regarded as the definitive volume of prayer information about the world and is the recipient of the ECPA Gold Medallion Award for Excellence in Evangelical Christian Literature.

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10 **The rise in levels of persecution – especially for Christians.** The end of the European colonial era, the end of Christianity's status as state religion in most of the West and the resurgence of religious sentiment globally, especially fundamentalism, all mean that Christians generally no longer operate from a position of power or privilege. Christians are subject to persecution in much of the world. Evangelicals are subject to even more due to their proselytism and commitment to the uniqueness of Christ. The presence of persecution and hardship in the life of the Church appears to be normative in Scripture; contexts where persecution does not exist at all should be as much cause for concern as places where it is intense.

a) *The main offenders:*

- i *Muslim countries and regions* – the rise of extreme Islamist interpretations of the Muslim faith and the association of Christianity with “the Great Satan” have made Christians vulnerable to heightened religious violence coming from radicalized Muslims. The increasing application of shari'a law creates a climate where harsh persecution can easily occur. In a handful of countries, the courts may sentence a national to death for becoming a Christian; imprisonment awaits in several other nations. Beyond the government stance on such apostasy from Islam, community leaders and family members pressure new believers to revert to Islam and, occasionally, will murder those who will not.
- ii *Marxist/Communist states* continue to make life very difficult for Christians – this is especially true in North Korea, where profession of faith leads to imprisonment and death, and in Laos, Vietnam, China and Cuba, where unregistered Christians have suffered severely.
- iii *Hindutva* philosophy in India and radicalization of some Hindus in Nepal have led to heightened pressure and acts of terror against Christians in parts of these countries.
- iv *Buddhists* have persecuted and maltreated Christians in Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.
- v *Christian governments*, or government structures that endorse only one form of Christianity, have often been among the harshest persecutors of evangelicals. Examples of such instances include Eritrea, Belarus, southern Mexico and Russia.
- vi *Secular governments* – most notably in Western Europe – in their attempts to safeguard against dangerous sects and to further erase religion from public life have passed laws that make life difficult for believers to publicly practice their faith. Pluralism in such contexts apparently requires tolerance of every lifestyle and value system – except for biblical Christianity.



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PERSECUTION FACTORS

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- **If you are a House church Christian in North Korea.** North Korea does not allow anyone to gather to worship any God other than Kim Il Sung and his family, and the apparatus of the state will stop at nothing to root out secret Christians.

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- **If you are a Christian who evangelizes in Muslim dominated areas.** Even if you are living in a Christian majority country, there are areas that are predominantly Muslim, such as Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania. Evangelists are not welcome in these areas with the good news, and often face violence as a consequence of speaking the Gospel.

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- **If you are a Hindu Background Believer in the more lawless states or Hindurun states of India.** Evangelists can be very badly beaten for their witness, and often run the gauntlet as at least seven states in India have anti-conversion laws, and Hindu mobs are well organised in many more.

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- **If you are a believer who has left the Orthodox Church in Ethiopia.** Historically many Christians have been persecuted by other Christians, and an on-going example of this is in Ethiopia, #15 on the WWL. This country boasts an ancient Orthodox church, but there is much about this church that is lifeless and dead, and some Christians have left it to find a more vibrant Christian life, often in more independent, Pentecostal churches. This has aroused the ire of the Orthodox Church leaders, who do all they can to pressure the church leavers to return.

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IN THE NEWS

The Persecuted Church

Dying for Christianity: millions at risk amid rise in persecution across the globe

Increase in murder, as well as rape, torture and discrimination, has led the pope to warn of a 'form of genocide'



📷 Christians are scanned with a metal detector outside the Our Lady of Consolation church, in Garissa, Kenya which was attacked with grenades by militants. Photograph: Ben Curtis/AP

Christians are facing growing persecution around the world, fuelled mainly by Islamic extremism and repressive governments, leading the pope to warn of “a form of genocide” and for campaigners to speak of “religio-ethnic cleansing”.

Religious Persecution Rising: Islam Threatens Religious Minorities, Especially In Middle East



Doug Bandow, CONTRIBUTOR

I write about domestic and international policy.

[FOLLOW ON FORBES \(196\)](#)



Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.

[FULL BIO](#) ▾

All religious faiths are victims of persecution somewhere. In this supposedly enlightened, tolerant age, people routinely are brutalized, jailed, and killed for their faith—or lack of faith—in God. Hostility to believers is evident even in the West, long home to the strongest advocates for freedom of conscience, expression, and association. Worse, over the last year “a horrified world has watched the results of what some have aptly called violence masquerading as religious devotion” in several nations, observed the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in its [latest annual report](#).

However, the fact that everyone is persecuted does not mean that everyone persecutes equally, or at all. Authoritarian regimes which fear independent thought and allegiance to anyone or anything beyond the state tend to war against any public expression of faith. But such systems usually are equal opportunity oppressors. It is belief in a transcendent, not what that transcendent looks like, which they usually see as the problem.

In sectarian societies religious minorities often are persecuted for what they believe. They face varying challenges where Buddhists, Hindus, and Jews enjoy a majority, but these states are few (although Hindu India is the world’s second most populous nation). A handful of at least nominally Christian countries persecute; however, this behavior most often reflects authoritarian politics (in former communist states) rather than theology. In a few cases, though, the Orthodox Church relies on the government for support against other Christian faiths.

In contrast, majority Muslim nations almost uniformly persecute. The only question is how virulent the repression. Believers are mistreated everywhere, but Christians most suffer in the birthplace of Christianity. The Iraq invasion and Arab Spring have loosed a campaign of religious cleansing across the Middle East.

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Muslim and Non-Muslim Persecution of Christians, Compared

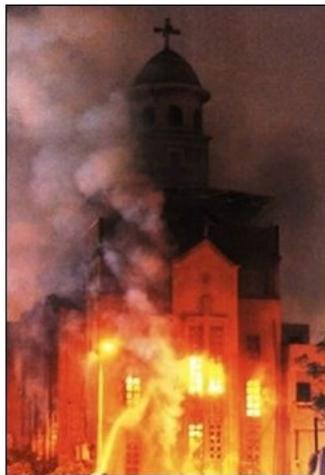
by Raymond Ibrahim
[Breitbart](#)
February 5, 2015



Originally published under the title, "Muslim Persecution of Christians: A Centuries Old Phenomenon."

The one glaring fact concerning the [persecution of approximately 100 million Christians](#) around the world today is that the overwhelming majority of it is being committed by Muslims of all races, nationalities, languages, and socio-political circumstances: Muslims from among America's allies (Saudi Arabia) and from its enemies (Iran); Muslims from economically rich nations (Qatar) and from poor nations (Somalia and Yemen); Muslims from "Islamic republic" nations (Afghanistan) and from "moderate" nations (Malaysia and Indonesia); Muslims from nations rescued by America (Kuwait) and Muslims from nations claiming "grievances" against the U.S. (fill in the blank —).

This fact is underscored in Open Doors' recent [2015 World Watch List](#)—a report that highlights and ranks the 50 worst nations persecuting Christians. It finds that "Islamic extremism" is the main source of persecution in 40 of the top 50 countries—that is, 80 percent of the nations where Christians are persecuted are Muslim. As for the top ten worst countries persecuting Christians, nine of them are Muslim-majority—that is, 90 percent of nations where Christians experience "extreme persecution" are Muslim.



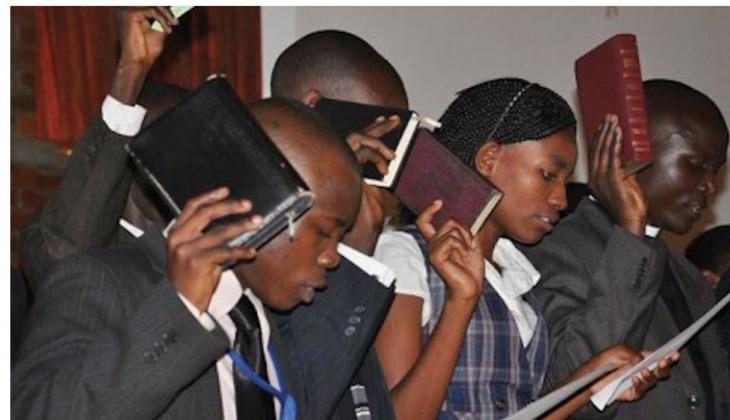
Thousands of Coptic churches in Egypt have been burned to the ground since Islam conquered Egypt nearly 14 centuries ago.

Uganda: Christian defeats Muslims in debates, Muslims murder him

OCTOBER 15, 2015 2:52 PM BY ROBERT SPENCER

63 COMMENTS

In the West, by contrast, Muslims are moderate. If they're defeated in debate, they don't kill the victor. They just crow and thump their chests and claim, despite all appearances, that they really won, and defame the victor as a racist, bigoted Islamophobe. In the West, you see, we still can have rational discussions on key issues.



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Muslim family are driven from their home... after they converted to Christianity: Neighbours vandalise car and call them 'blasphemers'

- Neighbours see Nissar Hussain, wife Kubra, six children as 'blasphemers'
- Mr Hussain from Bradford converted from Islam to Christianity in 1996
- His car windows are constantly smashed, his family attacked in the street
- Police have been called but are reluctant to treat the abuse as a hate crime

By [CHRIS BROOKE FOR THE DAILY MAIL](#)

PUBLISHED: 21:32 GMT, 2 October 2015 | **UPDATED:** 23:04 GMT, 2 October 2015



An Asian family who converted to Christianity claim they are being driven out of their home for the second time by Muslim persecutors.

Nissar Hussain, his wife Kubra and their six children said they have suffered an appalling ordeal at the hands of neighbours who regard them as blasphemers.

They claim they are effectively prisoners in their own home after being attacked in the street, having their car windscreens repeatedly smashed and eggs thrown at their windows.

Mr Hussain, 49, has even given up his career as a nurse due to the effect on his health.

Police have been called numerous times to deal with the trouble but are said to be reluctant to treat the problem as a religious hate crime.

'ISLAMOPHOBIA' IN AMERICA VS. MURDEROUS CHRISTOPHOBIA IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

A look at true religious persecution.

November 5, 2015 Jack Kerwick 35



As organizations like CAIR and their allies wax indignant over "Islamophobia" in America, Muslims around the globe are visiting the worst sort of cruelty upon the Christian minorities in their midst.

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TOUGH ISSUES

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Christians Persecuted by Muslims Even in the West

"Here we pray only to Allah"

by [Raymond Ibrahim](#)

October 20, 2015 at 4:00 am

<http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/6701/christians-persecuted-in-west>



Comment (20)

Translations of this item:

- Spanish
- Swedish

- "Convert or Die" — Graffiti on a restaurant, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- "Very religious Muslims are spreading the following idea throughout the refugee centers: Sharia law rules wherever we are." — Gottfried Martens, pastor of a south Berlin church.
- "You have a cross on — then you are also a Christian f***ing whore. Do you know what we do to people like you? ... You get stoned [to death]." — Muslim threats against Christians in Denmark, documented by TV2.
- A British Christian family that was attacked says both police and the Anglican Church have failed to provide any meaningful support and are "reluctant to treat the problem as a religious hate crime."
- Christian residents of Europe continue to be persecuted, often by Muslims allowed into Europe on the grounds that *they* are being "persecuted."
- As Muslims grow in numbers, so do their demands — assimilation in Europe is falling by the wayside.
- "Before we put on a show of unity with Muslims, let's have them begin by respecting our civilization and our culture." — Giuseppe Berlin, Municipal Councillor of Cinisello Balsamo, Italy.

ABUSE, EXCLUSION, AND PHYSICAL ATTACKS FOR CHRISTIAN SYRIAN REFUGEE IN GERMANY



by [DONNA RACHEL EDMUNDS](#) | 2 Oct 2015 | 247

Christians fleeing Muslim persecution are finding just as much oppression in the refugee camps and shelters of Germany as they suffered in their home states. As the vast majority of asylum seekers are Muslims, many of whom have imported an adherence to sharia law with them, the few Christian co-travellers find themselves ostracised, abused, and even physically attacked.

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**It's Time for the Church to Speak with One Voice:
Destroy ISIS**

For Some Muslim Asylum-Seekers In
Germany, Christianity Beckons

NOVEMBER 09, 2015 4:25 AM ET

 SORAYA SARHADDI NELSON



by [DAVID FRENCH](#) November 3, 2015 6:36 PM
[@DAVIDAFRENCH](#)

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:14–17)

 Listen to the Story
Morning Edition 4:26

[+ Playlist](#) [Download](#) [Embed](#) [Transcript](#)



SHARE

 Comment

In Berlin, the Rev. Gottfried Martens lights a candle during a service to baptize Iranians in the Trinity Church. Iranian and Afghan converts make up most of the 900-member congregation.

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VIDEOS

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WWL INTRO
[~2 minutes]



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IRAQ STORY
[~3 minutes]



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NORTH KOREA STORY
[~6 minutes]

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Due to serious security concerns,
the identities and voices
of those interviewed in this video
have been disguised.

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NIGERIA STORY
[~3.5 minutes]

release

 international

voice of persecuted christians

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ORGANIZATIONS

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Open Doors International (ODI)

- The world's largest outreach to persecuted Christians in the most high-risk places
- Founded in 1955 by Andrew van der Bijl, a Dutchman more widely known as “Brother Andrew”, when he decided to smuggle Bibles to Christians he felt were being discriminated against in the then-Communist Poland

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The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM)

- Non-profit, inter-denominational Christian organization dedicated to assisting our persecuted family worldwide
- Founded in 1967 by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, who was imprisoned 14 years in Communist Romania for his faith in Christ

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International Christian Concern (ICC)

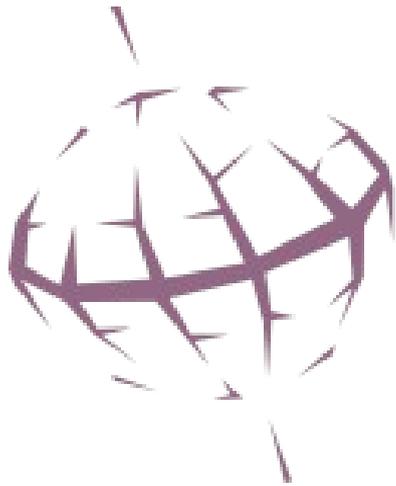
- Non-denominational, non-governmental, Christian watchdog group, located in Washington, DC
- Exists to relieve the suffering of the worldwide persecuted church and help it grow in strength and breadth by providing effective assistance, advocacy and awareness
- Founded in 1995



PERSECUTION.org
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN
Your Bridge to the Persecuted Church

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International Christian Response (ICR)



ICR
INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

- Works with persecuted Christians throughout the world. We exist to provide spiritual and material assistance for persons who are persecuted as a result of their Christian beliefs. We support evangelism and church planting in countries that restrict opportunities for citizens to engage in corporate worship or other religious activities.

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Release International (RO)

- An international organization for monitoring and reporting persecution of Christians around the world and helping the victims of that persecution

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Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)



- Works in over 20 countries across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, defending everyone's right to freedom of religion or belief

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Barnabas Fund (BF)

- An international, interdenominational Christian aid agency based in Southwest England that supports Christians who face discrimination or persecution as a consequence of their faith
- Established in 1993 and channels aid to projects run by national Christians in more than 50 countries



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Christian Freedom International (CFI)

- Operates a variety of programs that provide relief aid to Christians who are repressed because of their religious beliefs
- Established in 1998

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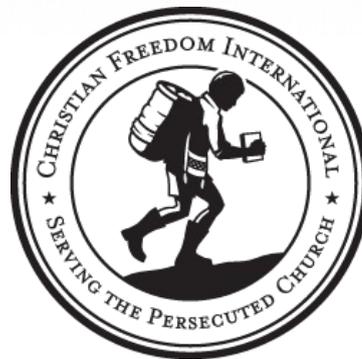
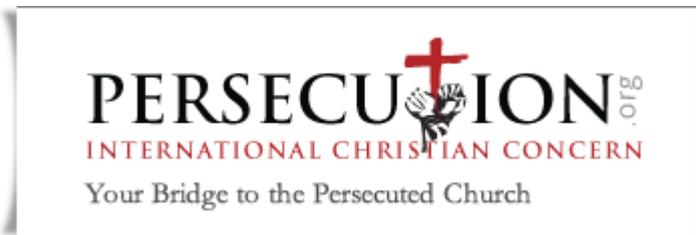
WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

Religious Liberty Commission

Religious Liberty Commission (RLC)

- Monitors the religious liberty situation in more than 100 nations, defending persecuted Christians, informing the global church, challenging the Church to pray and giving all possible assistance to those who are suffering

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CONCLUSION

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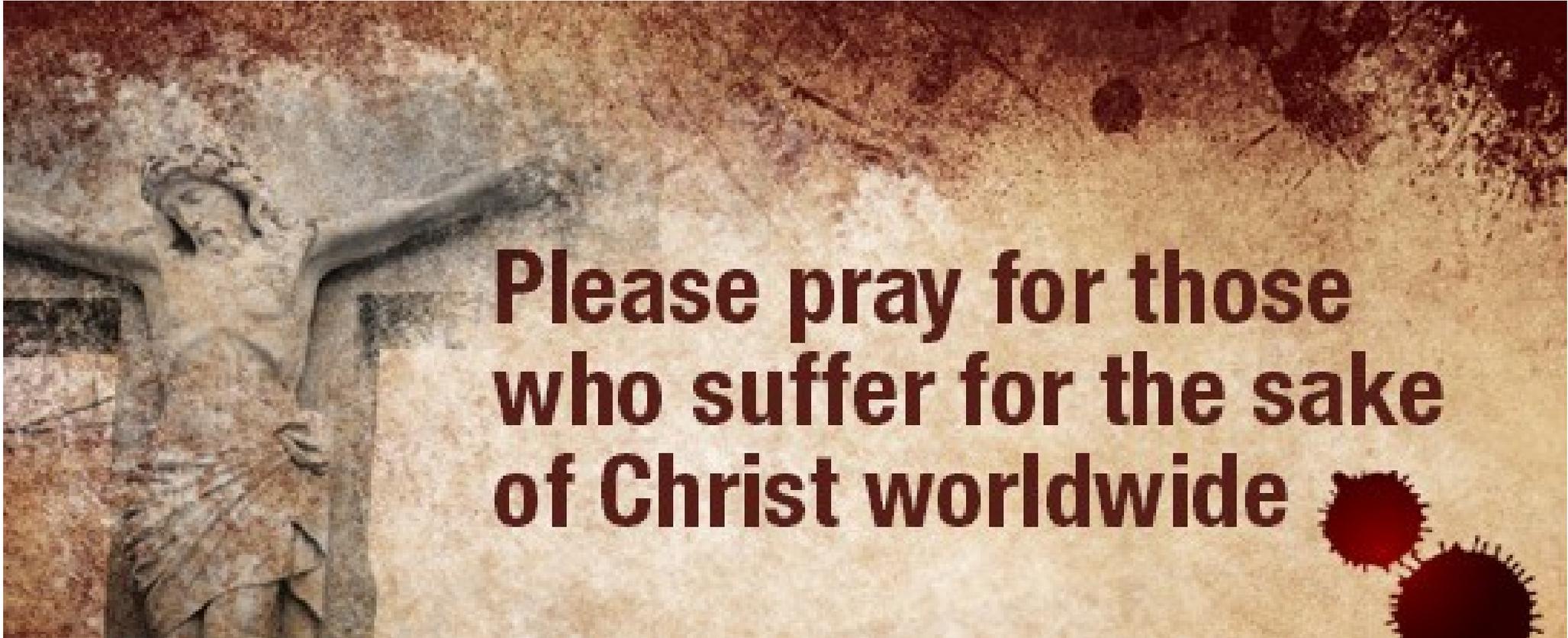


„LORD JESUS CHRIST”

WERE THEIR LAST WORDS

ISIS DON'T CUT OUT THE AUDIO

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**Please pray for those
who suffer for the sake
of Christ worldwide**

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General Prayer Suggestions

- Pray for God to strengthen the accused and their families and for justice to prevail.
- Pray for the ongoing safety of the leaders and pastors who risk and suffer persecution to fulfill their calling.
- Pray for Christians to continue to practice their faith without compromise in spite of the dangers.
- Pray for God to give Christian pastors and their families a real sense of His love and providence.
- Pray that government policies will be confronted by democratic countries that value human rights.
- Pray that truth would prevail and that God would strengthen those who face trial for their faith.
- Pray that God would bring healing to the victims of violence and to their families.
- Pray that God would grant Christian families peace in their ordeals and wisdom to know how best to proceed.
- Pray that God would continue to strengthen the church in the midst of difficult circumstances.
- Pray that the kingdom of God would come and that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

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THANKS FOR ATTENDING!