

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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WORLD WATCH LIST

EACH MONTH

322 CHRISTIANS ARE
KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH



214 CHURCHES AND
CHRISTIAN **PROPERTIES**
ARE DESTROYED



772 FORMS OF **VIOLENCE**
ARE COMMITTED AGAINST
CHRISTIANS (SUCH AS BEATINGS, ABDUCTIONS,
RAPES, ARRESTS AND FORCED MARRIAGES)



WHAT IS CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION?

Christian persecution is any hostility experienced from the world as a result of one's identification as a Christian. From verbal harassment to hostile feelings, attitudes and actions, Christians in areas with severe religious restrictions pay a heavy price for their faith. Beatings, physical torture, confinement, isolation, rape, severe punishment, imprisonment, slavery, discrimination in education and employment, and even death are just a few examples of the persecution they experience on a daily basis.

According to The Pew Research Center, over 75% of the world's population lives in areas with severe religious restrictions (and many of these people are Christians). Also, according to the United States Department of State, Christians in more than 60 countries face persecution from their governments or surrounding neighbors simply because of their belief in Jesus Christ.

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AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS SEEK TO CONTROL ALL RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION

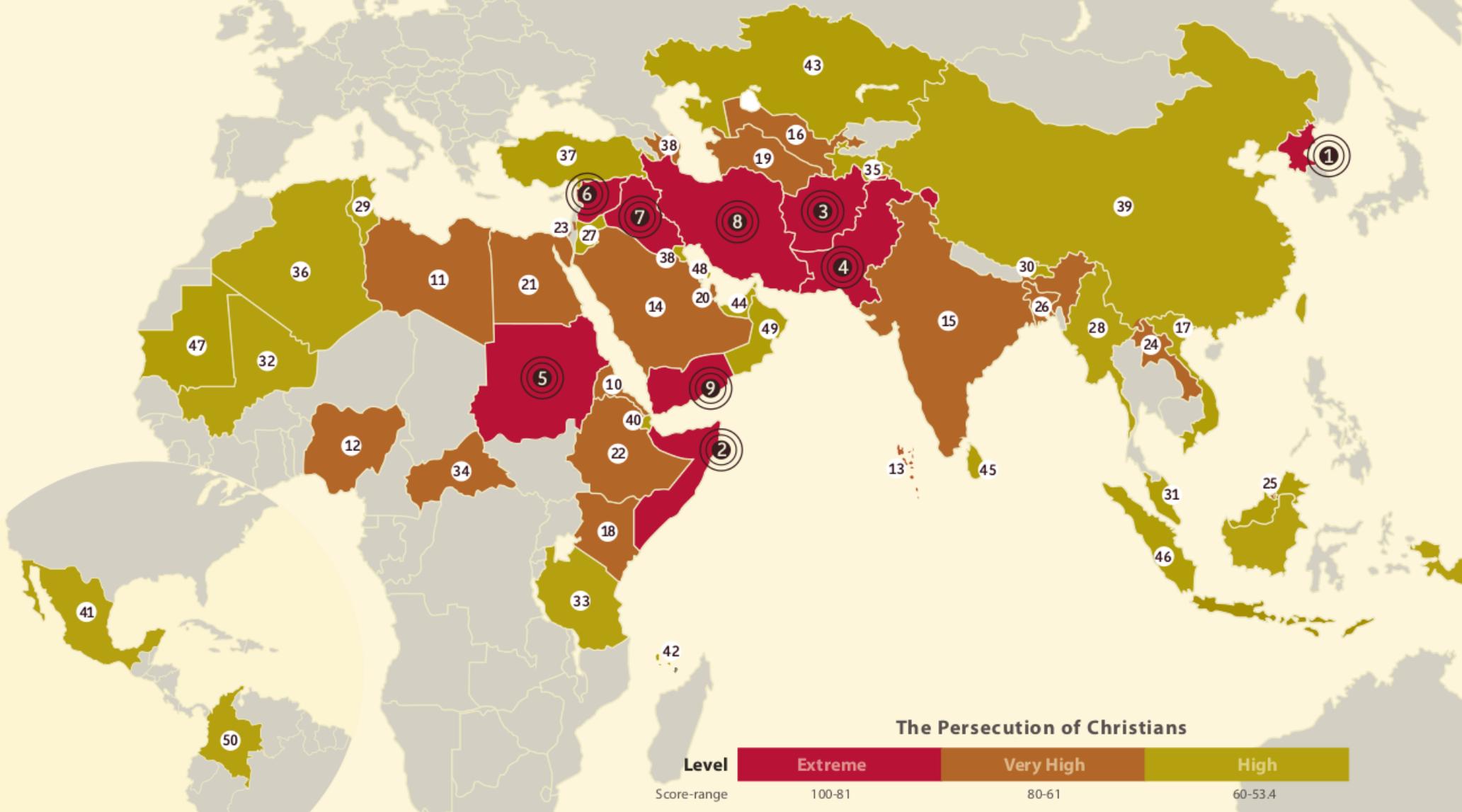
There are numerous reasons why Christians are persecuted. In some countries, severe abuse of Christians takes place under authoritarian governments. In the case of **North Korea** and other communist countries, authoritarian governments seek to control all religious thought and expression as part of a comprehensive plan to control all aspects of political and civic life. These governments regard some religious groups as enemies of the state because they hold religious beliefs that may challenge loyalty to the rulers.

HOSTILITY TOWARDS NONTRADITIONAL AND MINORITY RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Another reason why Christians are persecuted is hostility towards nontraditional and minority religious groups. For example, in **Niger**, more than 98 percent of the population is Islamic, and hostility comes more from society than from the government. Historically, Islam in West Africa has been moderate, but in the last 20 years, dozens of Islamic associations have emerged, like the Izala movement, which aims to restrict the freedom of 'deviant Muslims' and minority religious groups like Christians.

THE LACK OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

The lack of basic human rights is another significant part of persecution in some countries. For instance, in **Eritrea**, there are violations of the freedom of expression, assembly, and religious belief and movement, in addition to extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, extended detention, torture, and indefinite national service, which cause many Eritreans to flee the country.



The Persecution of Christians

Level

Extreme

Very High

High

Score-range

100-81

80-61

60-53.4

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1	North Korea	Score: 92/100	6	Syria	Score: 86/100
2	Somalia	Score: 91/100	7	Iraq	Score: 86/100
3	Afghanistan	Score: 89/100	8	Iran	Score: 85/100
4	Pakistan	Score: 88/100	9	Yemen	Score: 85/100
5	Sudan	Score: 87/100	10	Eritrea	Score: 82/100

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2017 World Watch List Trends: The Bad News

- Religious nationalism in Asia is accelerating
- Asian governments are more insecure, and play the nationalist card
- Islamic radicalisation in sub-Saharan Africa is going mainstream
- The Middle East is polarised between more radical and more autocratic regimes
- Christians are being killed in more countries than before for their faith

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2017 World Watch List Trends: The Good News

- The Chinese House Church has a new opportunity to become more indigenous
- Christians are looking forward to going back to their historic homes in northern Iraq
- Believers from a Muslim Background (BMBs) in Indonesia have no fear in their new faith
- The “exodus” of Christians in the Middle East is significantly slowing... for now
- Some migrants are bringing new life to Western churches

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IN THE NEWS

Ending Syria's war may be easier than rebuilding Christian/Muslim trust

John L. Allen Jr. October 13, 2017
EDITOR



Rana, a Syrian Christian refugee living in the central Lebanese city of Zahle, with her one-year-old girl. (Credit: Ines San Martín/Crux.)

Although a bloody conflict in Syria is still smoldering after six long years, bringing it to an end may prove less complicated than going back to the relatively trusting relationships that once existed in the country between Muslims and Christians. Many Syrian Christian refugees say that having watched their Muslim neighbors join in attacking them, it's impossible to imagine that they'll ever be able to trust them again.

Pence: US Will Bypass UN and Aid Persecuted Iraqi Christians Directly

Vice president reveals USAID will provide direct assistance to religious minorities targeted by ISIS.

KATE SHELLNUTT | OCTOBER 26, 2017 8:00 AM



Image: Michael Vadon / Flickr

During a speech to advocates for the persecuted church, Mike Pence unveiled plans for the United States to provide more direct aid to Christians and other minorities facing genocide in the Middle East.



The forgotten Christians of Nigeria -- faithful while enduring incredible persecution



By Larry Alex Taunton, Fox News



Hungary Hosts First Ever Government Conference for Persecuted Christians

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán opens conference by calling on nations, particularly in Europe, to cast aside political correctness, stand up against Christian persecution, and defend the roots of Christian civilization.

Edward Pentin

It is time for Europe to free itself from the shackles of political correctness, speak the truth, and face the facts about the violent persecution of Christians, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said on Thursday.

In a hard-hitting [speech](#) delivered at the opening of the first major conference ever held by a government in support of persecuted Christians, Orbán said that the "forced expulsion" of Christians from parts of the Middle East and Africa are "crimes" against the people and communities concerned that also "threaten our European values."

"The world should understand that what is at stake today is nothing less than the future of the European way of life, and of our identity," he told the delegates in Budapest.

Over 300 participants from 30 countries, including Christian leaders and representatives from think tanks and charities, gathered for the Oct. 11-13 international consultation on Christian persecution — "Finding the Appropriate Answers to a Long Neglected Crisis."

Nigerian Bishop on Christian persecution, Boko Haram

Bishop Matthew Kukah discusses threat from Boko Haram and cultural differences between Christian and Muslim populations in Nigeria

"Don't go. I swore I would never go back there," came the voice of my friend Jay Smith on a trans-Atlantic Skype call. "I've been in over sixty countries. I've been all over Africa. I lived there, and I've never felt unsafe the way I did in *that* country. There is something especially terrifying about that place."

Politically correct officials institutionally biased against Christian refugees, says ex-archbishop

Published time: 13 Apr, 2017 12:18

Edited time: 14 Apr, 2017 16:41



© Giuseppe Graziano / www.globallookpress.com



Christian refugees fleeing persecution in the Middle East face “discrimination” by the British government as only a small number are accepted under the UK’s flagship resettlement scheme, a member of the House of Lords says.

Lord Carey of Clifton, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, said that although Christians accounted for 10 percent of Syria’s population before the civil war erupted in 2011, they made up less than 1 percent of Syrian refugees who moved to the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Scheme in the third quarter of last year.

Nets Ignore Netanyahu’s ‘Simple Request’: Report Christian Persecution in Iran

f 518 Shares Tweet 3

Reddit in G+ Email Print

By *Katie Yoder* | October 19, 2017 4:24 PM EDT

While Iran is making headlines with the fight over the nuclear deal, the media are ignoring another topic in the same country: violent persecution of Christians.

At a Christian Media Summit held in Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked media outlets present to report on the Christians persecuted in Iran. While the broadcast networks were aware of the event, they didn’t mention his remarks.

Netanyahu specifically called out Iran at the summit.

“Iran is a threat to the entire world, but today I want to focus on Iran’s war against Christians,” he began. “As you all know, Christians are brutally persecuted in the Islamic Republic.”



Why Don't We Care About the Slaughter of Christians?



AP Photo/Samer Abdallah

Women cry during the funeral for those killed in a Palm Sunday church attack in Alexandria Egypt, at the Mar Amina church, Monday, April 10, 2017. Egyptian Christians were burying their dead on Monday, a day after Islamic State suicide bombers killed at least 45 people in coordinated attacks targeting Palm Sunday services in two cities. Women wailed as caskets marked with the word "martyr" were brought into the Mar Amina church in the coastal city of Alexandria, the footage broadcast on several Egyptian channels.

News > World > Asia

Christian governor of Jakarta found guilty of blasphemy for saying Muslims should vote for him

Governor 'Ahok' Purnama had said people were being deceived if they believed the Quran forbids Muslims from voting for non-Muslims

Fergus Jensen, Agency Jakarta | Tuesday 9 May 2017 05:23 BST |

 214 comments

   **2K** shares

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JIHAD WATCH

Pakistan: Muslims threaten to kill Christian lawyer for defending people against blasphemy charges

MAY 13, 2017 5:29 PM BY ROBERT SPENCER

“A Christian lawyer who has been defending people charged with blasphemy and helping victims of forced conversion and marriage has received a threatening letter wherein she has been warned that she will be killed if she did not stop her work.”

Orthodox Prelate: ‘Europe Will Turn Muslim’ in 30 Years, Christians Will Live in Secret

MAY 21, 2017



Source: [Orthodox Prelate: ‘Europe Will Turn Muslim’ in 30 Years, Christians Will Live in Secret](#)

Archpriest Dmitri Smirnov, chairman of the Patriarchal Commission on Family Matters, and the Protection of Motherhood and Childhood in the Russian Orthodox Church, said he believes Christian civilization is nearly dead and that in 30 years Europe will be dominated by Muslims, and Russia will suffer the same fate in about 50 years.

Madhya Pradesh: 10 booked for trying to convert 71 tribal children to Christianity

All the 71 children have been rescued and the arrested have been booked under Section 3/4-4 of the Madhya Pradesh Religious Freedom Act 1968.



Hemender Sharma | Edited by Shraddha Jandial

May 23, 2017 | UPDATED 17:27 IST

A + A -



Madhya Pradesh Police today arrested 10 people for allegedly trying to convert tribal children of Jhabau and Alirapur region to Christianity. (Pic: Hemender Sharma)

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 MP police today arrested 10 people for trying to convert tribal children to Christianity.
- 2 Bibles were recovered from among the minors
- 3 The state government is treating this as a case of religious conversion.

Madhya Pradesh Police today arrested 10 people for allegedly trying to convert tribal children of Jhabau and Alirapur region to Christianity. All the 71 children have been rescued and the arrested have been booked under Section 3/4-4 of the Madhya Pradesh Religious Freedom Act 1968.

Out of the 71 children, 60 minors—32 boys and 28 girls— were rescued by the Ratlam GRP and the other 11 minors—including 7 boys and 4 girls—were rescued from around the Choti Gwaltoli police station in Indore.

Bibles have been recovered from the minors who are claiming that they have been reading the holy book for a long time.

JIHAD WATCH

Pakistan: Christian sewer worker dies after Muslim doctors refuse to treat his “unclean” body

JUNE 3, 2017 9:43 AM BY ROBERT SPENCER

“Masih,” that is, “Messiah,” is a common surname for Christians in Pakistan. This story says that doctors were reluctant to treat him because it is Ramadan and he was drenched in sewage sludge, but it also must be noted that the Qur’an says, “O you who have believed, indeed the polytheists are unclean” (9:28), and considers Christians polytheists for worshiping the Trinity: “O People of the Book, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary, and a soul from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say, ‘Three’; desist – it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son.” (4:171). Thus the doctors likely regarded Irfan Masih as unclean not just because he was covered with sewage sludge, but because he was a Christian.

“Sanitary worker dies in Umerkot after fasting doctors refuse to touch his ‘unclean’ body,” by Z Ali, [Express Tribune](#), June 2, 2017:

JIHAD WATCH

Pakistan: Muslim refuses to pay repair bill, has Christian repairman jailed for blasphemy

JUNE 19, 2017 8:11 AM BY ROBERT SPENCER

The blasphemy laws in Pakistan are the cause of innumerable human rights abuses. But no one is concerned about it. After all, it isn't as if something serious such as "Islamophobia" were being committed.

"Christian Father of 2-Year-Old in Pakistan Jailed on Flimsy Blasphemy Charge, Brother Says," [Morning Star News](#), June 18, 2017:

JIHAD WATCH

Pakistan: Hospital that let Christian die pressuring relatives to drop charges against them by ordering their arrest

JUNE 27, 2017 9:16 AM BY ROBERT SPENCER

These Christians are poor and disadvantaged, and are unlikely to get any help from Pakistani authorities, who share the ideology of the people who let Irfan Masih die.

An update on [this story](#). "Hospital in Pakistan Accused of Letting Christian Die Requests Arrest of Relatives, Colleagues," [Morning Star News](#), June 27, 2017:

Greece: Muslim refugees terrifying and driving out Christians

JULY 23, 2017



Source: [Muslim refugees on island of Lesbos terrifying and driving out Christians / OrthoChristian.Com](#)

Several clashes have broken out in recent days at Lesbos Island's Moria Camp for refugees, with Greek authorities arresting 35 Muslim rioters who threw large rocks at police officers and set fire to tents both inside and outside the bounds of the camp. A disabled Christian was nearly burnt alive while sleeping in one of the shelters, reports [Pakistan Christian Post](#).

JIHAD WATCH

Iraq: Muslims still brutalizing Christians, menacing churches and monasteries

SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 1:51 PM BY CHRISTINE DOUGLASS-WILLIAMS

9 COMMENTS

Even though the Islamic State is largely gone from the area....

“ Christian leaders say Iraq’s monasteries and churches could soon become mere relics unless something is done to curb the violence against Christians

The violence against Christians is ubiquitous in Islamic states, not just in Iraq. But in Iraq the situation is critical:

“ The Armenian Embassy in Iraq estimates about 13,000 Armenians remain in the country. Before US-led forces invaded Iraq in 2003, the Armenian population stood at about 25,000.

Christian teenager in Pakistan beaten to death by classmates after drinking from same glass as Muslim boy



The family of Sharoan Masih, who was beaten to death by his Muslim classmates, with a member of British Pakistani Christian Association, left.



Iran Threatens Christian Children: Study Koran and Shi'a or Be Expelled From School

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017



No compulsion?

Source: [Iran Threatens To Expel Christian Children From Schools – BosNewsLife – Christian News Agency](#)

TEHRAN, IRAN (BosNewsLife)– Iran's government has ordered children belonging to families of one of the country's largest house church movements to study the Koran and Shi'a Islam teachings or face expulsion from school, a church official confirmed to BosNewsLife Thursday, September 7. The Church of Iran movement is also concerned about four jailed members saying one of them "was deported to a feared secret police facility" in the southern city of Shiraz.

HUNGARY'S ORBAN: PROTECT MIDDLE EAST CHRISTIANS OR ANTI-CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION WILL COME TO EUROPE



by JACK MONTGOMERY
12 Oct 2017

The Prime Minister of Hungary has urged EU leaders to protect Christianity in Africa and the Middle East, or risk its destruction in Europe.

Indian Christians beaten 'with rods and sticks'

Share    

October 17, 2017 · By World Watch Monitor · India
Anti-Conversion Law, BJP, Chhattisgarh, Hindu nationalism, India, Telangana



Pastor Seviya recovering in hospital after a beating left him with blood clots on his brain and bleeding from his ears (World Watch Monitor)

512

A Christian man involved in church work across ten villages in the southern Indian state of Telangana was severely beaten earlier this month, a source told World Watch Monitor.

NORTH KOREA · October 25th

North Korean defector describes 'life of hell' for Christians



By Perry Chiaramonte, Fox News



Choi Kwanghyuk was able to free himself from the clutches of a brutal dictatorship in his native North Korea. Like many others in the Hermit Kingdom, he was targeted and persecuted by the government for his Christian faith.

JIHAD WATCH

“They killed children and women with knives”: Islamic State jihadis slaughter scores of civilians in Christian village

OCTOBER 27, 2017 11:30 AM BY CHRISTINE DOUGLASS-WILLIAMS

36 COMMENTS

Islamic State jihadists, reeling from heavy territorial losses in Syria, have slaughtered “scores of civilians,” including women and children, in the once predominantly Christian town of Qaryatayn.

The victims were either shot or beheaded. One town resident described the Islamic State jihadis as “monsters,” which they certainly are. The resident went on: “These are people who don’t know God, they don’t know anything. They killed children and women with knives, they beat women, broke their arms.”

North Korea: How Christians survive in the world's most anti-Christian nation



By **Hollie McKay**, Fox News



North Koreans read mass at a Catholic church in Pyongyang (Reuters)

For 16 years, North Korea has been [ranked](#) the “most oppressive place in the world for Christians,” and this week the U.S. State Department [re-asserted](#) it as one of the world’s worst religious persecutors – torturing and executing those even suspected of worshipping God. But that still hasn’t stopped an estimated 36 percent of the population – around 9 million – from practicing Christianity.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman pledges more 'moderate' kingdom

Mohammed bin Salman is set to be the next king of Saudi Arabia. But his reform efforts and vow to “eradicate” Islamic extremism may spark the wrath of the country’s ultraconservative clerics.



Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said [his country](#) would become more “moderate” and “open” on Tuesday and pledged to “eradicate” radical Islamist ideology from the Gulf kingdom.

“We are returning to what we were before – a country of moderate Islam that is open to all religions and to the world,” the 32-year-old said at a major investment conference in Riyadh.

“We will eradicate the remnants of extremism very soon ... We represent the moderate teachings and principles of Islam,” the crown prince said.

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VIDEOS

The Persecuted Church

Middle East
[~2 minutes]



The Persecuted Church

Islam
[~5 minutes]



Prager
University

RAYMOND IBRAHIM
author, *The Al Qaeda Reader*

The Persecuted Church

Myanmar
[~3 minutes]

Youtube: Myanmar Christian Sermons

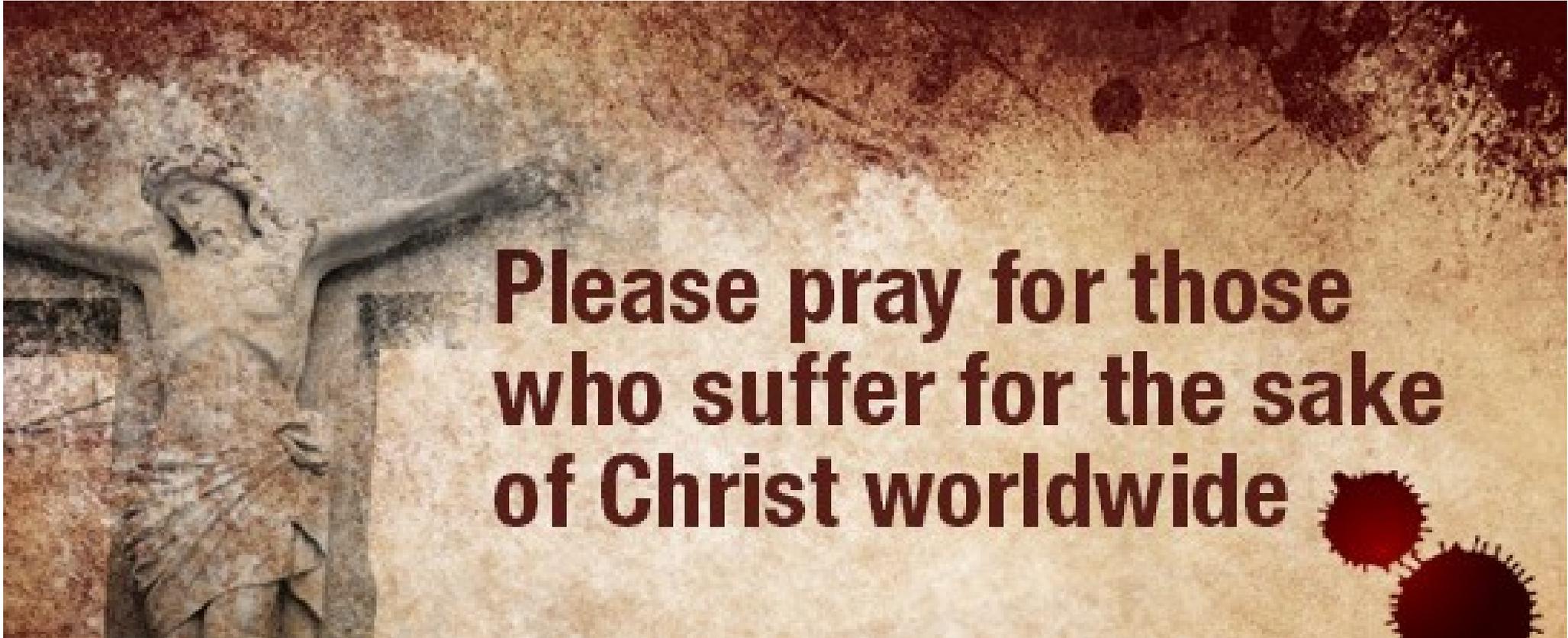


Perplexed,
but not driven to despair

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CONCLUSION

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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!

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BONUS

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Canadian Governor General
[~1 minutes]

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CBC Commentor

“Anything to do with religion offends me and needs to be taken down. Science is the true path, even our government now has affirmed. ALL statues, articles worn, symbols, places of worship, books, should all be removed. This applies to any thing relating to god, spirits.”

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CBC Commentor

“Biblical God, Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Go read your holy books. Your God is an abject failure and an abomination to mankind. Those who worship condone misogyny, murder, rape, genocide, and slavery. (To name a few.) I have more morals as a human who believes in finding truth through science that benefits mankind than your God. Even if it revealed itself, I would reject such a vile thing. We can't fix stupid but we can tax religion. Make it adults only and illegal to indoctrinate children. Ban religious based schools and spend the revenue on real education based on truths, sciences, history, and future discovery. To Anyone who is remotely offended by the GG statements ask yourselves "WHY" you believe in fairy tales and horror stories and why mankind should respect those who do.”

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CBC Commentor

“My doctors are atheists, I won’t let a superstition believer on my health care team: i don’t want anyone praying for me in medicine, it’s science keeping me alive.”

The Persecuted Church

CBC Commentor

“There is no longer a need for religious tolerance in today's world. In fact, it should be the opposite. We've given these religious fools all the rope they deserve. They're silly fantasies are not real, have no validity and deserved to be mocked without mercy. If you are a so-called believer, you're an enemy of humanity and an impediment to progress. I would not mourn your deaths. Stupidity is the scourge of modern life and there is no one as stupid as those who base their lives around an imaginary man in the sky.”