

# WORLD WATCH LIST 2021

## PRAYER MAP



*"You have never seen our faces and you don't know our names, but you love us."*  
 NORTH KOREAN BELIEVERS' MESSAGE TO OPEN DOORS UNDERGROUND FIELD WORKERS

The top 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution

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

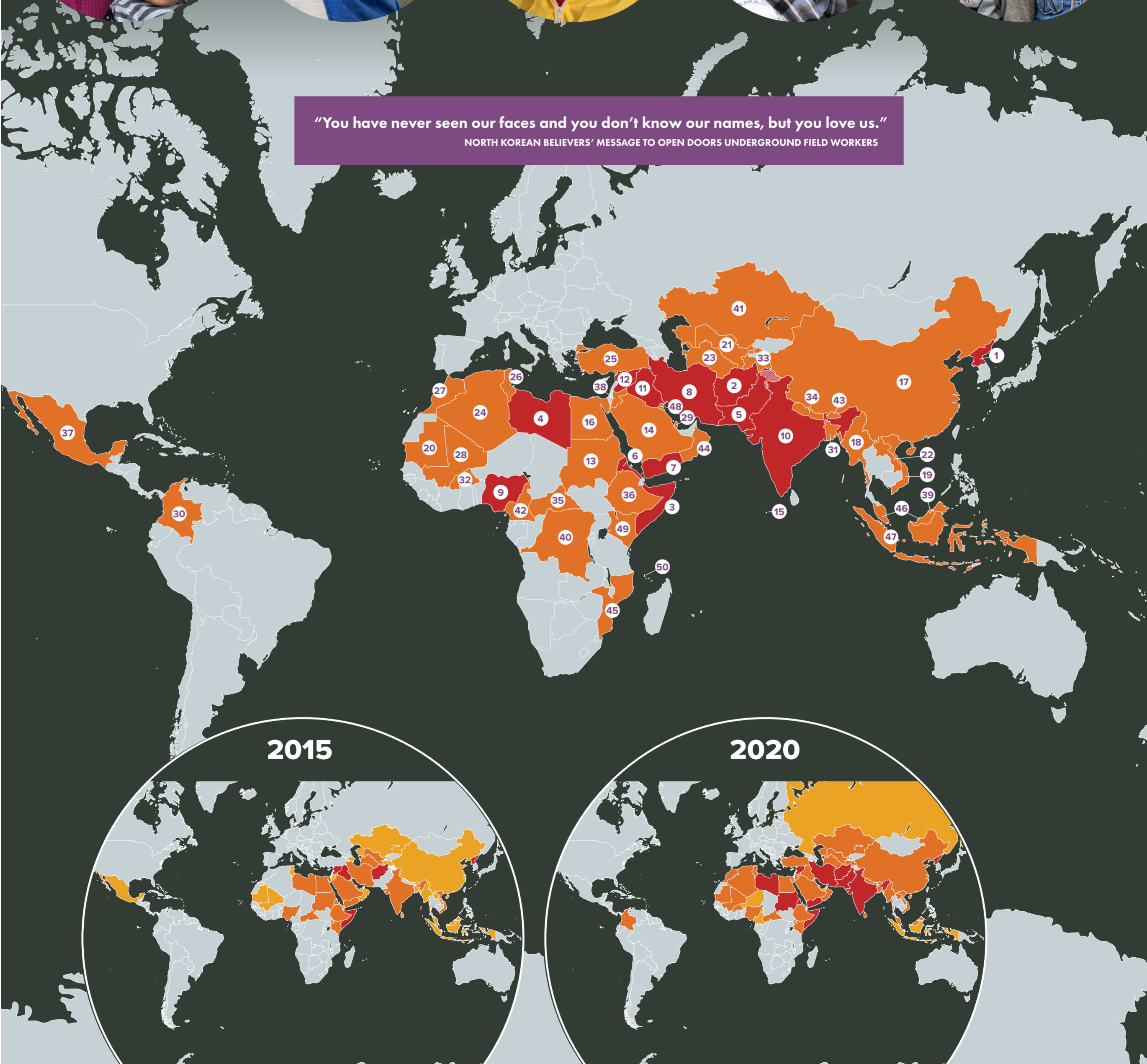
### Levels of persecution

- HIGH
- VERY HIGH
- EXTREME

For the first time in the history of the list, every country in the top 50 is rated as very high or extreme levels of persecution.

Find out more at [www.opendoors.org.za](http://www.opendoors.org.za)

The Open Doors World Watch List (WWL) is released every January and ranks the top 50 countries where Christians face the worst forms of persecution. Persecution is defined as any hostility experienced because of one's identification with Christ. The WWL takes into account all spheres of life and incidents of violence. The methods for arriving at country scores and their transnational comparison have been independently audited by the International Institute for Religious Freedom and their proper application checked in some sample countries. Additional statements and interpretations by Open Doors based on or associated with the publication of the WWL remain outside the scope of this audit. Reporting period: 1 October 2019 – 30 September 2020.



Christian persecution is on the rise worldwide. There is an increasing need for prayer among our family in Christ as Satan is out to destroy our testimony for Christ. He is using various tactics to weaken the Church and cause hopelessness through persecution and discrimination. We can help strengthen our persecuted family through our prayers so that they can continue to stand strong for Christ no matter the cost.

Join us in praying for the Church by using this prayer map to pray for the various regions where Christians face increased persecution, discrimination and isolation for their faith in Christ.

### PRAY

#### LATIN AMERICA

Over the years, Latin America has seen an increase in violence with drug lords and guerrillas running rampant. Christians are subjected to this violence because of their faith in Jesus, which threatens the work of these groups. Pray for the safety of the Church in the region as well as wisdom in reaching out to others with the Gospel in this hostile environment.

#### ARABIAN PENINSULA

There are not many Christians in this Muslim-majority region. Yet the Gospel has reached some in the region. Pray that those who've heard the Gospel will give their lives to Christ and that God will grant Christians in the country opportunities to safely share the Gospel with their families and friends.

#### AFRICA

The African continent has seen a dramatic surge in violence against Christians in the last few years due to Islamic extremism. Pray that the Lord's hand will be over His Church in the region and that He will guide them and provide for them as they serve Him.

#### ASIA

Many adherents to the three main religions in Asia, namely Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, see Christianity as a threat to their beliefs. This has resulted in Christians being disowned, discriminated against, attacked and even killed. Pray for protection for Christians and that amid such hostility, God will use His children in the region to spread the Gospel.

#### MIDDLE EAST

The Church is under severe pressure especially Believers from a Muslim Background as their conversion is seen as bringing great dishonour on their families. Christians face discrimination, harassment, monitoring by authorities and intimidation for their faith. Pray that God will undertake for the Church in the region and that it will grow despite the restrictions and dangers it faces.