

# WORLD WATCH LIST 2023

## THE TRUE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

- 1 North Korea
- 2 Somalia
- 3 Yemen
- 4 Eritrea
- 5 Libya
- 6 Nigeria
- 7 Pakistan
- 8 Iran
- 9 Afghanistan
- 10 Sudan
- 11 India
- 12 Syria
- 13 Saudi Arabia
- 14 Myanmar
- 15 Maldives
- 16 China
- 17 Mali
- 18 Iraq
- 19 Algeria
- 20 Mauritania
- 21 Uzbekistan
- 22 Colombia
- 23 Burkina Faso
- 24 Central African Rep.
- 25 Vietnam

- 26 Turkmenistan
- 27 Cuba
- 28 Niger
- 29 Morocco
- 30 Bangladesh
- 31 Laos
- 32 Mozambique
- 33 Indonesia
- 34 Qatar
- 35 Egypt
- 36 Tunisia
- 37 Congo DR (DRC)
- 38 Mexico
- 39 Ethiopia
- 40 Bhutan
- 41 Turkey
- 42 Comoros
- 43 Malaysia
- 44 Tajikistan
- 45 Cameroon
- 46 Brunei
- 47 Oman
- 48 Kazakhstan
- 49 Jordan
- 50 Nicaragua



**PERSECUTION LEVELS**  
● **VERY HIGH** 61-80%  
● **EXTREME** 81-100%

### WHY WE PRAY

Sometimes prayer is our only option. For some, that might not sound like much. Yet, praying is one of the most powerful actions a Christian can take. Through prayer we not only intercede for others but draw closer to God and offer Him our praise. It's how God transforms our own and others' hearts.

So, use this prayer map to join our persecuted family across the world in prayer. Thanking God for the work He is doing in the top 50 countries and praying for the spiritual growth of our family of faith in some of the darkest places to be a Christian.

Visit [www.OpenDoors.org.za](http://www.OpenDoors.org.za) for more about Christian persecution.



For interactive map.



**"God wants to use us to work out His purposes. What a privilege and responsibility! So let's get on our knees and pray. And may God use our prayers to change the course of history in these nations. For the sake of His people and for His glory!"**

Brother Andrew, Open Doors Founder

### PRAY

#### ASIA

The three largest non-Christian religions in Asia are Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Here, many follow Christ in secret. In some countries believers suffer threats from religious extremist groups and even the government, as well as violent opposition from those groups and their families and communities. Praise God that His Church continues to grow in the region despite the persecution. Pray that many more will come to know Christ.

#### AFRICA

The persecuted Church in Africa is also, in large part, the displaced Church, as millions of believers have fled violence. Areas have been emptied of its Christian presence with the displaced exposed to further exploitation and trauma. Meanwhile, jihadist action continues to divide once united Muslim and Christian communities. Praise God for our family who risks everything to serve Him. Pray that He will comfort and provide for those who endure loss for His name's sake.

### LATIN AMERICA

In Latin America, specifically in indigenous communities, Christians are persecuted for following Jesus. In these communities, they are denied access to necessities, forced into labour, imprisoned or expelled. Sadly, they lack resources and knowledge to fight these injustices. Praise God that Christians still continue to speak the truth. Pray for God's provision in everything they face for their faith.

### ARABIAN PENINSULA

The Arabian Peninsula is the cradle of Islam. For a long time, in many countries on the Peninsula, there were no known Christian groups. Today there is an emerging Church, and many are searching for the truth. Praise God for what He is doing in the region. Pray that the Body of Christ will grow in strength and number to be a light amid the darkness.

### MIDDLE EAST

Persecution, war, displacement, and an economic crisis have left Christian communities in Syria and Iraq extremely vulnerable. The Church has shrunk due to many fleeing their countries because of Islamic extremism, which remains a threat to believers. Praise God for the remnant that remains in the region. Pray that God will uplift our family so they can continue to contribute to Middle Eastern society for His glory.

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 (IIRF) and their proper application checked in some sample countries. Additional statements, documents or interpretations by Open Doors based on or associated with the publication of the WWL remain outside the scope of this audit statement. Reporting period: 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022.